with decency and grace. From his service in the Navy during World War II and throughout his career in the U.S. House of Representatives, Henry Hyde devoted his life to public service.

In the House, he rose to the chairmanship of two committees, Judiciary and International Relations. To say that Chairman Hyde was an eloquent orator would be an understatement. He spoke with dignity, conviction, principle, and eloquence; he was a true statesman by any measure. As President George W. Bush said last month, ''the background noise would stop when Henry Hyde had the floor.''

In service to the people of Illinois for over 40 years, Chairman Hyde was a champion of the rights of the unborn. He will probably be most remembered for his amendment that prohibited the use of federal funds for abortions—a measure that became known as the ''Hyde amendment.''

Just last month, President Bush bestowed upon Representative Hyde the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. The medal is designed to recognize great contributions to national security, the cause of peace and freedom, science, the arts, literature, and many other fields; I can think of few individuals more deserving of this high honor.

Madam Speaker, our country and this great institution have been blessed to share in the life of Chairman Henry Hyde. May we never forget the leadership he displayed or the lessons he taught us. May we continue to keep the entire Hyde family in our thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCING THE FREE COMPETITION IN CURRENCY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Free Competition in Currency Act. This act would eliminate two sections of U.S. Code that, although ostensibly intended to punish counterfeiters, have instead been used by the Government to shut down private mints. As anticounterfeiting measures, these sections are superfluous, as 18 U.S.C. 485, 490, and 491 already grant sufficient authority to punish counterfeiters.

The two sections this bill repeals, 18 U.S.C. 486 and 489, are so broadly written as to effectively restrict any form of private coinage from competing with the products of the United States Mint. Allowing such statutes to remain in force as a catch-all provision merely encourages prosecutorial abuse. One particular egregious recent example is that of the Liberty Dollar, in which Federal agents seized millions of dollars worth of private currency held by a private mint on behalf of thousands of people across the country.

Due to nearly a century of inflationary monetary policy on the part of the Federal Reserve, the U.S. dollar stands at historically low levels. Investors around the world are shunning the dollar, and millions of Americans see their salaries, savings accounts, and pensions eroded away by rising inflation. We stand on the precipice of an unprecedented monetary collapse, and as a result many people have begun to look for alternatives to the dollar.

As a proponent of competition in currencies, I believe that the American people should be free to choose the type of currency they prefer to use. The ability of consumers to adopt alternative currencies can help to keep the Government and the Federal Reserve honest, as the threat that further inflation will cause more and more people to opt out of using the dollar may restrain the government from debasing the currency. As monopolists, however, the Federal Reserve and the Mint fear competition, and would rather force competitors out using the federal court system and the threat of asset forfeiture than compete in the market.

A free society should shun this type of strong-arm action, and the Free Competition in Currency Act would take the necessary first steps to freeing the market for competing currencies. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2007, along with additional bipartisan cosponsors. As a product of years of extensive consultation with both the law enforcement and civil rights communities, this legislation represents the most comprehensive Federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at large. The introduction of this legislation is a critical step in what should be a nationwide, bipartisan effort to end this divisive practice.

Before September 11, 2001, there was wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling is wrong and should end. Many in the law enforcement community also acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity or national origin has eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities. What was true before September 11, is even more true today: racial profiling is inappropriate and ineffective as a law enforcement tactic.

While the Department of Justice promulgated a series of guidelines in 2003 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by Federal law enforcement agencies, these measures do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of State and local law enforcement agencies. The guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive Federal anti-profiling legislation.

Our legislation is designed to eliminate racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin profiling that is well documented. While the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias, and we value their service highly, we believe that enough evidence has been presented to warrant federal action. For example, an April 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics report showed that African Americans and Hispanics experience physical searches and vehicle searches by police significantly more than whites. This is especially disturbing given the fact that in only 3.3 percent of cases for blacks, and 13 percent of cases for Latinos, did they possess criminal evidence, compared to 14.5 percent of cases for whites.

The report also revealed a new troubling trend: While the rate of encounters between police and civilians did not change between the 1999 and 2002 survey, the police dramatically increased their use of force and threat of force overall, from less than 1 percent in 1999 to 1.5 percent in 2002. In addition, law enforcement officials disproportionately used force or threatened to use force against blacks and Latinos, at rates roughly three times more than against whites.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to track and eradicate racial profiling by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by injunctive relief. Second, the receipt of Federal law enforcement funding that goes to State and local governments is conditioned on their adoption of effective policies that prohibit racial profiling.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Racial profiling is a divisive practice that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. Decades ago, with the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation, this country made clear that race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. The practice of using race as a criterion in law enforcement undermines the progress we have made toward racial equality.

With the cooperation of the administration, we have the opportunity to move bipartisan legislation and end the practice of racial profiling. I hope that we do not miss a historic opportunity to heal the rift caused by racial profiling and restore community confidence in law enforcement.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SENECA TOWN SUPERVISOR PAUL T. CLARK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Supervisor of the Town of West Seneca, New York, a friend and governmental colleague of the highest caliber—my friend, West Seneca Town Supervisor Paul Clark.

For sixteen years, Paul Clark served as the highest elective officer for the Town of West Seneca, and under his stewardship the town