

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 14TH ANNUAL DC
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day Weekend, May 28–31, is the 14th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 4-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events culminating with the world's largest Black Pride Festival at Washington, DC's new state-of-the-art Convention Center. It is considered one of the preeminent Black Pride celebrations in the world consistently drawing 30,000 people to the Nation's capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as from Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Caribbean and South Africa. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family including a performance by national recording artist, Kelly Price, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

This year's DC Black Pride theme is, "Honoring Our Sheroes and Heroes," to remember and honor African-American/Black—women and men, LGBT and straight, dead and alive, those who are famous and those who are known only to a few who have shown strength of character in order to make a difference in the lives of our people and our Nation.

The event is coordinated by Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc (BLGPD), a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors: Earlene Budd, Member-At-Large; Sterling A. Washington, Member-At-Large; Clarence J. Fluker, Secretary; Robert Jones, Vice President; Eric E. Richardson, Member-At-Large; B. Roland Edwards, Member-At-Large; Cheryl Dunn, Treasurer; Rayceen Pendevis, Member-At-Large; Toni Collins, Member-At-Large; Shanika Whitehurst, Member-At-Large; and Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., President. BLGPD's mission is to build awareness of and pride in the diversity of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community as well as to create a funding source and support organizations that are addressing HIV/AIDS and other health issues adversely affecting our community.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 14th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the attendees that United States Citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

HONORING DR. BRADLEY E.
HABERMEHL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the Rotary Club of Burton, Michigan to honor my good friend and constituent Dr. Bradley E. Habermehl. Dr. Habermehl has unselfishly donated his time and medical expertise to educating the underserved on maintaining good eye health. On Thursday, April 22, 2004, the Burton Rotary Club during their monthly meeting will present Dr. Habermehl with the prestigious Jack Hamady Good Scout award for outstanding community service.

Dr. Habermehl was born and raised in Burton, Michigan. He graduated in 1981 from Bentley High School. He attended Ferris State University, after which he enrolled in the Illinois College of Optometry. Upon graduation in 1988 he joined the private group of Dr. Thomas Pardee and Dr. David Visser, where he began his primary eye care practice. His practice has flourished into one of the most well known, and accomplished eye care practices in Genesee County. On June 27, 1988, he became a member of the Burton Rotary Club, and in 1990 he served as President of the Club. Dr. Habermehl made history in 1996, when he became the youngest Optometrist to be appointed to the State Board of Examiners of Optometry. He currently holds the position of Chairman of the Board until his term expires in June of 2004. Dr. Habermehl shares his knowledge of maintaining excellent eye health to not only the residents of Genesee County, but to the underserved populace around the world. In 2001, he was appointed Chairman of the Burton Rotary Club's Avoidable Blindness Committee, and as a result has led a team of doctors, VOSH volunteers, and Rotarians to Mexico for the past four years to dispense used eyeglasses. This effort has led to the giving of corrected vision to over 10,000 Mexican citizens. Dr. Habermehl is also actively involved with the Michigan Optometric and the American Optometric Association. He is the Director of the Flint Sensory Learning Center, which is devoted to aiding children and adults with developmental delays. Dr. Habermehl has received numerous accolades for work, but one that is most worthy of mentioning for this occasion is the "Rotarian of Year" award, which he has been awarded three times by the Burton Rotary Club. Dr. Habermehl credits the love and support of his devoted wife Cindy and his two children, Chad and Kylee to his success.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating a humanitarian, and my good friend Dr. Bradley E. Habermehl.

HONORING DOUG HARRISON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Doug Harrison upon his retirement after 33 years of service to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. A reception will be held in his honor on April 15th in Fresno, California.

Doug has achieved numerous accomplishments and has been involved in many noteworthy projects. Mr. Harrison has spoken nationally on urban storm water and flood control issues, including frequent testimony before the United States Congress and the California State Legislature. He has published numerous articles and was a contributing author for a national water resources policy white paper developed by the National Water Alliance for the George Bush administration. Doug's work in urban runoff quality research was recognized by the American Waterworks Association as the best water resources research effort of 1988. The State Water Resource Control Board acknowledged Mr. Harrison for Federal Clean Water Act program assistance, and was subsequently named by the American Public Works Association as one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders in the nation in 1993.

Mr. Harrison has received various awards and recognitions. He was named Manager of the Year by the California Special Districts Association, and later given the 2002 Excellence in Water Leadership Award by the Association of California Water Agencies. During Doug's tenure, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has been awarded: The Theodore Roosevelt Environmental Award of the Association of California Water Agencies, Award of Merit from American City and County Magazine, and the Award of Excellence, California Park and Recreation Society, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Harrison upon his retirement from the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Doug a fulfilling retirement.

CONGRATULATING MRS. BERNICE
MOUNIA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Bernice Mounia on her momentous 80th birthday that she will be celebrating on April 19, 2004. Bernice has spent the past 80 years of her long and distinguished life caring for her family and her community in Gary, IN. Her presence in Northwest Indiana has allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of many people.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Bernice was born on April 19, 1924, and subsequently moved to Gary, IN from Alabama in 1944 with her loving husband, Webster Mounia. After moving to Gary, IN, Bernice and Webster were blessed with the births of their 10 wonderful children. Her children, as well as people whose lives are touched by Bernice, admire her for devoting unselfish love, time, dedication, guidance, and spirit to her family, church, and friends.

As we'll as being dearly loved and respected by her family and community, Bernice was also well known for her ingenuity and prudence. Bernice currently resides in the same house at 2700 Jefferson Street that she and her husband built 48 years ago. She displayed ingenuity in constructing insulation out of dryer lint to plug cracks around windows and doors. Along with her many other accomplishments in her community, Bernice was also a pioneer in the practice of recycling. Due to her resourcefulness, Bernice invented ways in recycling aluminum, bread bags, cloths, jars, food, soap, wax paper, and cans of grease that were left over from her gourmet cooking.

Gourmet cooking on a frugal budget was definitely one of Bernice's fortes. Bernice made sure no one in her family went without a first class meal to eat. As well as providing the best meals available for her children, Bernice also wanted the best upbringing for her children. By providing unwavering guidance to her children, she instilled in them the morals and fortitude that have molded her children into successful adults who are raising families of their own.

Mr. Speaker, Bernice Mounia has given her time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout her long and illustrious life. She has taught every member of her family and extended family the true meaning of service to all people in the community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Bernice Mounia for her outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend Bernice for her lifetime of service and dedication.

**GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC,
33RD ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
HONORING DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Washington, DC institution that has been in the forefront of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights movement, and that I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing in this body: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA), the oldest continuously active gay and lesbian rights organization in the United States.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and persistent advocate in District politics tirelessly asserting equal rights and social equality for lesbians and gay men living in the city through peaceful participation in the political process.

GLAA has long fought to improve relations among the District's gay, lesbian, bisexual,

and transgendered communities and the D.C. Government. GLAA has taken the lead in advocating better training for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and Fire and Emergency Medical Service employees. GLAA persuaded the D.C. Public Schools to implement and enforce an effective, antiharassment policy established to protect all students. GLAA advocated effective public health strategies in the fight against AIDS. GLAA fought to insure that treatments and medicine are available to those in need and that the District's spending on HIV/AIDS services be both open and transparent.

GLAA also has long been at the forefront of the efforts to strengthen enforcement of the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 by demanding all antidiscrimination policy statements in the D.C. Government reflect the full range of classes protected by that law.

On April 20, GLAA held its 33rd Anniversary Reception honoring the 2004 recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Sarah Kellogg, Deacon MacCubbin, The Mautner Project, Cheryl Spector, and Nadine Chandler Wilburn.

Sarah Kellogg is a director of D.C.'s Reel Affirmations film festival and a member of the board of its parent organization, One In Ten.

For 35 years Deacon MacCubbin has been a model community activist and business leader. He created the first D.C. Gay Pride celebration, the gay switchboard, the first D.C. gay youth support group, and his bookstore, Lambda Rising, serves as a de facto community center.

Since its founding in 1990, the Mautner Project has been the only national organization dedicated to lesbians with cancer, their partners and caregivers. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of lesbians and their families by: delivering services and support to lesbians with cancer, their families and caregivers; educating lesbians about important health issues; educating healthcare providers about the needs and concerns of their lesbian clients; and promoting lesbian health through research, advocacy, and activism.

For over two decades Cheryl Spector has been a community activist. She has documented gay and lesbian life in Washington with her still and video photography.

Nadine Chandler Wilburn who performed excellent service to the LGBT community while she was interim director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights from 2002–2003.

GLAA's thirty-three year fight to secure equal rights for the LGBT citizens of Washington, D.C. is more poignant as United States Citizens living in our nation's capital, who have fought in every American war, including the present war in Iraq, are taxed without representation. Furthermore, GLAA's open and forthright advocacy for rights reminds us that LGBT soldiers, who have sworn to protect our country with their lives, must serve in silence, without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance and its honorees.

**HONORING MT. MORRIS HALL OF
HONOR 2004 AWARDEES**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the Mt. Morris community to pay tribute to the 2004 Mt. Morris Hall of Honor inductees. The inductees, Linda Fishell, Jim Corbin, Fredrick Shannon, and Judy Neaves will be inducted into the hall on April 29, 2004, during a lavish dinner and ceremony to be held at the Masonic Temple in Mt. Morris, MI.

The Mt. Morris Hall of Honor was established in 1991. The honor is bestowed upon individuals, both residents and nonresidents who have made significant, long-term contributions to enhancing the quality of life in the Mt. Morris area. Since its creation, the community has inducted 31 individuals into the hall.

Hall of Honor inductee Linda Fishell is committed to the children of Mt. Morris. She has been a volunteer with the Girl Scouts of America for 20 years, and is currently serving as neighborhood treasurer and registrar. Linda is also a volunteer for the Tiger Cubs and Boy Scouts. She has been volunteering at the Mt. Morris High School for approximately 12 years.

Hall of Honor inductee Jim Corbin although no longer a resident of Mt. Morris still finds time to Give back to the community. He does so by donating his D.J. services to Mt. Morris local events, including the 125th August festival. Jim has been a Mt. Morris volunteer for 15 years. Hall of Honor inductee Fredrick J. Shannon has been a Mt. Morris area volunteer for 30 years. He donates his time and resources at the scene of accidents, fires and natural disasters by video taping, and photographing the efforts of rescue workers for documentation and training purposes. Hall of Honor inductee Judy Neaves is a dedicated member of the Mt. Morris Lioness club. She is active on both the local and district level. Aside from placing numerous volunteer hours within her own chapter, she also volunteers with the men's Lions Club by participating in their eye saving events. Judy has also volunteered with the Senior Winter Olympic for 12 years, Genesee County Fair for 10 years, and Crossroad Village.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today and ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to join me in recognizing these outstanding citizens for their compassion and commitment to the community of Mt. Morris, MI.

HONORING RONALD E. STEARN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald E. Stearn on the occasion of celebrating 40 years of dedication and service to the city of Sonora as a council member. He was sworn into office on April 21, 1964. An event will be held in his honor on April 19 in Sonora, California.

In his 40 years of service, Mr. Stearn has served in many roles within the community. He was mayor of Sonora for three 2-year terms and has only missed 3 council meetings throughout his career. Ron is known as the Parking & Traffic expert, providing a wealth of knowledge and history about the infrastructure of the city of Sonora. He has always voted based on what he believes is best for the city and strives to accurately represent the people of Sonora.

Ron has committed himself to the city of Sonora and its organizations for numerous years. He remains open to new ideas while respecting and promoting the city's history and well-being. Mr. Stearn's dedication to the city has been an inspiration to his fellow council members as well as the public. In addition to being a council member Ron has been a lifetime member of the Independent Hose Company, a volunteer fire organization, since 1950. He also managed and worked for Mundorf's Hardware for 47 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Ronald E. Stearn on the occasion of his 40th anniversary on the city council of Sonora. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ron many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE DEDICATED AND SKILLED WORKERS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On April 17, 2004, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599 will recognize their members for 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized during a pin ceremony banquet held on Saturday at the Carpenters Union Hall in Hammond, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the exemplary American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenters Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. The carpenter who will be honored for 55 years of service is Wayne Verble. The member who will be honored for 50 years of service is Ronald Carlson. Those members being honored for 45 years of service include Ezequile (Jack) Lopez and Walter Wisinski. Those members being honored for 40 years of service include: Robert Farkas, Paul Hornak, Joseph Komoroski, Robert Lowry, Harold McMillion, Bernard Ritchey, Edward Scheeringa, Darrel Sills, and John Verbeek. Those members being honored for 35 years of service include: Greg Argentine, Charles Gibbs, Raymond Maida, Jr., Rudy Medellin, Jr., Michael Schaller, and William Underwood. Those members of Local 599 who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Daniel Brown, Timothy Foley, and John Perz. The carpenters who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Thomas Childers, David Jazyk, Fred Kuhn, Richard Meyers, Vic-

tor Michael, Brian Morton, Kenneth Pitts, and Fred Tomkutonin.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These workers are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have consistently performed at the highest level throughout their careers. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599, in addition to all the hardworking union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union workforce; I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. Their hard labor and resolute courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

EIGHTH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 24th, marks the culmination of Youth Pride Week in Washington, DC with our Eighth Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people, which has brought over 13,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,500 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved into Youth Pride Week, which comprises over a dozen events ranging from a conference, dances, and poetry readings, to Youth Pride Day on Saturday.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight.

The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us that LGBT youth in our nation's Armed Forces, do so under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While they have sworn to defend the United States with their lives, they must suffer the hate, fear, isolation, and denial this demonstrably untenable policy engenders.

We, who live in our nation's capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that has been denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States Citizens enjoy. I remind the House that Washingtonians are taxed without representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

HONORING COMMANDER JOHN J. ROESNER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor an American hero, my constituent Commander John J. "Jack" Roesner for 22 years of faithful steadfast service to the United States Navy. His hard work, dedication and leadership to this Nation is without doubt commendable. On May 7, 2004, the U.S. Navy will join along with his family to honor him during a retirement ceremony to be held at his command, OPNAV—Naval Education and Training.

Commander (CDR) Roesner was born and raised in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. He attended Northern Michigan University, where he earned both his Bachelor and Masters Degrees. In February of 1982, CDR Roesner completed Navy Officer Candidate School and earned his commission. His first assignment as a Surface Warfare Officer was aboard the USS *Mahlon S. Tisdale* (FFG-27), where he served as the Commanding Ordnance Officer and subsequently as Damage Control Assistant and Combat Information Center Officer. During this tour CDR Roesner qualified as Surface Warfare Officer and Gas Turbine Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW). In November of 1985 he transferred to the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) located at the University of Mississippi as an Associate Professor and Instructor of Naval Science. In February of 1989, he graduated from the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Curriculum, after which he was assigned as the Combat Systems Officer of the USS *John Rodgers* (DD-983), and subsequently afloat as Combat Systems and Material Officer on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six. CDR Roesner in November of 1992 reported for duty in Washington, D.C. as Aide and Administrative Assistant to the Naval Inspector General, where he served until 1985. After his tour in Washington he returned to sea duty and was stationed aboard the USS *Scott* (DDG-995) as the Executive Officer, followed by subsequent afloat tour as Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Two. In 1998, he became the Executive Officer of the Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis, and on April 14, 2000 he assumed Command of the district. In November of 2001, CDR Roesner reported to OPNAV (N-79). During CDR Roesner's career he has deployed five times to the Mediterranean and/or Western Pacific, completed three North Red Sea surges in support of U.N. sanctioned Maritime Interception Operations, and two Counter-Narcotics Operation deployments. He completed JPME phase-1 training through the Air Force Command and Staff College. CDR Roesner was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal w/gold star, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/two gold stars, along with various unit and campaign awards. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a devoted husband to his wife Stephanie.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my constituent and one of the U.S. Navy's finest sailors Commander Roesner upon his retirement

from the U.S. Navy. He has served his country with honor, enthusiasm and great concern. I wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE FANSLER FOUNDATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central California in celebrating 50 years of compassionate care and for honoring the Fansler Foundation's 20th Anniversary as well. In recognition of these milestone events, UCP of Central California will be hosting a Starlight Fantasy Ball on Saturday, March 27th in Fresno, California.

UCP of Central California is a non-profit, voluntary health agency that was incorporated in 1954 and is affiliated with state and national UCP Associations. The mission of UCP is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of persons with disabilities. UCP of Central California serves seven counties in the San Joaquin Valley including Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare; serving over 500 children, adults, and family members everyday. The core purposes of UCP are to advocate on the behalf of children and adults with cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation, Down Syndrome, head trauma, and muscular dystrophy. They seek to create local, as well as national, awareness of programs and services available to children and adults with disabilities while raising revenue to support program services they provide.

UCP of Central California is honoring the Fansler Foundation for its support of the community. The Fansler Foundation is a non-profit foundation established in 1984, by David (Paul) Fansler, Sr. Paul's primary vision was to assist developmentally challenged youth and aid other qualified charities working with children who do not have the opportunity or support to get ahead. The dream was to help provide for these charities in the Fresno County Area; the Fansler Foundation has supported such groups as the American Lung Association, the Marjoree Mason Center, Break the Barriers, and UCP of Central California to name a few. The Fansler Foundation has given over six million dollars of support to numerous organizations over the last 10 years alone. Since Paul's death, Marlene Fansler continues the dream that Paul began 20 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I commend United Cerebral Palsy of Central California and the Fansler Foundation for their continued dedication to those who have disabilities. I urge my colleagues to join me in praising them for their years of establishment and hard work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNA SAUGER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my heartiest congratulations to Anna Sauger, a beloved mother, wife, and citizen who was born a century ago on April 4, 1904.

Born in a coal mining town in Portage, PA, Anna often speaks of the hard life for the family of eight boys and three girls. The family kept two cows for milk, two pigs and some chickens for fresh eggs.

Her father, brothers and other coal miners fought for an 8-hour workday, better safety in the mines, and ultimately formed a Union, only to face a lockout in this company town, and were forced to leave their homes.

Ultimately, the company settled; Anna continued her education in a one-room school house and married John Sauger, a young miner. They lived in a small house in an area known as "Whiskey Row" until they moved to Detroit in 1925, where she raised a family of six boys and three girls.

During WWII, Anna was one of many working women who helped build the arsenal of democracy. She worked at the old Packard plant helping build Packard-Merlin engines used in the P-51 Mustangs. Her other jobs included factory work at Bundy Tubing and Glo-Tone cleaners.

Then tragedy struck and Anna lost John, her partner and best friend, in 1971. John was also her means of transportation, taking her from place to place. At the young age of 70 years old, Anna secretly took driver's training and got her driver's license. She became the proud owner of a driver's license and a green Dodge Scamp.

Last year, when Anna was honored with a visit to her home by Governor Jennifer Granholm, she presented her with a handmade pillow and blanket, made on her 1956 Pfaff sewing machine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding and honoring Anna Sauger on the wonderful occasion of her 100th birthday. I am pleased to join her many friends and family in paying tribute to a new centurion and a life that represents so very well the challenges and opportunities of our great country.

IN HONOR OF SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ZHENGZHOU, CHINA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the Sias International University of Zhengzhou, China, on the occasion of its fifth anniversary. Founded in 1998 by Dr. Shawn Chen, the Sias International University has been recognized as the first American-owned university in China.

Sias International University has a mission to educate professionals and help them gain an in-depth understanding of international business theory and practice. Its unique blend

of Western and Eastern culture creates a truly international learning environment to better prepare its students for today's global market. This dual-culture educational environment also fosters greater understanding between the United States and China.

One of the fastest growing universities in China, Sias International University has a student population now exceeding 7,000 and offers over 30 different majors, including business, engineering, art, sciences, languages, and liberal studies. Its unique partnership with Fort Hays State University in Kansas enables Sias International University to offer dual degree programs in many majors. Through Fort Hays State University's virtual campus and on-line courses Chinese students learn first hand about American educational values.

Dr. Chen's vision of international cooperation through academia has established Sias International University as a model for future education in China. As we speak, the partnership between Sias International University and Fort Hays State University is educating future leaders in government and industry from both the United States and China, all the while strengthening ties between our two nations.

The establishment of an institution like Sias International University could not be timelier. At a time when countries are threatened by terrorism and the national reflex worldwide is to close borders, we must remember that our economies, our people, and thus our nations are intertwined in this world. We must continue to resist reactions of fear and isolation and work instead towards forging relations with our international neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, as students, faculty, board members, university leaders, and the community gather to celebrate the accomplishments of Sias International University on the occasion of its fifth anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations and best wishes for continued growth and prosperity to this thriving institution.

IN HONOR OF LEEANN O'TOOLE'S DEDICATION TO THE BURBANK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LeeAnn O'Toole for 34 years of dedicated service to the Burbank Unified School District.

LeeAnn began her employment with BUSD on June 1, 1970, in the Division of Special Services as Secretary to the Senior Psychologist and Supervisor of Individual Guidance. At that time, this office was a combination of what we now know as the Special Education and Pupil Services departments. After a few months, she was transferred to Instructional Services, and served as Secretary to the Curriculum Coordinators and the Supervisor of Music. She worked there until April 1973, when she took maternity leave. Subsequently, she decided to resign her position to become a full-time stay at home mother.

LeeAnn returned to the District part-time in May 1979 at McKinley Elementary School as a health assistant. In September 1980, she transferred to Jordan (Junior High School

then) as a full time Counseling assistant. In April of 1982, she transferred to the Division of Instruction as a full-time Secretary to the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator. In May of 1984, LeeAnn moved to the Superintendent's Office as a Secretary. She left briefly in 1989 to take a position as Secretary to the Superintendent in the La Canada Unified School District where she was quickly promoted to Director of Administrative Services. The following year, she decided personnel work was not her true calling. Upon the retirement of the Secretary to the Superintendent in Burbank in 1991, she was rehired to fill that position where she has served ever since. Over the years, the job title has changed. She is now known as the Assistant to the Superintendent.

LeeAnn is a shining role model and irreplaceable BUSD employee. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating LeeAnn O'Toole for a truly exemplary professional and public service career, and for her immense commitment to the city of Burbank and its residents.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL S. CHAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Daniel S. Chan. On March 22, 2004, the city of Sacramento and northern California lost one of its most respected and honorable business leaders when Daniel S. Chan passed away. As his friends and family gather to remember Daniel's remarkable life and many outstanding contributions to his friends, family, and community, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting this exceptional citizen and my dear family friend, Daniel S. Chan.

A native of Sacramento, Dan was born on June 9, 1915. Dan was a graduate of Sacramento High School, Class of 1933. During the same year, Dan's father, Chan Tai Oy, who immigrated from Canton, China to Sacramento in the early 1900s, started a new business venture; General Produce Company. At the age of 18, Daniel would join his father and two brothers, Tom and Eddie, and cousin, Davis Sun, and embark on what will be an illustrious six-decade long career with General Produce Company.

As an owner, Dan was chief buyer and salesman for General Produce Company. Dan's dedication to the company and his work ethic were legendary. Dan worked seven days a week for over 60 years. Through Dan's outstanding business acumen and hard work, and his collaboration with his brothers Thomas and Eddie, General Produce Company would become one of Northern California's largest wholesale produce distributors. In addition to General Produce Company, Dan and his brothers also started one of the first department stores in Sacramento in the late 1950s and he also became involved in real estate, developing commercial and residential properties in the South Land Park Area in the 1950s and 1960s.

I came to know Dan and his family through my father's, Yasuji, employment with General Produce Company, where he was a top salesman. Dan and my father would have lunch together everyday. Dan was an owner who truly

cared about the best interests and well being of his employees. Over time, our families became very close. Dan and his wife Kitty, headed a loving family that included children; Deborah, Terrie, and Daniel. I have always had the utmost respect for the kindness and decency of the Chan family.

In addition to possessing great knowledge in buying and selling virtually every commodity General Produce Company handled, Dan was also a man of many other interests. An avid baseball player in his younger days, Dan was a big baseball fan who regularly attended San Francisco Giants baseball games: A voracious reader, Dan would read four newspapers on a daily basis. Dan was also a man who enjoyed building things. Dan used his precious free time to build his children a tree house and decorative garden accessories for the enjoyment of his friends and family. After his retirement in the mid-1990s, Dan took up fishing and enjoyed golfing well into his later years. Dan and his wife, Kitty, traveled to many places, both domestic and overseas.

Dan was preceded in death by his wife Kathleen "Kitty" Chan and siblings, Thomas, Eddie, and Marjorie. He is survived by his children; Deborah Chan of Hong Kong, Terrie Chan of Orinda and Daniel Chan of Sacramento. Dan was the loving grandfather of Ian Lee, Taylor Lee, Tyler Chan and Collin Chan.

Mr. Speaker, as Dan Chan's family and friends gather to pay tribute to his wonderful life, I am honored to express my respect and gratitude to one of Sacramento's finest citizens. It was truly a privilege for my family to count Dan Chan as our dear friend. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Dan Chan's remarkable life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, and 117. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 115, and 117. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 97, 107, 113, 114, and 116.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3550) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly support this transportation reauthorization.

While this bill includes important projects for my district, it does not adequately fund our nation's transportation priorities.

A population boom in the Inland Empire has created a desperate need for federal funding.

Commuters and emergency vehicles must be able to access our highways safely and efficiently.

In name of homeland security and economic vitality we, in the Inland Empire, must improve our infrastructure.

The average commute time in our district is 30 minutes to an hour. This is outrageous for an exurb community.

Last year my district grew by approximately 60,000 people.

Sixth in the nation for population growth.

These are thousands of Californians that deserve better investments in transportation infrastructure to correspond with the population growth.

I am not happy that this legislation will further condemn Californians to subsidize the transportation spending of other states.

I am not happy that this administration believes that deficit spending for millionaire tax cuts is necessary, but federal spending for job-creating transportation improvements is wasteful.

By limiting funds well below the Senate highway bill, Republicans are missing a prime opportunity to begin job creation and recover some of 3 million private-sector jobs lost under the Bush Administration.

That is why I will enthusiastically support the Davis amendment. This alternative increases the funding in the bill to the Senate-passed level of \$318 billion.

This would create about 1.8 million more jobs than the House GOP leadership bill without adding to the deficit.

This Democratic amendment would create about 1.8 million more jobs and \$235 billion more economic activity than the House GOP leadership bill without adding to the deficit.

The increase for highway and public transit over the House bill is fully paid for by cracking down on abusive corporate tax shelters and companies that move off-shore to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed a \$318 billion compromise measure by a vote of 76 to 21 on February 12.

Mr. Chairman, that is why I reluctantly support the reauthorization, but ask my colleagues to please enthusiastically support the Davis amendment to create jobs, fix our roads, and invest in the future.

COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with other women Members of Congress to honor the contributions and landmark efforts of women. As we look back on March, Women's History Month remains an important time to reflect on and commend women for their lifelong efforts to our country. Women have been the cornerstone of this country, so it is difficult for me to honor just one today, but after thought and reflection, I've decided to honor the life's work of a mentor and long time role model of mine, Ms. Betty Shabazz.

Betty Shabazz epitomizes the strength, tenacity, confidence, compassion, and fidelity of a progressive Black woman. Early in my career, I met her on several occasions, and she gave great guidance on how to be proactive, detail specific and plan for the unexpected. As a young woman, Shabazz left Detroit to study at the Tuskegee Institute, the renowned historic black college in Alabama. She later went to New York, where she became a registered nurse.

In New York, Shabazz was introduced to the Nation of Islam and its founder Elijah Muhammad. It was in 1956 that Betty X met Malcolm X, then a rising star in the Nation of Islam. Two years later they married, and within 5 years, they had four daughters. After breaking off from the Nation of Islam in 1964, Malcolm and Betty X adopted the Muslim surname Shabazz.

In early 1965, Malcolm was gunned down while speaking at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem. Betty Shabazz, pregnant with twins, was in the audience with their daughters when one of the greatest Civil Rights Leaders of our time was murdered. Betty raised their six daughters alone, returned to school, and in 1975 earned a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts. She went to work as an administrator at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn while carrying out an effort to inform people around the world about civil and human rights and racial tolerance.

In a sudden and tragic twist of fate, the world lost a great champion and voice. In June of 1997, Betty Shabazz passed away at 61 from third-degree burns that ravaged over 80 percent of her body. This was a tragic ending to an extraordinary life.

For all of her honest criticism and constructive praise, I thank her and honor her. Betty Shabazz was a true womanist, activist, and leader. I owe here a great debt of gratitude and in the years to come will continue to work to preserve her memory.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HEIN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a man with a distinguished public service career. Throughout the course of his career, John Hein has served the people of California, especially its school children, with great success and distinction. John recently retired from his position as the Associate Executive Director for the California Teachers Association. It is my honor to ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting John Hein, a tireless and passionate advocate for public education in California.

John Hein has undoubtedly been one of California's most effective education reformers and loyal supporters of public education in recent history. John possesses the necessary work ethic and conviction to successfully represent and advance the interests of California's 6.5 million school children. John's remarkable track record in moving an extraordinary agenda for California's school children is almost unparalleled anywhere in the field of education.

John's insight and perseverance were instrumental in negotiating a settlement in the

California Teachers Association v. Gould lawsuit that resulted in the largest decrease in class size in the history of California. John's masterful handling of this settlement also produced the largest financial commitment to instructional materials for each student in every subject, as well as the largest increase in professional development opportunities for classroom teachers in the Nation.

Aside from being an astute negotiator, John was also a skilled organizer of a number of important public campaigns. John was a major organizer in a mass demonstration of teachers and other supporters of public education that played a big part in a \$2 billion increase in general revenues to the public schools. To this day, this change in policy remains the largest single increase in school funding in the history of California. Driven by a deep commitment to increased local funding for public schools, John played a vital role in the successful effort to reduce the vote threshold for local school bonds from two-thirds to 55 percent. Passage of this measure resulted in a \$26 billion increase in state funding for new and rehabilitated schools. John also lent his considerable talents to the fight against school vouchers. John was able to bring together a massive statewide coalition that delivered a resounding defeat to the voucher movement in California and across the nation. Time and time again, John has proven that he is one of the greatest friends of public education in California.

John's relentless dedication to public education and his strong leadership have made the California Teacher's Association one of the most powerful organizations to lobby on behalf of public education and associated issues in the country. Under John's leadership, the California Teachers Association crafted the most rigorous academic standards in the nation, a new statewide testing system, a new school facilities law and other major education reforms.

A man of many talents and considerable energy, John's leadership in California went well beyond public education issues. John has served on the executive boards of campaigns that sought to protect affirmative action, racial data collection, bilingual education, and immigrants' rights in California. John's commitment to public service has enabled him to make a positive contribution to the lives of all Californians.

Mr. Speaker, as John Hein embarks on an exciting new chapter of his life, I am honored to pay tribute to a great champion of public education in California. The people of California have benefited greatly from John's leadership and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing John continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHITE ROCK LAKE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. Congressman representing White Rock Lake in Dallas, I would like to recognize the

invaluable contribution made by the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to the development of White Rock Lake.

With the dedication of the new CCC statue at White Rock Lake Park, we honor the lasting contribution of the approximately 3,000 young men who, over the course of seven years, spent six months to two years learning a trade and performing a valuable public service.

These young men labored diligently, making a host of improvements to White Rock Lake, including deepening and widening the lake, constructing, clearing underbrush, and building bridle paths, trails, picnic grounds, barbecue pits, shelter houses, thousands of feet of retaining walls and planting hundreds of pecan trees. One of their major accomplishments was the creation of the park at Flag Pole Hill, which we still enjoy today.

Today, I recognize the "boys in green" from the CCC Camp at White Rock Lake and thank them for their hard work as we dedicate a new statue in Sunset Bay to honor the outstanding contribution they made in helping build our community.

TRIBUTE TO ALDEN B. DOW OF MIDLAND, MICHIGAN—100TH BIRTH YEAR COMMEMORATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alden B. Dow.

In 2004, the city of Midland, Michigan will be holding a year-long celebration to honor the life and accomplishments of Alden B. Dow entitled "The Quality of Life—The Influence of Alden B. Dow."

Born in Midland on April 10, 1904, Dow's leadership and architectural ingenuity served as inspiration to his community. Trained at Columbia University's School of Architecture, Dow completed over 520 projects throughout his fifty-year career, each focusing on a theme of individuality. He designed homes throughout the United States, including World War II housing for the Department of Defense in Brazoria, Texas. He also designed the entire town of Lake Jackson, Texas during the same period. In addition to housing, Alden Dow also designed colleges, hospitals, and community buildings. His design of the First United Methodist Church in Midland won the Eighth Annual National Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architecture in 1958, and was the only religious structure to receive such an award. Dow has also received such honors as honorary degrees from various colleges and universities, and was a Fellow for the American Institute of Architects. He served as president of the Michigan Society of Architects in 1949, winning the organization's gold medal in 1960. He was also a recipient of the Frank Lloyd Wright creativity award in 1982, and in 1983, Dow was honored as Michigan's only Architect Laureate.

I am honored today to recognize, along with the city of Midland, Michigan, the accomplishments of Alden B. Dow and his life contributions during this celebration.

OIL-FOR-FOOD CREDIBILITY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member agrees with the sentiments expressed in an April 12, 2004, Lincoln Journal Star editorial entitled "Credibility at Stake in Probe of Oil-for-Food." This Member commends the article to his colleagues.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Apr. 12, 2004]

CREDIBILITY AT STAKE IN PROBE OF OIL-FOR-FOOD

If the United Nations is to retain credibility as an effective force in international affairs, it cannot afford a slipshod and superficial investigation into its handling of the oil-for-food program.

Rumors of corruption in the program have been floating around for years, but more specific charges have been leveled recently.

The charges are especially troubling at a time when the United Nations is being encouraged to take a larger role in the stabilization of Iraq.

The oil-for-food program, established and operated by the United Nations, was begun in 1996 to ease hardship imposed on ordinary Iraqi citizens by economic sanctions. Under its guidelines, Iraq was allowed to sell oil to buy goods that had humanitarian purposes, such as food and medicine.

Iraq sold about \$67 billion worth of oil before the program ended, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office.

The program was set up to pay for itself. The United Nations earned a 3 percent commission. Most of the money went to cover the United Nation's costs, and the remainder was to go to the weapons inspection program.

But GAO officials said recently that Saddam Hussein's government pocketed more than \$10 billion in proceeds from oil sales. About \$5.7 billion came from oil smuggled to its neighbors. Another \$4.4 billion came from illegal surcharges and kickbacks on legitimate contracts.

Several months ago, an Iraqi newspaper said it had documented proof that oil revenue was diverted to more than 200 businesses, organizations and individuals, including French and Russian politicians and Benon Sevan, the U.N. official who ran the oil-for-food program.

U.N. officials attempted and succeeded in blocking some of the smuggling ventures, but the recent charges portray the corruption as much more extensive than previously suspected. One of the ticklish aspects of the corruption charges is that U.N. General Secretary Kofi Annan's son, Kojo, worked for one of the companies that are implicated in the scandal. Suggestions that Kojo Annan was involved in the corruption seem dubious, however, since he left the company before it became involved with the program.

Kofi Annan initially was slow to respond to the new charges, but he won U.N. Security Council permission last month to establish an independent investigation into the charges. The approval was less than enthusiastic, however. Russia agreed only to "take note" of the investigation.

The United Nations has filled an invaluable role over the years in addressing humanitarian problems and helping to resolve conflicts.

In order to retain the trust of the international community, the United Nations must be willing to thoroughly investigate

these charges of corruption. If results warrant, the international organization also must take decisive action against any of its own officials who may have been involved.

COMMENDING THE ATHLETES, ORGANIZERS, VOLUNTEERS AND FANS OF THE DODGE TOUR DE GEORGIA

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, this week Georgians will line the roads to witness the top ranked stage road bicycle race in North America.

The Dodge Tour de Georgia promotes tourism, stimulates local industry, and is proud to benefit the Georgia Cancer Coalition. The race serves as a rolling festival to entertain and educate spectators across the Peach State about cycling, fitness, and most importantly about the possibility for a cure for and the prevention of cancer. This second annual event, April 20 to 25, 2004, takes pro cyclists and multitudes of visitors on a scenic 641-mile journey through the Great State of Georgia.

Athletes from over 15 countries will compete for \$100,000 in cash and prizes. With a mix of road races, an individual time trial, and challenging terrain, the 2004 Dodge Tour de Georgia will be an exciting event for both racers and spectators.

A great deal of attention will be on cycling this year, since many elite athletes vie to represent their countries in the Olympic Games in road, time trial or track disciplines of cycling in August. And, five-time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong seeks his record sixth consecutive win on the Champs-Elysees in July. Part of the reason for a significant increase in media and spectator interest in the Dodge Tour de Georgia this year is because Armstrong will compete in the event with his United States Postal Service Pro Cycling team. It will be the only stage race Armstrong is expected to enter in North America this year, and the only event in the U.S. for him prior to his record attempt in France.

Officials with the Dodge Tour de Georgia project a \$20 to \$30 million boost to the Georgia economy. The value provided to its charitable beneficiary, the Georgia Cancer Coalition, is expected to surpass \$2.5 million, doubling the number from 2003. The 2004 Dodge Tour de Georgia, the country's premier, professional cycling stage race, will visit 11 host cities in 6 days, from Tuesday, April 20 to Sunday, April 25.

As a world-class sporting event, the Dodge Tour de Georgia is defined in part by the 128 elite, professional cyclists who will compete in seven stage races, traversing 649 miles across Georgia in 6 days. As a vehicle to promote tourism and stimulate economic growth, the race is defined by the thousands of visitors and volunteers who plan to visit from across Georgia, the U.S. and abroad.

From just the impact of media, officials, teams, and support personnel, not including spectators, local communities will see an immediate impact from 3,000 room nights and over 7,000 meals.

I would like to commend the sponsors, organizers, and staff of the Dodge Tour de Geor-

gia, for bringing a world-class event of this magnitude to the people of the United States. I would also like to commend the Union Cycliste Internationale, for sanctioning this event.

I would like to recognize the host communities, Alpharetta, Athens, Carrlonton, Columbus, Dalton, Dahlenega, Dawsonville, Hiawassee/Young Harris, Macon, Rome, and Thomaston; as well as their local organizing committees for their contribution to this worthy cause.

Cancer is a brutal killer that strikes without regard to age, race, sex, or station in life. I am grateful that there are organizations like the Georgia Cancer Coalition, which are dedicated to its eradication and there is support from organizations like Dodge; GE Energy; The Georgia Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; Georgia Power; Southern LINC; and the many others who have bonded together to organize and promote Georgia's Race to Cure Cancer.

This event brings the finest cyclists in the world to compete and raise money to fight a terrible killer so that all of the world may benefit. I am proud that this event will be held in my home state of Georgia and I commend all the athletes, organizers, volunteers and fans that make the Dodge Tour de Georgia a truly special event.

APRIL SCHOOLS OF THE MONTH
NEW YORK'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the 63 elementary and middle schools from the 4th Congressional District which were recently designated as part of New York State's Most Improved Schools, and it is my honor to name them as my April Schools of the Month.

To qualify for Most Improved status, the schools have had to dramatically improve their English and Math scores. More than 50 percent of the students from the schools that made the list surpassed the English and Math standards and the number of students scoring at that level has increased by 20 points over the past 5 years, based on 4th and 8th grade test results.

The schools that made the list come from a mixture of areas from my Congressional district, proving that improving education isn't just a socioeconomic issue, but an area of concern that knows no boundaries. I am hopeful these schools will provide motivation to the rest of the schools in my district. It is common knowledge that education is the key to our children's future. We must ensure that not only the schools who made the list this year, but every one of our public schools has the funding to maintain their momentum and help all their students to meet the tougher Regents' standards.

The level of improvement by these schools is due to the hard work of the students, teachers, school staff and the parent body. Parents play a large role in the education of children by ensuring students complete their homework and improve their skills. However, I must specifically commend the teachers, who toil at a

tough job that doesn't receive enough appreciation. That is why I am going to begin honoring teachers each month by naming a Teacher of the Month. This honor will allow us to recognize the dedication and tireless effort put forth by these true professionals.

Once again, I congratulate all the honorees and look forward to honoring them, and other schools, in the future.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD J. VOLANTE, LONGTIME CLIFTON HEIGHTS FIRE CHIEF, CAREER FIREFIGHTER WITH A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, COMPASSION AND COURAGE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Edward J. Volante, a longtime Clifton Heights Fire Chief and career firefighter. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Ed Volante, I want to take a few moments today to remember his work and the difference he made in the community he served so bravely and selflessly.

Chief Volante was a lifelong resident of Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania, where he served as fire chief for 26 years and a firefighter for 50 years. He embodied the most noble virtues of public service. The Chief served in almost every position in the fire company since joining the Clifton Heights Hose & Hook in 1954. Chief Volante will be remembered for his loyal dedication to improving his community's ability to respond to emergencies and ensure the safety of all residents.

Firefighting is a matter of life and death, and individuals like Chief Volante assume an enormous responsibility when they accept the job of running a fire department. They are responsible for the lives, homes, and livelihoods of thousands of citizens throughout their community. And on a day-to-day basis they become directly responsible for the health and welfare of all the men and women they supervise. Chief Volante discharged these enormous responsibilities with real distinction. During his 26 year tenure as chief, a good department became even better. Chief Volante took great pride in the fact that his fire company was the proving grounds for other companies. Chief Volante was respected for his commitment to public safety and his ability to get things done.

Recognizing how difficult it is these days to recruit volunteers, he had a sign posted outside the fire company, "Volunteers needed, apply here." He often said, "you can never have too many volunteers." The citizens of Clifton Heights should take comfort that their fire company will continue to evoke Chief Volante's spirit and legacy through their continued efforts to better their community. When the alarm sounds at all hours of the day and night it will serve as a call for more volunteers to the noble calling of the fire service.

Mr. Speaker, the 7th Congressional District has lost an exceptional public servant, and I have lost a good friend. I wish Chief Volante's wife of 44 years, Carol Ann and family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find com-

fort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work. Chief Edward J. Volante exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. This man was a genuine community leader. He not only did his job well, he loved it, and the community he served. We are safer because of his life and sacrifice. I am personally grateful to have known Chief Volante as a friend, and mourn his passing.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE HERNDON COMMUNITY BY TOM AND BETSY GREIN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rep. TOM DAVIS and myself, it is our pleasure today to recognize the contributions to community journalism made by Tom and Betsy Grein through their ownership of The Observer newspapers in the Herndon community of Fairfax County, Virginia. After 13 years at the helm starting in June 1990—when they bought The Observer from the late Peggy Vetter, the newspaper's founder—the Greins last October sold the paper to new owners.

Tom and Betsy Grein formed a team dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of journalism with a focus on providing the community of Herndon with a vital source of information. Tom served as editor and publisher and Betsy was general manager and advertising director. During their tenure, The Observer grew with the community, increasing its circulation from 14,000 to more than 60,000, tripling its full-time staff, adding editions in Loudoun County and Reston, and publishing electronically on the World Wide Web.

Tom also wrote more than 700 "Our Town" columns, faithfully documenting his perspective of Herndon and the history and people of the community.

In addition to their tireless efforts as the owners of The Observer, they also found time to be active members of the Herndon community. Tom served on the Board of Directors of Herndon Community Television and the Herndon Rotary Club and Betsy was a member of the Board of Directors of the Herndon Dulles Chamber of Commerce and the Council for the Arts of Herndon.

We express appreciation to Tom and Betsy Grein on behalf of all the citizens of the greater Herndon community for their dedicated service to community journalism and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering

the victims of the Armenian Genocide. April 24th will be the 89th anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan"—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO PROVIDENCE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Providence Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of the dedication of their new church facilities. Founded in Newark in 1921, this church has been serving and ministering to our community for 83 years, and has long been an institution within my district.

In March of 1921, six families gathered to establish the Rose Hill Baptist Church, calling Rev. B.W. Keith as their first pastor. Though they have moved to various locations around the city of Newark, they have continued to bless our community through their dedication to serving each other, as well as their neighbors, through compassionate ministry.

Providence Missionary Baptist Church continues to reach beyond their own parish to serve the citizens of Newark, establishing a feeding and clothing ministry called Feed My Sheep, Christian Education and Leadership training, an Annual Leadership Conference, and a preschool for the children in the community.

Under the leadership of their current Pastor, Rev. Vincent Grove, they continue to experience growth, adding new members to their

congregation, and renovating and expanding their facilities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to the members of the Providence Missionary Baptist Church for their contributions to our city. I also invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations as they celebrate the completion of their new church building, and offering our best wishes as they commemorate their 83rd anniversary later this year.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (April 10), I wish to congratulate the people of Taiwan. For the last quarter century, the Taiwan Relations Act has been the cornerstone of the U.S. relationship with Taiwan. It has enabled Taiwan to move from an authoritarian state to a full democracy and has provided the people of Taiwan with the tools necessary to achieve the highest standards of living.

Taiwan has now completed its third ever direct presidential election. Even though incumbent President Chen Shui-bian won a razor thin victory over his opponent, Taiwan's latest presidential election has demonstrated to the world that the people of Taiwan have exercised their democratic right through a remarkable 80 percent voter turnout.

Let us hope that in the days and months ahead Taiwan President Chen will use the power of his office to lead Taiwan's 23 million people, and that peace and stability will continue to prevail in the Taiwan Strait for the next 25 years and beyond.

In the meantime I wish to salute Taiwan Ambassador C.J. Chen, who will be returning to Taipei next month. He has served Taiwan well as his country's top diplomat in Washington during the last 4 years. He and his wife Yolanda will be missed by their friends in Washington.

CONGRATULATING FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ALOYSIUS P. KELLEY, S.J.

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J., the seventh and longest-serving President in Fairfield University's history, who plans to retire on June 30, 2004, after 25 years of service.

Father Kelley's decision marks the end of a tremendously successful 25-year tenure during which Fairfield University has become one of the preeminent Jesuit schools in the country. As the longest serving president of the nation's 28 Jesuit colleges and universities, arriving at the University in 1979, Father Kelley has presided over the graduation of 64 percent of Fairfield's 38,000 alumni.

During his tenure, Father Kelley worked tirelessly in collaboration with the University's faculty, alumni, parents and friends to achieve extraordinary results. He has overseen facility expansion that has transformed the campus, including the construction and acquisition of 14 new facilities and the renovation and expansion of 12 others.

The student body and faculty of Fairfield University have been strengthened over the past 25 years. On the undergraduate level, Fairfield this year set an all-time record in the number of applications, with 7,655 for 850 seats in the incoming class. During Father Kelley's tenure, the average combined SAT score for the entering class has increased from 1,065 to 1,197. Fairfield's admission for this year's entering class placed it among the top five percent of four-year colleges and universities in the nation in terms of selectivity. The intellectual environment thrived during Father Kelley's tenure.

This is the end of an extraordinarily successful era. Under Father Kelley's leadership, Fairfield University has experienced dramatic growth and success. To top it all off, the institution's endowment has increased from under \$2 million in 1979 to \$131 million currently.

Father Kelley will be greatly missed. He leaves a strong legacy and bright future on which his successor may build. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Father Kelley for his tremendous accomplishments.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3550) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, my primary objective being named to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 107th Congress was to improve Michigan's minimum rate of return for highway dollars from the current 90.5 percent in the reauthorization of TEA-21. Sadly, the bill reported from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, H.R. 3550, while increasing the overall pot of money to \$284 billion over six years, decreases the amount of programs or "scope" that the minimum rate of return applies to, effectively decreasing our share to about 79 percent of every road dollar. The amendment offered by Mr. ISAKSON of Georgia on the House floor would have corrected this flaw and at least allow Michigan and other donor States to continue receiving the same rate of return on the same scope of projects as in current law. The net effect of this amendment would have been an additional \$300 million to meet Michigan's needs. While I voted in favor of this amendment, it was defeated by a vote of 170-254.

Given the fact that under H.R. 3550, Michigan will receive less of a percentage of road dollars than they do today, I am voting against it on final passage. Michigan's roads and infra-

structure have taken a back seat to other States for far too long. Enough is enough—it is time these Federal road dollars go to Michigan projects and create Michigan jobs. I am hopeful that we can work to make the final product better for Michigan's citizens in conference committee.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise a valuable organization located in the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania that has striven to advance the independence of individuals with disabilities for 50 years. I am proud to represent the congressional district that has housed, for 50 years, the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Western Pennsylvania.

Building on the vision of the founding families who purchased and renovated a three-story home in Spring Church, Armstrong County, where a day clinic for children with disabilities was housed, UCP today serves some 1,500 individuals, adult and children, in their homes and communities. For half a century the agency, serving Armstrong, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties in southwestern Pennsylvania, has been providing programs and services for physically and mentally challenged individuals. Most of the consumers are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, Down syndrome, developmental delays, speech and language disorders, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injuries. The accomplishments that UCP has made in the last 50 years have made significant improvements to the lives of the physically and mentally challenged in southwestern Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this fine organization and the benefits that it has bestowed on so many individuals in southwestern Pennsylvania. It is truly an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District and to recognize the 50th anniversary of the United Cerebral Palsy of Western Pennsylvania.

VAISAKHI DAY, SIKH HOLIDAY—USE OPPORTUNITY TO FREE KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, April 13 is Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the founding of the Sikh Nation in 1699. The Sikhs love freedom as we do, Mr. Speaker. They have a long tradition of fighting oppression wherever it rears its ugly head and they have a history of self-rule.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Sikhs in America and the Sikhs around the world a happy Vaisakhi Day.

The Council of Khalistan, the organization that is leading the Sikh movement to liberate

their homeland, Khalistan, recently published an open letter to the Sikhs, a Vaisakhi Day message. It urged the Sikhs to use the opportunity to liberate their homeland. The letter called upon them to remember the Sikh Nation's heritage of freedom.

The letter pointed out the suffering of the Sikhs at the hands of the Indian government. That repression has taken the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs in the last 20 years, in addition to over 50,000 Sikhs who were picked up, tortured, killed, and secretly cremated, declaring their bodies "unidentified." Another 52,000-plus are being held as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression, a Punjabi human-rights organization. In addition, India has killed more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Yet the U.S. taxpayer continues to be taxed to send foreign aid to this brutal country.

The letter calls on the Sikhs to take the opportunity of Vaisakhi to demand a free and independent Khalistan by means of slogans, by peaceful resistance, and by bringing forth new leadership. It takes note of the death of Gurcharan Singh Tohra, the President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, and the political collapse of former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal to call for new leadership that supports freedom for Khalistan. It notes the seminar held on Khalistan last year, which shows that the desire for freedom remains strong in Punjab.

This letter makes a very strong case for a sovereign, independent Khalistan and it does a good job of exposing the brutal tyranny that India has inflicted on the Sikh Nation.

Mr. Speaker, how can we, as the bastion of freedom, sit idly by and close our eyes to this terror? The time has come to stop U.S. aid to India. This may be the most effective way that we can influence them to stop the repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. And if India is the democratic state that it says it is, it should conduct a free and fair vote on the question of independence. This Congress should put itself on record urging India to do this as soon as possible. That is the democratic way to settle issues, and we should use our influence to help this occur.

Mr. Speaker, the letter from the Council of Khalistan is very informative. For the information of my colleagues and the public, I would like to insert it into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, April 6, 2004.

VAISAKHI DAY MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION:
SIKHS WILL CELEBRATE VAISAKHI DAY
APRIL 13

DEAR KHALSA JI: On April 13, the Sikh Nation will celebrate Vaisakhi Day, observing the 305th anniversary of the day Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Silrhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 20 years. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs

since 1984. In addition, over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Over 52,000 Sikhs sit in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in illegal custody for 20 years!

The Indian government forgot the Sikh tradition. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Janail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would "lay the foundation stone of Khalistan" and he was right. Late in 2003, former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh organized a seminar on Khalistan at Baba Makhan Shah Labana Hall, Sector 30, Chandigarh. This shows that the flame of freedom is still burning in the hearts of Sikhs. It is time to take action to free our homeland. Repression and genocide of this magnitude at the hands of the Indian government is unparalleled in the late part of the 20th century. India should be ashamed of the genocide it has committed against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities.

With the passing of Gurcharan Singh Tohra, new leadership must emerge at the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC.) In addition, new political leadership must emerge with Prakash Singh Badal under indictment. Mr. Badal's time is not long either. He has had cancer already and he is an old man. This new leadership must be committed to the cause of freeing our Sikh homeland from the repression and brutality of the Indian government by reclaiming our lost sovereignty in a free and independent Khalistan.

Khalisa Ji, at this time of Vaisakhi, the whole Khalsa Panth must be energized to re-establish a sovereign, independent Khalsa Raj by freeing our homeland, Khalistan. It is time for Sikhs to look back at our history of persecution and suffering over the past 20 years. The Hindu government of India, whether run by the Congress Party or by the BJP, wants minorities either subservient to Hinduism or completely wiped out. The Indian government and its allies have tried to weaken the Sikh religion by saying that Sikhism is part of Hinduism. If that is true, why have they murdered so many Sikhs? Hindus practice idol worship; Sikhism is monotheistic, worshipping only one God. Hindus believe in the caste system; Sikhs believe in the equality of the whole human race. Remember the words of Guru Gobind Singh: "Recognize ye all the human race as one." In spite of the fact that the religions believe completely opposite things, Hindus desire to engulf Sikhism just as they did with Jainism and Buddhism in India. They think that Buddhism is part of Hinduism because Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, was born in India. Similarly, Guru Nanak was born Hindu, so they proclaim Sikhism to be part of Hinduism. Yet Guru Nanak said that he was "neither Hindu nor Muslim." Jesus was born Jewish. Does that mean that Christianity is merely part of Judaism?

On this auspicious occasion celebrating the birth of the Khalsa Panth, we must bring

back our Khalsa spirit. We must remember our heritage and tradition of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah" by committing ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. We need a new Sikh political party which has a dedication to the interests of the Sikh Nation as its sole objective, to establish Khalsa Raj by liberating Khalistan, severing all political ties with India. If the BJP wants Hindu Raj, it cannot object to Khalsa Raj.

The Indian government wants to break the will of the Sikh Nation and enslave them forever, making Sikhism a part of Hinduism. This can only be stopped if we free Punjab from Delhi's control and reestablish a sovereign, independent country, as declared on October 7, 1987. We must recommit ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. Raise slogans of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah," "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," "Khalistan Zindabad," and "India out of Khalistan." Use this Vaisakhi to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan.

Last year's seminar on Khalistan shows that the flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab in spite of the Indian government's brutal repression. Perhaps this is why India is afraid to hold a free and fair vote on the subject of independence. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, during the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." He was only reiterating the Guru's blessing, "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The time to achieve our independence is now.

Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is very close.

Panth Da Sewadar,
GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN WORKERS AND MANUFACTURERS SUPPORT ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues and I have been watching with great interest the nightly news report on Lou Dobbs Tonight entitled "Exporting America." The series has highlighted the disturbing trend of good paying American jobs that are being sent overseas. In the past three years, more than 2.8 million Americans employed in manufacturing have lost their jobs. Because each manufacturing job supports two non-manufacturing positions; that means at least 8.4 million people have been affected, directly or indirectly, because of the loss of American manufacturing to overseas companies. Despite these job losses, over 16 million Americans are still employed in the manufacturing sector. Additionally, manufacturing contributes roughly 17 percent of our nation's gross domestic product, provides 71 percent of our exports, and funds 67 percent of our nation's research and development investment. As these numbers indicate, manufacturing is the backbone of our economy and action must be taken to protect and create jobs here at home and stem the tide of American manufacturing jobs moving overseas.

Current free trade policies have enticed many large corporations and retailers to take

advantage of cheap foreign-made goods. I was dismayed when the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, only months ago, stated that companies outsourcing American jobs overseas is a "good thing." While these policies can lead to a temporary boost for a sector of the economy, most notably in the retail sector, in the long run their implications can be detrimental to American workers. I doubt that any Americans who are out of work because their job went overseas believe that outsourcing is a good thing. We must protect the jobs we have and create others to fill the void left by the jobs that have been lost.

An even more dangerous result of these policies is the threat to our national security when vital defense-related products are made in foreign countries. The ever shifting geopolitical landscape could leave the source of critical components of our defense systems in the hands of a nation unsympathetic to the United States. Manufacturers are also major customers of information and communications technology. Many electronics components are now manufactured only outside the United States. For example, the wire industry is nearly nonexistent. If our manufacturing base continues to erode, the effects will be devastating, not only in terms of individual job losses, but also in terms of the ripple effects that will be felt throughout our economy and our national security.

In response to this disturbing trend, I worked with business and labor leaders to craft the American Workers and Manufacturers Support Act. This legislation is an eight-point plan which lays out pragmatic steps designed to secure our manufacturing economic base, protect jobs, and help grow the manufacturing sector here at home.

First, we must end the threat to our national security by strengthening the Buy American Act to ensure that the federal government supports domestic companies and domestic workers by buying American-made goods. The bill would strengthen the existing Act by applying its provisions to the new Department of Homeland Security and by tightening existing waivers. It would also require that information be provided to Congress and to the American people about how often the provisions of this Act are waived by Federal departments and agencies.

Second, we must enforce existing trade agreements. This bill establishes a Congressional Trade Office to provide Congress with independent, nonpartisan, neutral trade expertise and monitor compliance with major, bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade agreements. The Office will also observe and evaluate dispute settlement deliberations and selected trade negotiations.

Third, we must stop the manipulation of currency exchange rates. Several nations have for years intervened aggressively in currency markets to maintain their national currencies at artificially low values relative to the U.S. dollar. The result is the gradual decline of manufacturing in the U.S. and job losses in manufacturing. This bill would give a ninety day deadline for the Administration to negotiate an end to the currency devaluation by countries such as China that severely undervalue their currency. If these bilateral negotiations fail, the legislation requires the President to utilize powers he already possesses under U.S. and international law to file legal action to

halt these practices and recover damages for U.S. manufacturers.

Fourth, we must enable American consumers to make informed choices about purchasing American made goods. This bill charges the Department of Commerce with studying the feasibility and impact with regards to costs to manufacturers and consumers of enacting laws requiring all products retailing at more than \$15 to state clearly on the labels the percentage of components made in the United States.

Fifth, we must invest American dollars in America. This bill brings the U.S. into compliance with World Trade Organization regulations and protects U.S. manufacturing jobs. It repeals the Foreign Sales Corporation/ Extraterritorial Income (FSC/ETI) tax provisions that provide a partial tax exemption for U.S. exports. These provisions have caused the European Union to threaten retaliatory tariffs because the WTO has ruled that these tax exemptions are prohibited export subsidies. The bill also provides transitional relief to companies currently receiving the FSC/ETI benefit, and provides permanent tax relief to make U.S. companies more competitive in the global market, resulting in an increase in U.S. manufacturing and U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Sixth, we need to stop pitting big American manufacturers against small ones. Large manufacturers and retailers know that smaller companies have difficulty competing within the current trade structure, and sometimes they use questionable tactics in trying to obtain favorable prices. One such practice is to place a large contract order to get a favorable price then to cancel the contract after only a portion of the goods are provided. This bill charges the Secretary of Commerce with setting up an investigative unit to look into these practices, establishing guidelines to address abuses and a unit to allow small manufacturers to confidentially report their complaints.

Seventh, we must ensure the flow of qualified manufacturing workers. This bill includes preparation of students for manufacturing jobs under the Advanced Technological Education Program and increases funding for the program. Additionally, it provides funding for the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council, which sets performance standards to certify job skills for manufacturing workers.

Finally, the eighth step is to support America's small manufacturers. This bill creates a new Undersecretary within the Department of Commerce to oversee the new Manufacturing and Technology Administration created by the bill. This office would be tasked with supervising the National Institutes of Standards and Technology; National Technical Information Service; and a new policy analysis office named Office of Manufacturing and Technology Policy. Additionally it would conduct manufacturing and technology policy analysis to improve United States industrial productivity, manufacturing capabilities, and innovation. It would also be tasked with identifying manufacturing and technology needs, problems and opportunities within and across industrial sectors. It would propose and support studies and policy experiments, in cooperation with other federal agencies, to determine the effectiveness of measures for improving United States manufacturing capabilities and productivity. Finally, it would encourage and assist the creation of centers and other joint initiatives by State or local governments, re-

gional organizations, private businesses, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, Federal laboratories to encourage technology transfer, to encourage innovation, and to promote an appropriate climate for investment in technology-related industries.

If our manufacturing base continues to erode, the effects of individual job losses on our economy and national security will be devastating. In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING ALBERT J. BOUDREAU

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Albert J. Boudreau for over 12 years of dedicated service to the town of Vienna, Virginia, as a member of the Vienna Town Council.

A native of New York City, Mr. Boudreau graduated from the University of Maryland and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict. He has been a resident of Vienna for 45 years and first was appointed to the Vienna Town Council in January of 1992 to fill an unexpired term. Later that year, he won election and has served with honor and distinction ever since.

During his tenure on the Vienna Town Council, Mr. Boudreau has held a number of regional and statewide leadership positions. He has served as vice president and president-elect of the Virginia Municipal League, as well as on the league's Executive Committee and Effective Government Committee. Additionally, he has been a member of the Northern Virginia Community Appearance Alliance, the Northern Virginia Transportation Coordinating Council, and the Virginia Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Mr. Boudreau also is the first president of the newly formed Virginia Local Government Finance Corporation, jointly sponsored by the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Cities and Counties.

His dedication to Northern Virginia extends beyond public service. For years, Mr. Boudreau has been incredibly active throughout his community. He enthusiastically has supported and volunteered for numerous community programs such as the Southeast Vienna Civil Association, the Vienna Woods Swim Club, the Vienna Little League, the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

Mr. Boudreau has proven an invaluable asset to the town of Vienna, and while his retirement is well deserved, I know that he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Albert J. Boudreau for all of his efforts on behalf of Northern Virginia. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Boudreau's past accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING COMMUNITY
BANKS OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the Community Banks of Pennsylvania and the more than 40,000 full- and part-time employees who have helped provide the Commonwealth with more than 170 years of financial support. I am honored to note that the Pennsylvania State Senate has designated April 19, 2004, through April 24, 2004, as "Community Banking Week."

With more than \$180 billion in assets, Community Banks recognize that when money stays in a town, it becomes a renewable resource, creating an economic cycle that constantly revitalizes and stimulates local communities. Community Banks work with the citizens in every sense of the word. These banks have made significant contributions to the economic well-being of the Commonwealth through their financial support, their dedication as good neighbors and, above all, through their service as financially sound and reliable sources of economic lifeblood in our communities.

The Community Banks have long helped in the development of our communities and of this Commonwealth as a whole. On average, 95 percent of their loan portfolio is reinvested in their own communities through residential mortgages and commercial, agricultural and student loans. Indeed, neighbors are helping neighbors build homes, save for higher education, plan for retirement and fulfill life-long dreams.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring this integral aspect of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's economy during Community Banker's Week. Without the continued support that the Community Banks have provided to Pennsylvania, much of the success that the Commonwealth has experienced would have been impossible.

GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA, SIKH
LEADER, DIES—LEFT LEGACY OF
BETRAYAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I noticed in the April 3 issue of the Washington Post that Gurcharan Singh Tohra, a Sikh who led the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), the Sikhs' highest administrative body, which administers all the Sikh places of worship, called Gurdwaras, in Punjab, died April 1 in a hospital in New Delhi. He was 79 years old.

On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, I would like to extend my sympathies to Mr. Tohra's family. In this time of loss for them, we all pray for them and for the departed. However, it is important to have the record reflect the actions that Mr. Tohra took against his own people.

The Council of Khalistan published a press release on April 6 which details the betrayal of the Sikhs by Mr. Tohra. It is excellent reading and I recommend it to my colleagues.

In that press release, the Council of Khalistan took note of Mr. Tohra's invitation to the Indian government to launch its military attack on the Golden Temple, the most sacred of Sikh shrines, in June 1984, in order to eliminate his political rival, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who was a strong advocate of an independent Sikh state, Khalistan. Sikhs will be commemorating this brutal attack on June 5 here in Washington. The Indian forces simultaneously attacked 125 Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab and murdered over 20,000 Sikhs in these attacks alone. They shot bullet holes in the Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib. They took young Sikh boys ages 8 through 13 out in the courtyard and shot them at point blank range. Meanwhile, Mr. Tohra, who had said that the tanks would have to roll over his body to get to the Temple, came out with his hands up. The Golden Temple complex is also the headquarters of the SGPC.

Mr. Tohra was also in a longstanding political alliance with the corrupt Parkash Singh Badal, who was thrown out of office after running the most corrupt government in Punjab's history—a regime so corrupt that the voters chose the Congress Party, which organized and carried out the Golden Temple attack, rather than re-elect Mr. Badal. Mr. Tohra also was an ally of the Indian government, first under the Congress Party and then under the current regime of the BJP. This is the same Indian government that has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, Mr. Speaker. It is also holding over 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners, some since the 1984 attacks!

With Mr. Tohra gone, new leaders must emerge. I call on my Sikh friends to make sure that these new leaders are strong supporters of freedom for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan. And as the beacon of freedom, I urge the United States to take action to help liberate the Sikh Nation and all the nations seeking their freedom from India, including Kashmir, predominantly Christian Nagalim, and others.

The time has come to stop our aid to India until it respects the basic human rights of all people within its borders and to demand that India act like the democracy it says it is by holding a free and fair vote on the matter of independence for Khalistan, for Kashmir, for Nagalim, and for all the other nations seeking their freedom. This is the democratic way and self-determination is the essence of democracy. It is also the only way to prevent leaders in the mode of Gurcharan Singh Tohra from emerging again to connive with the Indian government to keep the Sikhs in slavery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on Mr. Tohra into the RECORD at this time.

G.S. TOHRA PASSES AWAY AT 79

WASHINGTON, DC, April 6, 2004.—Gurcharan Singh Tohra, the longtime President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), which runs all the Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) in Punjab, died of a heart attack April 1 in New Delhi. He was 79 years old.

"We offer our sympathies and prayers to Mr. Tohra's family," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for inde-

pendence for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, as declared on October 7, 1987. "We pray for them in their time of loss and may Guru bless this departed soul," he said. "However, it is better to leave a legacy of service and sacrifice rather than a legacy of betrayal as Tohra did," he said. "What Tohra did in life will remain a part of the history of the Sikh Nation. He will not be remembered as a friend of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said.

Tohra connived with the Indian government prior to its invasion of the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion. The Golden Temple is the headquarters of the SGPC. He joined with Harchand Singh Longowal and others in inviting the Indian government to attack the Golden Temple to murder pro-Khalistani leaders Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others, even while they were telling the Sikh Nation that Indian tanks would "have to roll over our dead bodies" to get to the Temple. From June 3 through June 6, 1984, the Indian government carried out Operation Bluestar, a military attack on the Golden Temple and over 125 other Sikh temples throughout Punjab. More than 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Operation Bluestar. Longowal was assassinated by a patriotic Sikh for his betrayal of the Sikh Nation. "Sikhs can never forgive or forget the attack on the Golden Temple," said Dr. Aulakh. On Saturday, June 5, Sikhs will gather in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of this brutal massacre and desecration.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a study by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held in illegal detention as political prisoners without charge or trial. In September 1995, human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra was kidnapped by police for publishing a study documenting that the Indian government secretly cremated thousands of Sikh youth by declaring them "unidentified bodies" after torturing and murdering them. He was murdered about six weeks later while in police custody. His body was never returned to his family. Police SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke.

Although Tohra was not corrupt like former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, he maintained an alliance with Badal, even though he once said publicly that he would not even go near Badal's grave. The Badal regime was the most corrupt in Punjab's history. In 1993, Tohra urged Sikhs to "prepare for the long struggle" to liberate Khalistan, yet he maintained a political alliance with the Indian government, first with the Congress Party (which carried out the Golden Temple attack) and then with the militant Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP.) "It seems as if there were two Gurcharan Singh Tohras," Dr. Aulakh said.

India is not one country; it is a polyglot thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. Sikhs ruled Punjab until 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership into taking their share with India on the promise that Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in northwest India. For that mistake, Sikhs are suffering now. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not

a Sikh," Dr. Aulakh noted. "Tohra worked with the Indian government in its most brutal efforts to suppress the Sikh Nation's effort to realize the Guru's blessing by reclaiming its sovereignty," he said.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and if India is truly a democracy, it should accept the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation," he said.

AETNA'S "GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP" VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to report on the "Good Corporate Citizenship" of AETNA, a constituent company in my district. During the week of April 26th, approximately 1,100 employees from Aetna's Consumer Markets segment across the country will donate more than 4,400 hours to charitable causes in their communities.

Aetna has a long history of volunteerism and contributing to the communities where it operates. In 2003, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation contributed approximately \$16.5 million nationally, with nearly \$4.4 million directed at entities in Connecticut, Aetna's home State for 150 years.

Every day, Aetna employees across the country demonstrate their compassion and commitment to this goal by devoting hundreds of hours of personal time to volunteerism. This commitment has created what is now recognized as Aetna's "Culture of Caring"—a tradition of volunteerism that has become a part of Aetna's core values.

As part of this April 2004 charitable initiative, employees from 20 sites around the country will join together to make an impact in the lives of others. In my home State of Connecticut, this fine group of Aetna employees will focus on assisting The Children's Home of Cromwell, where they will collect school supplies and backpacks for resident children; The American Red Cross, where employees will paint houses and clean yards for low-income housing residents; Foodshare of Greater Hartford, where Aetna staff will participate in the Walk Against Hunger and will sort food at the Hartford Farmer's Market; The Shepherd Home, where employees will collect small appliances and furniture for transitional housing residents; and Community Renewal Team, where Aetna employees will paint classrooms for low-income, inner-city preschools, read to students, and provide nutritional snacks.

Being a leader in health care is a source of pride for the entire Aetna community. I am proud to represent Connecticut and Aetna's employees, especially as they demonstrate that corporate responsibility and employee volunteerism are key business objectives, objectives which help make Aetna such an integral part of the local community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TONI WINTERS MCMAHON

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Toni Winters McMahon, who passed away on January 21, 2004.

Born Catherine Antoinette Winters in Keene, New Hampshire, Mrs. McMahon was a music graduate of Tufts University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She then pursued graduate study in public administration at George Mason University.

In Northern Virginia, Mrs. McMahon became involved in her community as a school activist. She served as president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs and started projects to encourage high school seniors to volunteer at the county's various human services agencies. In 1981, she raised over \$100,000 to save the Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run in McLean when the National Park Service withdrew funding. Several years later in 1984, she was named the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year, an award cosponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and The Washington Post.

Since 1984, Mrs. McMahon served as president/CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, overseeing events such as the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. While in this position, she fully committed herself to fund-raising, grant-writing, board development, and long-range planning. In 1999, Mrs. McMahon received the Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year Award from the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

Mrs. McMahon always will be remembered for her dedicated efforts on behalf of the arts. She is a remarkable individual who played an integral role in making the arts in Fairfax County what they are today. At the time of her death, her board memberships included the George Mason University Center for the Arts, the Lorton Arts Foundation, and the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington. Her survivors include four children: Dr. Doug McMahon of Medford, Oregon; John W. McMahon of Warrenton, Virginia; and Toni L. McMahon and Norwood McMahon, both of Fairfax, Virginia; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs. McMahon and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.

HONORING MR. TOM REILAND

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Tom Reiland of Shaler, Pennsylvania, who recently had an asteroid named in his honor: Minor Planet 10320 Reiland. It brings me great pleasure to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, the congressional district in which Mr. Reiland resides.

Director of the Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory in Frazer Township, Pennsylvania,

and member of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Mr. Reiland has devoted himself to improving the astronomy facilities in western Pennsylvania. Mr. Reiland, along with fellow members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, opened the Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory in 1982. Since then he has gone on to sponsor numerous events that help to inform the public about the joys of astronomy. In fact, he is now the chairman of the association committee that coordinates star parties at Wagman Observatory. The star parties give the public insight into astronomy and a chance to see celestial objects through the observatory's two large telescopes. It was on February 28, 2004, at the annual Wagman Winterfest star party that Mr. Reiland was informed the asteroid would be named after him.

I ask that all my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring such a dedicated and inspirational citizen of the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. It is truly my pleasure to honor someone who has given so much back to southwestern Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN SHEEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Sheedy of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, for his countless contributions to the Home Nursing Agency and on receiving the Visiting Nurse Associations of America Volunteer Board Member of the Year Award.

As a life-long resident of Blair County, Dr. Sheedy has connected with citizens in the area in a way that few are able. Since the late 1960s, when he worked alongside nurses to launch the first home care agency, Dr. Sheedy worked diligently to make positive changes throughout the system so that health care would be more accessible to Pennsylvania's immobilized citizens. From the very beginning, he served as medical director, and he was one of the first members of the board of directors. The impact he has had on the Home Nursing Agency, as well as central Pennsylvania, is immeasurable.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Sheedy has taken advantage of the opportunities to teach and challenge others on staff at the agency, and he has worked tirelessly to make improvements where they have been needed. His devotion and commitment to those in the community are admirable, and I am grateful for all that he has accomplished throughout Blair County.

Dr. John Sheedy has served this Nation every day of his life, touching the lives of every American citizen indirectly as he served in the United States Navy, as well as directly, as he has visited countless homes and patients in need. Central Pennsylvania is a better place because of the contributions that Dr. Sheedy has made. Thank you for all that you have done, Dr. Sheedy, and congratulations on receiving this much-deserved award.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL.
TRAVIS J. LAYFIELD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield. Travis, a 19-year-old resident of Fremont, California, served his country with honor in the United States Marines. Sadly, he was killed during a firefight in the Anbar Province of Western Iraq on Tuesday, April 6, 2004.

The 2003 graduate of Washington High School has become a hero to all of us for his service with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton in southern California.

Travis entered ROTC while in junior high school and was totally focused on a career in the Marine Corps. Last year he completed 12 weeks of basic training at the Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego. He left for the Middle East in February 2003, first heading to Kuwait and later Iraq.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of love and respect for Travis from his classmates and friends at his high school alma mater, Washington High School, as well as the entire community of Fremont, California, who are mourning the loss of this proud young marine.

We shall long remember Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield. He gave his life for peace and democracy and died, as a noble marine, serving our country. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family.

HONORING JANE PERKINS
MARONEY AND ADA LEIGH SOLES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of two very distinguished Delawareans and former members of the Delaware House of Representatives, the Honorable Jane Perkins Maroney and the Honorable Ada Leigh Soles. As legislators, their contributions to our State have touched the lives of many and have helped to improve our community. On behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to pay tribute to these outstanding individuals and extend to them our congratulations on being chosen as the joint recipients of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County Carrie Chapman Catt Award.

Jane Perkins has been recognized for her many years of dedicated service to Delaware politics. In 1998, she was the recipient of our State's highest award, the Order of the First State. Following her time in elected office, Jane continued her tireless advocacy for fellow Delawareans through her work with local and national organizations. Her current focus, as program director of Creative Grandparenting, Inc., involves developing and leading workshops for people who are facing difficult transitions in their lives. Jane's devotion to promoting child and family health initia-

tives deserves this recognition and our gratitude.

Ada Leigh Soles's work on behalf of her fellow Delawareans has also played an important role in making our State a better place to live and raise a family. During her career, she has been honored for her leadership by numerous academic and community organizations. Ada Leigh has received the New Castle County Civic League's Good Government Award and the University of Delaware's Medal of Distinction, along with numerous local and national awards recognizing her tireless efforts on behalf of libraries. As a testament to her distinguished tenure and the esteem in which she was held by her colleagues, Ada Leigh Soles was often regarded as the "conscience" of the Delaware State House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my sincere privilege to have served as Governor of Delaware while both Jane Maroney and Ada Leigh Soles were members of the Delaware House of Representatives. I wish to thank these two outstanding individuals for their friendship, commitment, and constant dedication to the citizens of Delaware. Their service to our State will have a permanent place in Delaware history. They deserve our thanks and praise.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS
FROM HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students from Hampton High School in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, who will travel to Washington, D.C., on April 30, 2004, to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, a highly prestigious academic competition on the Constitution. It is an honor to represent such dedicated students and teachers.

The high school students have studied for months with their teacher, Mr. Cliff Stevenson, in order to prepare themselves for their roles as experts testifying on constitutional issues in a simulated congressional hearing. They placed first in both the district and State competitions earlier this year to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the national finals. The annual 3-day competition is the culminating activity of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive education program of its kind in the country. Since last fall they have studied We the People, a text developed by the Center to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is directed by the Center for Civic Education in Los Angeles. According to Stephanie McKissic, Director of Education at the National Constitution Center, "There is no finer educational program that fosters in our younger generation the concepts and understanding of our constitutional heritage, leading them to a reasoned commitment to its fundamental principles." Since the program's creation over 15 years ago, it has reached more than 26.5 million elementary, middle, and high school students nationwide.

I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring these devoted high school students and teachers from the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. It is truly an honor to represent such an outstanding group of students and teachers.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOPE FIRE COMPANY OF GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Hope Fire Company of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on its 150th anniversary. Their long and outstanding record of public service will be celebrated during their annual ball on May 8, 2004.

On February 7, 1854, hardware merchant Erastus F. Russell hosted a meeting of 19 young men from the community. This meeting established Hope Fire Company No. 1; and with "strong arms and willing hearts," they pledged to obtain and man a fire engine for the town.

With great enthusiasm and support from their friends and neighbors, the Hope Fire Company was able to quickly raise the \$1,550 needed to purchase an engine "of the first class, of superior caliber, and power, with suitable fixtures to equal all emergencies."

By June 15 of that year, the local paper reported that the company, now 80 members strong, paraded in full dress to the train depot to receive their new engine: a pumper and hose cart manufactured by Button & Company of Waterford, New York.

That same summer, the company played a central role in the town's 4th of July celebration. They were grandly toasted during the ceremonies, and member Charles A. Sumner responded with a sentiment that still holds true today:

"May we attain such promptness and efficiency of action as shall entitle us to your confidence, so that when the devouring element threatens you, and all seems lost, the smack of our brakes may remind you that there is one Hope left yet."

It has been 150 years, but the dedication and professionalism of the Hope Fire Company has never wavered. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the company on its anniversary.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A
LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3550) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their hard work shepherding through TEA-LU, a bill that I will support despite its flaws. The Department of Transportation studied the Nation's infrastructure and prescribed a \$375 billion solution. I joined the leadership in endorsing the original version of this bill, which filled that prescription. Unfortunately, the administration is unwilling to come up with the support necessary to ensure that we are able to maintain and improve the Nation's infrastructure. As a result, we are today considering a bill that does not do nearly enough to improve the quality of life for individuals living in New York City and around the country. I look forward to working with the Committee leadership to see that this bill is improved in conference.

Mr. Chairman, as this bill moves to conference, I want to highlight four issues that are of particular import to me and my constituents. It is my hope that the conferees will include these improvements in the conference report.

First, this bill should ensure that resources are devoted by formula to states that require improvements. The minimum guarantee program shifts funding from states that have the greatest need—like New York—to other states. Each year, New York provides \$20 billion more to Washington than it gets back. New Yorkers ought not be punished for our efforts to conserve fuel, as any expansion of the minimum guarantee program would do.

Second, this bill shortchanges New York on transit funding. Despite having a third of the nation's transit ridership, New York only gets 14% of Federal funds. Transit funding should better reflect need.

Third, I hope that conferees will ensure that states starved for a consistent funding stream for ferries and waterborne transportation can count on funding from the Ferry Boat Discretionary Fund. As a co-chairman, with Mr. NETHERCUTT, of the Ferry and Waterborne Transportation Caucus, I am acutely aware of how much a guaranteed stream of funding would mean to improve both congestion and homeland security all across the country, and particularly in New York City, where roads are clogged on a normal day, and ferry transportation would provide not only congestion relief but another way to ensure escape from Manhattan in the case of a terrorist attack. At a minimum, New York should receive \$5 million per year. I hope conferees will work with me and other Members who represent districts that would benefit from a guaranteed ferry funding stream.

Fourth, I hope that conferees will work with me to ensure that the generous funding we have provided for Senior transportation in this bill is put to its best use. I believe that establishing a center for best practices and a technical assistance center, as delineated in the other body's Surface Transportation Authorization Bill, would provide an enormous service to this nation's elderly population.

Nevertheless, Chairman YOUNG, Mr. OBERSTAR, Chairman PETRI, and Mr. LIPINSKI deserve the thanks and appreciation of every Member of this House for their tireless effort to ensure that the nation's surface transportation systems receive the resources required to keep America moving.

Mr. Chairman, I have worked hard to ensure that this bill will make significant improvements to the lives of ordinary New Yorkers. Included

in this bill are a number of projects that will enhance transportation throughout New York City and in my district in particular.

At my urging, the bill includes:

\$15,000,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to build the facilities and purchase the ferry boats necessary to establish high speed ferry service between the Rockaway Peninsula and Manhattan.

\$500,000 to help the New York State Department of Transportation install two permanent variable message signs that will display amber alert messages on the belt parkway.

\$500,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to study and implement improvements to the area surrounding the intersections of Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue.

\$1,000,000 for each of the boroughs of New York City to make improvements to pedestrian safety, in consultation with each borough president.

\$250,000 for the areas surrounding each of 10 schools in New York City. Those funds are to be spent on efforts to improve pedestrian safety surrounding those 10 schools. Students walking to IS 114, PS 200, PS 124, PS 277, Prospect Park Yeshiva, PS 81, IS 194, IS 72/PS 69, PS 153, and St. Roberts Bellarmine will all be better protected by improvements installed with funding provided in TEA-LU.

\$700,000 to abate noise emanating from state roadways located within New York City that are paved with concrete. "Diamond grinding" measures should significantly improve the quality of life of those residing within earshot of those roadways.

\$50,000 to improve the roadways surrounding the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

\$1,000,000 to be used to build a new facility for the Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department.

\$4,000,000 to be used by the DOE Fund to establish a graffiti elimination program throughout the Boroughs of Queens and Brooklyn. Among the areas addressed by this program will be Kings Highway from Ocean Boulevard to McDonald Avenue.

\$3,000,000 to improve transportation facilities in the vicinity of West 65th Street and Broadway in conjunction with the major capital improvements being done at Lincoln Center.

\$1,000,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to improve the streets and sidewalks of Middle Village, Queens.

\$500,000 to be equally distributed at five locations in New York City for the New York City Department of Transportation to enhance the enforcement of truck routes.

\$300,000 for Gateway National Park to improve the RIIS Park Boardwalk.

\$1,000,000 for Gateway National Park to establish a ferry terminal at Floyd Bennett Field.

\$3,000,000 to be used to improve traffic flow in the vicinity of Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues.

\$1,000,000 to be used by City and State Agencies to improve homeland security at bridges and tunnels throughout New York City.

\$500,000 to improve the roads and facilities at the Kew Gardens Long Island Rail Road Terminal.

\$950,000 to design and construct a bicycle and pedestrian walkway along the decommissioned Putnam Rail Line in the Bronx.

\$2,000,000 to improve 125th Street in Harlem in conjunction with improvements being made by Columbia University.

\$1,000,000 to help Easter Seals purchase and equip cars that provide livery service to disabled New Yorkers.

And \$1,000,000 to establish a bus rapid transit system at a location to be determined in consultation with the Transportation Workers Union. Bus rapid transit uses a variety of traffic improvements, like exclusive bus lanes and coordinated signal changing, to speed bus travel on congested city routes.

At the urging of Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, Congressman CROWLEY and myself, the bill includes more than \$1,500,000 for pedestrian safety improvements on Queens Boulevard.

These high priority projects will make a considerable contribution to the lives of New York City residents. I could not have secured these and other programs within TEA-LU without the help and counsel of individuals here in Washington, as well as in Albany and New York City.

In particular, I would like to thank both the Democratic and Republican staff of the Transportation Committee, both of whom worked tirelessly on this piece of legislation, and who deserve the entire House's thanks. In particular, I would like to thank Ken House, Clyde Woodle, Eric Vanschyndle, Ward McCarragher, Kathleen Zern, David Heymsfeld, Dara Schleiker, and Sheila Lockwood of Mr. OBERSTAR's staff. Additionally, I would like to thank Jim Tymon of Mr. YOUNG's staff who for his willingness to work with me on the issue of Ferry Transportation.

I would also like to thank Tom Kearney, Tom Herritt and their colleagues at the Albany Office of the Federal Highway Administration, Nancy Ross, Fred Neveu, Ron Epstein and their colleagues at the New York State Department of Transportation, and Andra Horsch and David Woloch and their colleagues at the New York City Department of Transportation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN SPAAR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize John Spaar, who will be assuming the office of President of the Missouri Press Association in 2005. He will be the third generation in his family to hold this office. His mother, Betty Spaar, and his grandfather, W.L. Simpson, preceded him.

The Missouri Press Association, first organized in 1867, is a voluntary membership of newspapers in the state. All daily newspapers and almost all weekly newspapers are members. Activities of the association include setting up workshops, seminars, conventions, publication of a magazine (The Missouri Press News), supplying information for members, and helping newspapers find skilled personnel. The association's greatest accomplishment has been the establishment of the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the first school of journalism in the world. Today, the association continues to assist the school in placing graduates in outstanding jobs.

The Missouri Press Association is in the middle of a long-range planning process. Upon taking the reins of the association next

year, John Spaar will lead it in the early stages of this plan. He will also continue to direct the association's important work of monitoring legislation in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, John Spaar currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the Missouri Press Association. I am sure the Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his contributions to the field of journalism and congratulating him on his selection as the next president of the association.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP CHRISTOPHER AND CARYN SCHWAB ON THE EVENING OF THE CHARLES J. VALLONE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, who will be honored at the 2004 Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance. For the past seven decades, the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund has helped deserving young people from the Astoria community attend the college of their choice. Additionally, each year, the Scholarship Fund acknowledges community members who have made outstanding contributions to the public good.

This year's honorees, Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, certainly deserve our appreciation. Ms. Schwab, the Executive Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, has been a tireless and effective advocate for the health care priorities of New York residents for more than twenty years. During her distinguished career, Ms. Schwab has served as Health Care Advisor to New York City Mayor Ed Koch and as Vice President of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Under her direction, the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens has demonstrated its commitment to community service. Ms. Schwab has presided over the expansion and modernization of Mount Sinai's emergency room and the creation of its new endoscopy and mammography facilities; additionally, during her tenure, the Hospital has greatly expanded its inpatient and outpatient services to those in need.

The Scholarship Fund's second honoree, Philip Christopher, is a philanthropist and champion of democracy and human rights. Mr. Christopher is the CEO of Audiovox Communications Corporation. Under his leadership, Audiovox has become a leader in the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Christopher, a native of Cyprus, immigrated to the United States when he was ten years old. Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, his ancestral home and property were confiscated by the Turkish Army. This tragedy inspired Mr. Christopher to become a passionate advocate for human rights. As President of both the Panypryan Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee for Justice for Cyprus, Mr. Christopher has used most of his free time to fight for the liberation of his homeland. Additionally, Mr. Christopher serves on the Board of Directors of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York

Hospital Medical Center of Queens, where he helped found the Kyrenia Cardiovascular Center.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund and its honorees, Caryn Schwab and Philip Christopher. Their many accomplishments are a reflection of the vibrant and thriving community they so faithfully serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN ARNOLD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ken Arnold and thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Colorado for eight years in the Colorado General Assembly as a State Senator. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for all Coloradoans. As Ken celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

Upon his retirement from the Colorado State Patrol as a major, Ken still felt he could serve his community, and he successfully ran for the State senate seat for District 23 in 1996. While serving the people of Adams, Broomfield and Weld counties, Ken has focused on education reform, transportation concerns, and criminal justice issues. For this current term, he sits as chairman for the Education Committee, and is a member of the Finance, Judiciary, and Legislative Council Committees. For his excellent record in the General Assembly, he has been named Guardian of Small Business by the NFIB in 1999 and 2000, and recognized by the CACI as their Legislator of the Year in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Ken Arnold is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. Ken's selfless dedication to his community and the State of Colorado has helped ensure a promising future for our great country, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bill here today, and wish him and his wife Marilyn all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD BECKER JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Becker, Jr. for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Outstanding Firefighter and Emergency Management Services Person of the Year in Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Richard Becker has been a volunteer at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company and the Boyertown Lions Community Ambu-

lance Company since he was 16 years old. Now at 42, Richard Becker is being recognized for 25 years of service to the Boyertown area community.

Richard Becker currently serves as the Assistant Financial Secretary at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company, in addition to his full-time job as a computer programmer in Conshohocken. Richard is also attending Lehigh Valley Paramedic School and will graduate in December upon completion of 1,500 hours of school and practical work.

The Boyertown community has benefited greatly from Richard Becker's service. He provides learning experiences for the children in the community during Fire Prevention Week when he allows the children to come to the fire house and learn the essentials of fire safety. The students are also given the opportunity to learn about the different kinds of equipment used by firefighters during an emergency. Richard feels that Fire Prevention Week is a way to encourage future emergency services volunteers with younger members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Richard Becker for his many years of exemplary service to the Boyertown Community.

U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY REPORT: "EVERYTHING OCEANS"

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today marks a milestone for our oceans and for the way we view them. It has been more than 30 years since we, as a Nation, have evaluated our relationship with the sea. This morning, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its Preliminary Report—a comprehensive consideration of "everything oceans," including governance structure, stewardship and education, living resources, science needs, and many other topics.

The Commission was mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, legislation on which I am an original cosponsor and which is based on bills that I initially introduced in 1997 and 1999. In the Oceans Act we gave the Commissioners an enormous task and today I want to recognize the efforts of the 16 Commissioners, 26 Advisors, and countless staff who helped to create such a comprehensive report. I am sure that the Commission's excitement over the Report's release equals the thrill felt by those of us who love and care deeply about the oceans.

The U.S. Commission Report details, in over 400 pages, the appalling state of our oceans governance and embarrassing record of protecting ocean resources. While we have many crises—at home and abroad—that require our immediate attention, we cannot overlook the fact that our oceans are in a state of crisis, too. It is my sincere hope that both Members of Congress and the Bush Administration will read the U.S. Commission's Report and realize that our oceans need attention—now—and that the country is looking to us—their leaders—to act.

We all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the

person who visits once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, scientific knowledge, and opportunities for reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. I trust that we can all agree that this is a huge contribution; a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming.

Protection of our oceans will require a change of course. Unfortunately, all too often we take our oceans for granted: We underestimate their value and we ignore the negative consequences human-related activities can have on them. Our oceans represent the largest public trust resource in the U.S. and cover an area nearly one and a half times the size of the continental United States. Americans expect the Government to safeguard this vast resource and I hope that the Report just released will be the impetus for us to actually begin to do so.

Simply put, our current ocean and coastal management system, created over thirty years ago, is archaic and incompatible with new knowledge about how the oceans and coastal waters function as a whole. Our policies are fragmented, both institutionally and geographically. For example, Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves with over ten federal departments involved in the implementation of more than 130 ocean-related statutes. It is time to reconsider this incoherent and often times incompatible management situation and bring order to our ocean governance structure. The U.S. Commission's Report offers some guidance on how to do just this.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. The U.S. Commission's Report, as well as the independent Pew Oceans Commission Report released last June, clearly states that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach rather than one based on political boundaries. This approach will not be as easy or straight forward as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality. With a comprehensive national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems, our oceans will be a bountiful resource in which we can all take pride.

The Report released this morning also stresses the importance of instilling a new ecosystem-based stewardship ethic. Involved in instilling this ethic is increasing ocean-related education for all Americans at all levels, from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating challenging scientific processes. The U.S. Commission details suggestions on how we can instill a new stewardship ethic by emphasizing and investing in greater marine science education. I look forward to learning more about their recommendations.

The Report released today is, technically, a Preliminary Report. It is being sent to the Governors for their comments. This comment period lasts until May 21, 2004. I sincerely hope that all states will take this opportunity to acknowledge that the oceans provide value for

every American, whether intrinsic worth or direct economic benefit, and provide the Commission with input before the comment period ends. Despite historic and geographic patterns suggesting otherwise, every state has a role to play in the management of our oceans.

It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented opportunity pass us by. With the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and The Pew Oceans Commission Reports in the last year, the Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. Action by this Administration could very well save our largest public trust. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, with the help of my fellow Oceans Caucus co-chairs, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the Report that encapsulates my thoughts on this historic day:

"The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans.

CONGRATULATING CAROL L.
RUPPRECHT ON WINNING THE
2004 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING
CONTEST

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to stand before you today to recognize the achievements of a fine Westfield High School student, Carol Rupprecht, of Carmel, Indiana. Ms. Rupprecht—sponsored by VFW Post 10207 in Westfield, IN—has been named a winner in the 2004 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio and essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. This year, more than 80,000 secondary school students participated in this contest competing for 59 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "My Commitment to America's Future."

I am respectfully requesting that Ms. Rupprecht's winning essay, entitled "My Commitment to America's Future," be submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' review.

We're always talking about the future. Our guidance counselors try to prepare us for it; stockbrokers try to predict it; scientists discuss their hopes and ideas for it.

But it inevitably ends up that we cannot know and pencil in every detail of what will happen in days to come. But we can influence the future through what we do in the present

and what we commit to do in the future. A commitment is not just a promise in a valiant speech or a fleeting charitable intention. A commitment is a set of actions that follow up on one's intentions.

When September 11th recharged our devotion to America, we began to exhibit this renewed commitment by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance more frequently at school. We have recited it from memory since we were in elementary school, but this renewal of tradition got me thinking. What exactly am I promising? Am I only pledging to be loyal to this country, or does it entail more than that? To me, it does.

In order to outline all that my pledge of allegiance involves, I have created the acronym PLEDGE: Protect, Lead, Education, Dedicate, Give, and Elect. This will ensure that I never forget what I owe America.

The first letter of PLEDGE is "P." I will protect the ideals of America—the values that make our country stand out from the rest. The determination to protect these ideals was epitomized in the hearts of the veterans such as those who will forever be remembered at the Korean Memorial in Washington D.C. As I passed the silent statues of these men forever frozen in their quest for freedom, I knew that they had made the ultimate commitment to the preservation of America and its values. They were assigned a duty and didn't back down. The valor and selflessness that these soldiers demonstrated are qualities I should strive to imitate.

The second letter of PLEDGE is "L." I will lead my fellow Americans, especially the youth of America, and I will encourage them to follow the examples of our forefathers, our war veterans, and of past and present patriots. I, too, will endeavor to set an example worth following.

The next letter in PLEDGE is "E." I will educate myself on our nation's history and the sacrifices of veterans who enabled us to have a history. I will then be able to share what I learn with others.

The fourth letter, "D," stands for "dedicate." I will dedicate my time, energy, and talents to making the most of the opportunities America has given to me. I will study hard; I will work hard. I won't let my dreams become wilted flowers that could have thrived. Instead, I'll sow discipline, determination, and faith and cultivate my field of dreams.

The letter "G" in PLEDGE stands for "give." I will give my services to the community and my prayers for the people of America, especially its leaders. As author Carolyn Simpson said in her book *The Value of Patriotism*, "Patriotism boils down essentially to one thing: giving something back to your community." I, too, believe that one of the best ways to show a love for one's country is to show love for its people.

The final letter in PLEDGE, "E," stands for "elect." When I reach the voting age, I will ensure that my voice is heard by electing government officials. My vote will have an effect on America's future, in the same way that my actions today will affect America's future.

We, the youth of America, are its future. The veterans who went before us fought and sacrificed to secure our freedom, and we are now reaping the benefits of what they sowed. Let's do the same not only for our own generation but also for those that follow. Let's make a PLEDGE to Protect, Lead, Educate, Dedicate, Give, and Elect.

God has richly blessed America, and America has given much to each of us. So what will I give back? What is my commitment to America's future? I will wake up each morning with a renewed determination to serve my God and my country. I will appreciate those who were and are committed to America, and I will endeavor to be counted among them.

HONORING LEINKAUF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff, students, and friends of Leinkauf Elementary School of Mobile, Alabama, as they celebrate 100 years of providing quality education to the students of that area.

The school was named for William H. Leinkauf, a member of the Mobile County Board of School Commissioners from 1871 to 1894. When it opened its doors in November 1903, the school had an enrollment of just 51 students. In the century that has passed since that time, the school has witnessed a tremendous growth in its student body that has increased to a present level of more than 600 boys and girls. At present, it is believed Leinkauf Elementary is the oldest continually operated public elementary school in Mobile County, and, perhaps, in the entire state of Alabama.

Leinkauf Elementary has a long and proud tradition of providing one of the finest educational settings anywhere in the country. The teachers and administrators have, from the school's opening, demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the students and have met these needs with compassion, care, and a personal interest in every boy and girl. The admirable traits displayed on a daily basis by the school staff resulted in producing countless successful students, a list which includes such distinguished individuals as Winston Groom, the award-winning author of *Forrest Gump*, and former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leinkauf Elementary School on its 100th anniversary. In a time when Americans are placing more emphasis and more effort into providing quality educational opportunities for their children, Leinkauf continues to set the standard for success in this area. I congratulate the faculty, staff, and students currently at the school, and I also congratulate the generations of students who have used their education and their experiences there as a springboard to success later in life.

It is my hope Leinkauf Elementary School continues its story of success for another one hundred years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOLA SPRADLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Lola Spradley and thank her for her leadership and contributions to Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. She has brought an outstanding level of energy and commitment to the Colorado General Assembly throughout her years of public service. As Lola celebrates her retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the guidance she has provided in making Colorado a leader of American democracy.

Lola was appointed to the House of Representatives to fill a term in 1997, and was subsequently elected in 1998, 2000, and 2002. Serving Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Pueblo and Saguache counties, Lola has fought for the issues that are important to her constituency, including renewable energy, affordable health care, and water conservation. Before serving as Speaker of the House, Lola was the House Majority Leader, and currently chairs the Executive Committee of Legislative Council and the Legislative Council Committee. Her outstanding record of public service has garnered Lola numerous legislator of the year awards, the Fremont Economic Development Corporation Citizen of the Year award in 2000, and the NFIB's Small Business Guardian of the Year award in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Lola's commitment to community participation exemplifies her belief that it is the duty of every citizen to do what they can to make their community stronger. She is an active member of the Canon City Lions Club, the Pueblo Community College Foundation Board of Directors, the Sangre De Cristo Arts Center Board of Directors, and the Colorado State Fair Ladies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Representative Lola Spradley before this body of Congress and this nation for her selfless dedication to public service. It is clear that she has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado, and her efforts have helped ensure a promising future for our great country. I would like to extend my congratulations to Lola on her retirement and wish her and her husband Dale all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOAN KELSCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Kelsch for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Educator of the Year for 29 years of dedicated service as a teacher at the Saint Francis Academy in Bally, Pennsylvania.

Joan Kelsch, a graduate of West Chester University in Pennsylvania, has been teaching at Saint Francis Academy for 29 years. She

began her career teaching fourth graders and has consistently demonstrated her dedication to education. While on maternity leave after the birth of each of her two children, she continued her teaching efforts as a substitute.

In 1982, recognizing her dedication and passion, Joan was asked by Father Joseph Fricker to create a kindergarten program for St. Francis Academy. Joan eagerly took on this task and created the first kindergarten class for the school consisting of thirty students.

Joan has been credited with creating an exciting and enriching learning environment for her students, while also enhancing the curriculum of several programs throughout the school. Her students have art work decorating the rooms and, not only does this artwork display the abilities of the children, but it also highlights the talent that Joan possesses as a teacher. Joan has created several learning devices for children, such as literature tea parties, where the students learn etiquette while also challenging their reading skills and vocabulary with students from the fifth grade. In this challenge, the students are also encouraged to use their imagination by creating new words and new definitions.

As a teacher in a Roman Catholic school, Joan also has the responsibility for aiding the spiritual guidance of her students. She prepares the students for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Communion. In addition, Joan is also a religion coordinator for St. Francis Academy. She attends yearly meetings to help update textbooks and curriculum for Catholic school students.

Outside of the classroom, Joan acts a Staff Liaison to the Home and School Association where she attends monthly meetings. Joan also spends her time volunteering in her community. Each summer, Joan and her husband, William, volunteer at the annual church carnival and, every fall, Joan works at the Santa Secret Shop at the annual bazaar for the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Joan Kelsch for her many years of exemplary service to St. Francis Academy's community.

IN HONOR OF TED FEHRING

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ted Fehring, who turned 90 on April 8th. Born to buggy manufacturers in Columbus, Indiana, Ted has lived a full and truly exceptional life. A man of the highest moral integrity, Ted has proven to be a devoted family man, dedicated member of the community, faithful Christian and successful businessman.

Ted married Marie Theresa Grote on June 29, 1938, and the rest is history—with five daughters, Janet, Jean, Joy, Julie and JoAnn, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, Ted has led a rich family life.

As for his professional career, Ted has embarked successfully upon several different career paths: he was a teacher, a coach, an escrow officer, Vice-President of a Savings and Loan, and President of a Mortgage and Investment company. Ted has been a Carmel resident since June of 1945 and his active participation in our community has been invaluable.

He has been a member of the Lions Club, the Governing Board of the Church of the Wayfarer, the Red Cross, and has officiated many college football games—and this is only a fraction of his achievements!

I have known Ted Fehring to always be an honest and good man. Ted's ability to balance work, community involvement and his family serves as a model to all of us in the central coast community. At 90, Ted continues to live his life to the fullest and it is truly an honor to be able to recognize him today.

PURSUING DEMOCRACY ONE VOTE
AT A TIME

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues on Indonesia's recent strides towards democratization. Indonesia should be hailed as the poster child for emerging democracies throughout the world. A major secular state with a Muslim majority, Indonesia is the world's third largest democracy and is gaining international recognition for its strides towards complete democratization. Indonesia's democratization matters precisely because the country is making progressive political and constitutional reforms while also demonstrating that Islam and democracy are not mutually exclusive and can successfully work in tandem for one nation.

When so many positive stories in the Muslim world are obscured by violent uprisings in areas of historic conflict, it is high time to take notice of the truly impressive strides Indonesia is making. On Monday, April 5th, nearly 148 million voters in Indonesia took to the polls in a critical test for their young democracy. Indonesians selected national, provincial, and regional Parliamentary Representatives. Unlike other international elections, campaigning there has not been marred by violence—and by most media reports—the balloting was conducted in an efficient, clean, transparent, and purely democratic manner. And on July 5th, in one of the largest electoral undertakings in the world and for the first time in Indonesia's history, the President and Vice President will be directly elected.

Indonesia's economy was battered in the financial crisis of 1997, and governing this sprawling archipelago has not been easy in the wake of the economic meltdown and dramatic political change that we have witnessed in the seven short years of post-Soeharto Reformasi. In fact, much remains to be done there, particularly in the critical areas of judicial reform, corruption, human rights, and social welfare.

With close to half of the world's shipping fleet passing through Indonesian waters, the geopolitical importance of the country cannot be overstated. In addition, the threat of terrorism in Southeast Asia is real and Indonesia has been the unfortunate victim of several major attacks in recent years. In order to quell terrorist threats, Indonesia's government is discovering new ways of working with regional law enforcement and intelligence communities in hopes of rooting out homegrown radicalism. But Indonesia should not fight this battle alone: solid U.S. support is needed in the

struggle to keep Indonesia safe against the devastation and destruction of terrorism.

With more than 300 major American firms doing business in Indonesia—and as massive decentralization takes place—near term U.S. investment in the country will exceed \$25 Billion. As a result, the United States should continue providing support to help Indonesia stabilize and consolidate these economic, political, and social gains. By combining strategic development initiatives and more effective public diplomacy, we can successfully engage Indonesia in this election year and beyond.

As a new generation of democratic participation arises out of Indonesia's turbulent past, the United States and Indonesia's neighbors can only benefit as Indonesia embraces the model of a modern democratic state. With Indonesia's current level of economic and social development, the International Community now has the unique opportunity to assist with the country's continual progress towards complete democratization. We should do all we can to help Indonesia become a positive Muslim and democratic influence in that vital region of the world community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER
MARY EILEEN WILHELM, R.S.M.,
ON THE OCCASION OF HER
RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Sister Mary Eileen Wilhelm, R.S.M., on the occasion of her retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Medical in Daphne, Alabama.

For the past 36 years, Sister Mary Eileen has served the families of south Alabama with compassion, dedication, commitment and a tremendous amount of love.

As a member of the Order of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Sister Mary Eileen has spent her career finding and implementing the most effective, up-to-date methods of meeting the healthcare requirements of some of the neediest patients in the Gulf Coast region.

She received her Nursing Diploma from the Providence Hospital School of Nursing in Mobile, her Bachelor's Degree from Mount Saint Agnes College in Baltimore, Maryland, and her Master's Degree in Health Care Administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. At the conclusion of her academic studies, Sister Mary Eileen served her hospital administrative residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

From 1959 to 1966, she served as a staff nurse, first at Saint Martin dePorres Hospital in Mobile, and then at Stella Maris Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She then accepted a position as Director of Nursing Services at Villa Mercy in Daphne, Alabama, an organization which over the years has developed into the modern day facility known as Mercy Medical.

Along with her active involvement in the life and growth of Mercy Medical, Sister Mary Eileen has played a large role in the activities of numerous organizations in Alabama and throughout the United States. These include,

but are certainly not limited to, membership on the Catholic Health Association, the St. Joseph's Health System Board of Trustees in Atlanta, Georgia, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (Baltimore Regional Community), the Southwest Alabama Hospital Council of the Alabama Hospital Association, and the Mercy Medical Board of Trustees.

Additionally, Sister Mary Eileen has been named to "Who's Who of American Women," "Who's Who in Religion," and "Who's Who in Health Care." She was a 1994 graduate of "Leadership ALABAMA" and currently serves as a member of "Envision Mobile-Baldwin."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Sister Mary Eileen Wilhelm for her tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm she has brought to her job and the concern and compassion she has displayed throughout the years to everyone with whom she has had contact are unquestioned and unparalleled.

She has indeed been a genuine asset both to her order and to the thousands of men, women and children she has assisted for over four decades. I am proud and honored to call her my friend, and I offer my heartfelt thanks and congratulations as she enters this new phase of her life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROB
FAIRBANK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Rob Fairbank and thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Colorado as a three-term member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Rob will always be remembered for the leadership and guidance he has provided for his district, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind an outstanding legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

Rob was elected to serve the people of Jefferson County in 1998 based on his common sense approach to government and his previous political experience. From 1995 through 1997, he served as Political Director for the Colorado Republican Committee; he served as campaign manager for Bill Owens for Treasurer in 1993 and 1994; served as Program Director for the Independence Institute from 1991 to 1993; and was the Deputy Political Director of the Colorado Republican Committee from 1989 to 1991.

Rob's current service in the State House includes serving as Majority Caucus Chair and Vice Chair for the Finance Committee. He is also a member of the Appropriations Committee; Legislative Council Committee; and State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. Some of the honors he has received for his significant accomplishments while serving in the House include the Jeffco Coalition of Chambers 1999 Champion of Enterprise award; the CACI Friend of Business award in 1999 and 2000; and the National Federation of Independent Businesses Guardian of Small Business award in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Representative Rob Fairbanks for his selfless efforts of public service in the Colorado General Assembly. Rob is not afraid to stand up for what he believes in, and he works tirelessly to better his Jefferson County community and the State of Colorado. I would like to extend my congratulations on Rob's retirement and wish him and his wife Mary Ann the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT
GREGORY L. MILLER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Gregory L. Miller of the Boyertown Police Department for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Boyertown Police Department's Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Sergeant Gregory Miller began his career with the Boyertown Police Department March 3, 1982 as a part-time officer. He eventually became a full-time officer with the Department in 1984.

During Sergeant Miller's 22 years of service, he has made a great impact on the Boyertown community. In 2001, he was recognized for his involvement in the prevention of a suicide. A year later, in 2002, Sergeant Miller was named the Police Liaison Officer of the Year for his work with the Berks County Youth Aid Program. In 2003, he was recognized for his bravery in an incident involving a knife-wielding man. Sergeant Miller was also the driving force behind starting up the new bike patrol in Boyertown.

Aside from his service in the Boyertown Police Department, Sergeant Miller is also an active member of his community. He has been a member of the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company since he was 16 and he volunteers with the Boyertown Lions Community Ambulance Company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Sergeant Gregory Miller for his many years of exemplary service to the Boyertown community.

IN MEMORY OF LEE TOLER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lee Toler, a great man who passed away on February 4th, 2004. Lee was a shining example of the power one man can have in so many peoples' lives, and without him the world is a little dimmer. I offer Velma, his wife, and the rest of Lee's family my sincerest condolences.

Lee came from humble beginnings, as all great men do, but his spirit was richer than all the wealth in the world. His life was devoted to helping kids in our community and in California avoid the dangerous and detrimental effects of drugs and crime. He worked for the

benefit of individuals and our community, and he did much of it as a volunteer.

During the 1960s Lee was a school custodian in Seaside, at Portola Junior High School, later renamed King Middle School after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. He became well known for his willingness to counsel students who came to him, and began to seek ways to help others. His ability as a counselor convinced then Governor Reagan to allow him into state prisons to work with inmates. He was also a key figure in championing the cause of drug treatment as an alternative to imprisonment.

In 1966 Lee founded Young Adults for Action to offer activities and alternatives to drugs, and in 1974 created Young Adults for Action Manufacturing Co. This organization recognized that good jobs could play a crucial role in discouraging drug use among teens, and he worked with local employers to offer jobs to youth and parolees. When these non-profits ended Lee continued his mission with Jobs Not Drugs in 1979, a successful program that continues to this day.

Lee's extraordinary work has not gone unrecognized. He's been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Governor's Award for Creative Citizenship, presented by Governor Reagan in 1968. The only other person to receive this award during Reagan's administration was Bob Hope for his work with soldiers overseas. I also had the opportunity to honor Lee twice, once in 1995 and once in 2000, with the Congressional Recognition Award.

Mr. Speaker, I rise once more to applaud Lee Toler's many accomplishments. Lee was blessed with the ability to see the goodness that existed in everyone, and his life's work was devoted to bringing that out in people. While some merely condemn, Lee sought to understand. My only regret is that Lee could not be in every school, courtroom, and prison in our country, because our society grew greater and stronger with every person he touched. He was a remarkable figure in our community, and his memory will live on in the many people whose lives he has touched. I join the communities of the Monterey Bay, and friends and family in honoring this truly admirable man and all of his lifelong achievements.

TRIBUTE TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. I am proud that Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed such a strong and durable relationship over the last quarter century in part due to our shared democratic values.

The Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security and stability in the Taiwan Straits and the Western Pacific since its enactment in 1979. Today Taiwan is truly an economic success story and I am confident that the Bush Administration and our allies in the region will remain committed to playing an appropriate supporting

role in reducing tensions across the straits. I am also hopeful that expanded confidence-building exchanges between Beijing and Taipei will lessen the likelihood of any potential conflict in the region.

Under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, the Republic of China has become a shining example of economic prosperity. Taiwan has become the eighth largest U.S. trading partner with total Taiwanese exports of US\$ 32.2 Billion and imports of US\$ 18.4 Billion. Taiwan is currently the world's twentieth largest economy with a GDP of US\$ 219 Billion. I believe the United States should continue to expand trade opportunities with Taiwan like the recently signed letters of intent for Taiwan to increase purchases of Indiana's agricultural products.

I stand today in strong support of Taiwan's membership in international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations. Taiwan is deserving because of its commitment to our shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, peace and prosperity.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, on the historically significant occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I rise to pay tribute to America's relationship with Taiwan, and I call upon this body to recommit ourselves to the prospect of peace, freedom and democracy in Taiwan for the next twenty-five years and beyond.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
HON. MARY FRANCES STEWART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Baldwin County and indeed the entire First Congressional District of Alabama will say goodbye tomorrow to a dear friend, a wonderful lady and a truly outstanding public servant. Today, however, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life—and mourn the death—of that special friend, Baldwin County Commissioner Mary Frances Stewart, who was killed in a tragic car wreck early Saturday morning.

Without a doubt, Commissioner Stewart was the epitome of a true Southern lady. Both gentle and genteel, Mary Frances somehow found a way in almost everything she did to make people feel good about themselves and good about their government.

Moreover, she had that rare knack for being equally devoted to her family and her constituency in Baldwin County. It goes without saying but her death leaves a void both in the life of the county she so dearly loved and in the wide circle of her family and many friends—a void that quite frankly will be nearly impossible to fill.

A native of rural Georgiana, in Butler County, Mary Frances was a graduate of Georgiana High School and received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Education from the University of South Alabama.

She began what would become a distinguished 23-year career in teaching in the Alabama public school system, spending 13 years with the Mobile County school system. Commissioner Stewart spent the last ten years of her teaching career at Foley High School in

Baldwin County where she specialized in American and Alabama history.

During her years in the classroom, Mary Frances spent untold hours in an effort to stir her students with a passion for and ownership of their government. Whether taking her students on field trips to Montgomery or Washington, D.C., she always challenged her students to learn about the past as they prepared for their future. To say her career in education was a success would be a major understatement; few people can lay claim to being awarded both "Mobile County Teacher of the Year" and "Baldwin County Teacher of the Year" honors, awards that bespeak the tremendous recognition and respect she enjoyed from her peers.

Following her retirement from teaching, Mary Frances became active in local politics and eventually ran for a seat on the Baldwin County Commission. She was elected to a four-year term representing the residents of Commission District Four in the south-central part of the county and had served with admiration and distinction since that time. As a member of the commission, she served as Chairperson of the Road and Bridge Committee and as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Resources Committee.

In addition to the many demands of her elective office, Commissioner Stewart also served on numerous boards and foundations whose goals are to advocate the special interests and needs of the residents of Baldwin County. During the past several years, she served as a member of the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, the South Baldwin Regional Medical Center Foundation Board, the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Board, the Junior Achievement of Mobile/Baldwin Board, the Community Health Hospital Board, and the Department of Human Resources Quality Assurance Committee.

Commissioner Stewart was selected by former Alabama Governor Fob James to serve on the State of Alabama Aeronautics Board. She also served on the Board of Trustees of Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church in Bon Secour, Alabama, where she was an active member.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant, a long-time advocate for Baldwin County and a true friend to one and all. Commissioner Mary Frances Stewart will be deeply missed by her family—her son, Ed Stanford, her daughters, Tammy Stanford-Henley, Jo Stanford, and Fran Kollins, and her five grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM (BILL) SINCLAIR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an American patriot and dedicated public servant. William "Bill" Sinclair will be retiring after serving the citizens of Colorado Springs, Colorado, from the Colorado State House of Representa-

tives for eight years. As Bill celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind an outstanding legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and Colorado General Assembly.

Bill has always held firm to his beliefs of serving his country and community. He spent a distinguished career serving in the United States Air Force, defending our country in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He logged 6,000 flying hours as a command pilot, retiring in 1975 as a Colonel. Serving as a business manager for several nonprofit organizations in Colorado Springs, Bill became actively involved in numerous civic organizations. He is a past president of the Retired Officers Association and downtown Rotary Club, a former chairman and member of the Pikes Peak Center for Performing Arts, and a past member of the Board of Directors of CHINS-UP of Colorado Springs.

Bill was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1996, and currently serves as chairman on the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee and is a member of the Transportation & Energy Committee. His outstanding record of public service has garnered Bill numerous honors, including legislator of the year awards in 1998 and 1999 from the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry and in 2001 by the Colorado Sheriffs Association. He has twice been recognized as a Guardian of Small Business by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that State Representative Bill Sinclair is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. Bill's selfless dedication to Colorado Springs, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bill here today, and wish him and his wife Barbara all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL J. MAGGIO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael J. Maggio for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and Boyertown Jaycees as the Boyertown Citizen of the Year for his contributions to the greater Boyertown region.

Michael Maggio relocated to the Boyertown area with his wife Sue in 1966. A physicist, he worked for 23 years at Cabot Corporation as a research group leader and a plant technical services manager.

Michael Maggio graduated in 1949 from Welsey Junior College in Dover, Delaware, where he was the captain of the basketball team. He went on to receive his B.S. in physics from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1952. Upon moving into the Boyertown area, Michael became involved in the community and has been an active member of the Boyertown Lions Club for 24 years. He served twice as the president of the Club and he also served eight years as a member and treasurer of the Boyertown Lions

Community Ambulance Board of Directors. In 1997, he was awarded the prestigious Melvin Jones National Award and, in 2001, he was named the Lion of the year.

Michael Maggio also has made an impact in the community outside of his activities in the Lions Club. A member of the St. Columbkil Roman Catholic Church, Michael was a religious instructor and also volunteers as an usher. Michael has served as a catalyst for ongoing service to and support of the Boyertown community by serving as the Emergency Management Coordinator and a member of the Boyertown Board of Health. Further, he is serving as the Co-Chair of the Lions Ambulance Organization's new building fund.

In his spare time, Michael enjoys bicycling, golf and photography. Well-known throughout the community as a family man, Michael has five children, fourteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Michael J. Maggio for his many years of exemplary service to the Boyertown community.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN STAGNARO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Giovanni "John" Stagnaro, a patriarch within the Italian community of Santa Cruz who passed away this past March at the age of 90. Founder of the immensely popular and successful fishing business Stagnaro Brothers, John's legacy as a hard-working and dedicated entrepreneur has made his family name a staple in Santa Cruz County. John is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mamie Stagnaro; their three daughters: Teresa Tera, Jeanie McPherson, and Carol Tuttle; his eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Born in the tiny Italian coastal village of Riva Trigoso, John's life was an archetype of the American Dream. Via Ellis Island, John immigrated to the United States at the age of five, and quickly settled in Santa Cruz. In 1937, after saving several hundred dollars, John purchased part of a fishing company on the Santa Cruz Wharf—and the rest is history. Working alongside his brother, John's fish market and restaurant quickly became a staple of the Wharf. Today, Stagnaro Brothers is the last open-air fish market on the wharf.

John was a devout Catholic and an active member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Santa Cruz. He was also an avid participant in many community-based social organizations including the Sons of Italy, the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge, the Marconi Club, and the Italian Catholic Federation. John will surely be missed by his family and the community as a whole, but his business and his name will be a legacy that will last for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO ERICKA DUNLAP

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Miss America

2004, Ericka Dunlap. Ericka is using her reign as Miss America to challenge all Americans to look past one's race, religion, and culture and embrace the unique diversity of our country.

Mr. Speaker, last fall Ericka Dunlap was crowned Miss America and immediately embarked on a national tour promoting her platform, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall Behind: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion." Ericka feels that education is the vehicle that will allow us to move past bigotry and accept another person's culture, background, lifestyle, and ability. She is making an extra effort to reach out to our children and educate them about diversity before any predisposed notion is set. I commend her efforts and believe that Ericka is an excellent role model for young women everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, on April 17, Ericka was the Keynote Speaker at the 50th Anniversary Gala for the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. I rise today to welcome her to North Alabama and to honor her achievements in promoting tolerance across our country.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ED PEASE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of an outstanding individual, the Honorable Ed Pease, former Congressman to the people of the 7th District of Indiana, on the conclusion of his second term as the volunteer International President of the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). I am proud to have known and worked with Ed Pease in a number of roles as a former colleague, a fellow Eagle Scout and Boy Scout leader, a friend for life and a fraternity brother.

Ed Pease graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Indiana University and the Indiana University Law School. After a period of private practice, he was elected to the Indiana State Senate and served for 12 years, where he chaired the Judiciary Committee and was responsible for major reform of the state's criminal justice system. Outside the legislature, Ed worked for Indiana State University in Terre Haute as General Counsel and later became the University's Vice President for Advancement.

From 1997 to 2001, I had the pleasure of working alongside Ed Pease in the U.S. House of Representatives, where Ed was considered one of the GOP's rising stars. During his time in Congress, Ed was a valuable member of both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Judiciary Committee. At the conclusion of the 106th Congress, Ed retired from the House so he could spend more time with his family and friends. His retirement was a loss for this House, for the people of the seventh district of Indiana, and for our country. During his time in Congress, Ed Pease was widely hailed by his peers as a smart, hard working, unassuming Member who cared more about getting the job done than getting credit for his achievements.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Pease might have retired from the House in 2001, but he has not retired from a career of selfless public service. It is

this second career of volunteer service that I have come to praise today. Throughout his career, regardless of the significant time demands of his professional life, Ed has always made it a priority to serve as a community leader in organizations that build the values and morals of America's young men and women. Ed has a long history of service to the Boy Scouts of America both at the national council level and here in Washington for the National Capitol Area Council. Ed has also been Chairman of the Boy Scouts' National Order of the Arrow Committee. He has been President of the Philmont Staff Association which supports the Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico, the Boy Scouts of America's premier high-adventure camp that has taught thousands of young men valuable lessons that last a lifetime.

Ed Pease's commitment to the moral development of young men has extended past scouting to working with college fraternities, the organizations that build the character and leadership skills of tens of thousands of college men every year. Mr. Speaker, it is Ed's exceptional work for fraternity men nationwide that I rise to recognize today. Ed and I share the bond as brothers of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He was initiated into the Delta Xi chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Indiana University on February 26, 1971. Ed's membership in Pi Kappa Alpha shapes the values that would direct his career of public service. In 1973, he was named the national fraternity's outstanding undergraduate member before serving on the staff of the national organization. He has a long history as a chapter advisor to Pi Kappa Alpha's Indiana State chapter, and in 1983, Ed Pease was named Pi Kappa Alpha's national chapter advisor of the year. From there, Ed has served in a number of leadership roles at the national level, including four years as National Vice President and two years as National President of Pi Kappa Alpha. Ed is currently serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Pi Kappa Alpha Educational Foundation.

Ed Pease has not been content to serve just his own brothers for he has had a larger mission of improving the collegiate experience of all men and women who join a college fraternity. For that reason, Ed Pease was elected to the North American Interfraternity Board of Directors in 1995. The NIC is the umbrella group for 66 national fraternities that have 350,000 undergraduate members and 4.2 million living alumni worldwide. In 1999, Ed Pease was elected President of the NIC and served the organization in that capacity for one year.

Now Mr. Speaker, it is hard to explain Ed Pease's contribution to the fraternity world without explaining what fraternity life is all about. There are those in today's society who like to belittle the virtue of the college fraternity experience but they don't really understand how important a role these organizations play in positively influencing the development of tomorrow's leaders. The critics hold up the actions of a few people as an indictment of a system that has done much for our nation. Nine million Americans are proud fraternity and sorority alumni and their experiences in these organizations helped them become better students and better citizens of our great nation. While only three percent of the nation's population has been a member of a fraternity or sorority, these organizations are proven

leadership laboratories for developing the next generation of American leaders. For proof, you need look no further than this Congress itself, where 110 current Members of the House of Representatives are alumni of fraternities and sororities, as are 45 current Senators.

College fraternities and sororities are one of the most successful leadership development programs available to college students today, helping members graduate with the management and interpersonal skills needed to excel in today's society. These fraternities are the nation's largest networks of student volunteers, providing 10 million hours of service a year and preparing members for a lifetime of community involvement. Fraternity housing is the largest not-for-profit housing market outside of the host colleges and universities themselves. The 250,000 students living in fraternity housing today at 8,000 chapter houses nationwide have an unparalleled opportunity to live and work together on a daily basis with students from different cultures, religions and life experiences. Fraternities are now the largest, most visible, and most active values-based organizations on college campuses today. The men and women who are fraternity members today learn how to incorporate the principles and values of their organization into their daily lives to form the moral foundation for their future actions. In 2002, the NIC was undergoing some dramatic and fundamental restructuring of its Board of Directors, with an eye on improving its ability to serve its student and alumni members. In need of a leader with a steady hand and an outstanding vision for the future, the NIC turned to Ed Pease who was re-elected President.

In the past two years, the NIC has undergone some major changes that better position it to advocate for and enforce higher standards for the men who join its fraternal organizations. As part of that change, Ed Pease has focused the NIC's efforts on asking Congress to help college fraternities provide a better experience for their members. Ed's focus has been on issues such as freedom of association, membership standards, infrastructure improvements, tax law, leadership development, and scholastic excellence. He has helped restart the Congressional Fraternal Caucus, an organization I am proud to chair, along with Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones. Through Ed Pease's efforts and outreach to his former colleagues, the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act has been introduced and sponsored by 65 members of the House and 15 members of the Senate. Last September, this House included the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act as part of the Charitable Giving Act of 2003 that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. If that bill becomes law, it will allow all student associations on college campuses to use a private market approach to upgrade and replace their facilities in the future, thus making it possible for these student groups to continue to thrive for decades to come. These initiatives are so typical of Ed and his accomplishments in the public arena over the past 30 years: He creates lasting legacies that leave institutions better than he found them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you some representative remarks from Ed's peers in the fraternity world, for they show how deeply he is respected for his work on behalf of college students everywhere. Ray Orians is the Executive Vice President of the Pi Kappa

Alpha Fraternity, of which Ed Pease and I are members. Ray Orians says “Ed Pease personifies leadership with integrity. Ed’s favorite role in the fraternal world, despite his many achievements, was that of chapter advisor, for it was in that position where he could be a respected and influential teacher who is constantly rewarded by his students’ accolades and responses well into life.” Jon Williamson is the Executive Vice President of the North American Interfraternity Council and has worked closely with Ed Pease for several years. He describes Ed Pease as a dignified, articulate consensus builder who “sees his goal as a servant leader with the ultimate goal the greater good of the college student and he envisions the college fraternity as the vehicle to accomplish that.”

Mr. Speaker, at the end of April, Mr. Jim Estes of Kappa Alpha Order will be sworn in as the new National President of the North American Interfraternity Conference. I welcome Mr. Estes and look forward to the opportunity to work with him to improve the fraternal experience for today’s college students. But as I welcome Mr. Estes to his new position of responsibility, I ask this chamber to join me in recognizing our friend and former colleague Ed Pease for his outstanding decades of service to the college fraternity world. I know he will continue to be an active and visible part of the fraternity movement in the future, but now is the moment to thank Ed Pease for his dedication, his vision and his selflessness in leading the fraternal community to better days.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN ANDREWS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to John Andrews and thank him for his leadership and contributions to Colorado as the President of the Colorado Senate. The level of energy and commitment that he has brought to the Colorado General Assembly throughout his years of public service is truly outstanding. As John celebrates his retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the guidance he has provided in making Colorado a leader of American democracy.

At the age of sixteen, John attended the 1960 Republican National Convention as a page, and from then on knew he was destined to a career in politics. A volunteer on numerous GOP conventions and a speechwriter for President Nixon, John was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1998 for District 27. Representing Arapahoe County, John has worked hard to improve education and transportation; strengthen judicial accountability; protect Colorado’s water; minimize taxes and regulation; and foster economic growth. In 2002, John was elected president of the Senate, and serves as chairman for the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Council Committee; as well as serving on the Local Government Committee and State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute before this body of Congress and this Nation

to State Senator John Andrews for his selfless dedication to public service. It is clear that John has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado, and his efforts have helped ensure a promising future for our great country. I would like to extend my congratulations to John on his retirement and wish him and his wife Donna all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING BRIANA RUDY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Briana Rudy for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Boyertown Area High School Outstanding High School Senior.

Briana Rudy is an invaluable member of her school and her community. As a member of her senior class, Briana participates in many extracurricular activities. She is involved in fund-raising events to help disabled children, including those with cystic fibrosis, and she also serves as the treasurer of the school’s Art Expo Committee that plans the school’s annual art show. Briana writes for her school newspaper, *The Cub*, and is also a staff member of the school magazine, *The Accent*.

In addition to her extracurricular activities, Briana works two part-time jobs and participates in several service clubs. In her free time, Briana volunteers with children at the Boyertown Area YMCA. She has been a volunteer there since age 12 and, when she turned 16, she was hired to teach gymnastics, preschool dance, and youth sports. Over the summer, Briana also works as a YMCA camp counselor.

In the fall, Briana plans to attend West Chester University in Pennsylvania and major in social work where she will continue to work during the summers as a volunteer with children in the YMCA program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Briana Rudy for her years of exemplary service to her school and the Boyertown community and wish her well in her future at West Chester University and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO ALL POINTS LOGISTICS, INCORPORATED

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate All Points Logistics, Incorporated for being named the Boeing Corporation’s Small Disadvantaged Business Supplier of the Year and a Boeing Preferred Supplier Company. All Points Logistics, Inc. is a Native American and disabled veteran-owned small business that helps support the Boeing Corporation’s Ground-based Midcourse Defense program.

Boeing and All Points Logistics have worked together since 2001. In December of 2003, All Points Logistics became the first company to

sign the Missile Defense Agency’s Mentor-Protégé Agreement. Through this agreement, All Points Logistics was able to expand its services with Boeing and open a new office in Madison, Alabama—bringing an additional twelve jobs to our North Alabama community.

All Points Logistics is a valuable part of the Alabama Boeing team. Through timely service and high quality products, All Points Logistics has given Boeing the flexibility to meet the needs of its customers and provide for our nation’s defense. For its reliability, Boeing recognized them as a preferred supplier.

Mr. Speaker, on April 9, Boeing and All Points Logistics Inc. held a ceremony recognizing the Supplier of the Year award. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the employees of All Points Logistics Incorporated on a job well done. I rise today to join in their celebration.

IN HONOR OF MR. GARY ENGBRETSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Gary Engbretson, as he retires from his position as president of the Contract Services Association of America (CSA)—a position he has held for 17 years.

Gary came to CSA in 1987, with a background in electrical engineering and a love of politics. While working as an electrical contractor, he became involved in Iowa’s Republican Party, where he eventually became one of the state leaders. He moved on to the Veteran’s Administration, getting his first real taste for public policy that would stick with him for the rest of his career. That was followed by a lengthy stint at the Republican National Committee, as Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant. Moving from there to a Texas-based oil company, Gary met a then unknown, budding Texas politician just beginning his foray into politics, that of George W. Bush. Like our president, Gary, too, had a run at political office. Luckily for CSA, he lost.

Under Gary’s leadership, CSA has taken an active role in our legislative process, supporting the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act (which I sponsored), and, more recently, the Service Acquisition Reform Act (SARA) that became law last Fall. Gary also has given CSA a real presence in agency circles, too; for example, by signing partnering agreements with the Naval Facilities Command and the Army’s Training and Doctrination and Forces commands, and developing a close relationship with the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division and the agency Labor Advisors.

As the successes in D.C. grew, so did CSA’s reputation within the industry. Under Gary’s leadership, the size of the membership has grown, and CSA has become the “go-to” association for the Government services contracting industry. Whether Gary’s longevity in Washington is ultimately due to his penchant to be a straight shooter or just that he’s a nice guy, his golden reputation in D.C. has made CSA the strong presence that it now enjoys. I want to extend my best wishes to Gary and his wife Lára on their new phase of life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAYLE
BERRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Gayle Berry and thank her for her tireless efforts serving the people of Colorado as a four-term member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Gayle will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of the community, and as she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that she leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and Colorado General Assembly.

A lifelong resident of Mesa County, Gayle graduated from Fruita Monument High School and received her college degree from Mesa State College. Before entering the political arena, she worked as a legal secretary, and owned and operated a successful small business for fourteen years. Elected to the Colorado House in 1996, Gayle currently chairs the House Transportation and Energy Committee, sits on the House Appropriations Committee and the House Local Government Committee, and served four years on the Joint Budget Committee. Her excellent record in the State House has earned Gayle numerous Legislator of the Year awards.

Gayle's extensive involvement in civic organizations comes from her belief that in order to better your community you have to be an active participant. Her commitment to Mesa County includes membership in Club 20, Mesa State College Alumni Association, the juvenile pilot program W.R.A.P., and the Speakers Bureau for Kids Voting Mesa County. She has also served as chair and as a member of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, and as a board member of Community Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize State Representative Gayle Berry's dedication and commitment to public service. It is not only her incredible devotion, but also her passion for contributing towards the betterment of the Mesa County community and the State of Colorado that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this Nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Gayle here today, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
COLONEL JAMES E. MAKOWSKIE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the many years of dedication and achievements of my good friend, Col. James E. Makowske, who after 25 years of active duty, retired April 16th, 2004 as Commander of the U.S. Air National Guard's Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. Jim's leadership and decades of service to further the best interests of America and the Air National Guard have more than earned him this great honor.

Born in Detroit in 1956, Jim was raised in Capac and graduated from Capac High School in 1975. That year, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served for four years as an F-15 Aircraft Maintenance technician at Langley Air Force Base in the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing.

He separated from the Air Force in 1979 to attend Michigan State University where he earned his bachelors degree in engineering in 1982. The tug of service brought him back to enlist in the Michigan Air National Guard that year at Selfridge ANG Base. He received his commission in 1983 and his navigator wings in 1984. He served as a weapons system officer in the F-4, in the 191st Fighter Interceptor Group until 1988—the same year he completed his Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA).

Jim transferred to the 110th Fighter Wing as the Chief of Engineering and Design in 1988. He then served as the Base Civil Engineer from 1989 to 1999 and concurrently served in the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander starting in 1991. In 1999, he was assigned as the commander of the Alpena CRTC and was promoted to Colonel in March 2001.

Jim has also found time to serve the Alpena community. He has been a member of the Alpena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors since 1999 and served as its president in 2003. He also has served on the Boards of the Boys and Girls Clubs, Target Alpena and is a member of the Alpena Rotary Club.

Jim is married to Carol Makowske (McIver) and has two children, Coral and Nathaniel. Nathaniel has continued the family tradition of military service when he enlisted last year in the Air National Guard in Battle Creek.

Mr. Speaker, Col. Jim Makowske's military career and service to our country can be characterized by putting the needs of others before his own. Our Nation, the State of Michigan and the Alpena Community have long benefited from his selflessness, and I ask you and my House colleagues to acknowledge his lifetime of service.

HONORING THE DEARBORN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

As the central source of information for and about Dearborn, Michigan businesses, the Chamber of Commerce has served the community well throughout its transformation from a heavily industrial city to its current mix of commercial, retail, and institutional enterprises.

The Chamber has successfully worked to provide leadership by developing a unified voice for member businesses through promotion, assistance, and the development of partnerships. The Chamber is also supportive of the Dearborn Public Schools with its annual Alberta Muirhead Teacher of the Year Award

to recognize outstanding Dearborn public school teachers.

The Chamber works hard to promote both the Dearborn community and its businesses. In the past, the chamber has hosted an old world market, a business expo, and an auction. The Chamber was also responsible for a summer food festival to help promote the Ford Senior Players Championship golf tournament. Another recent project is the Chamber's first "grub crawl," which will serve to promote the city's growing restaurant scene.

I would like to ask my colleagues to rise and join me in commending the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce for 60 years of service to the community and area businesses. I hope that they will continue to help the City of Dearborn as it evolves over the next 60 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE FRIENDS OF THE
DES PLAINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library on their 50th anniversary. They have enriched the town of Des Plaines, Illinois for the last 50 years as an integral support system for the Des Plaines Public Library.

In April of 1954, a planning committee of the American Association of the University Women founded The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library. They have been active in expanding the Des Plaines Library since The Friends' inception, most recently helping with a move to a larger building in 2000.

The Friends' original purpose was to stimulate public interest in the library, as well as collect data on the history of the town. Today they also provide extra financial support for the library for items not normally available through conventional budgetary provisions. The Friends raises funds using semi-annual book sales, and uses them to support programs and purchase items for the library, such as a microfiche reader, display cases, original artwork, a sound system, and other items.

In 1957 The Friends were involved in the Library's 50th anniversary, and compiled a large file on the history of Des Plaines from 1833 on, including photographs, family histories, and industrial development. This compilation has since become a part of the Des Plaines Historical Society. Since moving into the new library in 2000 The Friends has donated, supported, funded and purchased items for more than \$53,000. In honor of their 50th Anniversary and all The Friends that have come before them, they will be presenting the Library with a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln. This statue was sculpted in 1933 for the Chicago World's Fair by Guido Rebecchini, and will go in the library's atrium on permanent display.

Thank you, The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library, for all your hard work for the library and your community. Your constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation. Best wishes on your 50th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN
CHLOUBER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Ken Chlouber and thank him for his commitment to public service as a two-term senator in the Colorado General Assembly. As the President Pro Tem of the Senate, Ken will always be remembered for the leadership and guidance he has provided. As he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves a great legacy of service and dedication to his district and the State of Colorado.

An extraordinary man in every sense of the word, Ken has had a colorful career in and out of politics. He has worked as a miner and auctioneer; enjoys running ultra marathons; is a big game hunter; and his pack burro racing skills garnered him election to the Colorado Pack Burro Racing Hall of Fame in 1985. Elected from District 4 in 1996 to serve the people of Douglas, El Paso, Lake, Park, and Teller counties, Ken has sponsored bills supporting agriculture, mining, tourism, emergency medical care, prison construction, and the creation of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreational Area. In addition to serving as President Pro Tem, Ken is a member of the Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy; Appropriations; Legislative Council; and Transportation committees. Ken's honors for his excellent record in the General Assembly include the American Cancer Society Legislative Accomplishment and the NFIB Guardian of Small Business.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute before this body of Congress and this nation to State Senator Ken Chlouber for his selfless dedication to public service. It is clear that Ken has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado, and his efforts have helped ensure a promising future for our great country. I would like to extend my congratulations to Ken on his retirement and wish him and his wife Pat all the best in their future endeavors.

MARQUETTE RANKS IN TOP 30
"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITIES"

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the good work of the local leaders in the county of Marquette, Michigan who have worked to make this First District community a great place to live. As a result of that hard work, Marquette County, located on the shores of Lake Superior, earlier today was named one of the "America's Most Livable Communities," in the annual ranking by the Partners for Livable Communities, a national nonprofit whose prestigious list is published in USA Today.

The county of Marquette has been through soiree challenging times over the years. That includes its efforts to recover from the closure of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base a decade ago

that resulted in the loss of more than 1,000 civilian jobs as well as its work to keep its mining industry strong and competitive in the 21st Century.

But in recent years, the community of business leaders, government, clergy and education, through many task forces like the Lake Superior Community Partnership, have come together to move forward and develop innovative ways to strengthen this region.

The community boasts a state-of-the-art regional medical center in Marquette General Hospital. Marquette is also home to Northern Michigan University and its U.S. Olympic Education Center.

In addition, these partnerships have created new incentives to bring business to the area and it has provided them and residents with broadband services to ensure this smaller community can compete with its urban neighbors.

Marquette County is home to eight museums, an arts and cultural center, a symphony and provides four seasons of recreational opportunities, with some of the best mountain biking and cross-country ski trails in the country.

I would also like to note that Marquette County was named one of the 10 "All-America Cities" in 2003 by the National Civic League.

But probably most important of all, Marquette has an active and strong base of community leaders and volunteers who have worked together to make this county a great place to live. Some of those individuals were here in Washington D.C. to attend the special ceremony. They include: Monsignor Cappo of St. Peter's Cathedral, Marquette County Commissioner Bill Nordeen, Doreen Takalo, chair of the Marquette County Township Association, Karen Anderson of K.I. Sawyer, Bob Racia of Marquette General Hospital, Bill and Sue Rigby of Northern Michigan University, Marquette City Manager Gerald Peterson, Marquette Mayor Jerry Irby, Ishpeming Mayor Gary Nelson, John Mommarts of the Noquemanon Trail, Liz Smith of Project W.E.A.V.E. and Steward Harrison of Telkite.

Mr. Speaker, Marquette County has more than earned this great honor.

HONORING THE HENRY FORD
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Henry Ford—a National Historic Landmark—on its 75th anniversary.

The Henry Ford, located in Dearborn, Michigan, began in 1929 as Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum. The original concept was Henry Ford's idea—to create a school to teach young people about how past innovations can influence the future. The Museum and Village grew as Ford's historical collection multiplied. The artifacts range from ordinary household objects to obscure technical inventions of many eras. Some of the categories of artifacts, particularly in the agriculture, transportation, industry, communications, and domestic life areas, are recognized as the most complete collections in existence.

The Henry Ford now includes the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, IMAX The-

atre, Benson Ford Research Center, and the Ford Rouge Factory Tours. These attractions host 1.5 million visitors per year. The Henry Ford is a state-designated "Anchor Organization," which means that it has been enlisted to develop programs to promote participation in cultural activities and serve as a mentor to other cultural organizations with similar missions. The Henry Ford has set the standard for historic education and historic learning experiences not only in Southeast Michigan, but throughout this country.

The fresh, innovative spirit Henry Ford embodied is alive in the Henry Ford experience. This creative approach to education, community involvement, and economic development issues are an asset to the people of Dearborn and its surrounding areas.

I would like to ask my colleagues to rise and join me as I congratulate this organization for 75 years of bringing education and enlightenment to Southeast Michigan and, indeed, the entire country. I extend my best wishes to The Henry Ford, its staff, volunteers and supporters for continued success in celebrating American accomplishments and inspiring younger generations to new heights of achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. C. DOUGLAS
PARKS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. C. Douglas Parks on his retirement from the Aptakistic-Tripp School District 102 in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. After thirteen years as Superintendent and nearly forty years in public education, Mr. Parks is retiring, committed in both belief and practice to that idea that all children can learn. The vision and leadership he has provided ensure that School District 102 is and will continue to be a world class learning environment.

During Mr. Parks' tenure, he worked to expand opportunities for learning for all children, believing that every student should have a supportive environment, every student should be involved both individually and collectively in learning, and that every student can be empowered through learning. He has remained committed to developing a foundation of respect, pursuit of excellence, accountability, fairness, trustworthiness and honesty in his district. Besides applying these principles to academics, he is also committed to improving the quality of life for his students. Recently, he supported an innovative nutrition education initiative for healthier living.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Parks for being such a positive influence in District 102, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAMOSA
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the

Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce for over eighty years of impeccable service to the Alamosa, Colorado business community. The Alamosa Chamber is an incredible asset to the town, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Chamber's tremendous service to the Alamosa community.

Looking back on the history of Alamosa, the Chamber has sponsored many events and activities to improve the town, including its Town and Gown banquet, Cribbage tournaments, and founding the Alamosa Community Development Corporation. The Chamber has also helped to maintain a fantastic relationship between the town and Adams State College through sponsoring scholarships and organizing community and school events. Most importantly, the Chamber has been instrumental in promoting local businesses, aiding in their growth and success throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce is a dedicated organization that is actively involved in bringing the people of Alamosa together. For over eight decades, the Chamber has left an indelible mark of excellence on the Alamosa community and the State of Colorado. It is my privilege to pay tribute to the Chamber and its members before this body of Congress and this nation today. I thank them for the remarkable service they provide to Alamosa and the State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO WESTERN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community organizations who willingly and make their communities a better place to live and work. Western Municipal Water District is one of these organizations. On Thursday, May 13, 2004, Western Municipal Water District will celebrate 50 years of service.

Western Municipal Water District, since its formation on January 19, 1954 and authorization by public vote on January 26, 1954 has fulfilled its founding *raison d'être*, to augment the shortage of local water available to local communities with supplemental water imported 242 miles to western Riverside County via Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct.

The Western Municipal Water District, recognizing the need for a long-term source of high quality drinking water to sustain domestic needs of a burgeoning population, began importing a second source of high quality water in 1979 from northern California via the State Water Project's 444 mile-long California Aqueduct.

The Western Municipal Water District provides vital wastewater services as administrative operator of the West Riverside County Wastewater Authority since 1998, as operator of the Santa Ana Regional Interceptor (SARI) brine line since 1983, and as owner-operator of the March Air Reserve Base treatment facil-

ity providing irrigation water to the nation's second largest veteran's cemetery since 1996.

The Western Municipal Water District, as a court-appointed watermaster pursuant to the 1969 Stipulated Judgment, has been instrumental in maintaining peace among all parties to water rights and water quality issues in the Santa Ana Watershed.

The Western Municipal Water District, as one of the five water agencies comprising Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), has provided exemplary water resource management through implementation of the Santa Ana Watershed Basin Plan in cooperation and integrated planning with its neighbors in the Santa Ana Watershed.

Western Municipal Water District, has worked cooperatively and diplomatically to address complex political and regulatory issues impacting water at local, regional, state and national levels, and has invested prudently in efficient drought-proofing ventures such as the Nonpotable Conveyance System, Arlington Desalter and Riverside-Corona Feeder. I would like to express deep appreciation to Western Municipal Water District for profound contributions to the present and future health and prosperity of all communities in Western's 510 square mile service.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S RE-
SERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD
MEMBERS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our nation's Reserve and National Guard members. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home reservists from Ft. Meade in the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland—my home district. This includes members from the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion and the 444th Personnel Service Battalion, Detachment 2. These men and women have rejoined their families after serving in the Middle East for as long as 14 months and we are thrilled to see them return home.

But Mr. Speaker, such home comings are bitter sweet in light of ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the number of wounded and casualties continues to rise—as the length of deployment for many reservists expecting 'temporary' activation continues to be extended—there is much concern and worry at home. Loss is always difficult and war is never easy. But America's support for our men and women in uniform, for their dedication and service, for their sacrifice, for those who have already paid the ultimate price . . . America's support shall not waver. And I for one vow to continue to do all I can to support our Armed Forces.

For me, that support has meant many different things. From the creation of Operation Hero Miles to help soldiers returning home on R&R to founding a Veterans Advisory Council in the Maryland 2nd Congressional District to work with local veterans on national issues, I believe lawmakers need to put their efforts where their rhetoric is. I am less interested in what people say than what they do and I urge my colleagues to consider this edict as we

look at the legislative agenda for the remainder of this congressional session.

Our nations' Reserve and National Guard members are facing daunting problems largely created by the realities of the post-September 11 War on Terrorism. With a leaner full time active military, we are relying on the talent, dedication and service of reservists in unprecedented ways. Not since the Korean War have such a large percentage of boots on the ground been filled by reservists and not since they have reservists served for such extended periods of time. But even in Korea, that percentage has never been as high as it is today.

Today, reservists face unprecedented problems. Military benefits that exist today simply were not a concern back in the 1950's when our forces were largely involuntary. Today, America's reservists are serving side-by-side with full time active military men and women . . . and yet they are not recognized equally when it comes to their benefits. Parity is the key word for reservists today and little legislation is actually moving through Congress to solve their problems. Their retirement plans are unequal. Health care prior to activation is non-existent for many and creating readiness issues. Reservists are plagued with payroll problems causing bankruptcies, divorces, and unfair heart ache. There are critical questions about gap pay for reservists working in the private sector when not serving. Extended deployments are creating unforeseen hardships for families, employers, small business owners, and the self employed.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter if you were for or against the war in Iraq. The reality is we are there now and the troops deserve our support with the same unwavering dedication. I urge leadership in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle to help our nation's Reserve and National Guard members. Yes, we should continue to salute and pay tribute as they return home. But we should do so with our actions here in this chamber to ensure that our actions reflect how truly grateful we are.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF
ROSANNA MAY LEDDY-GREEN,
2004 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLAR-
SHIP WINNER OF MORENCI,
MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Rosanna May Leddy-Green, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Rosanna is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Rosanna is an exceptional student at Morenci High School. She has an outstanding record of achievement, exemplified by her status on the All 'A' Honor Roll. Rosanna has excelled in athletics as a member of the cross

country and track teams for four years and was named academic all-state. Her extensive list of school activities includes Spanish Club, National Honor Society, and S.A.D.D. Rosanna is also secretary of her graduating class.

As a Member of the United States Congress, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending the highest praise and congratulations to Rosanna May Leddy-Green for winning the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her accomplishments, but also is a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation have contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend the most heartfelt good wishes of the United States Congress for her success and for all her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM McAVOY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and pay tribute to journalist Tom McAvoy and thank him for his contributions to Colorado as the Denver Bureau Chief for The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper. The level of integrity and honesty that he has brought to this position throughout his twenty-one years of reporting on Colorado politics is truly exceptional and worthy of recognition by this body of Congress. As Tom moves on to his new position at The Pueblo Chieftain with the newspaper's editorial board, let it be known that the citizens of Pueblo and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work Tom has done in covering the Colorado Legislature.

A Pueblo native, Tom received a degree in political science and mass communications from then Southern Colorado State College, and went on to receive his master's degree in journalism from Ohio State University. Before joining the Chieftain in 1977, Tom worked for the Associated Press's Denver bureau, taught journalism at Southern Colorado State College, and was Denver's information officer in Pueblo. Since Tom joined the Chieftain, he has built a solid reputation for his fair and thorough reporting on Colorado politics and other events occurring in Denver that affect Pueblo and Southern Colorado. The Colorado Press Association recognized his first-rate coverage, as he became the first recipient of their Shining Star award, which recognizes the most consistent reporter or writer over a year's span.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Tom McAvoy's dedication and hard work reporting on the Colorado Legislature has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado and is worthy of acknowledgment before this body of Congress and this nation today. I have personally known Tom for twenty years and can guarantee that his insight at the Capitol will be sorely missed. Thanks, Tom, for all your hard work, and I wish you and your wife, Sue, all the best with your new position at The Chieftain.

TRIBUTE TO TERI OOMS, PRESIDENT, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of the Inland Empire are exceptional. The Inland Empire has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Teri Ooms is one of these individuals.

In 1997 Teri Ooms was appointed the President/CEO of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) and of its sister companies. IEEP is responsible for the regional marketing, attraction and recruitment of new business to the region, the expansion and retention of existing business, film, tourism, high tech regional development, workforce collaborative, regional visioning and the Small Business Development Center.

Ms. Ooms joined the Inland Empire Economic Partnership in 1991 as the Executive Director of its Inland Empire Small Business Development Center. Under the excellent direction of Ms. Ooms, the Center grew to a staff of 21 with multiple regional locations, and its program has increased funding to \$1.1 million, making it the largest California program. The Center has created numerous special services and training programs, and can demonstrate economic impact of over \$300 million in its eleven year history.

As President/CEO, Ms. Ooms completed a reorganization of the company resulting in new programs and services, financial stability and increased prominence in the community. In the period of 1997-2003 IEEP has had 70 successful business attractions and retentions resulting in over \$730 million in new investment into the region creating over 9,500 jobs. The region has over 5,000 film shoots, demonstrating a little over \$425 million in regional impact in the same period. In 1999, she was awarded "Management Leader of the Year," by the A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management, and in 1998, was a recipient of the "Women of Distinction" award given by the Business Press. Since 1997, IEEP's membership has grown by 10% and maintains an average membership retention ratio of 93%. EIEP has evolved to include a high technology development program and coordination of the region's workforce collaborative to bring education and business partnerships to benefit employers, employees and students and a regional collaborative focused on regional visioning, planning, advocacy and implementation.

Teri's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the economy of the Inland Empire in California. I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 70 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin. IGIV helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because one of my constituents, Carol Ann Demaret, is the mother of a child born with severe combined immunodeficiency. Her son David struggled with this terrible disease his entire life before passing away at the age of 12. Because the disease left David without a functioning immune system he became known as the "bubble boy" due to his confinement in an insulating bubble that protected him from infection.

Since David's death, Carol Ann has become a tireless advocate for the primary immune deficiency community. She has testified before Congress in support of increased federal funding for biomedical research focused on these devastating diseases. Carol Ann is also a longstanding member of the Board of Trustees of the Immune Deficiency Foundation, which is the nation's leading organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for PIDD patients. Recently, the Foundation entered into an historic research partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. The establishment of the "US Immunodeficiency Network" represents the most significant advancement in primary immune deficiency research in our nation's history. I was pleased to work with the Carol Ann, the Foundation, and my colleagues in the House to make this research consortium a reality.

Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM R.
STEWART

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and distinguished public servant, Mr. William R. Stewart. Mr. Stewart served as Chief Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the first African American to do so. For his service, Mr. Stewart was a recipient of the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, the only NLRB lawyer to receive this honor its entire 69-year history. Upon bestowing this tribute, President Clinton spoke of Mr. Stewart as "instrumental in winning national labor law cases that have had a major impact on American workers." The President further noted Mr. Stewart's contributions, such as "protecting the rights of the blind workers and preserving the ability of workers to vote by mail in union elections."

Mr. Stewart was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in government in 1954 and was elected Phi Beta Kappa. An ROTC student, upon graduation, he was commissioned in the Army as a second lieutenant. He served in Germany in an armored division and was later selected to be the courts and boards officer and assistant adjunct of a combat command of more than 5,000 men. Upon completing his tour of duty in 1957, he returned to his home State to complete law school at Indiana University. During his time at Indiana Law, he was elected to the Order of the Coif, an honor society for law school graduates from the 77 member schools.

Immediately following law school, Mr. Stewart worked as an attorney for the Atomic Energy Commission, though he soon joined NLRB where he served with great distinction for most of his professional career.

On February 16, 2004, William R. Stewart passed away at the age of 71, in Washington D.C. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Stewart's family, including his two brothers Stanley and Richard. My district, and the Nation, lost a great public servant with the passing of William R. Stewart.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. William B. Gould IV. Mr. Gould was Chairman of the NLRB during Mr. Stewart's final years there, as well as his dear friend. He has provided me with a copy of the eulogy he delivered for his friend, and I respectfully ask that it be included in the RECORD.

MEMORIAL TO WILLIAM R. STEWART—REMARKS OF WILLIAM B. GOULD IV, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY FEBRUARY 27, 2004

First, allow me to extend my heartfelt condolences to Bill Stewart's brother here in attendance, Stanley Stewart, Bill's nieces, Standish Stewart, Sherry Weaver, and Belinda Jones, and his nephew, Kent Bell.

For the many who knew him or had some contact with him—and most especially for those many who loved him—William Rufus Stewart incorporated many characteristics in that multi-dimensional personality of his. Two features override all of them—his commitment to excellence—this is what prompted President Bill Clinton to characterize his

contributions to the NLRB to be "unparalleled"—and his compassion for humanity and life.

Every February or March for the past five years subsequent to my departure from Washington, Bill would come to California and visit with my wife and myself at our home on the Stanford campus. Here he had a set routine which he would follow with or without the two of us.

Sometimes he would sit in on a class or two and provide me with a good critique—just as he would do here in our Washington days together. Bill would begin each morning—and sometimes the afternoon as well—with a long walk through our beautiful campus, returning full of observations about the trees and flowers and other things that he had seen along the way. On one occasion he and my wife spotted a coyote sauntering calmly through an open park, and this quickly became one of those stories which he loved to tell and retell.

Usually he timed his visit with the Stanford baseball games at our lovely Sunken Diamond. This past rainy weekend the University of Texas was in town and it made me think of Bill's comments about a splendidly executed extra inning Stanford-Texas baseball game two years ago, again in the winter rain which turned on and off while we sat soaking in our seats.

For almost a year, Bill had been telling me about an outstanding left-handed pitcher from his hometown of Terre Haute, Indiana, whom Stanford had snatched away, he said, from professional baseball. Ironically, on this past Sunday, there he was, as Bill had described him, pitching a magnificent three-hitter against hard-hitting Texas in his very first college start. I wanted to call Bill on the phone and I thought of how, at least until a little more than a month ago, we had planned to see that game together.

There were certain trigger points for which Bill could produce predictably automatic and voluble reactions, one of them being Indiana basketball and its former coach Bobby Knight. We often laughed together when I pushed some of his buttons by mentioning an individual for whom I knew he had either great devotion, as was the case with Knight, or those individuals and organizations for whom Bill possessed little regard and occasional scorn—and he would always oblige me with an uproarious reaction to my button pushing. The most fun in those exchanges was the knowledge that Bill knew that I was putting him on and then would oblige me without fail with one of those patented Bill Stewart eruptions.

Just as Bill's views were not capable of modification on matters like Bobby Knight, it was difficult to get him to back down in most discussions or arguments—and we had a few of those—about the National Labor Relations Act, the National Labor Relations Board, and society generally. But he was nothing if not intellectually curious, and that trait led to a good deal of back and forth. The fact that he was always imaginative and probing in his search for new approaches as well as so resolute, served me well as both Chairman and his friend.

Our mutual friend, Professor Herman Levy of Santa Clara Law School, who served with Bill at the Board in the '60s as well, has told me how Bill, as the assertive and sometimes disputatious president of the NLRB Professional Association in the '60s, insisted that Herman be excluded as a supervisor. Herman—and Bill and I often spoke of Herman's unyielding points of view—was of the view that he was not a supervisor and ultimately the two of them were to devise a sensibly balanced compromise whereby Herman was able to sit in on the union meetings, but not to have a vote—and perhaps not, given Bill's perspective, a voice either!

I can remember in the period of 1963-64, when Bill and I first became friends, his attendance at the newly-opened Arena Theater and his love for opera and classical music. The arts were a big part of Bill's life. Whenever I went to exhibits or concerts in Washington, he would gently needle me, implying that I was only a superficial philistine. There was so much laughter and conviviality with him in this kind of back-and-forth banter.

Indeed, laughter is one of the things that I treasure most about Bill. So many times my confidential assistant, Mary Ann Sawyer, and I would be smiling at one another as Bill and Al Wolff or some other individual would be howling at something that they found amusing! The loud and sustained laughter would frequently cascade into the anteroom where Mary Ann sat—and through my adjacent office as well.

As someone who loved the arts, it seemed appropriate that Bill also had a great sense of the dramatic—I always remember his description of his first meeting with a former Board member with whom Bill was trying to negotiate some kind of arrangement prior to my arrival in Washington. Bill would go into a semi-crouch, putting his hands up near his face: "We were circling one another like two cats in a ring," said Bill on countless occasions in describing this meeting. Incidentally, Bill accomplished that mission, and he and the individual in question soon became the best of friends.

Bill possessed the very highest professional standards and this was one of the reasons why he was so valuable to me and to the NLRB. He elevated the level of what would be acceptable for me and the staff. He best exemplified public service as a high and noble calling.

In reviewing any of my opinions or speeches, Bill would always flyspeck them carefully, and quoting his former colleague on the General Counsel side, Bob Allen, he would say: "We have to make sure that it is pretty," i.e., that all the i's should be dotted and the t's should be crossed (Bill would always be careful to say, "This is what Bob Allen would say"). This kind of meticulous care is one of the reasons why President Clinton praised his work so unqualifiedly.

As many of you know, Bill was the first and only NLRB employee in its entire 69-year history to receive the highest honor that any civil servant can receive—the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service. Bill was a lawyer par excellence who not only set the highest standards, but was a role model and inspiration to me and innumerable others. He was the first and only African American ever to be appointed to the highest non-Presidential appointee level at the Board, i.e., the rank of Chief Counsel, serving with me from 1994 to 1997. And he was a tower of strength, expertise and wisdom for me, the NLRB, and the United States government. In the tumultuous '90s when our Board was under such attack from within and from without by many who do not believe in the purposes of the Act, Bill, along with the wonderful Mary Ann Sawyer whom Bill identified for me and recruited, were the nerve center of the agency. More than anyone that I know, they kept the Board going in its most difficult days.

Bill was the gatekeeper through which everyone and everything went. Bill's public service was vital to the rule of law in labor-management relations.

But there is another dimension to Bill Stewart which is even more important and goes to the essence of this good man.

Last year when Bill came to visit us in California, he could not come in February or March as was his practice. The reason was that he was helping two friends who themselves appeared to be in their last days and

who thus were in the midst of enormous and considerable distress. Bill had to be there for them, and thus could not come to California until June. That was the kind of man that he was.

When he retired from the NLRB in 1997 and when the parties that we had for him were still fresh in all of our minds, one of his first professional works was to represent a paraplegic in a disability case. And Herman Levy told me when they recently went together on a cruise to Alaska, it was Bill who would make sure that Herman, needing assistance, had a wheelchair and made sure those in charge of the ship were aware of his problems.

Bill loved his family. He was proud of his family—his parents and his siblings—and was particularly solicitous of their children. Indeed, he was solicitous and helpful to young people generally, not only in the legal profession and on our staff, but also to my own sons, with whom he would never fail to sit down and talk when they came to Washington and with whom he would sometimes meet when he was on the Los Angeles portion of his annual California visit.

Bill Stewart was devoted to Indiana University as well. It gave him his start in life. He often spoke fondly of his work as personal assistant to Herman B. Wells, Chancellor of the University. Thus, it was meet and right that in 1999 Bill was elected to the Indiana University Academy of Law Alumni Fellows, the most distinguished honor for an Indiana law graduate—and that he was to enjoy a reunion with Mr. Wells at that time.

Bill never stopped grieving for his deceased partner, Bill Dresser, who accompanied him when we went to the White House in October 1997 to meet President Clinton to commemorate Bill's Award.

Counsellor in all senses of the word . . . So often during these past two weeks since Bill's death on February 16, I have awakened in the middle of the night, finding it difficult to believe that he is gone. But on one occasion a week ago, I awoke and began to think about a problem of my own completely unrelated to the terrible events of February 16—but which seemed almost equally insoluble. I decided that it would be important for me to speak to someone about it. It was 5 a.m. and my mind automatically focused upon area code 301 and the number for Bill's home. That was my first instinct.

I have often thought that most of us will be extremely fortunate if we are remembered beyond one or two or five years subsequent to our respective deaths.

Bill will not be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO BLUESKY ENTERPRISES, INC.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. that is a devoted and compassionate organization in Pueblo, Colorado. The Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. has been improving the lives of Colorado citizens with developmental disabilities and their families for 40 years, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing their tremendous service to the Southern Colorado community.

The Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. has provided services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families since its inception in 1964. This wonderful organization has placed individuals in jobs throughout the area after training them in their own community-based cafes and through contracted employment opportunities. The organization has served over 2,000 children with developmental disabilities, ages 0–3 years, by providing up to three years of therapy, which enable each child to begin life at their highest level of physical and cognitive skill.

Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. has served adults by providing residential shelter with loving host home families for hundreds of individuals and building affordable housing for highly independent consumers. In addition, it has provided transportation, counseling, life skills training and case management to consumers while spending thousands of hours training police, lawyers, city officials, judges and members of the Pueblo community about the special needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. Colorado Bluesky Enterprises is the lifeblood for the community of families who love and care for an individual with a developmental disability.

Mr. Speaker, the Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. is a dedicated, selfless organization that has 40 years of service assisting those in need from the Southern Colorado community. Their focus on individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families, is outstanding and exemplary to all of us in our nation. This organization's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on celebrating 40 years of compassionate and caring service.

COMMENDING TAIWAN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan have been some of the best friends this Country has ever had, and I would like to commend them on their longstanding friendship with this Nation. I also want to commend Taiwan for its continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free democratic society and free markets.

The people of Taiwan are to be further commended for their efforts seeking greater international recognition, including an increasing role and participation in the World Health Organization and the United Nations. Quite simply, Taiwan is too important an economic force and democratic ally to be shunned to the political backwaters of global isolation.

I am encouraged with Taiwan's new administration's stated goal of pursuing better relations with the People's Republic of China. Taiwan's cross-strait dialogue with the PRC is crucial for resolving misunderstandings between Beijing and Taipei and Washington, which, Mr. Speaker, is the foundation for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and, indeed, for all of Asia.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Taiwan, which has the support and best wishes of the

United States Congress and the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF EDWARD GEPPERT—CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of Edward Geppert, the Chief of Staff of the Illinois Federation of Teachers since 1994.

Prior to that, Ed served the IFT as Director of Organization (1983–1994), Field Service Director (1997–1983) and Executive Board Member (1975–1977).

Ed began his career in education as a social science teacher at Cahokia High School (1969–77) teaching government, sociology and history. He has been an IFT member since 1969 and is the former president of the Cahokia Federation of Teachers, Local 1272. In 1977, he became a field service director for the IFT, organizing locals in Southern Illinois. He has also served as a delegate on the East St. Louis (now Southwestern Illinois) Central Labor Council and the Southwest Area Council, IFT/AFT/AFL–CIO. Ed has also been a member of the Glassblowers and Bottlers Union and the United Rubber Workers.

His expertise in education and labor has been recognized by such groups as the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Learning Partnership and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is also an active member of the Labor Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois.

Ed and his wife Marti, a teacher in Cahokia, have three sons, Brad, Steve and Dan and reside in Belleville, Illinois. Their special joy is daughter-in-law Laurie and grandson Jack. Ed also serves his community through his involvement with the Illinois Learning Partnership.

I have known Ed for many years through his involvement with my wife Georgia, who is also an educator. I consider Ed my friend and have the utmost respect for him and the work he has done for education in our area and our state. Many times I have sought Ed's advice on issues related to the educational system in our country.

The IFT is an organization that is 85,000 strong with 23 offices around the state to service members and provide program support to each member. Ed has the courage of his convictions, and the IFT we know today is due in no small part to Ed's tremendous ability to build a team, keep everybody involved and continue working for our most democratic American institution, public education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Ed Geppert and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
COOPER L. YATES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Cooper L. Yates, who died unexpectedly April 17, 2004.

Cooper was from Cedartown, Ga., raised in Fort Walton Beach, attended Pensacola Junior College and earned a degree in fine art from the University of West Florida as a member of its charter class. Included among his early jobs in Pensacola were stints with JC Penny Co., WEAR-TV and Gulf Power Company. After experience as creative director of AD/Com Advertising Agency, he opened Creative Workshop, which grew into Hemmer & Yates Inc., where he was a principal and creative director. H&Y was a collection of artists, writers and other talented individuals who formed, during the 1980s, what many considered to be Pensacola's foremost advertising agency. Cooper's work was not limited to the local area; for a time he spread his publicist talents in Texas, California and Australia. For the past few years, he was president of Great Southern Advertising.

He served as president of the Panhandle Tiger Bay Club and the Arts Council of Northwest Florida, was a board member of the Arts Council of Florida, vice-chairman of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, a member of the Architectural Review Board, the Committee of 100 and the Medical Education Research Foundation. He was creator and a Charter Master of the Irish Politicians Club, a member of the Pensacola Bicentennial Constitution Commission and an Adjunct Professor at both Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Cooper Yates had many talents. He was a brilliant, creative innovator in public relations and advertising and could sit down at a moment's notice and spin a yarn that would make Mark Twain envious. His sense of humor was renowned throughout Northwest Florida. In fact on his most recent business card, he lists Hand Bills, Sandwich Boards, Church Fans and Sky Writing as a few of his many advertising services.

Cooper was a true Renaissance man born 500 years too late. He was a pressman, a philosopher, a politician, a publicist, a pundit, a planner, a performer, a professor, and a poet. He was extremely well read, remarkably resourceful, and was infamous for his insatiable intellect and imaginative insight into intangible incomprehension.

Cooper was captivated by politics—a self-proclaimed Yellow Dog Democrat—and for years community leaders in Pensacola, including politicians—both Democrats and Republicans, sought his counsel and advice. His keen sense of fashion, impeccable taste and eye for what was right aesthetically led to a style all his own. He would often be seen climbing out of his classic Corvette or bright red Land Rover Defender wearing a tropical, button-down shirt and his signature hat, ready to tell an anecdote about a local politician or quote a clever phrase from Hunter S. Thompson.

He was loved and will be missed by his mother, Bessie L. Yates, with whom he regu-

larly attended services at the First Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach; his daughter, Robin Michelle (Shelley) Yates Boudreau (Josh); his sister, Betty (Bett) L. Yates Adams (Dixon); brothers Lawden H. Yates Jr. (Judy) and Donald N. Yates (Teresa); beloved grandsons, Elliott Aejenour and Samuel Cooper; nephews and nieces Christopher, Amanda, Christian, Paul, Alice, Melissa, Cooper and Nathan; chiliheads Jerry, Mike, Greg, Jim, Caleb, Bob and 6:10 (always late) Don; partner Melanie Brown, and many others far and wide.

Mr. Speaker, Cooper Yates may have left us, but his memory and his spirit will live on throughout Northwest Florida. And I'm sure if they need a Sky Writer in heaven, Cooper's already got the job.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE
OF TAIWAN ON THEIR RECENT
ELECTIONS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the conduct of their recent Presidential elections and to President Chen on his reelection. More than 80 percent of registered voters turned out in a clear demonstration that the people of Taiwan want a free and democratic future.

I continue to be impressed by the growing strength of democratic institutions on Taiwan and by the commitment of the people of Taiwan to freedom, democracy, and human rights. These are values that the people of Taiwan share with the people of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all my colleagues will join me in extending congratulations to the people of Taiwan, to President Chen and Vice President Annette Lu on their re-election, and in hoping that the future of Taiwan will be resolved through peaceful means.

RECOGNIZING THE 5TH YEAR AN-
NIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEG-
ACY FOUNDATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the American Legacy Foundation on its fifth year of saving lives. The Foundation was established through the settlement agreement between the tobacco industry and state attorneys general. Five years ago, we did not know whether this unique public education and research would bear fruit.

It is now clear that the Legacy Foundation has exceeded all of our expectations. While even getting one child, teenager, or adult to quit smoking is a victory in itself, programs and research supported by the Legacy Foundation have affected thousands of young lives.

The Foundation's innovative "truth" campaign is particularly impressive. This successful campaign has been cited by academic

studies and credited to have helped reduce smoking rates among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. Programs such as "Circle of Friends," "Great Start," and "Priority Populations" are also making a large impact.

There is still so much more to do. Tobacco still causes more death than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murder and suicides combined. Lung cancer still kills more women than breast and cervical cancer combined. While this Congress and this Administration has largely ignored the dangers of tobacco use, millions of teenagers have become addicted, many of whom will die from entirely preventable diseases.

Unfortunately, at this pivotal time, funding for the American Legacy Foundation is dropping precipitously. It is imperative that a way be found to sustain the Legacy Foundation and its important work.

HONORING CIVIL AIR PATROL
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor four cadets from Suffolk County, New York, for their achievements with the Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 7. On April 13, 2004, Cadet 2d Lieutenants Daniel Umpa and Nicholas Calarco were presented with the General Billy Mitchell Award, and Cadet Captains Ryan Elliott and Matthew Cooney were presented with the Amelia Earhart Award.

The Civil Air Patrol has a long history of service to our nation as the official civilian volunteer auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Formed in 1941, just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Civil Air Patrol sank two enemy submarines and rescued hundreds of crash survivors during World War II. Currently, the Civil Air Patrol focuses on cadet programs, aerospace education and emergency services. The four cadets that I honor today are sure to continue that legacy.

The General Billy Mitchell Award is earned by cadets who have completed the first eight achievements of the cadet program, fulfilled physical fitness requirements and passed an exam on leadership theory and aerospace. I commend Cadet 2d Lieutenant Daniel Umpa and Cadet 2d Lieutenant Nicholas Calarco on this great accomplishment.

The Amelia Earhart Award is awarded to recipients of the General Billy Mitchell Award who have completed the first eleven achievements of the cadet program and passed an exam on leadership theory and aerospace. I commend Cadet Captain Ryan Elliott and Cadet Captain Matthew Cooney, who join nearly 10,000 other cadets who have received this prestigious award over the last 30 years.

The Civil Air Patrol is actively involved in protecting America from the threat of terrorism, and I am confident that these four cadets will continue to make important contributions in securing the safety of our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4175, VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 4175, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004. Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Lane Evans, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Benefits Subcommittee, HENRY BROWN and MICHAEL MICHAUD, respectively, join me as original cosponsors of the bill. H.R. 4175 would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans' benefits, effective December 1, 2004.

The VA Committee periodically reviews the service-connected disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) programs to ensure that the benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation for disabled veterans and their families. Based on this review, Congress acts annually to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in compensation and DIC benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has provided increases in these rates for every fiscal year since 1976. The Administration's fiscal year 2005 budget submission includes funding for a projected 1.3 percent increase.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MERCED POLICE OFFICER
STEPHAN GRAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Merced Police Officer Stephan Gray, who was killed on April 14 in the line of duty. He was the first officer killed in the Merced Police Department's 115-year history.

During his 7 years of distinguished service in Merced, Officer Gray represented the very best in law enforcement. In the course of his work in the department's Gang Violence Suppression Unit and the Special Operations Unit, he consistently went above and beyond the call of duty and was known for his extensive involvement in the community.

Officer Gray received numerous thank you letters from citizens for his work and commendations for assisting in the capture of a dangerous criminal street gang member and saving the life of an 11-month-old infant.

He made a special effort to fully understand his beat, even visiting streetside basketball courts and baseball fields. Residents of south Merced appreciated Officer Gray's presence, and his influence was immeasurable.

In short, Officer Gray was the role model that communities like Merced so desperately need. The city will miss his special dedication and selfless service. I hope that this tragedy will shed light on his important work and inspire others to the same calling.

Officer Gray is survived by his wife, Michelle, and three children, Landess, Isaiah,

and Cameron. I offer the entire Gray family my condolences.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY
DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases (PIDD) are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases, which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 70 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin. IGIV helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because a family in my district, the Gargaszs, have a son Dylan who has a primary immune deficiency disease. Dylan was born looking healthy, but by his first month checkup he had a raging ear infection, followed by chronic infections throughout his first year of life. Additionally, Dylan was failing to thrive and grow like a normal child. Dylan spent at least one day a week in the doctor's office, and was hospitalized with pneumonia five times by 18 months old. Finally, at 18 months, Dylan's mother took him to Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, where an immunologist finally diagnosed him with a primary immune deficiency disease. Dylan started his IGIV therapy once a week, and now at 6 years old, is doing relatively well. His younger brother and mother are now being tested to see if they have a primary immune deficiency disease.

Dylan is not unique with the difficulty and delay in diagnosis of his primary immune deficiency disease. Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is over 9 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses in the general public and the health care community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am pleased to join them in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

CONGRATULATING EDINBURG
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Edinburg North High School for being selected for one of the 2004 College Board Inspiration Awards. Edinburg North is one of three exemplary high schools in the nation being honored for their steadfast commitment to fostering student success in some of America's most poverty-stricken communities. Each school receives a prize of \$25,000 to use in furthering its academic goals. The Inspiration Awards recognize outstanding work in improving the academic environment and helping economically disadvantaged students achieve the promise of higher education. I would like to congratulate the superintendent, Eugenio Gutierrez, the principal, Mario Salinas, the teachers, students, and entire school community for this prestigious award.

Edinburg North High School is truly an inspiration for all of us who value education and academic excellence for all students. For the Hispanic community, it reaffirms our core faith in our own potential. Over 95 percent of the students at Edinburg North are Hispanic, and eighty percent of them are bilingual.

Edinburg North High School has succeeded in the face of many challenges. More than half of its students participate in the free and reduced price lunch program. Many students are the children of migrant and seasonal farm workers, and many of these young people work in the fields themselves. As recently as the late 1990s, Edinburg North's poor academic performance led the state of Texas to notify all parents that they had the option of sending their children to another school.

The school community—students, parents, teachers, administrators, local officials, and community leaders—made a commitment to turn things. The school did not merely aim for proficiency, but rather it reached for excellence with stunning results.

The school community decided although its students come from the most economically disadvantaged part of the district, they were not going to be educationally disadvantaged. Edinburg North High School made access to challenging courses a number one priority. It instituted an "open-door" policy for advanced placement courses, and now enrolls more students in college-level courses than any other school in the city. Over the last five years, Edinburg North has doubled the number of students taking at least one advanced placement exam.

This focus on rigorous courses has opened the doors to higher education for students of Edinburg North, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. Last year almost three-quarters of the students were accepted to college, including some of the most selective institutions in the nation, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, and Rice University.

This is what is possible when we invest in excellence in the Hispanic community. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Edinburg North High School for its achievement and applauding the college Board for sponsoring the

Inspiration Awards. May each year be more competitive than the last.

LEWISBURG RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S DOZEN DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, Lewisburg, one of West Virginia's proudest attractions known for its history, beauty and hospitality, offers a bit of everything for those seeking attractive destination spots to visit, and recently, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Lewisburg one of its Dozen Distinctive Destinations.

The City of Lewisburg is a cultural and artistic center in West Virginia. Downtown Lewisburg is designated as an historical district, with many of its buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the city has won acclaim as one of the best small-town arts centers in America. History buffs, theatre goers, music lovers, shoppers and fine diners alike can delight in Lewisburg. It is no wonder why West Virginia holds its annual State Fair on the outskirts of this splendid city.

Just down the road from Lewisburg is the world-famous Greenbrier Resort, a source of pride for every Southern West Virginian, and so important nationally that for years it was intended to be the American government's home away from home.

The recognition of Lewisburg by the National Trust for Historic Preservation is a great honor bestowed upon one of West Virginia's best kept treasures. West Virginians have always known the beauty, the history and the draw of Lewisburg. It was just a matter of time before the rest of the world took notice.

Lewisburg is a prime example of the best West Virginia has to offer. Our countryside is filled with historic treasures, grand vistas, wild whitewater, towering mountain ridges, and numerous trails that cater to horseback riders, ATV users, hikers and bikers. Travelers and tourists can find a cornucopia of activities and adventures across Southern West Virginia, as we offer attractions that appeal to a wide variety of interests and tastes.

Today, as more Americans than ever are looking for exciting, yet safe, places to vacation, and West Virginia, my home State, has become even more attractive as a destination to many adventurers and vacationers alike. Half the people in the whole country live within 250 miles of the Mountain State, making it an easy day's drive for all who wish to visit.

RECOGNIZATION OF THE YOUNG ONSET PARKINSON'S ASSOCIATION AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. GINA REILLY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I have the opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of Ms. Gina Reilly and the Young Onset Parkinson's Association (YOPA). The YOPA is dedicated to providing support as well as raising public awareness about Parkinson's disease. Ms. Reilly is one of many volunteers whose tireless efforts help to make the foundation a success.

Parkinson's disease is a debilitating disease that affects 4 in every 1,000 Americans, and while the disease is more prominent in older people, five to ten percent of all Parkinson's cases are early-onset. Parkinson's has no known origin or method of prevention; but with the assistance of organizations like the YOPA and the American Parkinson's Disease Association, treatments and a cure are coming closer to becoming a reality.

The YOPA's mission is to raise public awareness and to offer support for those living with early-onset Parkinson's disease. In addition, the association has coordinated with local, regional and national Parkinson's organizations in fundraising efforts for Parkinson's research. Ms. Gina Reilly is one of the most prominent volunteers who has helped make this mission a reality.

Prior to her diagnosis, Ms. Reilly was a renowned competitor in U.S. adult ice dancing competitions. In addition to being a champion ice dancer, she was also a ballroom dancer, nightclub singer, and owner of a successful graphic arts and computer embroidering business. After her diagnosis in 2003, Ms. Reilly refused to let her disease prevent her from further achievements. In addition to continuing her pursuits in athletics and business, Ms. Reilly has begun working with the YOPA. Her incredible courage and fortitude provide a role model of how one can live their life while afflicted with Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues recognize the outstanding work of the Young Onset Parkinson's Association, and I congratulate Ms. Reilly for her outstanding achievements and bravery.

CONFIRMATION OF PAUL ANDERSON FOR THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to appear before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on March 30, 2004 to introduce Paul Anderson of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at his confirmation

hearing for the post of Federal Maritime Commissioner. President George W. Bush nominated Paul for the position on Oct. 1, 2003.

In nominating Paul Anderson, President Bush has chosen someone who possesses a rare blend of work experience and background that makes him an asset to the commission. With a background in both government and the maritime industry, Mr. Anderson is positioned well as a knowledgeable and forceful advocate for a strong United States maritime industry.

I have known Paul for more than 20 years, working with him in the Senate with former Senator Paula Hawkins when I was chief of staff. He is well qualified with Senate experience, 8 years with Hvide Marine, a U.S.-flagged diversified marine transport company in Florida and 9 years with JM Family Enterprises, the nation's largest distributor of Toyota vehicles. Clearly his knowledge of business in addition to the maritime industry will be invaluable in his position. He balances knowledge of government responsibilities and the needs of private companies.

If it was my own son being considered, I couldn't be more proud of Paul Anderson. It was my honor to introduce him to the Senate committee.

I'm confident the administration has made a fine choice in nominating Paul Anderson for this important post and I urged the committee to act favorably on the nomination.

HONORING SERGEANT JONATHAN N. HARTMAN

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, as we pray for all those in our armed services who find themselves in harm's way, I rise to pay tribute to a soldier from my home state who gave his life to his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Jonathan N. Hartman, age 27, of Jacksonville, Florida, died April 17, 2004 in Dwanian, Iraq. Sergeant Hartman was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Hartman is the epitome of a great American. He served his country with pride. He served his country without question. Sergeant Hartman served his country because he loved his country. For his service, his honor, his dedication, and his sacrifice, I know I speak for the entire Congress and for good Americans everywhere when I say, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words that can be said here today that will erase the sorrow and pain of this loss. What we can say, and what we can do, is continue to support this mission, the men and women who are fighting for this great country, and pray for his loved ones. It is the service and dedication of men and women like Sergeant Hartman's that make the United States safer, more secure, and a great nation.