

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FORMER PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR DICK THORNBURG'S THOUGHTFUL STATEMENT ON "INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, "International Disability Rights: The Proposed UN Convention." This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Schövinck; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Governor Dick Thornburgh be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DICK THORNBURGH, FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS ON 2203 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you, Congressman Lantos. I'm very happy to be participating on this panel today. It gives me an opportunity to discuss two topics about which I care deeply—disability rights and international cooperation. The fact that the United Nations has taken an important—and long overdue—step toward bringing 600 million people with disabilities into the mainstream of human rights concerns is a milestone for social justice globally. I applaud the disability com-

munity for its tireless efforts in what must have seemed an uphill battle for international recognition of this important issue.

About 15 years ago, I testified before House and Senate Committees as the principal spokesperson for President George Bush's administration on the development of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). I testified as Attorney General of the United States and as a parent of an adult child with mental retardation. During those hearings I recognized that no piece of legislation could alone change the longstanding misperceptions that many people have about disability—misperceptions based largely on stereotype, ignorance and fear of what is different. Any reshaping of attitudes would be the gradual result not of the words or ideas in the laws, but of bringing people with disabilities from the margins of society into the mainstream of American life—our schools, workplaces, busses and trains, courthouses, restaurants and theaters—where they not only have an absolute right to be but where we have an obligation as fellow human beings to welcome them on an equal basis as all others.

The effort to secure passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act was difficult. Those of us who wanted to see it happen were given countless reasons that it couldn't be done. We were told that the climate in Congress wasn't right, it would be too expensive, too complicated, not effective, impossible to enforce—even that the country in general just wasn't ready for it. So we discussed, debated, argued, researched, analyzed, negotiated, pleaded, convinced and, ultimately, drafted and passed the most progressive disability legislation the world had ever seen. This legislation, with its innovative concepts such as "reasonable accommodation," has changed the way we do business in this country. It has made us more representative, more democratic and more free by ending the unchecked exclusion of 54 million Americans from public life.

Of course we still have a long way to go. The ADA isn't perfect and people with disabilities in America continue to face serious challenges. Still, we've made remarkable progress that is not only celebrated here at home but also recognized abroad. The United States is viewed internationally as the pioneer for disability rights. Disability activists from other countries have taken the ADA to their governments and said "Look. This is how it should be done. We need to do this here in our country." And many governments have responded. Our legislation has served as an model for anti-discrimination protections for people with disabilities all over the world.

However, despite our progress at home—and the progress that it has inspired in other countries—on the whole disability as a global issue remains near the bottom of the list of priorities for many governments and societies. People with disabilities are among the poorest, least educated and most abused and excluded people on earth. I said that the ADA has served as a shining model for domestic legislation for other countries. That is true, but, in actuality, fewer than 50 nations actually have anti-discrimination laws to protect the rights of people with disabilities. The mainstream human rights movement has traditionally considered disability as an issue that falls outside its scope, view-

ing it as a social problem or a medical issue instead of a subject of human rights. While the rights of women, children, racial minorities and migrant workers have found their place in the international human rights and legal framework, disability rights have languished on the sidelines. Fortunately, that chapter in history is approaching its end with the UN effort to draft an international convention on disability.

I'd like to address briefly—and hopefully put to rest—some of the questions and concerns that have been raised about this convention. To begin, it has been argued that disability rights are more appropriately addressed as a domestic concern, given the complexity of the issues involved. In other words, this really isn't an appropriate subject for international protection. Certainly, good domestic legislation in every country would be the ideal solution. But most countries don't have it and it does not seem reasonable to expect that this will change dramatically without international pressure. The fact is, for many countries, international conventions have served as a catalyst for the development of domestic protections. Furthermore, the human rights situation of people with disabilities is a legitimate matter of international concern. Just last month, Amnesty International reported that 17 patients at a psychiatric hospital in southern Romania have died so far this year, apparently from malnutrition and hypothermia. The total number of deaths in 2003 at that institution from similar causes was 84. In the absence of effective domestic protections, these are the types of persons who deserve and require the coverage of an international convention.

Another view put forth is that, because of America's comprehensive domestic protections, a treaty on disability would have no relevance in our own country. Therefore, in the absence of any intention of becoming a party to the convention, our participation in the process of its development should be minimal.

We are the most progressive country in the world when it comes to disability rights domestically. The universality of human rights and fundamental freedoms—as expressed in our Declaration of Independence—is the foundation on which our entire society is based. Respect for human rights is also a stated core principle of our foreign policy—precisely because we recognize that stability, security and economic opportunity in any society presuppose a social order based on respect for the rights of its citizens. Given this history and these values, it would seem natural, in fact, for the United States to assume a leading role—not a passive one—in the UN effort to codify in an international treaty the principles of equality, inclusion and respect for the human rights of people with disabilities.

It might sound familiar—even a cliché—to say we are the world leaders on this subject. Let's be honest. There is certainly no shortage of issues on which we claim to be the world leaders. We are predisposed to take credit for most any trend in the world that seems just, free and democratic. But with respect to this issue, we really do have "bragging rights." We got disability rights right.

This is our opportunity to export the very best the U.S. has to offer. This is a chance to use our rich national experience on disability rights—which has gained us the respect of the world community—to extend the

• 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.

principles embodied in the ADA to the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities worldwide who have no domestic protection. This is worthy of our leadership. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by playing the role the world expects of us.

It would be a shame to let the chance pass by to demonstrate political and moral leadership in a process in which the end result can only be the improvement of life for countless millions of people. We can't afford to shortchange this treaty by declaring at the outset our intention not to be a party to it or to participate in a meaningful way in its development.

Just like the ADA, a convention will not be a magic legal solution with the power to create immediate change in the attitudes, cultural perceptions and ignorance that lead to discrimination and human rights abuses of people with disabilities. What it will do is create a place for disability in the human rights framework. It will put disability on the radar screen of governments and societies as a legitimate human rights issue to which they must give heed. It will provide guidance and standards and create a legal obligation for States Parties to respect the rights of this sizable population. It will serve as a powerful advocacy tool for the global disability movement to promote inclusion and equality of opportunity.

Change will be gradual—probably painfully slow. But this is the best first step we can take toward promoting change on a global scale. Our commitment to leadership on disability rights should not end at our shores. This is about 600 million people worldwide whose rights have been ignored for too long.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member agrees with the sentiments expressed in an April 22, 2004, Omaha World Herald editorial entitled "A New Fight Against Slavery." This Member commends the article to his colleagues.

A NEW FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY

Slavery has long been officially illegal in most of the world. Yet de facto slavery continues for hundreds of thousands of women and children kidnapped and exploited as prostitutes, domestic servants or forced laborers.

The revenues generated for criminal enterprises total a staggering \$7 billion a year. The U.S. Intelligence community projects that within a decade, the worldwide returns from criminal trafficking in human beings will exceed those from the sale of illegal narcotics or guns.

Paula J. Dobriansky, U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs, described the scale of this problem during a recent speech. "Each year," she said, "an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 human beings—mostly women and children in search of a better life—are bought, sold or forced across international borders."

Although most of these cases involve developing and middle-income countries, some of the exploitation reaches U.S. shores. Between 18,000 and 20,000 women and children are coerced into the United States annually by traffickers, Dobriansky said.

Despite the challenge in tackling such a global phenomenon, progress is being made. When a State Department report listed

friendly countries such as South Korea, Greece and Turkey among those failing to address human trafficking, those governments soon ratcheted up their law enforcement efforts.

Greater international cooperation has led to significant arrests. One operation involving 12 countries led last year to the apprehension of 207 suspected traffickers.

In this country, Congress and the White House have cooperated to sharply increase the penalties for such crimes. In early 2004, the federal government was pursuing more than 300 human-trafficking investigations.

Private aid agencies as well as governments are contributing millions of dollars to help resettle women and children and provide them with educational assistance or other help.

The official abolition of slavery was one of the milestones of the 19th century. Successfully choking off the opportunities for human traffickers would be one of the great achievements in the 21st.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to acknowledge April as Occupational Therapy Month. Occupational therapy is a health, wellness, and rehabilitation service provided by medically qualified professionals whose expertise includes anatomy, physiology, psychology and other disciplines which enable them to provide "skills for the job of living."

Occupational therapy is based on performing the meaningful activities of daily life, such as self-care, education, work, or social interaction, especially to enable or enhance participation in such activities despite impairments or limitations in physical or mental functioning. Occupational therapy helps children with disabilities in schools learn, help adults with mental illness function safely in the community, and helps stroke and other neurological patients recover as much ability as possible to lead full, productive, meaningful lives.

More than 2300 occupational therapists live and practice in the great state of Illinois of which 125 providers reside in my district, in western and central Illinois.

This year's focus for Occupational Therapy Month is older driver issues. The number of Americans aged 65 and older is expected to double to 70 million by the year 2030. With an increasing proportion of elderly persons expected to stay mobile longer, health care professionals, policymakers, and caregivers have raised concerns about addressing driving safety and quality-of-life issues among older adults.

Occupational therapy can optimize and prolong an older driver's ability to drive safely, and ease the transition to other forms of transportation if driving cessation becomes necessary. By identifying strengths as well as physical or cognitive challenges, occupational therapists can evaluate an individual's overall ability by testing his or her vision, reaction time, strength, judgment, and endurance to operate a vehicle safely and recommend assistive devices or behavioral changes to limit risks.

I want to recognize occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the im-

portant service they provide to millions of individuals and families and to our nation as a whole.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of the Michigan State University Debate Team. On April 6, 2004, The Michigan State University Debate team placed first at the National Debate Tournament held at Catholic University in Washington, DC. The National Debate Tournament is the premier debate tournament in the country. Only seventy-eight of the nation's very best Universities are invited to compete at the highest level of collegiate debate.

The MSU Debate Team has had a long history of success in national debate competition finishing in the Final Four of the National Debate Tournament in 1968, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2003. In 2000, the Michigan State University finished as a runner up in the competition. However, despite their previous success, the 2004 championship marks the first championship in the school's history. The Michigan State Spartans are only the third public school in the fifty-seven year history of the competition to take the first place honors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishment of the Michigan State University Debate Team. I am extremely grateful to represent one of the premier universities in the country and delighted to share their successes with you.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DAVID SPIRTEs, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Spirtes, Superintendent of the Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island and resident of East Moriches, New York, who passed away on Thursday, April 15. A 31-year veteran of the National Park Service, Mr. Spirtes was highly respected for his fair and cooperative nature, as well as his strong environmental stewardship of the parks entrusted to his care. He was a man of integrity, noted for the respect with which he treated others, service to his country in the armed forces, and devotion to his family.

A native of New York, David Spirtes began a long and successful career with the National Park Service 31 years ago. Before securing his first career position with the agency in 1977, he served as a seasonal park ranger at such prestigious parks as the Grand Canyon, Everglades, and White Sands National Monument. Mr. Spirtes quickly rose through the ranks, promoted to subdistrict ranger at Yellowstone National Park, then to chief ranger at

Glacier Bay National Park. In 1994, he first acquired the rank of superintendent at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, and also held the post at Western Arctic National Parklands in Kotzebue, Alaska. During his years with the Park Service, Mr. Spirtes became known for his ability to foster cooperation between residents and other groups with conflicting interests without compromising the integrity of the natural resources under his supervision.

In May 2003, David Spirtes brought this same professional and conciliatory quality to his native New York as superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore—a national park known both for its natural beauty and political sensitivity. Upon his arrival at Fire Island, Mr. Spirtes found a community divided over a number of issues, ranging from erosion to the use of vehicles on the beach. To dispel the existing atmosphere of contention, he quickly acquainted himself with the park, its residents, and other parties affiliated with its operation, thoughtfully weighing the priorities and agendas of each. Although he had been at Fire Island for less than a year, Mr. Spirtes is credited with mending much of the divisiveness in the community through his cooperative brand of leadership and willingness to listen. Mr. Spirtes quickly gained the respect of the Fire Island community and is often touted as the best superintendent in the park's history.

During his long career, David Spirtes earned numerous awards for his achievements in wilderness management, assisting in the Exxon oil spill response, and managing search and rescue operations. In 2000, he was honored with the Secretary of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Spirtes graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1970. Prior to joining the National Park Service, he served as a pathfinder and infantryman with the Army's prestigious 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, their young daughter, Alexandra, two brothers, Richard and Peter, and sister, Judy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of David Spirtes. Throughout his exemplary career with the National Park Service, Mr. Spirtes worked to preserve and promote the most important natural treasures in our nation, which enhanced the quality of life of countless communities and all Americans. Though his stewardship of Fire Island National Seashore was brief, his many contributions will not be forgotten by the residents of Fire Island and those with whom he worked. Mr. Spirtes' leadership and strength of character are qualities each of us should aspire to embrace as we carry out our professional and private endeavors.

HONORING ALICIA MCCOMBS OF
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 47

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Alicia McCombs of Girl Scout Troop 47.

Alicia is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Alicia began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. Her project consisted of co-directing a school play with responsibilities including set building, costumes, makeup, and lighting. Alicia is currently a senior at Lewistown High School.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Alicia and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
AWARDING LARRY O'TOOLE THE
MASSACHUSETTS SMALL BUSI-
NESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry O'Toole, founder and president of Gentle Giant Moving Company. Gentle Giant has received numerous accolades since its incorporation in 1985, including the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's 2002 Small Business of the Year award, the 2002 and 2003 Better Business Bureau Local Torch Award for Excellence, five time winner of both the Improper Bostonian's Best Moving Company award and Boston Magazine's Best of Boston: Best Moving Company. However, just this spring, Mr. O'Toole has been named the Small Business Administration's State Small Business Person of the Year from Massachusetts.

Mr. O'Toole began Gentle Giant in 1980, with \$17, a truck he borrowed from a friend and a single ad placed in a weekly Boston newspaper. By 1990, the company's revenue was \$2 million; by 2000, it was \$12 million. There is no special secret to Gentle Giant's success. Mr. O'Toole relies heavily on well trained, well conditioned moving crews; in fact, three Gentle Giant employees participated in the Barcelona Olympics. The company also consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist those who are moving, to the point where Gentle Giant offers complimentary packing seminars on Saturday mornings. The

result of Mr. O'Toole's business approach is sound—90% of Gentle Giant's business is either repeat or referral.

However, there is more to running a successful business than profit and sound business strategy. There is also giving back to the community, and in this regard, Mr. O'Toole and Gentle Giant are nonpareil. Gentle Giant has partnered for years with the AIDS Action Committee, the Boys and Girls Club and the Somerville Homeless Coalition. Mr. O'Toole has started the Gentle Giant Rowing Club, offering free and subsidized rowing lessons to teens and adults. In fact, just this year, Gentle Giant sponsored 11 runners in the 2004 Boston Marathon.

In closing, I salute Larry O'Toole for being awarded the Small Business Administration State Small Business Person of the Year for Massachusetts. It is a well deserved recognition.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V.
BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

The United States Supreme Court case, decided on May 17, 1954, challenged the constitutionality of racial segregation in public schools. The landmark decision of Brown v. Board of education affected changes in national and social policy by putting an end to the legality of racial segregation.

The achievements of early leaders continue today as Linda Brown and Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughters of Oliver Brown, the first of the 12 families to file suit, promote equality in education. Their foundation, the Brown Foundation for Education Equity, Excellence and Research, provides scholarships for minority students.

In the spirit of equality, I am pleased to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the somber occasion of the 89th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and to call upon the Administration to finally recognize this horrible crime for what it truly was, systematic and deliberate murder.

The Armenian Genocide began on April 24, 1915, and within eight years one and a half million Armenians were tortured and killed. Tortures that the Armenians were forced to endure included forced labor, rape, kidnapping, and death marches under the guise of "temporary relocation." A grave injustice was intentionally committed by the Ottoman Empire during these years, and it is imperative that we now stand up and demand that this injustice be officially recognized by Turkey, the United States, and the World.

The senseless crime of genocide is one of the most reprehensible acts that can be committed by man. To attempt eradication of an entire population based on a misguided prejudice is absolutely vile, and the United States should do everything in its power to try and prevent such atrocities from happening in the future. Only by explicitly defining genocide and ensuring that all cases of genocide throughout history are appropriately identified can we effectively deter this crime. Particularly at this time of heightened vigilance around the world, it is absolutely imperative that America take a strong stance against the most troubling of all terrorist acts, mass killings.

We can not forget Adolph Hitler's haunting remark to his military staff prior to launching the Holocaust: "who, after all, remembers the annihilation of the Armenians." Let us stand up as a country and let the world know that we do remember.

HONORING KENDALL JUERS OF
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 555

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Kendall Juers of Girl Scout Troop 555.

Kendall is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Kendall began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. For her project, Kendall refurbished the Glen Oak Primary School library. Her efforts consisted of organizing new and slightly used books that were donated into the existing library. She also made bags that the children could use to carry home checked out library books. Kendall is currently a freshman at Illinois Central College.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Kendall and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF
OUTRAGEOUS DRUG PRICING

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to submit, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an editorial from the Omaha World Herald, which questions the skyrocketing cost of Norvir, an essential antiretroviral drug prescribed to AIDS patients. According to the editorial, the drug previously cost \$1,500 annually, on average. The cost has now risen to approximately \$7,800 per year—which is a 420 percent increase! Yet, Europeans are paying a fraction of this price for the very same drug.

While this Member believes pharmaceutical manufacturers should be able to recoup the costs of researching, developing, and marketing pharmaceutical products, American consumers should not be forced to pay the world's highest prices for the medicines they need.

Norvir has raked in more than \$1 billion dollars for Abbott Laboratories since its debut in 1996. Apparently, such profit is not enough, as the company has quintupled the price of the medication. This is just one example of how the pharmaceutical industry is working to line its pockets with dollars from hard-working Americans.

Government officials and consumers cannot allow the pharmaceutical industry to continue to charge Americans such egregious prices for medical treatments, especially when most drugs, like Norvir, are researched and developed with assistance from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As taxpayers, we deserve and demand much better.

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

When Abbott Laboratories quintupled the price of its vital AIDS drug, Norvir, it didn't upset merely the patients whose health depend on their daily meds. The action also set off activists already demanding drug re-importation from Canada and other countries.

Norvir is a key ingredient in the drug "cocktail" that helps AIDS patients keep their disease under control. The drug previously costs \$1,500 a year, on average. That has risen to about \$7,800 a year—in the United States. Europeans pay a tenth of that; Belgians, for instance, spend the equivalent of \$720 a year.

Abbott can't raise its drug prices overseas because nearly all other governments control pharmaceutical prices. Not only does the U.S. government not generally cap drug prices (nor are we saying it should), but Congress specifically forbade federal agencies from negotiating drug prices in the recently passed Medicare drug-benefit bill.

Even more outrageous: Norvir was developed with federal money.

Work on the drug began in 1988 with a grant from the National Institutes of Health to Abbott's AIDS drug research program. The former head of that effort called the federal money "critical" in the drug's rapid development. Norvir debuted in 1996 as only the second protease inhibitor on the market. It has earned more than \$1 billion since then for Abbott.

And the company expresses its thank-you by quintupling the cost of the drug. It's reason? Well, company spokesmen said, patients

are using smaller doses of Norvir and the price increase is needed to make up lost revenue. And, of course, there is the overseas price-cap "problem."

The federal government needn't be helpless in the face of such gall.

In the boilerplate wording that companies agree to when they accept NIH money, it says that the government can require "reasonable" prices for drugs developed with federal grants.

The clause isn't often invoked. But if not now, when?

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of the United States. The Royal College was created in 1984 and is located in Detroit, Michigan. Today, the Royal College of Physicians provides invaluable publications and continuing education to physicians across the globe.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, is truly an international organization. With locations in Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and South Africa. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons is committed to providing better health care around the world through their commitment to the science of medicine and surgery. This commitment has led the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons to be one of the most highly respected Royal Colleges in the World.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say the hard work and dedication of the Royal College takes place in my home State of Michigan. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous work of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and to join me in celebrating their 20 years of service.

HONORING DR. GEORGE WILLIAMS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. George Williams, a distinguished faculty member emeritus at Stony Brook University on the occasion of a symposium celebrating his work. Dr. Williams an acclaimed scientist and internationally renowned evolutionary biologist.

Dr. Williams arrived at Stony Brook University in 1960, before the school existed in its current form. His expertise and accomplishments were critical in building the reputation of the school, now one of the premier research institutions in our country. Dr. Williams legacy has greatly benefited the thousands of students and faculty that have passed through Stony Brook since his arrival.

Dr. Williams was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1993. In 1999, he shared the distinguished Crafoord Prize of

the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences with Ernst Mayr and John Maynard Smith for his seminal contributions to evolutionary biology. At that time, the Royal Institute noted that Dr. Williams was one of the first to establish that adaptations generally come through the process of natural selection, favoring those in a population possessing such characteristics that they have more offspring than others. The Academy noted his contribution toward the concept that adaptations arise "for the good of the species," a linchpin of the theory of evolution that Darwin had not fully developed.

The significance of Dr. Williams' career is evident in the extraordinary list of scholars and speakers gathered for the symposium in his honor. I am pleased to have the opportunity to express my appreciation for the outstanding contribution he has made to Long Island and to the advancement of scientific thought.

I offer Dr. Williams my warmest congratulations and wish him continued success in his worthy endeavors.

HONORING LESLIE CARTER OF
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 47

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Leslie Carter of Girl Scout Troop 47.

Leslie is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Leslie began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. For her project she was a personalized student aide for a girl with special needs during the summer school term. She planned lessons and activities that helped the girl improve her socialization skills and enabled her to be receptive to her lessons, try new skills, and improve her abilities. She is currently a freshman at the University of Illinois.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Leslie and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY AND RUTH
MORGENTHAU

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise two of my most illustrious constituents, Henry Morgenthau III and Ruth S. Morgenthau. Harvard Hillel will honor them this weekend, on Sunday, May 2, with its Tribute to Excellence. Henry and Ruth Morgenthau are distinguished citizens of the 8th Congressional District, Massachusetts, and of our nation. They can be said, truly, to be also citizens of the world. They are cosmopolitan in the best sense, their knowledge and compassion embracing several continents.

Ruth Morgenthau is Adlai Stevenson Professor of International Politics emerita at Brandeis University and Founding Director of its graduate program in sustainable development. She wrote an award-winning book on the politics of francophone Africa and became an early, persuasive advocate of micro-finance and micro-enterprise as development strategies. She organized Food Corps International to provide low cost, low-tech assistance to rural populations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. She serves now as Chair of the Board of Directors of PACT, an NGO that supports capacity building community projects in twenty countries. PACT is remarkable too, and here one sees Ruth Morgenthau's leadership, for its work in educating and empowering women.

Henry Morgenthau III, the son and grandson of eminent public servants, has been a pioneer in public television. He early sensed the role it could play in our civic life, and he used it to deepen our understanding of ourselves as a people. He served as Executive Producer of Prospects for Mankind, the program that Eleanor Roosevelt hosted during the last three years of her life, interviewing, among others, Ralph Bunche, John Kenneth Galbraith, Adlai Stevenson, and, at Henry's urging, a young Senator from Massachusetts, John Kennedy. In the spring of 1963, he produced, for Boston's WGBH, an important series on The Negro and the American Promise, featuring interviews with Dr. Kenneth Clark, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin. He has won many awards, including the Peabody, Emmy, UPI, EFLA, and Flaherty Film Festival Awards.

Both Henry and Ruth Morgenthau achieved significant and enduring professional triumphs. But they were never too busy to help a friend, shelter a refugee, or further a good cause. Their house on Highland Street in Cambridge commemorates decades of public service. There are pictures of Henry Morgenthau, Wilson's ambassador to Turkey, who pleaded for the Armenians; Henry Morgenthau II who helped President Roosevelt shape the New Deal and defeat the Axis; family photos with Eleanor Roosevelt and other world leaders. Mrs. Roosevelt was a dear friend to them both and stood by the chupa at their wedding. Every year, on October 11, they celebrate her birthday, with a party, verging on a rally, that never fails to inspire all present.

Today, I want, above all, to thank Ruth and Henry Morgenthau for their tireless efforts to make the world free and safe. They have kept

hope alive and encouraged us all to carry on the struggle.

RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WELDON
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY #3
ON ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Weldon Volunteer Fire Company #3 on its one hundred years of service to Glenside, Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas.

The fire company was established in 1904. Originally, it owned a single horse-drawn hose reel, which it had to house on a community member's property. From its difficult beginning, the company has expanded and moved into its current building, which provides space for its growing number of members and fire rescue vehicles. This expansion has allowed the company to serve over 55,000 people in Abington Township, including my family.

The Weldon Fire Company holds strong values of volunteerism and community involvement. In my experiences with the company, I have seen its dedication to its past and present members and to the community. These basic principles will allow the company to prosper in the years to come. I thank the company and its volunteer members for their service to Abington Township. Again, I congratulate Weldon Volunteer Fire Company #3 on its 100th anniversary.

IN CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my continued support for the Republic of Cyprus, and to urge the Administration and the international community to continue working towards an agreeable solution to the division of the island.

While it is certainly disappointing that the UN brokered negotiations on reunification were not successful, it is important that the responsibility for this lack of success not be placed squarely on one party. It was determined by the Greek-Cypriot community that the final version of the Annan plan was not an acceptable solution to the division of the island, and they therefore chose to reject the plan through the democratic process. The Greek-Cypriots have made it clear that while they did have objections to the plan that was presented through the referendum, they are still very much in favor of reunification. Given the expressed willingness of both sides to work towards an agreeable solution to the division of the island, it would be a mistake for the international community to abandon these efforts.

The final version of the Annan plan, which was brought before both Cypriot communities for a referendum, was not in the best interest

of the Greek-Cypriot citizenry. The plan placed severe restrictions on the number of Greek-Cypriot refugees that would be permitted to return to the North, restricted property rights for the Greek-Cypriots in the North, and would have required that the Greek-Cypriots essentially compensate themselves for the properties they lost as a result of the Turkish invasion of 1974. While the plan did significantly reduce the number of Turkish troops on the island, it did not provide for full demilitarization. In essence, this plan did more to solidify the status quo on the island than it did to unify the two communities.

As Cyprus prepares to officially enter the European Union next month, I urge my colleagues to voice their support for full, meaningful membership within the EU for our Cypriot allies, as well as continued efforts towards an equitable reunification of the island.

HONORING TIFFANY CREMER OF
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 47

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Tiffany Cremer of Girl Scout Troop 47.

Tiffany is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Tiffany began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. She increased public knowledge of Girl Scout events, service projects, and overall involvement by writing articles and taking pictures for the local newspapers within Fulton County. Tiffany is currently a freshman at Bradley University.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Tiffany and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

CATTLE TESTING AND ITS
EFFECTS ON TRADE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to share with his colleagues the following editorial regarding cattle testing from the April 22, 2004, Omaha World-Herald.

USDA'S STUBBORN STANCE

The absurdity of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's mad cow no-testing policy was highlighted recently when a small Kansas meatpacker wanted to export its products to Japan.

Japan's government is edgy about the deadly disease, which in rare instances appears to have been transmitted from infected cattle to beef-eating people. When a cow with the disease was found in Washington state in December, Japan and more than 50 other nations banned American beef. Japan has since said it will take beef from tested cows.

Then the USDA arbitrarily decided (after heavy lobbying by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and at least one big U.S. packer) that it wouldn't allow anyone but its laboratory to do the testing. And it would test only a limited number of cows.

Creekstone Farms, the aforementioned Kansas packing plant, is a small, upscale operation. It has spent more than \$500,000 on a lab and testers, and it wants to test all of the 1,000 cows a day its slaughters. It says it can test for \$18 a head rather than the \$325 a head the USDA claims it would cost. The government says no. Because, the agriculture agency rationalized, false positives might worry beef consumers. And testing all cattle might "confuse" consumers into thinking there was something wrong with beef. There is no scientific justification for testing all cattle, the government reasoned, so no one may do it.

Creekstone is in serious trouble. It could close. Its 800 employees would be put out of work. And its suppliers—it buys premium cattle—would have to find other outlets.

All courtesy of the USDA. And all contrary to the most basic of business rules: Give the customers what they want. Creekstone is considering shipping the brain stems of the cattle slaughtered to Japan for testing. It had better watch out—the USDA will most likely come up with an objection to that, too.

Meanwhile, Australia, which hasn't had a mad-cow case and where no cattle are tested, moves in on the world beef market once served by U.S. growers and packers. What's wrong with this picture?

What's wrong with the USDA?

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF JERRY HYNES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man, the wonderful and kind Jerry Hynes. Soon to retire after 32 years protecting Capitol Hill, Jerry has graciously served our Capitol Hill Congressional Family.

Jerry Hynes was born in Furth, Germany, to an American military family. During

his childhood, he lived and traveled with his parents to several military bases from Alaska to Germany, finally settling in the Washington, DC area. He served the U.S. Army bravely in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. He endured some of the fiercest fighting in the conflict, and when he was injured in battle, the U.S. Army awarded him the Purple Heart. In 14 months of military service, he attained the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his heroism. Jerry spent the last 6 months of his service assigned to the Honor Guard at Fort Meade, MD.

After his tour of duty ended, he went to college under the Montgomery G.I. Bill studying law enforcement and eventually came to the U.S. Capitol Police in 1972. During his distinguished 32-year career with the Capitol Police, he served many U.S. Presidents and over 3,000 Members of Congress and their staffs. While for most of his career he was assigned to traffic control at the intersection of Washington and C Streets, he has served in many capacities on the Hill. He was selected to be a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Hostage Negotiations Team, studying at the FBI Academy and Prince George's County Police Departments. He was also instrumental in creating and serving on the Capitol Honor Guard. He was elected chairman of the Grievance Advisory Committee to the 1,170 member department, and facilitated the purchase of K-9 dogs from Germany. Jerry has also remained involved in his law enforcement community by being a member of the International Police Association, a friendship organization that promotes cultural exchanges between police officers in various nations.

A single parent to 3 children, Jerry was elected PTA President at 3 different schools for 6 consecutive years. In 1999, he married Dr. Alla Hynes. On September 11, while Jerry was at the Capitol protecting Members of Congress and their staffs, his wife, a physician at Washington Hospital Center, took care of the burning and wounded victims of the Pentagon attack while being 8 and 1/2 months pregnant. Two weeks after 9/11, Alla gave birth to a baby daughter, Stephanie.

I am pleased to pay the highest tribute to my friend, and highly respected officer, for his patriotism, accomplishments, and efforts on behalf of all people who work on Capitol Hill. He is retiring at the mandatory age of 57, and we wish him an enjoyable journey on his new path in life. He will be missed greatly by the thousands of Members of Congress, staff, issue advocates and military personnel that he has befriended over his 32-year career with the Capitol Police. Our country has been bettered immeasurably by his dedication and good cheer. Onward!

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PAUL B. EBERT AND ROBERT F. HORAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of two distinguished civil servants from the Commonwealth of Virginia—Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Paul B. Ebert and Fairfax

County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert F. Horan.

Both were honored as "champions of justice" by the Northern Virginia Coalition of Victim Services Providers during the 12th Annual Candlelight Vigil of Courage, Hope and Remembrance on April 25. They were presented with the Northern Virginia Coalition Championship Awards.

Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan were responsible for the prosecution of Washington area snipers John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the sniper attacks traumatized the entire Washington metropolitan area in the fall of 2002. Everyone lived in fear during this shooting spree. These random acts of violence changed forever the lives of Virginians and other area residents who lost loved ones in these senseless crimes.

Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan handled this complex and high profile prosecution with professionalism, sensitivity for the families of the victims, and a strong sense of fairness and justice. They represent the best aspects of the legal profession and are a source of pride to Virginians.

It is important to remember, as they did, that behind this prosecution there were real people. The sniper attacks left in their wake sons and husbands and fathers and daughters and wives and mothers among the dead and injured, as well as families, friends and communities who continue to grieve the loss of loved ones.

These victims' friends and families recognized the dedication of Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan to making sure that justice prevailed in the trials of Muhammed and Malvo. These prosecutors never forgot that they owed an obligation to see justice done not just for the Commonwealth of Virginia, but to the families who endured the loss of those they loved. Their compassion and outstanding professional legal work are worthy of recognition, and the victims' groups who honored Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan deserve our appreciation as well for their willingness to speak out for the rights of victims of crimes.

I draw the attention of Congress and the nation to their actions as an example of how people can serve their communities with distinction and sensitivity.

HONORING SARAH ROSECRANS OF
JULIETTE GIRL SCOUT TROOP

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Sarah Rosecrans of the Juliette Girl Scout Troop.

Sarah is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded

more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Sarah began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. Sarah's project consisted of an event at the council level for Brownie Girl Scouts. The event enabled the Brownie Girl Scouts to learn and prepare for the next level in Girl Scouts, which is Junior Girl Scouts. Sarah is currently a senior in Marquette Heights.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Sarah and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

MS. HUGHES SHOULD APOLOGIZE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, April 27, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,

The White House,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing out of great concern about comments made by one of your top campaign advisors regarding a woman's right to choose. In a live interview on CNN, Karen Hughes made the following statement:

"I think after September 11th the American people are valuing life more and realizing that we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life.

"And President Bush has worked to say, let's be reasonable, let's work to value life, let's try to reduce the number of abortions, let's increase adoptions.

"And I think those are the kind of policies that the American people can support, particularly at a time when we're facing an enemy, and really the fundamental difference between us and the terror network we fight is that we value every life. It's the founding conviction of our country, that we're endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, the right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"Unfortunately our enemies in the terror network, as we're seeing repeatedly in the headlines these days, don't value any life, not even the innocent and not even their own." (CNN Late Edition, April 25, 2004)

By claiming that those who "value life" want to reduce abortions, then going on to say that the difference between us and the terrorists is that "we value every life," Ms. Hughes's argument sounds a lot like an effort to equate those who are pro-choice with terrorists. This is a dangerous, ugly and slanderous argument that has no place in our nation's political discourse. To draw even a remote comparison between any law-abiding, patriotic American and the terror-

ists, whose goal is to wipe our country off the map, is not only insulting to law-abiding Americans, it shows particular disrespect to the victims of 9/11 and their families.

Mr. President, you came to office by promising to be "a uniter, not a divider." Your aide's comments have the potential to be extremely divisive by invoking the War on Terrorism. It is cheap and distasteful politics, and we ask you to take a stand against it.

We urge you to have Ms. Hughes apologize for her comments. We urge you to clarify for the public that reproductive choice and terrorism are completely unrelated issues and that all Americans, regardless of their beliefs about a woman's right to choose, are united against the terrorists. This is important for the unity of our country and its political discourse. We know you will take proper action.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Hilda Solis, Jan Schakowsky, Tammy Baldwin, Jerrold Nadler, Barbara Lee, Raul M. Grijalva.

[From the Washington Post]

HUGHES DEFENDS REMARKS ON ABORTION

RIGHTS MARCH

(By Dan Balz)

Presidential adviser Karen Hughes responded yesterday to criticism that, in a television interview, she had compared participants in Sunday's abortion rights march in Washington to terrorists, calling that interpretation "a gross distortion" of her remarks.

Hughes's original comments, during an interview Sunday on CNN as the march was forming, drew criticism yesterday from a feminist leader and a House member from New York.

Asked by host Wolf Blitzer how big an issue she thought abortion would be in this year's presidential election, Hughes responded: "Well, Wolf, it's always an issue. And I frankly think it's changing somewhat. I think after September 11th the American people are valuing life more and realizing that we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life."

The former White House counselor then noted that President Bush has urged Americans to "be reasonable" about the issue and to encourage a reduction in the number of abortions performed each year in a variety of ways, including by encouraging more adoptions.

"And I think those are the kind of policies that the American people can support, particularly at a time when we're facing an enemy, and really the fundamental difference between us and the terror network we fight is that we value every life," she added. "It's the founding conviction of our country, that we're endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, the right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately our enemies in the terror network, as we're seeing repeatedly in the headlines these days, don't value any life, not even the innocent and not even their own."

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, condemned the comments as "cynical, ugly and mean-spirited" and urged Hughes to clarify or take back what she said. Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) issued a statement expressing shock that Hughes "compared the 9/11 terrorists to Americans who marched on the Mall" on Sunday. "It's outrageous to use the tragic events of 9/11 to demonize the pro-choice movement," he said.

Asked for her response yesterday, Hughes sent an e-mail saying, "That is a gross distortion and I would never make such a comparison. Surely even the most strident of

partisans, and reasonable people on both sides of the abortion issue, can agree that we have been reminded of the precious nature of human life and that we ought to work to reduce the number of abortions in America.”

SHARON HABERSKI HONORED AS
THE PULASKI COUNCIL 2004 POLISH
HERITAGE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to recognize the special volunteer work of Sharon Haberski who has devoted much of her life to the important task of preserving Polish traditions, heritage and culture throughout the United States and in her hometown of Milwaukee.

Sharon has tirelessly given of her time and talents to the Polish American Community for almost 30 years. Her efforts have resulted in countless examples of Polish culture, arts, including dance, and events flourishing in communities across the country. With her boundless energy and enthusiasm Sharon plays a major role in ensuring the continuity of Polish culture by serving as the Director of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, a director of the Polish American Congress, a board member of the Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc. and President of the Pulaski Council.

Inspiration for much of Sharon's volunteer work has come from her father John, who told her stories about his homeland Poland and her father-in-law Stephen Haberski, Sr., who made her aware of the work of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and who was her favorite polka partner. Sharon married her childhood sweetheart Stephen Haberski in 1963 and attributes his encouragement, understanding and the support of her efforts as a primary reason for her successfully accomplishing her volunteer work. The Haberskis have two daughters and Sharon is the proud “Babcia” of four grandsons.

Sharon Haberski has a personal motto which is: “All is activity, and all activity is towards building, loving, caring and sharing Polish culture, heritage, history and fraternalism in our community.”

Congratulations to Sharon on receiving the Pulaski Council 2004 Polish Heritage Award, which she so richly deserves and continued success in her activities on behalf of Poles throughout the United States.

IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL ROLE
OF ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in the care of patients diagnosed with cancer. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical,

psychosocial, and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted, and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. This year alone 1.3 million Americans will hear the words “You have cancer.” In addition, 556,500 will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Everyday, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. Oncology nurses play a central role in the provision of quality cancer care as they are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients may experience.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world with more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology.

On behalf of all the people with cancer and their families in Ohio's 11th Congressional District, I would like to acknowledge Molly Loney for her leadership within the Oncology Nursing Society. For the past 2 years, Molly has served on the ONS Board of Directors as Secretary. Through Molly's and ONS' leadership, our Nation is charting a course that will help us win the war on cancer.

The ONS has 9 chapters in the great state of Ohio. These chapters serve the oncology nurses in the State and help them to continue to provide high quality cancer care to those patients and their families in the State.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 29 years and thank the Society and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

PAYING RESPECT TO LAVERNE
HOGAN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect to Laverne Hogan, a great leader in the Houston Community, who passed away Thursday, April 22, 2004 at the age of 65.

Laverne Hogan's work was instrumental in setting up the first enhanced 9-1-1 system in the state of Texas. Ms. Hogan began work on the system nearly 20 years ago working for then Harris County Commissioner Tom Bass and Houston City Councilmember Eleanor Tinsley. While serving in the Texas state legislature, and later in the U.S. House of Representatives, I worked closely with Ms. Hogan on a number of occasions to improve the 9-1-1 system in Houston and throughout Texas.

Just a few of her many accomplishment included being elected to and serving as the

Southeast Regional President of the National Emergency Number Association from 1996 to 2000; being appointed to serve as a commissioner for the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications from 1992 to 1998 by Governor Ann Richards; and at the time of her death, Ms. Hogan was serving as the Executive Director of the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network, the largest 9-1-1 system in Texas, and the third largest in the United States.

Laverne Hogan will be greatly missed by all those who knew her, and all those she worked to protect throughout her dedicated career.

HONORING DIANA NEWLAN OF
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 555

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Diana Newlan of Girl Scout Troop 555.

Diana is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14-17 or in grades 9-12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill 5 requirements: earn 4 interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Diana began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. For her project, Diana completely reorganized her school's music library and cataloged, repaired, or replaced the sheet music. She is currently a senior at East Peoria High School.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Diana and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

HONORING IOWA STATE SENATOR
KITTY REHBERG

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to someone who exemplifies the meaning of public service. I want to join Kitty's

constituents in expressing my sadness on the retirement of Iowa State Senator Kitty Rehberg after 8 years of dedicated service to our State. Instead of spending several months each year in Des Moines, Senator Rehberg is choosing to spend more time in Rowley with her family, particularly her supportive husband, Frank, and their grandchildren.

I have known Kitty for many years, and have been proud to watch a former staff member achieve such a record of success. While working for me as a district representative in Iowa, she showed her dedication to my constituents. Once she was elected to the Iowa Senate, I watched her define the meaning of hard work on behalf of her constituents. People could agree or disagree with her on the issues, but no one could ever disagree that she worked hard every single day on her constituents' behalf.

For those who follow her in her seat, and for her colleagues she will not return to next year, they have a tough void to fill. Kitty has set the bar high on service to Iowa. If they are half as hard working as Kitty, Iowa will continue to benefit.

Below I have included Iowa Senate Resolution No. 153, which honors Senator Kitty Rehberg. I wish Kitty continued success and many, many quality hours with her family and friends. It is well deserved.

IOWA SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

Whereas, Senator Kitty Rehberg is retiring from legislative office after completing two terms in office as a State Senator; and

Whereas, Senator Rehberg's distinguished career as a State legislator has included service as the Chairperson of the Small Business, Economic Development and Tourism Committee in the Seventy-ninth General Assembly, as Chairperson of the Economic Growth Committee in the Eightieth General Assembly, and as Chairperson of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee in the Seventy-seventh and Seventy-eighth General Assemblies; and

Whereas, Senator Rehberg has also served as Vice Chairperson of the Education Committee and on many other standing committees throughout her 8 years of legislative service and has been an influential and devoted legislator in this state; and

Whereas, Senator Rehberg has been influential in the passage of legislation in areas of economic and rural development, and education, and has championed the interests of her constituents; and

Whereas, Senator Rehberg has served honorably and has unselfishly given of her time and efforts to further the interests of the State of Iowa and to provide beneficial programs for the citizens of Iowa: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate. That the Senate pay tribute to Senator Kitty Rehberg for her devoted service to the Iowa General Assembly and the citizens of this state and wish her the very best in the years ahead; and be it further

Resolved. That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to Senator Rehberg.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH
ANNIVERSARY OF CHERNOBYL

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2004 we marked the 18 year anni-

versary of the terrible tragedy at Chernobyl, Ukraine. On that day and those that followed, thousands of people lost their lives and millions more around the world felt the effects of the escaped radiation.

Today, many of the survivors have returned to live in the contaminated area. They no longer fear the lingering radiation or the land's barren landscape, choosing rather to live on the only land they can call home. They do not have much to live for, the contaminated zone offers little in the shadow of the reactor's remains, but they are tough-minded individuals with little else to give.

The incident at Chernobyl reminded us that mankind remains at the mercy of its creations. Innovation sets mankind apart from other living creatures, yet to a certain extent we will always be powerless to the whims of technology. The incident at Chernobyl was a tragedy of epic proportions, one that is too easily overlooked by the world even though it took place less than 20 years ago. As we continue to progress and develop new technologies, we must remember the lessons of Chernobyl and the lives it forever altered.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MASON, OHIO MAYOR LOUIS J.
EVES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a friend, respected elected official and distinguished constituent, Louis J. Eves, who passed away on Friday, April 16, 2004.

Known as the father of Mason, Ohio, Lou will be remembered for his dedication to Mason and was the longest serving mayor in the city's history—sixteen years. Appointed to the Mason City Council in 1973, Lou was re-elected five times. His vision for the city could be summed up as growth with control, and he helped Mason become the growing and prosperous city it is today. He also paved the way for toll free calling from Mason to Cincinnati; urged additional park funding; and pushed for construction of a municipal swimming pool, which was eventually named for him.

A Mason resident for more than thirty years, Lou was the owner of Mason's Houston Inn Restaurant, a Warren County landmark for many years. Lou bought the restaurant in 1959, expanded it three times, and it is still run by his family.

Lou was also an Army Master Sergeant who served his country honorably. He served in Korea and completed multiple tours of duty in World War II. The first life member of the Landen Kings Chamber of Commerce, Lou was one of only four lifetime Mason Kiwanians.

Lou is survived by his devoted wife, Frances; his children, David, Michael, Lou and Kathy; eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

I am grateful to have had his friendship and counsel, and all of us in Southwest Ohio have benefited from Lou's leadership and his strong example in our lives.

HONORING SANDRA J. ANDERSON,
ESQ., RECIPIENT OF THE 2004
JUSTICE ALICE ROBIE RESNICK
AWARD OF DISTINCTION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra J. Anderson, a partner in the Columbus law office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP.

On Friday, April 23, 2004, Ms. Anderson was presented with the Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This honor is the Ohio Women's Bar Association's highest award for professional excellence, and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and improving the legal profession in the State of Ohio.

In addition to her litigation practice, Ms. Anderson is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a faculty member of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor for the Ohio State University College of Law and Capital University Law School, and is a frequent speaker in continuing legal education programs.

I am proud that citizens of Central Ohio continue to excel among their peers and commend Ms. Anderson for her dedication to our community and her commitment to advancing the status of women within the legal profession.

HONORING CLARK COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS, TEACHERS
AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR
THEIR DEDICATION TO MAIN-
TAINING SUFFICIENT BLOOD
SUPPLIES IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of all those in Southern Nevada, particularly Clark County School District high school students, teachers, and administrators, involved in projects dedicated to maintaining a sufficient blood supply to meet local and at times national demands and contingencies.

Clark County high school students are crucial donors of blood products for twenty-one area hospitals, providing over 6,000 units of blood annually. They provide a significant volume of the community's blood supply in their commitment to community service and humanitarianism. In addition, high school junior and senior classmen from thirty-three schools perform life-saving services by recruiting blood donors, volunteering at on-campus blood drives, and soliciting media support for United Blood Services, a provider of blood products for area hospitals for more than 50 years.

In a show of their dedication and support, the Clark County School District has invested significant resources to provide for adequate space and class time that ensure an adequate blood supply to meet the daily demand of 250

to 300 units of life saving blood for area hospitals. As the single-largest source of blood in the Las Vegas valley since the 2000 school year, the school district's principals, superintendents, and class leaders have also responded to the needs of cancer patients and burn victims by facilitating an ample supply of platelets and plasma.

I am proud to represent such conscientious and dedicated volunteers and wish them continued success in their work for the people of Southern Nevada.

SALUTE TO LOUIS P.
BARTOLOTTA, SR.

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served his country and who remains a role model for his family and community.

I speak of Louis P. Bartolotta, Sr. Louis is a veteran of the Second World War. He was born the son of immigrant parents in 1918. He married his wife Ida in 1941, just three months before Pearl Harbor. This year they will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary.

On November 26th, 1943, he was aboard a British transport ship, the HMT *Rohna*, when the vessel was attacked by a German bomber off the coast of North Africa. Over one thousand United States service members and more than 100 British and Allied officers and crewmembers lost their lives in the attack. Louis is a survivor of that tragic day. In October of 2000, Congress recognized the heroic sacrifices made by those who lost their lives, the survivors and their families in House Concurrent Resolution 408.

Today Louis and Ida live in Boynton Beach, Florida. At the end of May, as we dedicate the World War II Memorial, they will visit Washington, D.C. to participate in the Rohna Survivors convention.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the veterans of World War II please let us add to those tributes those who lost their lives on the HMT *Rohna* as well as those who survived, like my dear friend Louis.

CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY
VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LADY CARDS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the Lady Cards basketball team from Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's Basketball National Championship.

The top ranked Lady Cards capped off a perfect 36-0 season with a 77-66 victory over Gulf Coast, Florida, in the title game of the NJCAA Women's Championship.

The Lady Cards' victory is Trinity Valley Community College's fifth national title in

women's basketball and the college's second undefeated season. The Lady Cards have an unbelievable 66-1 record over the last two seasons and currently hold a 78-game regular season winning streak.

I would like to recognize team members Jennifer Harris, LeKeisha Carter, Chanae Early, Daiane Packer, Alona Obaze, LaCourtney Ratliff, Vanessa Silva, Vanessa Clementino, Yolanda Jones, Ashley Streetman, and Jennifer Jones.

I would also like to recognize the head coach of the Lady Cards basketball team, Michael Landers, who was named the 2004 Women's Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Coach Landers has amassed an impressive 352-24 record over his career and 126-8 record in his four years at Trinity Valley Community College.

Congratulations to Coach Landers and the Lady Cards on their remarkable undefeated season in 2004 and their tremendous National Championship victory.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN CARLOS
GONZÁLEZ LEIVA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Juan Carlos González Leiva, a pro-democracy activist "sentenced" by a sham court yesterday in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Leiva is a blind lawyer who has devoted his life to the cause of human rights and liberty for every Cuban. He is the president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Though Mr. González Leiva is unable to see, his vision of a free Cuba is an inspiration to freedom loving people throughout the world.

On March 4, 2002, Mr. González Leiva was savagely beaten and locked in the totalitarian gulag for drawing attention to a journalist who had been admitted to a local hospital after being attacked by the tyrant's thugs. For over two years, Mr. González Leiva languished in Castro's totalitarian gulag. His cane and Bible were confiscated; he was forced to sleep on the floor of his diabolical cell; the thugs who run the gulag threatened his life; and he was tortured with chemical substances. In a letter recorded by his wife, and that I brought to the attention of the House, Mr. González Leiva describes the heinous conditions of the totalitarian gulag in this translated excerpt from that letter:

State security used inmate Joe Prado, as he calls himself, to throw in my cell a substance that produced a burning sensation on the skin and nasal congestion, a great deal of phlegm and bronchial inflammation. The situation still continues.

Since January, they have added another substance to the sawdust they throw at me. This one gives me the sensation of millions of bugs constantly running all over me. It causes a great deal of itching and prevents me from sleeping. I do not know if this is a biological substance or chemical agent, but I know it is not insects because when I touch my skin there are no actual bugs that I can feel, although this sensation is palpable.

Normally the sawdust shower is a daily occurrence. Yesterday it started around 6:00

p.m. when I was on my knees praying. The sensation is that of a multitude of bugs suddenly coming down on my face and my body. This torment continues until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning.

Mr. González Leiva was trapped in these brutal conditions for over two years before he was ever tried. I want to repeat that, Mr. González Leiva was locked in the totalitarian gulag for over two years before he was even brought before a sham court.

According to an AP story that appeared in the April 28 edition of The Miami Herald, Mr. González Leiva "was released on parole shortly after being sentenced to four years in prison." Let us be very clear about parole in totalitarian Cuba. Parole is not freedom; it is a temporary release, conditioned on constant observation, before being locked in the gulag again.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. González Leiva has been imprisoned for over two years without trial and "convicted" by a sham court because he believes in basic human rights for every Cuban. My Colleagues, we must demand true freedom for Juan Carlos González Leiva, every prisoner of conscience languishing in the totalitarian gulag, and every Cuban suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime.

ISRAEL WEEK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the conclusion of Israel Week. From April 18th through April 27th, we commemorate the lasting friendship and mutual goals of freedom, democracy and peace that we share with Israel.

This is a time for both celebration and reflection beginning with Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and ending with Yom Hazikharon, Israel's National Memorial Day for the Fallen Victim's of Terror. What we remember during Israel Week is not simply Jewish or Israeli history; it is a shared history of the struggle to overcome oppression, tyranny and hatred. I believe this message is significant to all peoples of the world. We remember the events of our shared history so that we may work together to end the fear, hatred and violence that plague our world.

The United States and Israel have been allies since the United States first recognized Israel as an independent state in 1948. Since that time, our two countries have grown closer as a result of our shared democratic, religious and cultural values. As we move towards our seventh decade of friendship, I believe the United States must take an active role in helping to achieve permanent security and peace for Israel and its neighbors.

Israel Week is not only a time to remember the past; it is a time to look toward the future. We must continue to actively pursue the dream we all share of peace, freedom and security.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL ROCCIA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize an outstanding member of my community, Mr. Michael Roccia. For 63 years, he has been fighting to improve the working conditions and lives of American workers. He has spent 32 years with Local 262 in New Jersey, and has served our community well.

He was Shop Chairman for Local 305, CIO from 1940–1969. During that time he organized 500 employees of the L.S. Branch Co. for Playthings, Jewelry, and Novelty Workers, CIO Local 305. When Local 305 became Local 301, he became General Organizer, and when that merged with Local 262, he continued to work, serving as Business Agent for as many as twenty shops. He would go on to serve as Local 262's General Organizer, and eventually became their President. He has been Vice President of both the IUC and the RWDSU, and has served on the Advisory Committee of the UFCW.

Mr. Roccia has lived the life of a worker and an activist. He has labored on an assembly line, organized workers, walked the picket line, negotiated contracts, handled grievances, argued arbitrations, and fought for health and welfare plans. He has led and inspired the men and women of Local 262 in New Jersey to commit to activism, working early in the morning and late at night to improve labor conditions for all workers.

In his own words, "The work of a good trade unionist can never be a 9 to 5 job—never an 8 hour day."

I salute Mr. Roccia, the oldest officer in his Union, for his lifelong commitment to serving others. I am proud to have him in my district, and I am honored to call him my neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Michael Roccia, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him the strength to continue his good work for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO OVERTURN THE OFFICE OF
THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CUR-
RENCY'S "PREEMPTION REGULA-
TIONS"

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Congressman PAUL and a number of our colleagues, I am introducing legislation to overturn the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) "preemption regulations." These misguided, unprecedented, and unchecked pair of regulations expand federal regulatory authority by preempting state consumer protection laws. The OCC regulations exceed the limited preemption authority granted the agency by Congress. Our legislation will stop the OCC from eroding strong safeguards that have been used by the states for more than a century to enforce consumer protection laws.

The Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801) provides a mechanism for Congress to review and nullify regulations and prohibit the agency from promulgating substantially similar regulations—without changing the underlying statute. In this case, each Congressional Review Act resolution—one for each rule—will function like a "referendum" on an OCC rule. Similar legislation was introduced in the Senate before the recess.

Last week, in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan expressed concern about the OCC's actions and their potential to undermine the dual banking system. He urged legislators to maintain an "appropriate balance" in the nation's dual system of federally and state-chartered banks. I would hope that my colleagues would join our effort to accomplish that balance by overturning these misguided rules.

HONORING MR. TERENCE R.
WILLIAMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Terence R. Williams, winner of the Missouri 2004 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliary.

Mr. Williams is a junior at the Gateway Institute of Technology High School located in St. Louis, MO. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Williams. He plans a career in journalism and public speaking. Terence was sponsored by VFW Post 8888, Ladies Auxiliary in St. Louis.

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 opinions on their responsibility to our country. This year, more than 80,000 secondary school students competed for the 59 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "My Commitment to America's Future."

I want to commend Mr. Williams on receiving this prestigious award, and request my colleagues to do the same. I am honored to recognize Terence R. Williams today before Congress.

Attached are excerpts from Mr. Williams' winning essay. The text of that essay is as follows:

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Terence Williams)

I am a citizen of the world. I am a citizen of this country. I am a citizen. Citizen, is a word often entangled in "rights" and "freedom," but never discussed are responsibilities, obligations, and commitments. It is because of this very reason, I can improve society. My society. Not by well-planned inventions, or even to strive to be better than the average "Joe." My plan does not call for elaborate thought or constant recognition. It is indwelt in a commitment not only to my country but to myself. It is a commitment to America's future.

We live in an age of moral decline. Any opinion, statement, ideals or theories reserve the right to be challenged. Therefore, it is

imperative to establish firm foundations for every basis in which we believe. To fulfill my commitment every perception, every elementary thought must be broken to one foundation: Excellence without Excuses. By implementing this logic into society, a fraction of my commitment will aim fellow citizens toward success.

Because many are bombarded by overwhelming stereotypes and influences from negative media sources, I cannot let my responsibility of honesty fail me. My commitment to encourage my community must be even stronger. My support for those younger than me can increase their self-esteem. I can instill an ethic that is missing to their time. My dreams may become their visions. In that way, they will not fall victim to the ever changing plagues that try to destroy our nations unity. I will be an invisible thread that holds together the links of the young and old, the strong and weak, the sheep and lion. But, I can't do it alone. To be a man of success is to not forget the people around you.

The utmost important commitment to my country's future is to instill unity at all cost. We are in this thing together. Lest we forget, we are the future. We are the individuals who create history everyday just by waking up. However, I can't neglect my commitment because of the people around me. I have a vision. And without a vision the people will perish.

A vision that can join us on a common bond. This is our hope. Everyday someone steps up and realizes his dream. They focus their attention and say I want to be just like him or her. That is why my impact will not shatter the world to my surprises. My commitment is to stay committed to the every growing success of my nation. So why don't we start now, let us begin. I shall pursue excellence without excuses, shall you?

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BIRTH OF JAMES MONROE,
FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, April 28th, the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrates the birthday of James Monroe, who served as the fifth President of the United States from 1817 to 1825.

James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia to Spence Monroe and Eliza Jones Monroe on April 28, 1758.

As a student of law at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he studied under the tutelage of Thomas Jefferson, a young James Monroe decided to join the Continental Army and was soon fighting at the side of George Washington in New York. Lieutenant Colonel Monroe earned recognition from General Washington as "a brave and active officer." After the Revolutionary War, Monroe was appointed Military Commissioner of Virginia.

After a distinguished military career and completion of his legal studies, Monroe was elected to the Continental Congress in 1783, where he avidly fought to promote a bill of rights. It was at this time that he met and married Elizabeth Kortright.

In 1790, Monroe was elected to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia as a U.S. Senator, followed by an appointment to serve as the U.S. Minister to France from 1794 to 1796.

Monroe returned home and was elected in 1799 to serve as the Governor of our great Commonwealth. In 1803, Monroe helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase.

Eventually, Monroe's political ideals led him to become U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of War, and then, ultimately, President, at which time he began a new Era of Good Feelings for the nation.

Monroe served two terms as President—his popularity at the end of his first term so high that he ran unopposed in 1820. During his tenure as President, Monroe signed the "Missouri Compromise," barring slavery in territories north and west of Missouri, as well as the "Monroe Doctrine," which denounced European intervention and colonization in the Western Hemisphere.

James Monroe was a loyal public servant and an important figure in both Virginian and American history. He set an example we can look to today by being a chief executive who usually chose the middle path, the path of compromise.

Governor Mark R. Warner has recognized today, April 28, 2004, as James Monroe Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Therefore, on this day, the anniversary of the birth of James Monroe, I ask for unanimous consent that the Governor's Certificate of Recognition be entered into the RECORD.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Whereas, James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia to Spence Monroe and Eliza Jones Monroe on April 28, 1758, and he studied law under the tutelage of Thomas Jefferson at the College of William and Mary; and

Whereas, James Monroe fought with the Continental Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary War, earning recognition from General George Washington as "a brave and active officer"; and

Whereas, as a young politician, James Monroe joined the anti-Federalists in the Virginia Convention, where he helped ratify the Constitution of the United States of America, and in 1790, he was elected to represent the Commonwealth as a United States Senator, and

Whereas, James Monroe was the United States' Minister to France from 1794-1796 and, along with Robert R. Livingston, he utilized his understanding of foreign policy and his powerful skills of persuasion to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase; and

Whereas, James Monroe served as the fifth President of the United States from 1817-1825, during which time he signed the "Missouri Compromise," barring slavery in territories north and west of Missouri, as well as "The Monroe Doctrine," which denounced European intervention and colonization in the Western Hemisphere; and

Whereas, James Monroe was a loyal public servant and an important leader in both Virginian and American history, and he left behind a legacy as one of our nation's great foreign policy leaders;

Now, therefore, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize April 28, 2004, as James Monroe Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

TRIBUTE TO DUKE SEVILLA

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Duke Sevilla, Program Coordinator

for Maui Economic Opportunity's YouthBank Program, who has been named the 2004 recipient of the Hawaii State Teachers Association Friend of Youth Award.

The Friend of Youth Award is given annually to recognize an outstanding person or public/private agency which has contributed greatly to the youth of Hawaii. Duke was chosen from among numerous nominations statewide.

Duke has been an outstanding volunteer on Maui for many years. You can frequently find him in the weight rooms at Baldwin High School and the Old Wailuku Gym showing the kids how weightlifting can be beneficial to them. Duke's commitment to our keiki knows no bounds, as he often visits homes to work with youth who are estranged from school.

Duke's aloha isn't limited to the YouthBank program. He and his wife Jean have been foster parents for several years, with their home ending up being the "last stop" for youth after many foster homes.

Congratulations, Duke, and mahalo nui loa for your true dedication to Maui's keiki. It is greatly appreciated by all!

CONGRATULATING THE DONELSON SENIOR CENTER FOR ITS FIRST PLACE AWARD IN THE 2004 OLDER AMERICANS MONTH NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the honor today of congratulating the Donelson Senior Center in Nashville, Tennessee, for its recent first-place award in the 2004 Older Americans Month National Photography Contest, sponsored by the National Council on Aging.

The theme for this year's contest was "Aging Well, Living Well," and it is a fitting motto for the extraordinary seniors who are the members of the Donelson Senior Center. Under the leadership of Director Jane Schnelle, the Donelson Senior Center is one of the leading community organizations in Nashville and offers a wide variety of services to thousands of seniors in the Nashville area. In recent years, the Center has become especially renowned for its theatrical productions and promotion of the arts. We in Nashville have been especially proud to support the Center's recent efforts to build the Donelson Senior Center for the Arts, one of only a few of its kind in the country.

The winning photo submitted by the Donelson Senior Center, taken by member Bob Churchwell, perfectly captures the exuberance and community spirit of the Center's membership. Titled "Red Hat Honeys Revving Up to Age Well," this photo is a portrait of one of the Center's most popular groups, the Red Hat Honeys. In addition to their distinctive attire—purple dresses and red hats—the Red Hat Honeys are well-known for their many contributions to the community. Last year, the Red Hat Honeys lent their assistance to a variety of local causes, including a battered women's shelter, a school and the humane society. The group also collected items for children in foster care and for our troops in Iraq. An essay that accompanied the winning

photo includes the following lines about the Red Hat Honeys: "The Donelson Senior Center Red Hat Honeys are taking each day and living it to the fullest not only by just having a good time but by giving back to each other and the community—they are aging well and living well."

The Donelson Senior Center and its many members are a vital and vibrant part of Nashville's community, and I am proud of the national recognition they have achieved. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I extend the heartiest congratulations and thanks to each of the seniors of the Donelson Senior Center—and especially to the Red Hat Honeys—for setting us all such a fine example of what it means to live and age with grace.

B'NAI SHOLOM CONGREGATION
CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that the House join me in recognizing the centennial celebration of the B'Nai Sholom Congregation, located in Blountville, Tennessee.

Since the turn of the 20th century, members of the Jewish community in Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia have been meeting together to celebrate and worship. In 1904, the B'Nai Sholom Congregation was founded, and its earliest members worshipped in Bristol until 1957, when the congregation moved to its current home in Blountville.

B'Nai Sholom means "sons of peace," and the congregation has grown over the years as the region has developed. With the diversity of our region, and the makeup of the synagogue's membership changing over the years, B'Nai Sholom has developed a variety of ideological practices. The strength of the congregation comes through its unity in faith and the Jewish heritage.

Today, B'Nai Sholom continues to be the center of worship for the Jewish community in the region. It continues to be successful because of the hard work, dedication, and spirit of the families who make up the congregation today. They carry on the fine traditions of the wonderful people who started the congregation many years ago, mindful of the importance of having a center of worship where families can join to celebrate, learn, and worship.

B'Nai Sholom is certainly worthy of our praise as they celebrate their centennial year in 2004. The congregation is a credit to our district in East Tennessee and to the Jewish community throughout the world. I know that the Members of the House will join with me in congratulating B'Nai Sholom on its 100th anniversary and wish them continued success and prosperity for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues, and a large number of my colleagues, as we rightfully recognize, remember, and renounce the Armenian genocide.

I rise today to speak on one of the most unspeakable acts that ever came to pass. Beginning in 1915, innocent and unsuspecting Armenians of all ages were led by Ottoman Empire officials from their villages to their brutal death. Such atrocities endured for eight years. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were massacred.

While this tragedy of incomprehensible proportions was being perpetrated, the world stood idle. Prominent nations remained silent in the face of skyrocketing death tolls in this corner of Europe. Today and throughout this month, as we reflect and remember the victims of the Armenian genocide, we must also repudiate our unresponsiveness to this horrible mass murder.

Lastly, on behalf of the Sixth District of Massachusetts, I would like to praise the commitment and perseverance of Armenian-Americans, who have tirelessly labored to ensure that all know the tragic story and great sorrow of their people. Their efforts in this regard are laudable and serve as the best legacy they can leave to succeeding generations.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND SERVICE OF LYNN
ALCOCK

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rep. JOHN CONYERS and myself, I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to Lynn Alcock, who is retiring this week after over 30 years of service as the calendar clerk on the House Judiciary Committee. Lynn has served admirably chairmen from both political parties, beginning with Chairman Peter Rodino and staying through the chairmanships of Jack Brooks, HENRY HYDE, and now my three-plus years. These chairmen, I believe, came to the same conclusion I did: Lynn is a tremendous asset who cannot be replaced.

Lynn hails from the Buckeye State of Ohio and began her congressional service in April of 1969 at the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, a non-partisan congressional research arm of the Library of Congress. Three years later, Lynn began working for House Information Resources before coming to her job "home" since December of 1973—the House Judiciary Committee.

Lynn is one of only a few who have worked for the House Judiciary Committee during both the impeachment of President Nixon and the impeachment of President Clinton. Her efforts making the Committee's work on these events available to the public will be particularly help-

ful to historians and scholars interested in these important events.

Mr. Speaker, Lynn has served the House Judiciary Committee, the Congress, and the American people for over 30 years with dedication, excellence, and integrity. We thank her and know that she will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIE VAUGHN
(UNCLE DUDE)

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, growing up in a small rural town in extreme Southeastern Arkansas presented many memorable moments and interesting personalities. On April 20th one of those personalities, Mr. Willie Vaughn reached a milestone in his life, Mr. Vaughn became 100 years old. I take this opportunity to congratulate him for not only living this long but for the many things he was able to provide leadership to and that he accomplished during his lifetime.

Mr. Willie Vaughn (my Uncle Dude) is technically my mother's stepbrother. However, they never acted as though they were anything except brothers and sisters who were integral parts of a large family group. In addition, he and my father were close friends and church associates. Therefore, our families were always very close and exhibited great feelings of kinship and friendship.

Uncle Dude was always a leader, at work, at church, in community activities, in family matters . . . in life. Like practically all of the other Blacks in town, he had very little formal education but has always been one of the smartest men that I have known. He was a farmer, a sharecropper, but also could make you a suit of clothes, cut your hair, make molasses and syrup, buy and rent real-estate and drive the school bus once we got one.

Uncle Dude was probably best known as a church leader and mentor. He could do and did everything at church there was to be done. He could sing, was chairman of the trustee board, Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, fundraiser, program planner and would cleanup, cut the grass and do everything else that was required. Uncle Dude was and is a tremendous family man, a patriarch; Aunt L.C. and all of my cousins always knew that Uncle Dude was a man whom they could count on and be proud of his leadership, personal support and well-being for his family.

Uncle Dude, Brother Willie, Mr. Vaughn, he was called many things and by many different people; but always with respect. He has been a giant, a legend, a mentor. . . . a man among men. He learned to walk with Kings and Queens but never lost the common touch, all men matters with him; but none too much. Happy Birthday on your 100th.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP M. LELLI

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 25th, the labor community of

Pierce County, Washington and American workers nationwide lost one of their most progressive advocates and dedicated voices, Phillip M. Lelli.

Joining the longshore workforce on the Tacoma waterfront in 1949, Phil dedicated his entire career to expanding opportunities at the Port of Tacoma. In doing so he revolutionized the local waterfront.

As President of the Tacoma Longshore Union, ILWU Local 23, for almost twenty years, Phil championed unprecedented standards of efficiency within the labor force and innovations on the docks. At the same time, he strengthened the bargaining power of the ILWU and protected the rights and wellbeing of the longshore men and women.

Truly committed to the expansion of opportunity at the port, Phil elevated his involvement and was a pioneer in forming partnerships with the greater maritime community. He believed in the rewards of port and union cooperation and he continuously advocated on its behalf. In 1977 Phil became the first longshore worker elected to Tacoma's main-stream Propeller Club, and later the Propeller Club awarded Phil its greatest honor, Tacoma Master Mariner for 1982.

Phil's list of accomplishments and legacies is long and impressive. His influence has had a ripple effect in the Tacoma community that will continue long after his passing.

I honor the life of Phillip Lelli on an appropriate occasion. Today is National Worker's Memorial Day, a day observed by trade unions since 1989 to honor American workers who have been killed or injured on the job in the last year and an occasion to rededicate ourselves to protecting the health and wellbeing of workers in the future. While Phil recently lost his life after a battle with cancer, he truly worked day to day until his very last to protect the American worker—a commitment that intensified after the loss of his youngest son, Ross, in a waterfront accident in 1989.

Phillip Lelli's passing is a loss to all who knew him, and I extend my deepest sympathy to his family in their great loss. My thoughts and sympathies are also with other families across the Nation today who are mourning the loss of their loved ones on this day of reflection.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
LATINO DAY FOUNDATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to The National Latino Day Foundation, which is dedicated to celebrating the contributions of the Latino population throughout the U.S. and the Americas.

The National Latino Day Foundation has chosen July 24th to celebrate National Latino Day. On this day, Latinos will celebrate freedom, positive self-awareness, cultural unity, and their important roles in the democratic process. Planned events will recognize Latinos' active participation and creative leadership in our communities and their role as responsible American citizens.

It is appropriate that the Latino contribution be recognized in this way. In the Western

Hemisphere, the Latino population expands to over 700 million people. Latinos are the fastest growing and largest minority group in the U.S., with 40 million people, and will play a significant role in shaping our Nation's future.

The goals of The National Latino Day Foundation are to promote unity and closer bonds between Latinos and other Americans. The Foundation strives to expand the Latino population's political participation, uphold international peace and goodwill, and most important, celebrate the Latino heritage, culture and the arts.

The National Latino Day Foundation has made it their mission to ensure that a National Latino Day is established to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the Latino population in the U.S. The National Latino Day Foundation aspires to transform National Latino Day into a positive movement for national unity, social, political, and economic growth. I support this effort, ask my colleagues to do the same, and look forward to celebrating National Latino Day on July 24th.

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM AND INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, from May 1 to 3, 2004 more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Incline High School in Incline Village will represent the State of Nevada in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capitol and compete at the national level.

The 3-day We the People National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder once described this annual competition as "the place to come to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Most recently, the We the People program was highlighted at two national conferences held in 2003: the White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service, and the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education. Evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the We the People program on students' civic

knowledge and attitudes. This innovative civic education program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation.

In addition, I would like to recognize the commitment and support received from all of Incline Village, community organizations and parents. Individually, coach Robert Heilig, peer tutors Ashley Hanna, Daniel St. John, and Jonathan B. Shoops, and teacher Milton Hyams have dedicated their time to work with the students in the program. Judy Simpson, the State Coordinator of the program, and Daniel Wong, the district Coordinator of the Program have also contributed countless hours into making these students better citizens.

I would also like to recognize the participants of this program individually: Bradley Charles Allured, Jason Daniel Beavers, Nicholas J. Bohn, Jessica L. Corpuel, Joseph Driver, Alexander T. Heilig, McKenna Louise Hollingsworth, Joshua Michael Hub, Ansley Karen Kendziorski, Elisabeth Komito, Ashley Christine Nikke, Laura Rochelle Pillsbury, Robert William Rappaport, Catherine Lauren Serrano, Tira Wickland, and Beate Marie Wolter. These students should be commended for their hard work and tireless dedication.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I again commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People national finals. They represent the future leaders of our Nation.

I wish these students the best of luck at the We the People national finals and applaud their achievement. We should all be proud that they are learning and advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GUTIERREZ-PAUL BILL

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor the legislation offered by Mr. GUTIERREZ using the Congressional Review Act to disapprove the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) preemption regulation because I strongly oppose any attempt to expand the OCC's regulatory functions beyond the power Congress originally granted the OCC. The OCC was never meant to serve as a national consumer protection agency. Its limited, intended role has been underscored by Federal court rulings that State law remains applicable to national banks in the absence of explicit Federal preemption.

Expanding the jurisdiction of OCC necessarily infringes on the ability of State lawmakers to determine their own consumer protection standards. One-size-fits-all policies crafted in Washington cannot serve the 50 diverse States well. Different States and markets have different needs that are better understood by State and local legislators. Congressional conservatives, in particular, should not endorse an expansion of the Federal regulatory power at the expense of States' rights. The Tenth Amendment is clear: regulatory

powers not specifically granted to Congress remain with the States. Congress should stop usurping State authority and leave consumer protection laws to those with far more experience and expertise.

This new OCC authority will have far-reaching and unintended consequences. State law governing mortgage brokers, sub-prime lenders, check cashing centers, leasing companies, and even car dealers could be preempted under the new proposal. This proposal may also give national banks and their subsidiaries a competitive advantage over small mortgage companies. OCC undoubtedly will need to hire new staff. Yet the OCC still may be unable to handle the flood of new responsibilities. Unless Congress resists any expansion of OCC, it risks creating another huge, unaccountable, bureaucratic agency. Therefore, I respectfully urge all my colleagues to support Mr. Gutierrez's legislation disapproving the OCC's preemption regulation.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service and commitment of Bay County's Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department. On May 1st, the Department will celebrate 25 years of serving their Northern Michigan community. The efforts of the men and women of the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department stand as an example to all of us, and I join the township residents in thanking them for all they do.

Before their volunteer fire department was formed, the residents of Garfield Township had to rely on firefighters from nearby Kawkawlin. This meant that under the best of circumstances, it took at least 20 minutes for help to arrive on the scene of a fire. Not content with this dangerous situation, Township Treasurer Ray Monison and Township resident Gary Fritz began organizing what would become the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Before long the Township approved a millage for training, equipment, and a pole barn. Volunteers rebuilt a pumper truck donated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the community came together to donate paint for the truck. By May 1979, the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department was up and running.

Over the years, Garfield Township residents have supported their Department by approving additional millages, holding fundraisers, and donating their time. The Department has not only made Garfield Township safer, but brought the community closer together.

Since 1979, over 100 Township residents have joined the Department, maintaining a steady roster of about 20. Today, the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department has 22 proud members, nine of which have been with the Department from the very beginning.

Mr. Speaker, each of these people deserves individual recognition. The nine founding members of the Department still serving are: Wayne DeHate, Jerald DeLano, Terald DeLano, Ben Luptowski, Ronald Monison, Rodney

Richmond, Gerald Rivard, Paul Smith, and Robert Umphrey. More recent additions to the Department are: James Gotfryd (21 years), James Dubay (20 years), Donald Cielinski and Terrel Wackerle (13 years), James Warren (12 years), Clarence Pelton (8 years), Steve Eddy (7 years), Nicholas Smith and Stephen Smith (6 years), Dan Beyersdorf and Kelly Dearing (5 years), Scott Drake (4 years), and Ami Stender (2 years).

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the efforts of the men and women of the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department should stand as an example to all of us, and I ask the House to join me in honoring them.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF KENTUCKY NURSES AND THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSE'S WEEK

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tireless group of Kentuckians who exhibit incredible dedication to serving others in my home state and throughout the country. Nurses are at the forefront of the healthcare system, working day in and day out to provide quality care to every patient in settings from the hospital emergency room, to the battlefield, and to the bed of a nursing home. The American Nurses Association and the Kentucky Nurses Association have declared May 6 through May 12, 2004 Kentucky Nurses' Week, and I encourage all Kentuckians to join with me in honoring the nursing profession.

America boasts many men and women in the nursing profession who proudly represent all races, religions and creeds in a variety of settings. They are the personal hand and comforting voice of the healthcare system, and I'm sure we can all remember a time when a nurse's kind words or gentle smile provided reassurance. Every year, the Kentucky Nurses Association recognizes over three hundred nurses for their excellence in service. I wholeheartedly support these efforts to recognize the unsung heroes of the medical community.

This year's theme, "Nurses: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Life," personifies the commitment to service so evident in the nursing profession. With a wide variety of responsibilities, nurses are always prepared to offer the best possible health care to their patients. They are there to help the sick to get better and to make sure the healthy stay that way. I am proud to call attention to all of the nurses in our Kentucky community and hope you will join with me in celebrating the tireless efforts of these angels of mercy.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 1989, the world observed the first

Workers Memorial Day in honor of the 2 million people who die each year as a result of workplace injury or illness. Fifteen years later, we remember the almost 6,000 Americans who died on the job this past year and recall the hard work that still needs to be done in the United States to keep our working men and women safe.

The date of April 28th was chosen in recognition of the anniversary of The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1971. Since its creation, OSHA has helped reduce the rate of workplace death and injury through the work of The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. But over 6 million workers in the United States still become sick or injured each year as a result of their work. This is not the time to roll back new safety and health standards, to cut OSHA's budget or to gut funding for job safety research. To have a strong and healthy economy, America needs a safe and healthy workforce.

Last year, 70 Oregonians gave the ultimate sacrifice to their professions: their lives. I would like to honor their memory now by recognizing them by name:

Larry H. Zygar, Jacquelyn S. Wyatt, Azucena Terrazas, Michael W. Norris, Donald M. Lea II, Randall Harmon, Dan O. Taylor, Robert G. Cramer, Nicholas Voris, Timothy M. Smith, Mark A. Hauser, Ronald S. Weekly, Steven J. Maine, Nathan D. Sigfrid, Janet P. Knoke, Russell H. Simpson, Russell L. Barker, James G. Clements, Leland S. Halsell, Luther H. Stinson Jr., Daniel R. Becker, Richard W. Black, David C. Mackey, Jessie D. Rucker, Kenneth F. Tison, Bobby D. Adams, Henry C. Gauthier, Camilo U. Becerra-Corona, Daniel A. Knigge, Robert L. Chasteen.

Juan Rivas, David A. Burgess Jr., Elizabeth Roxanne Smith-McLeod, Harold E. Hanscom, Jerome P. Sedlak, Michael S. Lowe, David L. Martinson, Milan Smith Jr., Daryl R. Steenhard, Charles A. Shull, David K. Hammer, Mark R. Ransdell, Ricardo B. Moore, Jesse D. James, Leland D. Price Jr., Ricardo M. Ruiz, Paul E. Gibson, Jeffrey D. Hengel, Christopher R. Kroker, Sarah G. Huang, Timothy A. Bowers, Timothy P. Smith, Adam H. Cox, Jeremy C. Gage, Matthew S. Fitzgerald, Douglas R. Davis, John M. Allison, Noe Lira-Sanchez, Wiley D. Rasmussen, Matthew L. Barrows Sr.

Alfredo Zamarano-Sierra, Gregory V. Rogozhnikov, Samuel L. Lazott, Thomas H. Kistler, Timothy J. Lannon, Gregory A. Hoffert, Luis J. Gonzales, Griffin E. Fisk, Joseph A. Davis, and Daniel L. Coulter.

We remember them and their parents, spouses, children and friends who are grieving. But grief cannot overshadow hope. Mourn for the dead but fight for the living—this is the message of Workers Memorial Day. But it must be in our thoughts every day of the year, as workers and their advocates strive to make workplaces safer for those whose lives depend on it.

WE NEED COMMON SENSE IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, the most important duty that we

have is to protect the safety and well-being of the American people. However, the grim reality is that our broken immigration system is preventing us from fulfilling this most important obligation. The increasing numbers of immigrants, both legal and illegal, threaten our national security and weigh down our already over-burdened economy. Every day, illegal immigrants cross our borders and take advantage of taxpayer funded benefits available to them in the U.S. We must act now and reform our immigration policy so that we may protect the safety and financial prosperity of our citizens.

We know what the problem is, but how do we solve it? Amnesty is not the answer. Rewarding illegal immigrants with jobs and benefits at the expense of the American people is not the answer. Allowing more immigrants into America is not the answer. H.R. 775, which would end this harmful "Visa Lottery" program, is a solid first step in the right direction to limit the number of immigrants allowed to enter our country. Only through narrowing the stream of immigration can we begin to be able to take back control of our borders.

One of the many lessons of September 11th is that we cannot be too careful when it comes to our national immigration policy. It was only after these horrific attacks that we learned that most of the terrorists should not have been admitted into our country in the first place. The first step in solving this crisis is simple: we must limit, not expand, the number of people allowed into this country and the SAFE Act does just this.

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF THE 2003 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Miguel Blanco, Olabisi Davies, and Taja Gonsalves on winning the 2003 President's Environmental Youth Award. These three students are all residents of Providence, Rhode Island, and participate in the Groundwork Providence Education Team.

Groundwork Providence, which is part of the national nonprofit Groundwork USA network, develops community based partnerships that work to regenerate, improve and manage the physical environment. The Education Team is aimed at getting students involved in taking care of their community and teaching others to do the same. The President's Environmental Youth Awards program is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education. The program helps promote environmental awareness and community involvement among young people. Only ten exceptional projects are picked per year.

Mr. Blanco, a junior at Mt. Pleasant High School; Ms. Davies, a senior at North Providence High School; and Ms. Gonsalves, a freshman at the Health & Science Technology High School, plan and run after school programs for younger students. They also help run summer environmental education camps, attend training sessions and workshops, and take part in projects to clean up the community.

Mr. Speaker, these inspiring students have become important role models not only to younger children, but also to their communities. I hope my colleagues join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments and wishing them all the best as they continue their education and community involvement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DELOIS WEEKES

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of Dr. DeLois Weekes in ensuring quality cancer care in southwest Missouri and our Nation. Her unflagging commitment to improving cancer treatment should serve as a model, worthy of our admiration and appreciation.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted disease that can often best be treated by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. As a two-time cancer survivor, I have firsthand knowledge of the clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care oncology nurses provide to patients and their families. For the past three years, Dr. Weekes has served as President of the Cox College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Springfield, Missouri. In the course of her work in pediatric oncology nursing, she has been a teacher, administrator, speaker, advocate, researcher and author. Dr. Weekes' role as an educator and administrator has provided her with a unique opportunity to train these intelligent, highly skilled individuals, like the ones who helped me wage my own battle with cancer.

The impact of Dr. Weekes' work, however, is not limited to southwest Missouri. She has helped advance the nursing profession by serving on the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Board of Directors and developing grassroots programs that educate elementary school students about the meaningful and rewarding nursing profession. Her leadership within ONS, the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, has allowed her to help cancer patients around the globe. Since 1975, ONS has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. Dr. Weekes' position as a Director-at-Large on the ONS Board of Directors has enabled her to advance programs and policies that help ensure that America is has a well trained oncology nursing workforce. In Missouri alone, ONS has four chapters that serve the oncology nurses in the state and help them provide quality care to cancer patients and their families.

Dr. Weekes' service and the ONS mission have never been more essential. This year alone, 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. An additional 556,000 will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Today, more than two-thirds of cancer victims are over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of our community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers to hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat their patients. It is estimated that there will be

a shortage of 1.1 million nurses by the year 2015. As this date steadily approaches, Dr. Weekes' efforts to educate and prepare America's caregivers for positions in nursing, both in her work at Cox College and ONS, are ever more important.

I commend Dr. DeLois Weekes for her commitment to providing and improving cancer care, and I urge all of my colleagues to support oncology nurses across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEERS AT THE SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated volunteers of the Sunnyside Community Service Center located in Sunnyside, Queens, New York during National Volunteer Week.

The Sunnyside Community Service Center has done an outstanding job of providing a range of social, recreational, and educational services to over 2,000 members. Its successful volunteer program helps the center achieve its goals, reaching hundreds of senior citizens each and every day.

The center offers lunches, Meals on Wheels, and about 30 weekly activities, including special celebrations, concerts, and performances. It also offers a variety of educational programs, such as English as a Second Language, conversational Spanish, citizenship preparation, and health classes.

At the center, seniors can receive assistance including benefits counseling, entitlements—Social Security, SSI, and Medicare—mental health services, and access to various support groups. In addition, the center has a special program for homebound seniors, allowing them to participate in activities and lunch with their peers, and an Alzheimer's day program that provides much-needed support.

The Sunnyside Community Service Center volunteers are, in many ways, the lifeline of the organization. These volunteers dedicate their time, energy, and compassion to enriching people's lives each and every day at the center. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that I ask you to join me in recognizing the following volunteers for their dedication and commitment to service in our community:

Ana Abreu, Reginaldo Acosta, Zoraida Aguilar, Ashraf Ahmed, Mario Alulema, Sixta Tulia Alvarez, Ana Arboleda, Clara Baquero, Martha Barjacob, Norma Benitez, Paul Bernaschina, Luisa Bonete, Dikran Bostanian, Novella Busetti, Maria Camisa, Zoila Caraballo, Margaret Carlucci, Dorothy Cavallo, Clemencia Ceballos, Haydee Ceballos, Ellie Chen, Joli Chowdhury, Ann Chuhuran, Christine Conety, Catherine Coscia, Michelle Cotrina, Emma Cristancho, Carrie Cunningham.

Anna Damis, Mary Davide, Stephane Dejean, Dora Delgado, Sigrid Doleske, Don Donner, Stephanie Dosantos, Clifton Duhaney, Alfonso Duran, Rosemary Eischeid, Headley Evans, Letty Fabre, Francesca Ferreira, Betty Gallino, Ru-Ze Gao, Mickey Garmendia, Ray Glantz, Paulina Gonzalez, Veronica Gonzalez, Mary Halvey, Ni Han, Eileen Hand, Nancy Hendley, Shyrene Hernandez, Hermilinda Hidalgo, Gloria Holder, Maggie Houston.

Ani Janikian, Idalie Jean-Jacques, Jennie Jesse, Jose Jimenez, Siria Jomarron, Valerie Jones, Yvonne Jones, Cierra Knight, Rodica (Denise) Kondan, Marie Konecko, Mildred Lang, Cecile Laroche, Tatiana Lavega, Laura Lecour, Maria Linan, Renato Lins, Glyn Lloyd, Haleyda Lopez, Juan Lozano, Carmen Luzarraga, Barbara Lynch, Rosa Macas, Paola Machicao, William Madden, Maria Maldonado, Bestina Marte, Joan Marus, Eugenia Matviyenko.

Jim McBride, Robert McCreanor, Gert McDonald, Felipa Miranda, Rakhshinda Moeen, Grace Montes, Betty Moore, Khosrow Moradian, Fanny Morales, Albert Mullakandov, Cortenie Murphy, Robert Murphy, Sara Najam, Lillie Navarro, Marzana Naz, Walky Nazon, Nga Nguyen, Ruben Nunez, Maria O'Grady, Oscar Orozco, David Ortiz, Gizem Ozelik, Kong Park, Ethel Parker, Dalia E. Perez, Emilia Pineda, Bertha Power, Amalia Priore, Rosario P. Priore.

Myriam Ramirez, Ana Restrepo, Maureen Rinaldi, Leopoldina Rodriguez, Celina Ruiz, Julio Salcedo, Karmin Sanchez, Maria Inez Sanchez, Mariana Sanchez, Marina Sanin, Nickola Saroff, Frances Schaefer, Mary Sesio, Jeanette Shane, Virginia Shaw, David Shin, Cynthia Singleton, Maria Sorenson, Juana Sosa, Elsa Spielvogel, Lillian Stanley, Gail Sylvester, Millie Taveras, Angeline Thayuman, Paris Torossian, Yasmin Torres, Zoila Torres, Catherine Trochelman, Ana Urbina, Ligia Vasquez, Abe Vilensky, Anne Walsh, Harry Werner, Maura Wilson, Maisie Wright, Elizabeth Youngflesh, and Christopher Zottarelli.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SGT. JIMMY ARROYAVE WHO WAS KILLED IN IRAQ, APRIL 2004

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Jimmy Arroyave, USMC, who was killed in the line of duty in Iraq on April 15, 2004. On his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Staff Sgt. Arroyave died in a motor vehicle accident northeast of Al Ramadi.

Serving with the Combat Service Support Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, which is stationed out of Camp Pendleton, this 30-year-old resident of Yolo County, CA answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

Born in Cali, Colombia, Staff Sgt. Arroyave moved to Woodland, CA, at an early age and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1993. He was proud to be a Marine, loved the military life and had planned on making the military his career.

In addition to his deployments to Iraq, Staff Sgt. Arroyave served in Kuwait from October 2002 until June 2003, and in Japan for 12 months in 1999. He was the recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Ribbon.

Staff Sgt. Arroyave was a devoted son, husband, and father. He is survived by his wife Rachelle, who is 3 months pregnant, daughters Vanessa and Natalia, all of Oceanside,

and daughter Catie of Dixon. He leaves behind his mother, Carmenza Brennan of Woodland, his father Javier Arroyave of New York, and a loving circle of extended family.

Staff Sgt. Arroyave died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his wife and family in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave, who gave his life in service to our country.

COMMENDING SANTA MARIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE COLLEGE BOARD 2004 INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary accomplishment by one of the Central Coast's finest educational institutions: Santa Maria High School (SMHS).

I am delighted to report that SMHS will receive the College Board 2004 Inspiration Award for its steadfast commitment to fostering student success in one of America's most socioeconomically challenged communities. To meet each student's personal needs, the staff has been deeply involved in developing a variety of innovative methods to reach students and improve learning and success in a diverse and dynamic setting. A distinguished panel of Inspiration Award judges selected Santa Maria High School based on the school's success in increasing the number of student's preparation for college.

While many SMHS students are children of migrant farm workers who never had the opportunity to graduate from high school, a "can-do" attitude permeates the school. Santa Maria's 3,650 students learn in a facility designed for 1,800. Despite the portable classroom trailers used to accommodate the overflow, students and teachers go about their business of learning and teaching with great spirit and determination.

Mr. Speaker, historically this school had its share of struggles, including poor achievement and gang activity. The transformation of SMHS began a decade ago. SMHS embarked on an action plan that included career exploration initiatives, the creation of a college center, and partnerships with businesses and community leaders.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I have a personal connection to this school. One of my legislative aides, a proud SMHS graduate, serves in my Washington office and helps with the important issues of the 23rd Congressional District.

In closing, I want to affirm my support for SMHS, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the school on its receipt of the College Board 2004 Inspiration Award. This Monday will be a very proud day in the beautiful mosaic we call Santa Maria.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAT TILLMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Pat Tillman who was killed in action in Afghanistan last week. Originally from San Jose, Pat Tillman lived a life that exuded courage, loyalty and hard work.

On the football field, Pat was a shining star. Though undersized at his position, Pat always excelled. After starring in football at Leland High School, Pat went on to play football at Arizona State University. As a 5-foot-10, 180-pound linebacker at Arizona State University, Pat was named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year, a tremendous honor for an athlete who succeeded on brains and heart. Though proud of his award, he was even prouder of his educational accomplishments. Pat earned a degree in marketing in just 3½ years and maintained a 3.84 GPA.

The Arizona Cardinals selected Pat in the final round of the 1998 NFL draft. Pat responded by engaging in a rigorous exercise program and adding 20 pounds of muscle to his already solid frame. Pat spurned his critics and became a starter during his first NFL season. In 2000, the St. Louis Rams tried to sign him to a \$9 million offer sheet and out of loyalty, Pat turned it down to stay in Phoenix for less money.

It was Pat's deep loyalty that drove him to do the unthinkable. Following the horrific attacks of 9/11, Pat, returning from a honeymoon announced that he was leaving the NFL to join the Army Rangers. To enlist, Pat left behind his new bride Marie and a \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was never about the money or the bright light of fame. He was a man who cared more about others more than he cared about himself. Pat's physical strength and talents were only overshadowed by his love for country and personal integrity. I have no doubts that when Pat Tillman died, he did so trying to protect his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was a giant. He was given a golden egg in the NFL and he sacrificed it for a uniform and a flag. It is most appropriate at this time that we honor him. Pat was and will forever remain a true hero. He upheld a standard of patriotism and courage that we should all strive to achieve. On behalf of the citizens of San Jose, I wish to express my deepest sympathies to Pat's wife Marie, his father Patrick Sr., his mother Mary and his two brothers Kevin and Richard and the entire Tillman family.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY AND ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join you in marking 56 years of Israel's independence, 56 years of American-Israeli relations, and 56 years of Israel's continuing

struggle for security and peace. We gather here today to deliver a clear message—that in these turbulent times—the government of the United States and the American people stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, now and forever.

Since 1948, Israel has persevered through seemingly insurmountable challenges by drawing upon the richness of Jewish tradition and our love for life. In just over five decades, Israel has risen from the ashes of the Holocaust and developed into one of the most technologically advanced nations on earth. Its population has increased ten-fold. It has established a vibrant democracy that values freedom, justice and human rights. Israel has deepened economic, military and diplomatic ties with America and Europe, but most remarkably with nations like Turkey, India, Egypt and Jordan. The ingenuity of the Israeli people soared during the recent high-tech boom, with more Israeli Internet startups and companies on the NASDAQ per capita than any other country in the world.

While Israel celebrates 56 years of freedom, this freedom is unquestionably challenged by ongoing incidents of terror and festering regional threats. At this difficult time, it is clear that the essential counterbalance to these threats is America's steadfast partnership with Israel. This sentiment is shared by an overwhelming majority of my colleagues in Congress, where Israel is enjoying unprecedented friendship and support.

In this post-9/11 world, the American and Israeli people are forever linked. We understand that terror knows no borders and cannot be justified, qualified or ignored. We understand that terrorism—in any form or supported by any nation—must meet a swift, definitive and unequivocal response. We know that incitement and hate pose the most significant obstacles to peace, and we know that terrorism incurs irreparable pain and loss.

On this Yom Ha'zikkaron, our thoughts and prayers turn to brave soldiers who have sacrificed their futures for that of Israel. Yet this year, one cannot help but also think of the 960 innocent Israelis who have died since September 2000 in hundreds of terrorist attacks. These are the victims of Israel's latest war, where civilians—as opposed to soldiers—are the prime targets.

Six years ago at the White House, I stood alongside President Clinton and Prime Minister Netanyahu at the signing of the Wye River Accords. I hoped then that Israel was embarking upon a new era of peace. Unfortunately, since refusing Prime Minister Barak's historic offer in January 2001, we have witnessed a complete abdication of responsibility on the part of Yasser Arafat, the deterioration of the Palestinian Authority and a cynical attempt by the Palestinians to use terror—as opposed to negotiations—as a means of achieving their political goals.

As a result, America must lead efforts with Egypt, Jordan, Europe and others in the international community to build the capacity and will of Palestinian anti-terror institutions so that Israel is not forced to continue to act in self-defense. America must also firmly support Israel's construction of a security barrier between Jewish population centers and the West Bank. That is why I traveled to the Hague in the Netherlands two months ago—to oppose the Palestinian case against Israel in the International Court of Justice and voice my unwavering support for Israel's right of self-defense.

Prime Minister Sharon's recent proposal to withdraw Israeli troops and settlements from the Gaza Strip is quite significant. Until now, no Israeli Prime Minister was prepared to unilaterally evacuate settlements before Israel had been promised comprehensive peace as part of a final status agreement. And it is especially remarkable that the father of the settlement movement, Ariel Sharon, has led this initiative.

It is undeniable that Palestinians have suffered enormously. We must all have *rachmanus*—compassion—for innocent Palestinians, but Palestinians primarily suffer because of their own failed leadership. In order to achieve peace, the Palestinian Authority must be transformed. Arafat's dictatorship must end. Democracy and the rule of law must win out. Palestinian schools must cease their teaching of hatred and implement a curriculum of coexistence. Most importantly, a new vision of peace and prosperity must be broadcast throughout the Arab world, and the likes of Al Jazeera television and Arab newspapers must terminate their deranged glorification of martyrdom and Jihad.

Israel has responsibilities as well. Prime Minister Sharon must continue to construct the security barrier in a manner that minimizes the hardships of the Palestinian people and stop settlement expansion on the Palestinian side of the fence.

My friends, the largest challenges facing the Jewish people do not lie solely in Israel or the Middle East. We are witnessing a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic discourse, behavior and sentiment throughout the world—especially in Europe. Tomorrow I will join Secretary of State Powell and leaders from 55 nations at an international conference on European anti-Semitism in Berlin.

At this conference, I will continue to urge European governments to take decisive action against anti-Semitic hate crimes and impose stronger measures to punish perpetrators of these heinous acts. European leaders must acknowledge that anti-Semitism is not just a Jewish problem. It is a social disease that has plagued Europe throughout history. It is not a temporary or political phenomenon, and it must be met with a zero-tolerance policy, especially in European schools.

Fortunately, there is reason for hope as more European nations are finally confronting their complicity in the annihilation of European Jewry. Last week—while in Budapest—to mark 60 years since the deportation and killing of 600,000 Hungarian Jews, I was overtaken with emotion when told that the display of Israeli flags throughout the city marked the most prominent display of the Star of David since yellow stars were branded on the chests of Jews. Today, Europe has no choice but to face the evils of anti-Semitism, so we may fulfill the promise of "never again," in memory of those lost and as a promise to generations to come.

Last week, on Yom HaShoah we mourned for those who have passed, and today we do so again on Yom Ha'zikaron. It is not a coincidence, however, that tomorrow we will celebrate the continuity of life, the independence of Israel and the perseverance of the Jewish State. This should give us great hope. As Israel marks the beginning of its 56th year of independence, it is my most sincere wish that the vision of hope embodied in Israel's national anthem—*Hatikva*—may come to fruition

and that Israel may soon find a genuine peace that will last *m'dor v'dor*—from one generation to the next.

HONORING MR. ROSS P. ROGERS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ross P. Rogers as he concludes his many, dedicated years with the Merced Irrigation District and a 45 years career in which Ross has provided resources essential to life in the Central Valley: water to our farmers' fields and into our families' homes and schools as well as electricity to power our cities, businesses and neighborhoods.

Ross Rogers has long been a valued leader and a true public servant. He spent nearly his entire life honorably serving his country and his local community. Ross' introduction to public leadership and self sacrifice came as he served as the Battalion Sergeant Major of the United States Army's 57th Field Artillery, 7th Infantry Division in Korea from 1951 to 1954. He then used his leadership abilities and commitment to public service to lead to a long and distinguished career.

After leaving the service, Ross decided to use what he learned studying civil engineering at the University of Nevada and work for the State Department of Water Resources. He then joined the East Contra Cost Irrigation District as General Manager. In 1991, he joined the Merced Irrigation District, where he would make his lasting impression and finish his career.

In his relatively brief tenure here, Ross has created a legacy for the Merced Irrigation District by turning it into one of the most respected water agencies in the state of California. This was despite the fact that the district he inherited in 1991 had just suffered from the longest drought in recent history and was handicapped by internal struggles.

Ross has never been fearful of change or innovation in his work. The most notable example was in 1995, when Ross made the decision to create the Energy Resources Department. That decision dramatically changed the Merced Irrigation District for the better. His leadership moved the district squarely into the 21st century and has the potential to lead to an economic boon for our local communities.

Following his longstanding tradition of public service, Ross has been extremely active in his local community outside of his work with the water district. He has been an active member in the Brentwood Lions Club for twenty-five years, dutifully serving in all Lions Club offices and as President twice.

Ross has been married to his wife Adair for forty-seven years, and together they have two daughters and three grandchildren. I am proud to recognize all of Ross' numerous accomplishments and to call him my friend. Today I call upon my colleagues to help me thank Ross for his commitment and dedicated service to the Central Valley, and to wish him a very happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE JEAN
WOODWARD TURNER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Valerie Jean Woodward Turner. Valerie had the good fortune to travel throughout the world during her life. She used these diverse cultural experiences to educate those around her and cultivate a loving environment for those across the economic and social spectrum. It gives me no greater pleasure than to honor today this kind and gentle spirit.

Affectionately known as "Sister T," Valerie graduated from Cabrillo High School in Lompoc, California and went on to attend California State University, Sonoma, earning a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. In 1981, while attending Loveland Church, Valerie accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and made assurance of her eternal life secure. Her ability to see beauty in all things and desire to share her wealth of experiences made her a unique and beloved member of her community. Valerie's love of teaching and gifted ability in arts and crafts led to the opening of "Valerie's Gifts and Consignments." This was not only a store but also a forum to interact with the community around her, opening her home and her heart to those she cared about most.

In January 1991, Valerie joined her husband in the Temple Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as interim pastor and later elected senior pastor. Her move to Temple Missionary was accompanied by a leadership role in the Inland Empire.

Valerie had a love for education and children that was finally satisfied when she began teaching at Loveland Academy in Fontana, California in 1992. During her time there she co-founded the Temple Learning Center (TLC) where she served faithfully as principal. Her commitment to bettering the lives of others was further evident in her missionary work in American Samoa, Western Samoa, and Jamaica, and especially the children's missions in Ghana, Malawi, and Zambia.

I join today with family and friends in paying tribute to Valerie Turner, a dearly loved member of her family and community. She was a selfless role model and a generous teacher. Above all, Valerie was a supportive and dedicated wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her husband Pastor Raymond W. Turner and their six children. She will be deeply missed by all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleagues who stood to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 and in memory of those who died 89 years ago.

The Genocide of 1915–1923 was the culmination of decades of official Ottoman policies to stamp out Armenia—religiously, culturally, and ethnically. The "Armenian Question" posed a problem for many successive

leaders until a seemingly "brilliant" realization—"No Armenians, No Armenian Question." The horrible answer to a perplexing question led to the slaughter of millions of Armenians and the continuing denial of the massacres by today's Turkish government.

The long lists of atrocities have been well documented by numerous sources. The dwindling number of Armenians who survived the long death marches still tell chilling stories of their families' deaths. American diplomats and missionaries documented brutal attacks on peaceful cities and towns. German military personnel allied to the Turkish government, who defied orders to look the other way, compiled a record of death and destruction throughout the region. Even Turkish parliamentary and government documents speak to the existence and scope of these massacres.

The United States has a long history and long alliance with the Armenian people. During the massacres of the late Nineteenth century, tons of humanitarian supplies and hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into Armenia from the United States in an effort to alleviate the suffering of the Armenian people. American missionaries and prominent Americans, including American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, visited Armenia and aided the starving, homeless, and terrorized. During the Genocide of 1915–1923, American missionaries documented the slaughter of Armenian men, women, and children. In some cases, missionaries risked their own lives to protect Armenians.

Despite a compelling record proving the massacre of millions of human beings, there are still individuals, organizations, and governments that deny what happened 89 years ago. Given the United States' longstanding dedication to combating human rights abuses, it is shocking that the United States government has not officially recognized the savage butchery of one of the 20th Century's worst human rights violations.

In his book "The Burning Tigris," Peter Balakian describes the Genocide as follows:

The plan to liquidate the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire was put into action in the spring and early summer of 1915. It was well orchestrated, and in city and town, village and hamlet, and in the Armenian sections of the major cities of Asia Minor and Anatolia, Armenians were rounded up, arrested, and either shot outright or put on deportation marches. Most often the able-bodied men were arrested in groups and taken out of the town or city and shot en masse.

In the southeast towns and cities as were both killing stations and refugee spots, where Armenians who had survived long death marches from the north lived in concentration camps, in makeshift tents, or on the desert ground, hoping to stay alive. Farther south, in the Syrian desert, more Armenians died than perhaps anywhere else. There the epicenter of death was the region of Deir el-Zor, where Armenians died not only of massacre, starvation, and disease but were stuffed into caves and asphyxiated by brush fires—primitive gas chambers.

The Committee of Union and Progress's [Turkish ruling party] plan to exterminate the Armenians was made possible by the highest level of government planning: harnessing the bureaucracy for the organization and implementation of the Armenian deportations; the formation and organization of killing squads; the creation and manipulation of legislation, and the use of technology and communications . . .

The Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 ranks among the Holocaust, Pol Pot's Cambodia, Stalin's starvation of kulaks in the Ukraine, and Muslim violence against Christians in Sudan as one of the worst instances of inhumanity and wanton cruelty. No one denies that these violent events happened. Indeed, the denial of these episodes would be met with immediate criticism and vociferous censure. Why is Turkey given a pass when it comes to admitting past mistakes?

I recognize that Turkey is a NATO ally and an ally in the war on terror. I recognize that the United States needs to maintain friendly relations with Turkey to help stabilize the Middle East, but as a friend of Turkey, the United States should be able to take its ally aside and point out its mistakes. Without recognizing our mistakes and our shortcomings, we do not learn. Without recognizing malice and cruelty wherever it is found, we risk forgetting these events and the lessons to be learned from them.

My deepest sympathies go to the whole of Armenia, and more importantly, my pity to those who continue to deny or ignore the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians during the Genocide of 1915–1923.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDITH "JR"
RODRIGUE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Judith "JR" Rodrigue and thank her for her outstanding commitment to serving the people of Colorado as the Chief Clerk of the Colorado House of Representatives. After twenty-four years of tireless service, JR will be stepping down from her position as Chief Clerk. As she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that she leaves behind a wonderful and strong legacy of dedication to the Colorado General Assembly and the citizens of Colorado.

In 1979, JR began her career in the State House as an Assignable Clerk. She has since served as Messenger, Historian for the House of Representatives, and Chief Clerk's assistant, before her appointment as Chief Clerk in 1994. Some of her many accomplishments as Chief Clerk include publishing an Office Manual for the Members of the House, creating the Chief Clerk's Book, creating the Book of Motions, and serving as a member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries.

Most importantly, JR has provided excellent leadership and guidance, while establishing a close camaraderie with her colleagues and members of the Colorado House. Indeed, one of the highlights of my service as a state legislator was the friendship and guidance I received from JR. I can guarantee that I speak for many past and current members when I say she will always be revered for the level of honesty, integrity, and impartiality that she brought to her position. She is everybody's friend and always has a smile. She will be sorely missed by one and all.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Judith Rodrigue before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate her on an

outstanding career of public service. Her selfless dedication to the Colorado General Assembly and the people of Colorado as the Chief Clerk of the Colorado House of Representatives is truly remarkable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN KULOW

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize courage, loyalty, nobility, and honor; values enshrined in the everyday lives of firefighters. These brave men and women wake up every morning and routinely put their lives in harm's way.

I often marvel at the integrity one must possess to run voluntarily into a burning building knowing they may not exit alive. Every year, 1.9 million fires are reported throughout the country—that's three fires a minute, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At a moment's notice, our firefighters give their lives for us; one such man was Kevin Kulow.

Only 32, Kevin Kulow was the quintessential firefighter; a hardworking family man from Houston, a devoted husband, father to two beautiful little boys, and a man known for his charisma, Kevin was a modern day hero.

One of Kevin's life ambitions was to be a firefighter. He served for several years as a volunteer fireman in Sealy, Texas but in September 2003, he completed fire academy and joined the ranks of the Houston Fire Department. Kevin tragically perished fighting a fire earlier this month. Today, I offer a salute to a man who epitomized the values that our country was built on, offer my prayers for his family, and extend my gratitude to Kevin Kulow for defining integrity.

COMMENDING MR. DONALD
HINKLE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the founder and artistic director of the Berks Classical Children's Chorus, Mr. Donald Hinkle.

Mr. Hinkle has a long and distinguished career in music. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Sacred Music from Wittenberg University. Post-graduate studies include time spent at Union Theological Seminary School of Music in New York City and Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading, Pennsylvania from 1969 through 1996.

In 1992, Mr. Hinkle decided to use his talents and establish a musical organization to train young singers. Twelve years and hundreds of singers later, the Berks Classical Children's Chorus (BCCC) continues to educate vocal artists from grade school through high school. An ensemble of over 125 professionally and rigorously trained young men and

women perform with the BCCC in concerts, competitions, churches and civic organizations.

Many members of the Chorus have grown up singing with the BCCC, and the experience has been life changing. Through the BCCC, these young men and women learn to read music, master a diverse and challenging repertoire, use their voices properly, and become poised and confident performers. They learn an appreciation for a wide variety of cultures through the music they study and perform. But even more importantly, they learn the life lessons of self-discipline, personal responsibility, self-expression, teamwork, and self-confidence.

For Mr. Hinkle, the BCCC is about more than singing. It is his vehicle for building character through disciplined and professional artistic expression. Donald Hinkle has always been and always will be a man with a mission. His students are the fulfillment of that mission. They are not only accomplished singers, but also better human beings. Mr. Hinkle inspires them to strive for and achieve their personal best. His uncompromising pursuit of excellence transforms all of his students. I congratulate him on these accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRIS
BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chris Brown of Grand Junction, Colorado whose efforts and vision recently earned his business, the designation of Small Business of the Year from the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Since he opened Brown's Cycles in 2000, Chris has made great contributions to the Grand Junction business community, as well as helping to spread the love of biking in his community.

Chris began exploring his passion for bicycle exhibition and repair while working as an engineer where he would plan business trips around cities with other bike enthusiasts. Since opening his store, he has brought his engineering background to his passion, creating new and innovative bikes. Perhaps most notable is the bike he specially designed which allows people with physical disabilities to share in his passion for cycling. As a member of the Downtown Association Board, Chris is a proponent for all the businesses on Main Street, and is currently working on a proposal for a summer bike festival for Grand Junction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Chris Brown before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his vision and determination, he has made remarkable contributions to his Grand Junction community. I sincerely thank him for his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nation of Israel, the lone beacon of democracy in a region roiling with tyranny and oppression. In the ongoing war on terrorism, we have no firmer friend than the nation of Israel, and as we seek a lasting peace in the Middle East, we can have no stronger ally.

Today we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence in 1948. For more than 50 years our two great nations have forged a bond built on a shared vision of democracy. Our similar ideals and like minded determination protect the freedoms of our citizens and ensure the fundamental principles of equality and pluralism.

It is a fact that Israel has had to live in the shadow of danger because it has too often been surrounded by enemies. That insecure existence has demanded the sacrifice of numerous Israeli soldiers, who have fought to keep Israel independent and free in the face of war and terrorism.

Today we also call to mind the victims of the attacks Israel has weathered since its' inception. The dead and the wounded remind us of Israel's valor and her willingness to protect the basic aspirations of democracy: human dignity, individual rights, and religious freedom.

Today, Mr. Speaker, is the day we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence, and pronounce our steadfastness to her survival and prosperity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SALLY
SCHAEFER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Sally Schaefer for her remarkable contributions to her Grand Junction, Colorado community. Her outstanding dedication to Hilltop Community Resources, which helps people with brain injuries re-create their lives is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition from this body of Congress and this nation. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity and thank Sally for her many contributions to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado.

Sally became interested in aiding others at an early age by helping to take care of her six younger siblings when they were sick. She attended Marquette University Nursing School, and in 1982 became a rehabilitation nurse at Hilltop. Sally immediately took a leadership role at the hospital, developing the Life Adjustment Program for brain-injured adults, a program that helps patients learn to live constructive lives after they are discharged from the hospital. In 1995, Sally negotiated the sale of Hilltop's rehabilitation hospital to St. Mary's Hospital in order for the Center to focus exclusively on people readjusting to their lives after

a serious medical trauma. In 1998, she became chief executive officer of Hilltop, overseeing an organization with \$40 million dollars worth of assets and 400 employees.

Sally's extensive involvement in her Grand Junction community includes her participation in numerous civic organizations. She serves as chairman of the Victims of Crime state board, an organization dedicated to victim's rights, and for the Grand Junction Economic Partnership and Rocky Mountain Health Plans. She also serves as vice chairman of the Fort Lewis College governing board, and is a member of the state medical services board.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Sally Schaefer plays a vital role in her Grand Junction community. Sally's leadership and dedication as chief executive officer of Hilltop has helped it become a preeminent rehabilitation facility for people suffering from major trauma injuries. Her efforts in serving the people of Grand Junction and the State of Colorado are worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today, and I thank Sally for her service.

H.R. 2239—REPRESENTATIVE
HOLT'S VOTER CONFIDENCE AND
INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of support for my colleague, RUSH HOLT's, Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003, H.R. 2239.

As a proud co-sponsor of this important piece of legislation, I believe very strongly that we need to ensure a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for direct recording electronic voting machines, or touch screen machines as they are commonly called, in order to ensure the validity of the election process.

The modernization of voting equipment and the switch to computers encouraged by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 has generated considerable concern among my constituents that the voting process may be subject to manipulation from unknown sources.

These concerns have been magnified by the complexities involved in maintaining the integrity of computer systems, training poll workers in proper setup, operation, and troubleshooting, and educating the public on the proper operation of these touch screen machines.

Listening to these concerns and understanding the importance of earning the public's trust in these new systems in order to carry out a fair election in California, last year our Secretary of State, Kevin Shelley, convened an Ad Hoc Touch Screen Task Force to provide recommendations on the best ways to address these issues.

Based on the discussions and recommendations that grew out of this task force, the Secretary of State concluded last November that a voter verified paper audit trail should be required on all touch screen voting machines used in California.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, the Secretary of State will require all local jurisdictions purchasing new touch screen machines to ensure that they contain a voter verified paper audit

trail system that is fully accessible to all voters, including those living with disabilities and those for whom English is a second language.

Local jurisdictions that are currently using touch screen machines without the voter verified paper feature will have until July 1, 2006 to retrofit or replace them.

While these actions are certainly a step in the right direction, like Mr. HOLT, I believe we must accelerate our efforts to ensure that each and every touch screen system employs voter verified paper technology as soon as possible, and at the very least by the election in November.

I think the experience in my own district in Alameda County during the California primary on March 2nd, is proof enough of why the integrity and operation of these touch screen systems must be improved.

Even before the vote took place on March 2nd, we knew that Alameda County would have problems, as the Secretary of State informed us on February 13th that our machines did not meet State certification due to last minute adjustments sought by the vendor to correct several perceived flaws in the system.

But because the notice from the Secretary of State's office came so close to the election, the County felt that it had to conduct the election with the existing touch screen system, even with the modifications sought by the vendor because without these machines, as the Alameda County Registrar indicated in a letter dated February 16th to the Secretary, "there will be thousands of people unable to vote."

On February 23rd, following a similar appeal by San Diego County, which utilized the same machines, and a subsequent test of the modified system, the Secretary of State's office provided administrative approval for one-time limited use of these devices for the March primary.

The fact that the voting machines' vendor sought modifications to its product at such a late stage just prior to the primary, and the position that this vendor placed both the Secretary of State's office, and our local registrar in Alameda County is indicative of the evolving nature of touch screen systems, and provides even further proof of the necessity of a voter verified paper audit to backup the electronic systems.

Of course, that was not the end of the problem with these devices in my district. Having conditionally approved the touch screen devices for use on primary day, the Secretary of State's office strongly recommend to both Alameda and San Diego Counties, that an appropriate backup voting system should be put in place in the case of a failure in the electronic devices.

And, sure enough, fail, was just what these devices did.

Due to a number of technical issues involving the battery system of the machines and because of incorrect or insufficient troubleshooting information provided to poll workers by the vendor, many of the touch screen systems in Alameda County did not operate properly when polling places opened on March 2nd.

Thankfully the Alameda County Registrar had followed the Secretary of State's advice and provided paper provisional ballots in case the touch screen systems had failed. So, many voters who went to their polling places voted with paper ballots until the County was able to identify and correct the technical issues surrounding the touch screen systems.

However in some cases, polling places ran out of these paper provisional ballots before the electronic devices were fixed, and as a result some voters were unable to cast a ballot unless they were able to return later in the day.

In addition despite the initial problems with the touch screen systems that were overcome, several of these devices also failed for other reasons during the course of the day, further undermining their reliability.

I won't even get into the problems that San Diego County experienced with these touch screen machines but let me say this.

Despite all the problems that we experienced with the touch screen systems on March 2nd, without the existence of a voter verified paper audit trail, we still do not know if any of these touch screen machines failed to properly mark and tabulate each individuals vote once they were finally put into use.

That is why the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003 makes sense.

I applaud my colleague for introducing it, and I urge this body to pass this bill so we can ensure that the public has confidence in our election process no matter the kind of system that is in place.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FATHER
VINCENTE PAZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Father Vincente Paz, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Grand Junction, Colorado. Father Paz has been serving Catholic Parishes of my state with great dedication for the past 28 years. His move to Grand Junction to become pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary is the latest step in a remarkable journey.

Paz, a native of Northeast England, was ordained in 1966. An encounter with a Franciscan Priest in 1975 convinced him to leave his teaching position in England to serve as Pastor of a parish in Pueblo, Colorado. Reverend Paz also served parishes in Durango and Delta before coming to Grand Junction. He continues to strive to keep his church's message relevant to an ever-changing culture and to actively involve as many community members as possible in his parish's ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service of Reverend Vincente Paz in front of this body of Congress and this Nation. Over the years, he has helped to serve several communities in my state, just as he continues to do for the parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary. I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues tonight in somber remembrance of

the Armenian Genocide. Early in the 20th Century, during World War I and its aftermath, the Ottoman Empire attempted the complete liquidation of the Armenian population of Eastern Anatolia.

We must come down to the House floor tonight not only to remember this tragic event, but we must also proclaim that the Armenian Genocide is an historical fact. There are many who deny that this first genocide of the 20th Century actually took place.

The American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1919 was an eyewitness. In his memoirs, he said, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations they were merely giving the death warrant to an entire race. They understood this well and in their conversations with me made no particular attempt to conceal this fact."

He went on to describe what he saw at the Euphrates River. He said, as our eyes and ears in the Ottoman Empire, "I have by no means told the most terrible details, for a complete narration of the sadistic orgies of which they, the Armenian men and women, are victims can never be printed in an American publication. Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortune of the Armenian people."

We can never forget that 8 days before he invaded Poland, Adolf Hitler turned to his inner circle and said, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" The impunity with which the Turkish government acted in annihilating the Armenian people emboldened Adolf Hitler and his inner circle to carry out the Holocaust of the Jewish people.

It is time for Turkey to acknowledge this genocide, because only in that way can the Turkish government and its people rise above it. The German government has been quite forthcoming in acknowledging the Holocaust, and in doing so it has at least been respected by the peoples of the world for its honesty. Turkey should follow that example rather than trying to deny history.

It is also time—indeed it is far overdue—for our Congress to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I again call on my colleagues to recognize the Armenian Genocide and to urge my fellow Americans to remember this tragic event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2004
FRANKLIN INSTITUTE LAUREATES

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2004 Franklin Institute Laureates being honored in a gold-medal ceremony tomorrow in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, for exemplary accomplishments in science, technology, and business.

The Franklin Institute first began recognizing achievement in science and technology in 1824—making the Franklin Institute Awards one of the most historic and long-standing science honors in the world, predating the

Nobel Prize by almost 75 years. In its very early years, honors were given to scientists and engineers whose products and inventions best improved life in our young nation.

Today, the Institute bestows the Franklin Medals, named for America's first great scientist and founding father, Benjamin Franklin, to an international group of scientists, engineers, and business leaders, whose achievements, innovations, and discoveries have improved the human condition and solved mysteries of our world. Some are honored for careers which have inspired thousands; others, for one incredible breakthrough upon which whole industries or entirely new fields of thought have been founded. Additionally, since 1990 the Institute has awarded the Bower Awards for Business Leadership and Science Achievement, which carries with it one of the largest cash prizes in the world. This year, the Bower Awards are awarded to one scientist and one business leader who have distinguished themselves in the field of brain research.

A list of previous Franklin Institute award winners is a roll call of brilliance for the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Over 2,000 individuals have been honored by the Institute over the past 180 years, including luminaries like Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Alva Edison, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Madame and Pierre Curie, Albert Einstein, Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Kahn, Stephen Hawking, David Packard and Jane Goodall.

Tomorrow, at the Franklin Institute Awards Ceremony, seven special people will join these esteemed ranks, in fields ranging from computational complexity to magnetic resonance imaging. Their cumulative work has had an enormous impact on humankind—from the display technology in our cell phones and PDA's to revolutionary materials used in space flight; from non-invasive treatment and diagnosis of disease and injury to a better understanding of lifegiving processes like photosynthesis; from enabling parents to see their child months before birth, to enabling businesses to solve extremely complex problems quickly and efficiently, to the fundamental, groundbreaking experiments that displayed the genetic basis of behavior.

I am honored to invite this Congress and the nation to join me in congratulating:

2004 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science in the Field of Brain Research, Seymour Benzer, Ph.D.—For pioneering discoveries that both founded and greatly advanced the field of neurogenetics, thereby transforming the understanding of the brain.

2004 Bower Award for Business Leadership in the Field of Brain Research, Raymond V. Damadian, M.D.—For his development of magnetic resonance imaging used in clinical applications, which has transformed the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

2004 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry, Harry B. Gray, Ph.D.—For his pioneering contributions in the field of electron transfer in metalloproteins.

2004 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science, Richard M. Karp, Ph.D.—For his contributions to the understanding of computational complexity.

2004 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Electrical Engineering, Robert E. Newnham, Ph.D.—For his invention of multiphase piezoelectric transducers and their spatial architecture, which revolutionized the field of acoustic imaging.

2004 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Mechanical Engineering, Roger Bacon, Ph.D.—For his fundamental research on the production of graphite whiskers and the determination of their microstructure and properties, for his pioneering development efforts in the production of the world's first continuously processed carbon fibers and the world's first high modulus, high strength carbon fibers using rayon precursors, and for his contributions to the development of carbon fibers from alternative starting materials.

2004 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Physics, Robert B. Meyer, Ph.D.—For his creative synthesis of theory and experiment demonstrate that tilted, layered liquid crystal phases of chiral molecules are ferroelectric, thus launching both fundamental scientific advancement in the field of soft condensed matter physics and the development of liquid crystal displays that meet the demands of current technology.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is delighted to honor and welcome these amazing scientists and to host this fantastic celebration of their work. Moreover, Pennsylvania is proud of its most visited and most beloved museum, The Franklin Institute, for its distinguished record of recognizing genius and innovation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN
HUEBINGER, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to John Huebinger, Jr. of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, for his great efforts to better his community. John is an extraordinary businessman and community leader, and as one of the founders of Vail, has shaped the landscape of communities around Vail, Aspen and Snowmass through his many construction projects.

John, a native of Marion, Texas, came to Colorado in 1962 to work on the Vail Village Inn, and later moved to Snowmass in 1964 when he formed the Aspen Construction Company. His extraordinary achievements in the construction industry early in his career gained him entrance into the Young Presidents organization, an exclusive group of international business leaders. When the construction industry began to falter, John quickly adjusted and began Harbinger Real Estate, which he ran until his retirement in 1998.

In addition to helping construct his community, John participates in numerous civic organizations. He has been a member of the Aspen Elks and Eagles Lodges, served as president of the Aspen Fire Protection District, and volunteered with the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of John Huebinger, Jr. before this body of Congress and this nation. His vision and determination have shaped several communities in the Vail, Aspen, and Snowmass areas, and I sincerely thank him for his service. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER 3RD
CLASS NATHAN BRUCKENTHAL

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal of Dania Beach, Florida. I praise Petty Officer Bruckenthal's commitment to his community and our nation. It brings me great sadness to report that Petty Officer Bruckenthal was killed recently in the bombing of a U.S. Navy vessel in Persian Gulf waters, and I wish to offer my deepest sympathy to his family, his friends, and his admirers—of which there are many.

Born in Long Island, New York, Nathan Bruckenthal later moved to Dania Beach, Florida. As the son of a police chief and the stepson of an Army veteran, Petty Officer Bruckenthal leaves behind a family legacy of public service. He himself was contemplating joining a Florida police department upon his return from Iraq.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal joined the Coast Guard after graduating from high school. His service in Florida included nine months as a member of the Tactical Law Enforcement Team, searching vessels for illegal activity, before being deployed to the Persian Gulf. Law Enforcement Detachments from the Tactical Law Enforcement Team South, based at the Miami Coast Guard Station in Opa-Locka, have been deploying overseas since the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Petty Officer Bruckenthal is the first guardsman to die in combat since the Vietnam War.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal is survived by his mother, Laurie Bullock, his father, Northport Police Chief Ric Bruckenthal, his brothers Matthew and Michael, and his wife Patricia, who is pregnant with their first child. Throughout his six years in the Coast Guard and two tours in Iraq, Nathan Bruckenthal served our nation with dignity and distinction. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Nathan Bruckenthal's life, which serves as a wonderful example to all who follow in his footsteps.

OBSERVING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, April 24, 2004 marked the 89th anniversary of one of the most harrowing events in modern day history—the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian community is too familiar with the details of this tragedy. They know well the accounts of Armenian leaders, writers and professionals in Constantinople that were rounded up, deported and killed; the accounts of men, women and children were driven into the desert between Terabulus and Derzor to die of starvation, disease and exposure; and the accounts of families that were burned alive in wooden houses or chained together and drowned in Lake Van.

Unfortunately, few outside of the Armenian community know of the Armenian Genocide—

one of the most awful events in modern history. Many are not aware that Ottoman officials expelled millions of Armenians from the homelands they had inhabited for over 2,500 years. They are not aware that Ottoman officials attempted to exterminate the Armenian race and the precedent set for the genocides that followed. It is distressing that horrors of this magnitude have largely been forgotten.

Even more disturbing are the governments, institutions, scholars, and individuals who deny the enormity of these crimes against humanity. It is inconceivable that individuals and governments continue to ignore the substantial evidence—including numerous survivor accounts, photodocumentaries, and official documents in the archives of the United States, Britain, France, Austria, and the Vatican—that prove these atrocities took place. It is also frustrating that some rationalize these crimes or refuse to recognize this premeditated ethnic cleansing as genocide.

The international community must deal honestly with this senseless genocide. World leaders must rise above indifference and the political considerations that they have covered behind. They must unequivocally acknowledge the murders of one and a half million Armenians that began in 1915 for what it is—genocide. They must use their position to reveal the truth and bring attention to this tragedy that has been overlooked and brushed aside for too long.

We all want to forget these horrific tragedies in our history and bury them in the past. However, understanding the immeasurable wrongs the Armenian people endured—and the mass scale on which they occurred—is vital to grasping the impact these events continue to have on the stability of the region. It is only through the painful process of acknowledging and discussing these horrific events that we can prevent similar iniquity in the future.

We owe full recognition and acceptance of these crimes to the one and half million victims of the Armenian Genocide. Anything less is an insult to their memory.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUCY
RICKMAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Lucy Rickman, an extraordinary woman from my district. Lucy will soon be retiring as the director of The Haven, an assisted living center in Hayden, Colorado, where she has worked since its inception in 1992. She has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time, effort, and care into the project, and it is my privilege to recognize her career here today.

Seeing the need for an assisted living center in Hayden, Lucy became heavily involved in The Havens planning and design. After thirty-four years of teaching English and Social Studies to seventh and eighth graders, Lucy became director of The Haven in 2000. Lucy saw to it that the facility grew and become a success, and worked to obtain grants for the center totaling \$115,000. A firm believer in grassroots community involvement, she has

implemented events such as senior visit lunch Fridays, holiday light tours, and socials in the town park.

Mr. Speaker, Lucy has been a vital part of The Haven's formation and operation since its beginning, and it is my pleasure to recognize her today before this body of Congress and this nation. Her hard work and dedication are largely responsible for The Haven's existence and success. Thanks for your service Lucy, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NURSE RECRUITMENT
AND RETENTION ACT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would authorize several new and innovative initiatives to attract and retain nursing personnel in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Since 1996, the number of patients treated annually by VA has risen by 70 percent. During this same period of growing demand for VA health care services, the number of nursing program graduates nationwide began to fall, along with the number of registered nurses employed in nursing. The latest U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration report projects that the shortage of nurses this year will reach about 138,322 nationally, and will rise to about 808,416 in 2020.

Today, about 7.6 million veterans are enrolled in VA health care and in 2010 it is estimated that this number will grow to approximately 8.4 million. VA cannot meet the future health care burden for caregivers without an adequate supply of nurses in its 1,300 facilities. VA's nurse vacancy and turnover rates have greatly increased since 1998. Unless we create incentives and opportunities for experienced caregivers to choose VA as a professional career, our nation's veterans will suffer.

First, my legislation would authorize a new initiative to improve VA's program for recruiting nurses through the use of outside recruitment, advertising, and communication agencies, and the use of interactive and online technologies. The federal government's recruitment process is not responsive to the market conditions for recruitment of nursing personnel. In order to address the human capital challenges in the VA, the Department needs better tools and strategies to plan, attract, assess, hire and manage its recruitment process for nurses. This pilot program would test whether such tools can fit VA's needs.

The VA health care system has over 200,000 employees, ranking it among the top 25 largest employers as defined in the Hoover's Handbook of American Business. The VA health care system has more employees than, for example, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Manor Care, Inc., and is the largest employer of registered nurses in this country. In the private sector, human resources professionals have developed and are successfully using internet-based recruitment tools, but VA's use of such tools is extremely limited. Forrester Research, an independent technology re-

search company that provides advice about technology's impact on business, recently reported that 100% of Fortune 500 companies are now using online recruiting. It is in the best interest of VA to capitalize on this best practice of private industry. I believe that streamlining the recruitment process to offer nursing employment opportunities in an appealing and contemporary format will attract talented nurses to fill Department vacancies.

The bill would enhance VA's ability to provide nurses flexible work schedules by authorizing three different options for alternative tours of duty to accommodate the personal needs of nurses to have more control over their schedules. Nurses are the front line providers of care and their continued dedication and support makes patients' lives better and doctors' jobs easier. According to an American Organization of Nurse Executives survey, a major cause of dissatisfaction in the nursing workforce is inflexible work schedules. Offering more family friendly schedules is critical to keeping experienced nurses employed in the VA.

My bill would also clarify that the Department's policy for nurse recruitment should focus on the registered nurse's clinical competencies and direct patient care performance. If a nurse has presented or accomplished the required elements for VA employment, the lack of a specific educational degree should not be a factor in VA's hiring decision. Recent testimony before the National Commission on VA Nursing, established in Public Law 107-135, called attention to a concern that VA's policies under its nurse qualification standards discourage some nurses with associate degrees in nursing from seeking employment in VA because they are not judged for their experience and expertise, but are disqualified because they do not possess a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

The American Association of Community Colleges reports that 62 percent of employed staff nurses, including 45 percent in nurse clinician positions, 42 percent in clinical nurse specialist positions, 52 percent in head nurse positions and 65 percent in nurse supervisor positions received their nursing educational preparation through associate degree or diploma nursing programs.

Regardless of educational preparation, all nursing graduates must pass rigorous licensing examinations administered by state governments. Once licensed, they perform the identical scope of nursing practice under state law. A recent review of test data by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing indicates that the pass rates of nurses trained with associate and baccalaureate degrees are virtually identical. However, notwithstanding their years of bedside nursing or clinical proficiency, VA will not hire nurses above the entry Nurse Level I position unless they have baccalaureate degrees. VA is losing the opportunity to bring experienced, qualified nurses into its system because of this policy.

Finally, the bill would make technical corrections and incorporate blind rehabilitation specialists in the list of certain positions that the VA is permitted to hire through use of the direct appointment authority provided in title 38, United States Code. The use of this so-called "hybrid Title 38" authority enhances VA's ability to hire clinical staff in a timely fashion to maintain the necessary level of highly-trained staff.

It is vital for the health of our veterans that VA possesses the tools to employ and retain experienced nurses in the VA health care system. I look forward to seeing the VA nursing workforce grow as a result of the enactment of the measures contained in my bill and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN E.
KAPUSHION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of John Kapushion of Pueblo, Colorado, who passed away recently at the age of eighty-three. John was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Born and raised in Crested Butte, Colorado, John proudly served his country in World War II under General George Patton. After the war, he moved to Pueblo where he worked as an electrician for Colorado Fuel and Iron until his retirement in 1982. An avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed fishing and hunting, as well as spending summers with his family in the mountains of Crested Butte. He was also active in his community, serving as a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize the life of John Kapushion. He dedicated his life toward the betterment of his community, state and nation, and he will be greatly missed. My thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 4

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the juris-

dition of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

5 p.m.

Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

MAY 5

9 a.m.

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for defense related programs.

SD-192

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine material support statute relating to aiding terrorists.

SD-226

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

Finance
Social Security and Family Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the benefits of healthy marriage.

SD-215

11:30 a.m.

Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 155, to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation, S. 2285, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah, S. 1521, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada, for the construction of a post building and memorial park for use by the American Legion, other veterans' groups, and the local community, S. 1826, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land in Washoe County, Nevada, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada, S. 2085, to modify the requirements of the land conveyance to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas Research Foundation, and H.R. 1658, to amend the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to validate additional conveyances of certain lands in the State of California that form part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railway.

SD-366

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine new opportunities for agriculture, focusing on biomass use in energy production.

SD-106

Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1668, to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine certain challenges facing military parents raising children.

SD-430

MAY 7

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense.

SR-222

MAY 11

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the impacts and costs of last year's fires, focusing on the problems faced last year and what problems agencies and the land they oversee may face next season, including aerial fire fighting assets and crew, and overhead availability.

SD-366

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine conservation programs of the 2002 Farm bill.
SD-628

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Defense.
SD-192

2 p.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine prescription drug reimportation.
SD-430

MAY 12

Time to be announced
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1715, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes.
SR-485

MAY 13

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulatory issues.
SD-106

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
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