

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHNNY RAY YOUNGBLOOD

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood in recognition of his spiritual leadership and contributions to the community. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is without a doubt, one of the leading theologians of his time. His commitment to the call of spiritual healing, racial parity, social justice and economic equity for all people has garnered him national recognition as a preacher, national leader, public advocate, motivator, writer and teacher. Now in his 30th year serving as senior pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church and 3rd year as senior pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, both located in Brooklyn, New York, he has completed more than a quarter of a century pastoring to God's people.

In May of 1990, Youngblood received his Doctorate of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he studied with an elite group of preachers from across the country as a Samuel D. Proctor Fellow. Dr. Youngblood earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York, and his bachelor's degree from Dillard University in New Orleans. Dr. Youngblood is now single and a father of three sons, Joel Ray, Jason Royce and Johnny Jenell, and the grandfather of Donny Lynn, Joshua, Jalen and Jordyn.

Dr. Youngblood has earned national recognition because of his work with East Brooklyn Congregations (EBC), an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. He is credited through EBC with spearheading the Nehemiah Housing project, which to date has constructed approximately 2,850 owner-occupied single family homes in some of the most devastated communities in Brooklyn. He has served as national spokesman for the group and in 1990, was recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for his trailblazing work with the project. Dr. Youngblood is a subject of the Harper Collins book, "Upon This Rock: The Miracles of a Black Church," written by Samuel G. Freedman. In 1996, Youngblood and the ministry of the St. Paul Community were featured in an article entitled "Crossing Border" in the premiere edition of Common Quest magazine. In December of 1995, Dr. Youngblood was also listed in The New Yorker magazine as one of the "ten most influential" New Yorkers. He has been profiled on ABC's 20/20, NBC Nightly News, CBS Sunday Morning News, FOX 5's McCreary Live Report, and the Charlie Rose Show.

In September 1995, Dr. Youngblood launched what has become one of the premier projects on the Church's annual calendar, now known as the commemoration of the Maafa. Dr. Youngblood is spearheading a national effort to promote the Maafa as a spiritual move-

ment aimed at healing this Nation around the scars of slavery. Since 1998, the St. Paul Community has toured "The Maafa Suite" production to venues including Dallas, Mississippi, Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago and Connecticut.

In June of 1998, Dr. Youngblood released his own book of poetry entitled, "I Honor My Father"; a collection of poems inspired by the illness and loss of his father in the same year.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Youngblood has dedicated his life to helping people through his spiritual leadership, public advocacy and civic participation. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

### TRIBUTE TO CMSGT EDDIE E. CHITWOOD

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to retiring Chief Master Sergeant Eddie E. Chitwood, the Chief Enlisted Manager of the 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, for his service to our Nation.

CMSgt Chitwood's time in the USAF has been marked with many accomplishments through the years. He has excelled both in his 16 years as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician and in his 11 years in the field of Airlift Aerospace Maintenance. He attended both the Airman Leadership School at Luke Air Force Base and the Tactical Airlift Command NCO Academy, earning the title of Distinguished Graduate from each. During his time at Whiteman Air Force Base he received many other distinctions including: the Operations Group Warfighter Award, a 509th Bomb Wing SNCO of the Quarter, and the 509th Bomb Wing 1999 Lance P. Sijan Award for Leadership. His popularity and leadership have been clearly reflected by his election to the post of Whiteman Top Three Enlisted Organization president in 2001 and Whiteman Chief's Group Vice-President.

As CMSgt Chitwood and his wife Elizabeth prepare to spend more time volunteering and serving on various community organizations, I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing appreciation for his dedication and service to our great Nation.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the rea-

son I missed rollcall votes Nos. 276–278 on June 22, 2004. These were suspension votes H. Res. 591—expressing the sense that a month should be designated Community Banking Month, H.R. 4363—Helping Hands for Homeownership Act of 2004, and H. Res. 660—Congratulating Randy Johnson on his perfect game. At the time these votes were called, my flight from my Congressional District to Washington, DC was diverted due to weather and I was thereby delayed en route to Washington, DC.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 276, expressing the sense that a month should be designated Community Banking Month,—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 277, on Prostate Cancer Awareness, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 277, on Helping Hands for Homeownership Act of 2004, "aye"; and rollcall vote No. 278, Congratulating Randy Johnson on his perfect game, "aye."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, June 21, 2004, the House had votes on H. Res. 591, H.R. 4363, H. Res. 660. On House rollcall votes Nos. 276, 277 and 278, I was out of the country. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CWO4 JACKIE L. KARSTEN

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, those who serve in our armed forces show great dedication to and pride in our country. These people often make personal sacrifices during their service to perform their duties. Therefore, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the service of Chief Warrant Officer–4, Jackie Karsten.

Chief Warrant Officer Karsten retired on May 1st after 30 years of service. She later celebrated her retirement at a formal ceremony the 22nd of May.

Mr. Speaker, people who show allegiance and devotion to our country through military service are remarkable individuals. Jackie is one of those individuals. I commend her for her 30 year career with the U.S. Navy and wish her all the best in all her future endeavors, and throughout her retirement.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE CORBETT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Katherine Corbett in recognition of her dedication to educating our children and improving the quality of our educational system as well as her spiritual leadership in her community.

Katherine Corbett is a native of Brooklyn, New York who has been married to a seventh grade friend Eddie Corbett for 34 years. She is the mother of four children; Kandice, Eddie Jr., Inez, and Frank. She is the grandmother of Diondre, Keilah, Joshua, and Sheraya.

Katherine is honored to be the principal of the Ronald Edmonds Learning Center-Middle School 113 in Brooklyn. During her 12 years as the educational leader, MS 113, she has earned numerous awards, grants and citations. Of her many outstanding achievements, the school remains the only middle school in the United States that has met the criteria to be a National Alliance of Black School Educators Demonstration school since the program began in 1997. In 1998, MS 113 was one of six schools in the United States, out of 54,000, to be designated by the United States Secretary of Education to be a Title One Distinguished School. In the same year, Katherine was recognized by the New York State Department of Education as a Title One Distinguished Educator. Yale University awarded Katherine with the Patrick Daly Award for Excellence in educational leadership.

In addition to her service to Middle School 113, Katherine has served the New York State Department of Education and Harvard University as a mentor for principals and low performing schools. In December 2000, Katherine was recruited to serve as one of the members of the Distinguished Faculty for New York City Department of Education's Principals Institute. Throughout the 2002-2003 school year, Katherine served as a mentoring principal for New Leaders for New Schools, a national graduate program for aspiring educational leaders.

In addition to her work in the educational community, Katherine serves as the senior pastor of New Life Ministries in West Hempstead, New York. The church serves the community with a number of programs that are designed to build the spirit and soul. Katherine is most grateful to be called, appointed, and chosen to serve humanity as she serves her God.

Mr. Speaker, Katherine Corbett has committed herself to educating our children through her work as a principal and as a mentor to other educators. She has also served her community through her work as a pastor. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL ROBERT B. FLOWERS

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Lieutenant General Robert B.

Flowers, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will retire on July 1 after 35 years of dedicated and meritorious service to our nation.

LTG Flowers followed his father into the Army after being commissioned from the Virginia Military Institute in 1969. Since that time he has led at every level of command, culminating in his current role as Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Prior to his selection as Chief of Engineers in October 2000, he served as Commanding General of the Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, home to the Army's engineer school. In this post, General Flowers helped produce and train our nation's engineer soldiers, units and leaders.

Throughout his career, General Flowers effectively trained and led engineer soldiers around the globe. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm he commanded an expanded, ten battalion brigade and led more than 7,700 soldiers into battle in Iraq. Among his many other distinguished assignments include Assistant Division Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers 12-state Mississippi Valley Division; Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering U.S. Army Europe in Bosnia and President of the Mississippi River Commission, which develops and implements plans to improve navigation and safety, prevent floods, and promote and facilitate commerce and trade on the river.

In his current role as Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he is the Army Chief of Staff's senior advisor on engineer issues. Simultaneously, he leads the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its more than 35,000 soldiers and civilians. During a critical time in America's history, General Flowers led the Army Corps of Engineers' support to the Nation. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, General Flowers ensured the immediate and significant support given to recovery operations at the Pentagon and in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of General Flowers, the Corps of Engineers continues to play a vital role in the War on Terror and support reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. His efforts have resulted in lasting and significant impacts to our nation and the Armed Forces. I know my fellow Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his years of dedication and selfless service and wishing him all the best in the years to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes Nos. 232-235 on June 14, 2004. These were suspension votes on H.J. Res. 97—Renewal of import restrictions on Burma, H. Res. 669—Prostate cancer awareness, H.R. 4323—Rapid Acquisition Authority for Combat Emergencies and H. Res. 653—Recognizing 80th Birthday of President George H.W. Bush. At the time these votes

were called, I was in my congressional district in Pensacola, FL with Vice-President CHENEY for his speaking engagement.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 232, Renewal of import restrictions on Burma—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 233, on Prostate cancer awareness, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 234, on Rapid Acquisition Authority for Combat Emergencies, "aye"; and rollcall vote No. 235, on Recognizing 80th Birthday of President George H.W. Bush, "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY  
GRIEVE, INGHAM COUNTY  
COMMUNITY NEWS 2004 VOLUNTEER  
OF YEAR

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Shirley Grieve who is described as "a one-woman champion of causes" in Ingham County, MI. Shirley Grieve's contributions are best described in an article in the Ingham County Community News, written by Editor Rachel Taylor:

MASON, MI.—Shirley Grieve is a one-woman champion of causes.

To find out which one she's campaigning for on any given day, just take a look around her Mason home, where the 67-year-old resident spends time raising money for worthwhile efforts.

Addresses, letters, leaflets and various "thank you" notes litter Grieve's dining room table. The mother of six takes volunteering seriously, committing to fundraising goals and these days, surpassing most of them.

This June, Grieve will be recognized for her commitment, as the Ingham County Community News' 2004 Agnes Corner Volunteer of the Year recipient. The award, now in its fifth year, is given to a member of the community that has made significant volunteer contributions locally.

Grieve fits the bill perfectly. This year alone the list of her efforts includes: Raising \$6,000 for the Capital Area Community Services' (CACS) Walk for Warmth in February, which helps pay heating and electric bills for people in dire need of financial assistance; collecting hundreds of items to send to U.S. troops stationed overseas; organizing a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Mason Kiwanis Golden K Club; and raising over \$7,000 to help fund Angel House in a matter of weeks. The project is headed up by Capital Area Child & Family Services to build mid-Michigan's first emergency shelter and advocacy center for abused children.

I always said, "I'm going to get out and make something of myself," explained Grieve, who grew up in West Virginia as the daughter of a coal miner. "Now, I didn't make something of myself by volunteering."

Grieve said her volunteer efforts started 32 years ago after moving to Mason from Lansing with her husband Richard. She said the rural life style was a shock in many ways and made her desperate to make friends in the community.

"The only thing I had was a dog in the back yard," remembered Grieve. "Then the kids would go to school and I would just have the baby."

In an effort to meet people, Grieve said she started volunteering in the schools, where her children were attending. Through Girl Scouts and the PTO Grieve said she began feeling more at home.

Soon Grieve began volunteering at St. James Catholic Church, where her family still attends services. Other projects followed. Throughout all of it, Grieve said she remembered to follow in her mother's footsteps—a woman who made her own mark with church fundraisers and bake sales in West Virginia.

The most important rule her mother taught her? "You always send a thank you note and people will respond with your next fundraiser," she said.

CACS Center Coordinator Deb Biehler said Grieve, who has been volunteering with the agency for five years, is a force of positive energy.

"She can work circles around people," said Biehler.

Grieve raises at least three-quarters of the funds raised during Walk for Warmth each year. "We wouldn't have raised the money without her," said Biehler. "She's helped hundreds of people."

And then there are the little things, said Biehler, like volunteering to collect food bank donations every Sunday at St. James and picking up bread for the food bank at local stores when no one else can go.

Members of the Mason Kiwanis Golden K Club say Grieve is an asset to the community. The club's president-elect, Jim Day stated, "She has that rare gift for causing other people to share their time and funds with a minimum of resistance and a maximum of positive results. I am in awe at hearing about her achievements and of the wonderful good that she generates. People who possess her awesome ability and dynamic energy in motivating people in supporting worthwhile causes are very rare individuals."

Mason resident Don Jacot said Grieve's volunteer efforts are felt throughout the Mason community. "She is a trustee for the Fair City Golden K Kiwanis Club. She volunteers for the Signal Corps Operation Up Link for service men and women. She volunteers for the Book Buddies and Head Start. What energy."

Grieve said she is happy to help further good causes. "I know in my heart it makes me feel good," she said. "I get so much out of it. I think if people did it once they'd do it again too."

The staff of the Ingham County Community News is planning a luncheon ceremony in Grieve's honor on Tuesday, June 29 in Mason.

Mr. Speaker, we wish to extend congratulations to Shirley Grieve for her commitment to serving her community. We are honored to support her efforts and ask that our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join us in recognizing their very worthy achievements.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. SIMING YANG**

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding student from my district, Mr. Siming Yang. Mr. Yang has the distinction of being honored as one of the more than 140 national winners of the 2004 Presidential Scholar Award.

The award honors graduating seniors that excel in their community, both in and out of the classroom. Each year, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects the winners based on Academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and community.

Mr. Yang is invited to be honored in Washington during the upcoming Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week, which runs from June 19 through the 22. Mr. Yang and his family plan to travel to the Nation's Capital at that time, along with his most influential teacher, Mr. Ron C. Carda of Dakota Ridge High School.

Mr. Speaker, Siming Yang has demonstrated, through his academic accomplishments, his willingness to lead his peers, his community achievements, and his dedication, that he is worthy of receiving this honor. So once again, I recognize this young man's achievements before this House today, and I wish him all the best in his bright future.

**CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT**

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would improve access to dental coverage for our Nation's most precious commodity, children. As a former practicing dentist in my home state of Idaho, I have long been concerned about access to dental coverage for our most vulnerable citizens. While most Americans have access to the best oral health care in the world, low-income children suffer disproportionately from oral disease. Even as our Nation's health has progressed, dental caries or tooth decay remains the most prevalent chronic childhood disease. Millions of Americans, adults and children, lack access to dental care. In many parts of Idaho, as in many rural States, there simply aren't enough dentists within reasonable distance of some communities.

For people who don't have access to dental care, oral disease is almost 100 percent inevitable—albeit 100 percent preventable. This is particularly heartbreaking when it affects children. Recent demonstration projects have shown that with some Federal support, a little funding can go a long way toward ensuring that low-income children have access to good oral health care. My legislation, H.R. 4622, co-sponsored by Congressman JOHN DINGELL, would assist States in doing just that.

H.R. 4622 would not issue Federal mandates, but rather would provide support to States as they determine how best to improve access to dental care in their communities. I believe that States are the best arbiters of how to enhance access to care for their residents, with the understanding that for any such effort to succeed, it must begin by reimbursing dentists who participate in Medicaid and SCHIP at market rates.

H.R. 4622 would: Provide financial incentives and planning grants to help States improve their Medicaid programs. States must first create a comprehensive plan for improving the delivery of dental services, and they must also adequately reimburse dentists for

children's dental services; Offer grants to expand the availability of dental services in health professional shortage areas. Grants would be made available to dentists who practice in federally designated dental shortage areas if at least 25 percent of their patient-base receives assistance under Medicaid or SCHIP. Grants would also be available to qualifying community health centers, State public health departments, Indian tribes/tribal organizations and accredited dental education programs; Ensure that States provide some level of dental benefits through SCHIP; Offer States the option to use their SCHIP funding to provide dental coverage to children in families who have medical but not dental coverage and meet SCHIP income-eligibility requirements; Expand School-Linked Dental Sealant Programs to include eligible school-linked public or non-profit organizations and Indian tribes that are under contract with an elementary or secondary school to provide dental services to school-aged children.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is but a small step forward toward the goal of ensuring that every child in America has good oral health, but it is a necessary first step. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in supporting H.R. 4622.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending meetings in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on rollcall No. 276, on H. Res. 591, designating Community Banking Month; rollcall No. 277, on H.R. 4363, the Helping Hands for Homeownership Act; and rollcall No. 278, on H. Res. 660, Congratulating Randy Johnson with the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching a perfect game.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 276, "yes" on rollcall No. 277, and "yes" on rollcall No. 278.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 276, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

**20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE C. MARSHALL INSTITUTE**

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the George C. Marshall Institute here in Washington, DC on their 20th anniversary this June.

For the past 2 decades, the Marshall Institute has tirelessly promoted the use of sound

science in making public policy and has provided Congress and the public with valuable assessments of recent scientific advances and trends. By stressing fact-based assessments of science, the Marshall Institute has helped policy makers make wise decisions in contentious areas such as climate change, defense, bioterrorism, and civic environmentalism. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring this institution, which has provided an invaluable service to the policy-making community for the past 20 years, and in wishing them all success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO VIC JENSEN

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, CA, are exceptional. We have been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Vic Jensen is one of these individuals.

Vic Jensen will retire after 34 years of service as office manager of the Department of Motor Vehicles' Winnetka, Hemet, Corona, and Norco field offices on June 26, 2004.

Vic Jensen was born in Sacramento, California, on January 27, 1937. He and his wife, Isabel, have been married for 40 years and have one daughter, Julie Kim. Vic served in the United States Navy for 4 years, before moving to Norco in 1981 and quickly becoming involved in a variety of community activities, including: Board Member and President of the Norco Chamber of Commerce for 9 years; Commissioner of the Norco Streets and Trails Commission for 7 years; Numerous positions—President, Secretary, Zone Chairman, and Regional Chairman—over 14 years with the Norco Lions Club; Chairman of the Sight and Hearing Board for the Norco/Corona Unified School District; and Member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the California Rehabilitation Center.

Recognition of Vic's contributions include the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Assemblyman Ted Weggeland, State Senator Raymond Haynes, and former California Governor Pete Wilson, for his work as President of the Norco Chamber of Commerce in 1996. Additionally, he has received the Abdul Award for his work with Canine Companions, the Lyda Smiley Award for his work with the Norco/Corona Unified School District in obtaining glasses for children in need, and the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award in 1997 for all of his accomplishments as a member of the Norco Lions Club.

Vic also spends countless hours in perfecting his passion for golf, golf, and more golf. Whenever a chance arrives he is fine-tuning his game.

Mr. Speaker, Vic's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Norco, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events

and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires from professional service, but not from community service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARION  
BROADHEAD OF THE AMERICAN  
LEGION AUXILIARY

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Marion Broadhead and her work as a member of the Sterling McClellan Post 142 of the American Legion Auxiliary. This organization, which is dedicated to humanitarian programs for veterans, young people, and the community, has a strong team of women working together for the betterment of citizens lives.

Recently the Sterling McClellan Post 142 of Pompano Beach, Florida, honored Ms. Broadhead as their five-time president, and current chaplain with the Unit Member of the Year Award. Ms. Broadhead was honored at an annual Memorial Day Parade and Picnic in Pompano Beach. Former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, along with members of the community and some surviving veterans, joined in this celebration.

Ms. Broadhead has led in the effort of community service by volunteering weekly in South Florida. Broadhead, who is a breast cancer survivor, spends her days visiting North Broward Medical Center, Trinity Community Church, St. Lawrence Chapel, and the Veterans Hospital in Miami.

Mr. Speaker, the benevolent and generous spirit that Ms. Marion Broadhead, in combination with the Sterling McClellan Post 142, has shown to the communities of South Florida is one that I would like to celebrate. Individuals like Ms. Broadhead help in building unified and strong communities in America.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to speak on the floor Wednesday, June 9, 2004, regarding the passing of former President Ronald Reagan. However, I would like to submit to the RECORD an article from Cleveland Plain Dealer written by local columnist Sam Fullwood on Tuesday, June 8, 2004.

PRESIDENT REAGAN: A BAD LEADING MAN

I never liked Ronald Reagan.

I didn't like him as a B- movie star in eye-wash like "Bedtime for Bonzo," a 1951 movie in which the future president of the United States was upstaged by a chimpanzee.

I didn't respect him for turning away from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose New Deal policies helped lift Reagan's own family out of the depths of the Great Depression.

He was a hypocrite who started out as a Democrat and proud union man but turned

Republican after he became rich and famous in Hollywood by pretending to be a common man.

But it was as president that I disliked Reagan most. Actually, the way he announced his decision to run ruined any chance of redemption.

On Aug. 3, 1980, the former California governor went to Philadelphia, Miss. Of all the places in this great nation, Reagan chose the infamous town where the bodies of three murdered heroes of the civil rights movement—Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney—had been found in 1964. He never mentioned them or civil rights in his announcement speech.

Instead, on that hot, summer day in Mississippi, he stole a line from Strom Thurmond's 1948 segregationist campaign.

"I believe in states' rights," Reagan said.

I haven't been able to stomach him ever since.

Of course, a great many people loved Reagan for his optimism and never-say-die confidence in this nation. I tip my hat to him for that.

But judging from the accolades following news of Reagan's death, at 93, last weekend, many people only note the best about the 40th president.

I remember the downside, too.

Much of the bad that has happened in America's public life started with the Reagan Revolution. Racial polarization widened during his two terms in the White House.

Reaganism let loose a sense of entitlement and lawlessness among corporate executives, spawning that famous line by actor Michael Douglas in his 1987 movie, "Wall Street." Said Gordon Gekko, "Greed is good."

Before Reagan, the national GOP contained moderates and conservatives in equal measure. After his rise to power, the relatively liberal Rockefeller wing of the party was clipped, leaving only the red-meat conservatives and intolerant Christian fundamentalists.

And that wasn't the worst of it. Reagan and his powerful allies poisoned the nation against government. Out of misguided populism, he threatened to starve the federal government out of existence.

Such a notion was impossible. But it didn't prevent Reagan from overseeing record deficits, rampant unemployment, desperate homelessness and rising poverty. Meanwhile, he spent liberally on military hardware, which helped end the Cold War.

Little is said about how he waged war on this nation's poor people. Reagan loved to tell stories, and he invented whoppers about "welfare queens" and "people on welfare driving Cadillacs to cash food stamps."

Reagan understood the power of an exaggerated metaphor. He used his movie-honed skills to inspire affluent Americans and to scapegoat poor ones.

It was mostly smoke and mirrors, honed from a life and career lived in La-La Land. I am saddened by his passing, but I can't indulge in the fiction that he represented the best of our national character. He didn't.

First and everlasting, Reagan was a bad actor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2004, I missed rollcall Vote No. 275. Rollcall

Vote No. 275 was on final passage of a bill Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 275.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE AND SPIRIT OF SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF BARRY UNIVERSITY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the long and dedicated service of Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, who will step down as president of Barry University on June 30, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Jeanne has been an exemplary leader at Barry University since taking office 23 years ago, in 1981. A tireless and enthusiastic promoter, she has helped to raise more than \$200 million for her school, sometimes through humorous means, such as competitive ballroom dancing and singing at a fundraiser aboard a yacht.

Sister Jeanne has made an enormously positive impact on the academic environment at Barry University. At the time of her inauguration, Barry University had 1,750 students. It now boasts 9,042, the fourth largest private university in Florida. Sister Jeanne has presided over an increase in the number of academic schools from five to ten, and the construction of 38 additional buildings on campus.

Her multiple awards, achievements and honorary degrees, too many to list here, testify to her boundless energy, her spirit of goodwill, and her commitment to excellence in education. Her work on behalf of women's rights, the homeless, safe and drug-free school communities, hurricane reconstruction efforts, children, and numerous other organizations has had a lasting impact in South Florida. Simply put, her efforts have touched hundreds of thousands of lives.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Jeanne more than deserves our admiration and respect for her dedicated and compassionate public service. She is an example to educators everywhere, and, really, to us all as individuals, that superior results arise when you put your heart and soul into something you believe in. As Sister Jeanne has said, what she is "most proud of in my 23 years at Barry University are the experiences that I've had with the people who have been in my life."

I wish to congratulate and thank Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, and I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

TENTH YEAR OF NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the AIDS Services

Foundation of Orange County, California in recognizing the tenth year of National HIV Testing Day, a life saving effort organized by the National Association of People with AIDS. This year's theme is "Take the test, and take control" of your life.

Each year, an estimated 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the United States, and as many as one-third of those new cases do not know they are infected. This growing and tragic epidemic has undeniably affected families and friends of every community. National HIV Testing Day emphasizes the importance of early detection of the virus through testing, counseling and HIV status awareness.

Latino populations continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. While Latino teens represent 15 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 21 percent of new AIDS cases. And statistics show HIV infections may be on the rise among the Latino population.

I am privileged to promote National HIV Testing Day by urging minority communities to take the test, and to take control of their lives. The reality is minority communities now represent the majority of new AIDS cases. Considering this fact, we must encourage testing. Since 1995, treatment advances have led to dramatic declines of approximately 70 percent in HIV-related deaths.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County for the very important contributions and services they provide to those affected by HIV and AIDS. As Members of Congress, let's do our part to protect our constituents and to promote National HIV Testing Day.

HONORING ISABELLE WADSWORTH OF PETALUMA, CA ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Isabelle Wadsworth of Petaluma, California, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. A good friend, a wise woman, and a great mind, Isabelle's active life is a model for all of us who value community leadership and visionary spirit.

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1914, Isabelle earned a BA at the University of Arizona and an MA at Northwestern University. In Arizona, she met her future husband, John Wadsworth. They married in 1937 and headed for California shortly thereafter. Initially, John managed a paint store in Santa Barbara and then served in the U.S. Army Air Corps until 1946. During the War, Isabelle moved to Sonoma County where John joined her later. Their daughter Sandra was born in 1948. The couple enjoyed a 63-year marriage. John passed away in 2000.

In 1943, Isabelle began work as an office manager at Sonoma Title Guaranty, eventually joining the Board of Directors from which she retired in the 1960s. Her concern for her community resulted in the creation of Petaluma People's Services, which she helped launch in 1963. Today the organization successfully offers a broad range of services such as counseling, housing, employment assistance, senior services, and other programs.

As a director at Sonoma County Mental Health Services, Isabelle was instrumental in the establishment of Oakcrest, a county mental health facility. She also served on the Sonoma County Grand Jury and was active in the League of Women Voters. She remains politically involved today, following the news closely and commenting freely on the issues.

Daughter Sandi describes Isabelle as "an inspiration and a mentor to me. She taught me the value of being a well-rounded person, exposing yourself to as much as you can and learning about everything."

Mr. Speaker, Isabelle Wadsworth is an inspiration to many of us, especially women who share her passion to make a difference. Her community leadership shows what caring people can accomplish. Happy Birthday, Isabelle.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this Chamber on June 21, 2004. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 276, 277, and 278.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of Union has under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4568) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend and colleague, Congressman RUSH HOLT.

Yellowstone National Park is the flagship of the National Park Service and is a favorite to millions of visitors each year. Since the first explorers began documenting their discoveries to modern day, the features of Yellowstone National Park have virtually remained the same. The scenic beauty, the thermal features, the volcanic mysteries, the free roaming wildlife are all a throwback to bygone days that continues to captivate the hearts and minds to all who are fortunate enough to witness them.

Mr. Chairman, this wonderful experience should remain available to those who responsibly use a snowmobile to enjoy all that Yellowstone has to offer.

Snowmobiling is a very important recreational activity for many Wisconsin families each winter. In fact, there are over 210,000 registered snowmobiles in my state, and I am concerned this amendment would unnecessarily curtail a popular method of enjoying Yellowstone and negatively impact on the industries snowmobiling supports.

The manufacturers of snowmobiles have successfully labored to build quieter, cleaner machines. The four-stroke engines found in new generation snowmobiles emit far less hydrocarbons and carbon monoxides than the older, two-stroke models. In addition, they operate at a decibel level that is quieter than many vacuum cleaners.

The sixty-five thousand snowmobiles that enter the parks each winter on a limited road system is part of a new Winter-Use Plan that allows all Americans to enjoy the majestic beauty of Yellowstone, while still preserving the health of the Park and the wildlife that live there. In fact, the environmental impact of these machines on this national treasure is likely far less than that of the nearly two million cars and trucks that enter in the summer months.

Mr. Chairman, responsible snowmobiling has its place in the American outdoors, especially in national forests designed for multiple-use. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS A.  
PETERLIN

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and honor the service and career of Mr. Francis A. Peterlin as he prepares to retire after forty-four years of distinguished service in support of our Nation. Throughout his career, Mr. Peterlin has epitomized the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment and has displayed exceptional leadership in the advancement of the Navy's military construction requirements within the Department of Defense and the Congress.

In July 1960, Mr. Peterlin began serving his nation at the Department of Interior. In 1962, he chose a different path and entered the military in the Navy Reserves as a Civil Engineer Corps officer. While serving in June 1965 as Officer-in-Charge of SEABEE Technical Assistance Team 1104 in Dong Xoai, Vietnam, his unit was overrun by Republic of Vietnam Army forces. For his bravery and leadership during this encounter, Mr. Peterlin was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals along with the Navy Unit Commendation Medal for SEABEE Team 1104.

Upon discharge from the hospital and military service in 1966, Mr. Peterlin began his 38-year association with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command as a Civil Engineer for the Resident Officer of Construction, Pacific in San Bruno, California. During this tour ROICCPAC was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for its support of construction efforts in Southeast Asia.

In 1969, he adopted the Commonwealth of Virginia as his home when he transferred to the Headquarters of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command located at the time in Alexandria, Virginia. In a succession of positions of increased responsibility Mr. Peterlin brought to this Command keen insight, attention to detail and a calm demeanor that fostered thoughtful and effective solutions. From 1969–1979, he was a civil engineer in the Interagency Con-

struction Division providing project management for projects from various defense and federal agencies. In 1979, he became a Supervisory General Engineer in the Officer in Charge of Construction, Trident, Program supporting the construction of new homeports for Trident class submarines in Bangor, Washington, and Kings Bay, Georgia. From 1981–1991, he served as the Command's Congressional Advisor, providing professional advice to senior Navy officials testifying at Congressional hearings and dedicated and trusted support to the staffs of the Armed Service and the Military Construction Appropriation committees of both the House and Senate. He then served as a Division Head from 1991–1997, Deputy Director 1997–2002, and Director 2002 to the present of the Military Construction Directorate.

His steadfast leadership and superb performance have won him numerous awards, including the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award in 1988 and the Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 1991. Mr. Peterlin completes his distinguished and honorable career in public service as Director of Military Construction, Naval Facilities Engineering Command responsible for the programming, budgeting, and construction of all Navy ashore facilities worldwide. He leaves behind a cadre of proteges that he has mentored into positions of leadership to carry on his legacy.

I am pleased to recognize and thank Frank Peterlin for his long and dedicated service to this country and join with his friends and colleagues in wishing him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he and his wife Elena begin a well-earned retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 21, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 276, 277, and 278. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 276 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 591, Expressing the Gratitude of the House of Representatives for the Contributions made by America's Community Banks; rollcall vote 277 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 4363, the Helping Hands for Homeownership; and rollcall vote 278 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 660, Congratulating Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching a perfect game on May 18, 2004.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 276, 277, and 278.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for rollcall votes 260 through

278 on Thursday, June 17, 2004, Friday, June 18, 2004, and Monday, June 21, 2004 due to a requested and approved leave of absence. Had I been present, the record would reflect that I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 260, on approving the journal;

"No" on rollcall 261 on the Hinchey amendment numbered 18 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to prohibit the use of funds to kill bison, or assist in the killing of bison, in the Yellowstone National Park herd;

"No" on rollcall 262 on the Sanders amendment to prohibit the use of funds to maintain more than 65 million barrels of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve;

"No" on rollcall 263 on the Holt amendment numbered 4 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to prohibit the use of funds to permit recreational snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, which connects the two parks;

"Yes" on rollcall 264 making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes;

"No" on rollcall 265 on the DeFazio amendment numbered 17 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to strike the proviso beginning on line 5;

"No" on rollcall 266 on the Sweeney amendment numbered 3 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to increase by \$450,000,000 the Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness;

"No" on rollcall 267 on the Jackson-Lee amendment to increase research, development, acquisition and operations by \$10,000,000;

"No" on rollcall 268 on the DeLauro amendment which sought to insert a new section at the end of the bill to require that none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to issue an order under a task and delivery order contract to entities not in compliance with section 835 of Public Law 107–296;

"No" on rollcall 269 on the Roybal-Allard amendment numbered 1 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to prohibit the use of funds to process or approve a review of options for privatizing of contracting out services provided as of June 1, by employees or temporary employees of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services who serve as immigration information officers, contract representatives or investigative assistants;

"Yes" on rollcall 270 on the Tancredo amendment to prohibit the use of funds to provide assistance to any state or local government entity or official that prohibits or restricts the sharing of an individual's citizenship or immigration status with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

"No" on rollcall 271 on the Maloney amendment numbered 9 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to limit to 80 the total number of grants available under the Urban Area Security Initiative, which provides discretionary grants to high-threat, high-density urban areas;

"No" on rollcall 272 on the Sabo amendment to insert a new section at the end of the bill for the Privacy Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct privacy impact assessments of proposed rules as authorized by section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 142), hereby derived from

the amount provided in this Act for "Aviation Security";

"No" on rollcall 273 on the Markey amendment numbered 10 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to prohibit the use of funds in the bill to approve, renew or implement any aviation cargo security plan that permits the transportation of unscreened or uninspected cargo on passenger planes;

"No" on rollcall 274 on the Velazquez amendment which sought to prohibit the use of funds from being used by the Federal Protective Service to replace any existing contract for security guard services with statewide contracts for security guard services;

"Yes" on rollcall 275 making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes;

"Yes" on rollcall 276 expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and the sense of the House of Representatives that a month should be designated as "Community Banking Month";

"Yes" on rollcall 277 passing the Helping Hands for Homeownership Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 278 Congratulating Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching a perfect game on May 18, 2004.

COMMENDING LEXINGTON POLICE  
CHIEF MIKE ROTH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend a public servant of 31 years, Chief William M. (Mike) Roth of the Lexington, South Carolina Police Department. Under his leadership, the Lexington Police Department grew from a force of ten to thirty-one officers that currently serve a population of 16,000 citizens. His innovative approaches to criminal justice issues have resulted in the establishment of a full-time traffic unit, an Emergency Service (SWAT) Team, and the institution of Community-Oriented Policing.

Chief Roth was also personally responsible for the establishment of the Department's Investigative Division that includes a Child and Elder Abuse Investigator and a full-time Victims Advocate. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of such local school-based programming as School Resource Officers and DARE classes for elementary and middle school students.

Under Chief Roth's leadership, the Department received many awards and recognitions, developed and implemented the "Adopt-a-Cop" development, and contributed to the establishment of the Lexington Keeping Every Youth Safe (KEYS) after-school program.

His hands-on approach to law enforcement management and dedication to the community serves as an example for other police departments to follow.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

RECOGNIZING TOMMY PILIOURAS  
AND THE MARGARITA GRILL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I rise today to recognize a patriotic small business owner in my district that I had the pleasure of meeting last week.

Tommy Piliouras of Citrus County owns and operates the Margarita Grill in Homosassa, Florida. I arrived at his restaurant to find a line of eager people happy to wait as long as necessary for a table in his restaurant. All customers receive an American flag, and patriotic music plays throughout the restaurant which is decorated in red, white, and blue.

Mr. Piliouras runs the Margarita Grill along with his son, Sammy. The two of them chat and interact with customers at their tables and lead the crowd in singing patriotic songs while everyone waves the American flag. For patrons unwilling to wave the American flag, the restaurant plays "Hit the Road Jack" long enough for them to take their business elsewhere.

Tommy Piliouras came to America in 1958 from his native country of Greece and is proud to be an American. He appreciates the American way of life that many take for granted. His sense of family, community, and hard work truly exemplify the American spirit. It is refreshing and comforting to see such grateful, proud Americans.

I am pleased to have such loyal, appreciative Americans living in the communities of my district, and I am honored to recognize Tommy Piliouras and the Margarita Grill on the floor of this House today.

HONORING RICHARD S. AGNEW

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the stories of our veterans should be preserved for future generations. These accounts will serve as a valuable record of the price of freedom.

Richard S. ("Dick") Agnew, of Plano, Texas is a shining example of the American veteran. He's dedicated fifty-seven years of patriotic service to our nation and his fellow veterans . . . all without much fanfare or tribute.

Well, today that's about to change as the country and the Congress say, "Thank you."

In 1947, Mr. Agnew enlisted in the U.S. Army and served proudly with Airborne Infantry units. He rose through the ranks and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant in 1952. He served in combat in Korea with the 40th Infantry Division in what was dubbed the bloody Heartbreak Ridge sector.

On the night of July 19, 1953, Lieutenant Agnew engaged in hand-to-hand combat with enemy soldiers deep behind enemy lines. For his extraordinary heroism in that engagement, he was awarded the U.S. Army's Distinguished Service Cross, our nation's second highest award for valor, and the Purple Heart

medal for the wounds he sustained in that life-and-death struggle. Dick Agnew endured what people today only watch in movies.

Promoted to Captain while on active duty, Agnew later attained the rank of Major in the U.S. Army Reserve. After he left active duty, Mr. Agnew attended Suffolk University in Boston, MA, from 1961-1964. He graduated Cum Laude in the top 3% of his class with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. A successful career in business ended with his retirement in 1996.

Mr. Agnew has devoted his life to promoting patriotism and improving the quality of life of his fellow veterans. He is the North Texas Commander of the Legion of Valor, a national organization chartered by Congress, whose members were awarded the Medal of Honor; also the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, and Air Force Cross.

It is a tremendous honor to recognize an unsung hero like Dick Agnew. You know, there was an inscription on the wall where I was held captive as a Prisoner of War in Vietnam—and I think it sums up Dick Agnew's experience. It read—Freedom has a taste to those who fight and almost die for it that the protected will never know. Dick Agnew knows about freedom. Dick Agnew loves that freedom. And Dick Agnew loves America.

God bless him and God bless America.

I'd like to insert his medal citation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-  
SERVICE CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul 43, 1913), and pursuant to authority in AR 600-45, the Distinguished-Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action is awarded in the name of the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, to:

First Lieutenant RICHARD S. AGNEW, 01925377, Infantry, United States Army. Lieutenant AGNEW, a member of an infantry company, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Mundung-ni, Korea. On the night of 19 July 1953, Lieutenant AGNEW, was serving as the leader of a combat patrol operating far ahead of the United Nations main line of resistance when he and the assistant patrol leader fell from a cliff. Although his ankle was painfully injured and he was in enemy territory, Lieutenant AGNEW ordered the patrol to return to friendly lines and establish plans to rejoin allied forces the following evening. The following night, Lieutenant AGNEW and his comrade scaled the cliff and proceeded toward United Nations territory. When challenged by an enemy soldier, Lieutenant AGNEW fearlessly hurled a hand grenade. He was wounded and separated from his companion when the enemy retaliated with a hail of small arms and grenade fire. Confronted by an enemy soldier armed with a knife, Lieutenant AGNEW ignored his weakened condition, engaged him in hand to hand combat and killed him with his own weapon. Hearing other enemy forces advancing, Lieutenant AGNEW then pulled the pin on his remaining hand grenade and tied it to his hand before falling to the ground in exhaustion. He was later found in a semi-conscious condition by a United Nations patrol. The extraordinary heroism exhibited by Lieutenant AGNEW on this occasion reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service. Entered the Federal service from Massachusetts.

IN HONOR OF GIRLS INC.

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the achievements of Girls Inc. on the celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

Girls Inc. is a nonprofit youth organization dedicated to providing important educational programs to young women, particularly those in high-risk, underserved areas. Throughout the years, Girls Inc. has been a key influence in the lives of millions of Americans and it has helped many wonderful young Delawareans achieve their hopes and dreams.

The programs of Girls Inc. work to improve math and science education, drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, and sports participation. In addition, Girls Inc. promotes health and safety initiatives through programs such as "Will Power/Won't Power," which addresses teen pregnancy and "Action for Safety," which teaches teens to become advocates for issues affecting young women. It also hosts outreach programs that are designed for young women who live in public housing.

During the past 50 years, Girls Inc. has done much to address critical issues facing young women across the nation. In Delaware, the important work of Girls Inc. should not go unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Girls Inc. for their dedication to improving and enhancing the lives of women. Its contribution in Delaware should serve as an example to us all.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 276, 277, and 278. If present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 276, 277, and 278.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT  
POLITICIZES THE WAR ON  
TERRORISM**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the attached column by Paul Krugman in today's New York Times. Mr. Krugman describes how the Attorney General has politicized the war on terrorism.

[From the New York Times, June 22, 2004]

NOONDAY IN THE SHADE

(By Paul Krugman)

In April 2003, John Ashcroft's Justice Department disrupted what appears to have

been a horrifying terrorist plot. In the small town of Noonday, Tex., F.B.I. agents discovered a weapons cache containing fully automatic machine guns, remote-controlled explosive devices disguised as briefcases, 60 pipe bombs and a chemical weapon—a cyanide bomb—big enough to kill everyone in a 30,000-square-foot building.

Strangely, though, the attorney general didn't call a press conference to announce the discovery of the weapons cache, or the arrest of William Krar, its owner. He didn't even issue a press release. This was, to say the least, out of character. Jose Padilla, the accused "dirty bomber," didn't have any bomb-making material or even a plausible way to acquire such material, yet Mr. Ashcroft put him on front pages around the world. Mr. Krar was caught with an actual chemical bomb, yet Mr. Ashcroft acted as if nothing had happened.

Incidentally, if Mr. Ashcroft's intention was to keep the case low-profile, the media have been highly cooperative. To this day, the Noonday conspiracy has received little national coverage.

At this point, I have the usual problem. Writing about John Ashcroft poses the same difficulties as writing about the Bush administration in general, only more so: the truth about his malfeasance is so extreme that it's hard to avoid sounding shrill.

In this case, it sounds over the top to accuse Mr. Ashcroft of trying to bury news about terrorists who don't fit his preferred story line. Yet it's hard to believe that William Krar wouldn't have become a household name if he had been a Muslim, or even a leftist. Was Mr. Ashcroft, who once gave an interview with Southern Partisan magazine in which he praised "Southern patriots" like Jefferson Davis, reluctant to publicize the case of a terrorist who happened to be a white supremacist?

More important, is Mr. Ashcroft neglecting real threats to the public because of his ideological biases?

Mr. Krar's arrest was the result not of a determined law enforcement effort against domestic terrorists, but of a fluke: when he sent a package containing counterfeit U.N. and Defense Intelligence Agency credentials to an associate in New Jersey, it was delivered to the wrong address. Luckily, the recipient opened the package and contacted the F.B.I. But for that fluke, we might well have found ourselves facing another Oklahoma City-type atrocity.

The discovery of the Texas cyanide bomb should have served as a wake-up call: 9/11 has focused our attention on the threat from Islamic radicals, but murderous right-wing fanatics are still out there. The concerns of the Justice Department, however, appear to lie elsewhere. Two weeks ago a representative of the F.B.I. appealed to an industry group for help in combating what, he told the audience, the F.B.I. regards as the country's leading domestic terrorist threat: ecological and animal rights extremists.

Even in the fight against foreign terrorists, Mr. Ashcroft's political leanings have distorted policy. Mr. Ashcroft is very close to the gun lobby—and these ties evidently trump public protection. After 9/11, he ordered that all government lists—including voter registration, immigration and driver's license lists—be checked for links to terrorists. All government lists, that is, except one: he specifically prohibited the F.B.I. from examining background checks on gun purchasers.

Mr. Ashcroft told Congress that the law prohibits the use of those background checks for other purposes—but he didn't tell Congress that his own staff had concluded that no such prohibition exists. Mr. Ashcroft issued a directive, later put into law requir-

ing that records of background checks on gun buyers be destroyed after only one business day.

And we needn't imagine that Mr. Ashcroft was deeply concerned about protecting the public's privacy. After all, a few months ago he took the unprecedented step of subpoenaing the hospital records of women who have had late-term abortions.

After my last piece on Mr. Ashcroft, some readers questioned whether he is really the worst attorney general ever. It's true that he has some stiff competition from the likes of John Mitchell, who served under Richard Nixon. But once the full record of his misdeeds in office is revealed, I think Mr. Ashcroft will stand head and shoulders below the rest.

LET'S MAKE AMERICA'S  
INFRASTRUCTURE A PRIORITY BEFORE  
IRAQ'S**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, clean water is again flowing into the Tigris River thanks to the U.S. Taxpayer and the good people from my home State of West Virginia. How grand, how good, how generous the Cheney-Bush bunch can be, until it comes to investing between America's shores.

Yes, health and welfare is on the mend from Baghdad to Kirkuk, but for our communities in Southern West Virginia, this Administration has no money.

I recommend to my colleagues a story on the front page of the New York Times this past Saturday by James Glanz. According to the article this project has been cloaked in secret for security reasons. I agree, it's for security alright, to secure the Cheney-Bush reelection. They don't want the American people to know that they build in Baghdad while we weep in Appalachia for clean streams, a healthy environment, and a safe harbor for our children.

Last week, another decision was made to deny the people of West Virginia, and of Appalachia, clean water, better health and education, as the House Appropriations Committee voted to cut the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) funding by 40 percent following on the heels of an effort by the Cheney-Bush boys last year to cut it by 50 percent.

Apparently the Cheney-Bush bunch, including their cronies in Congress, don't think twice about sending \$4 billion to Iraq for their water infrastructure needs, but are unwilling to provide the ARC less than 1/100th of that amount for services that do the same and more for West Virginia.

I can name a few better places to spend our taxpayers money.

In Raleigh County, just one of our wastewater projects is going to cost \$22.5 million to serve 1200 new customers in the Glen Daniel/Fairdale area. This is a matter of public health, of bringing in new jobs, fueling the economy. Where is the money for that program?

Greenbrier Valley Airport in Lewisburg is 35 years old, and in need of a new terminal. The upgrade is expected to cost \$15 million. Where is the money for Lewisburg?

Greenbrier Valley Airport's parking apron used for housing aircrafts, also needs a \$10

million upgrade. Due to lack of funding availability, this project has already been broken into six phases in the hope of completing it. But where are funds for these phases?

In Wyoming County, \$1 million is needed for a water project to serve 200 customers in the Crouch Farm area who presently have no water service at all. Where is their money?

The Cheney-Bush bunch wants to rebuild the oilfields of Iraq and expect the coalfields of West Virginia to pay for it. West Virginians are told by this Administration and this Congress that we can't afford to meet our wastewater needs, not when we're investing in other countries rather than our own.

What in the dickens is going on here, Mr. Speaker? I recall our not too distant history, when this Nation was able to fight and win a world war, rebuild the western European continent, and Japan to boot, and college educate a generation of Americans who fueled the greatest economic boon to which the world had never laid witness.

Now the Cheney-Bush bunch and the House leadership tell us again and again, there is no room for investment in America, and that the American people must take a back seat to the citizens of Baghdad.

I say no more. This Administration continues to show indifference to our Nation's infrastructure needs, including threatening to veto a highway bill that will bring over \$2 billion to my home State of West Virginia, money we need to build roads in a mountainous terrain.

Mr. Speaker, I recall—shortly after the bombs fell in Baghdad and the President pledging that America would rebuild Iraq—on a trip back home, folks in an economically hard hit county in West Virginia, in all seriousness, asked me to tell the President to send the bombers to them, so then they could apply for help from America.

It was a sad moment for me, Mr. Speaker, even sadder for America.

COMMEMORATING DR. DAVID WERNER'S LONG CAREER IN EDUCATION

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Werner's 36 years of service to students and colleagues at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

David Werner first came to SIUE as a faculty member in the School of Business. He would go on to serve as Dean of the School of Business, and eventually, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Effective September 1, 1997, Dr. Werner was named Chancellor of SIDE.

In addition to his position at SIUE, Dr. Werner serves as an advisor and board member for groups such as the Southwestern Illinois Higher Education Consortium and the Board of Governors of the Illinois Council on Economic Education.

On June 30 of this year, Dr. Werner will retire as Chancellor of SIUE, bringing an end to nearly four decades of devotion to higher education in southern Illinois. As an educator, I share the same passion for teaching and nurturing the next generation, and I wish to not

only commend Dr. Werner for his dedication, but to thank him for his commitment to excellence through education.

RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J. ATTARDI IN APPRECIATION FOR A LIFETIME OF DEDICATION AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY OF LONG BRANCH

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the late Michael J. Attardi, a dear friend to the sixth district of New Jersey. Mr. Attardi, a resident of Long Branch, was a well-known figure throughout his community. He will be sorely missed by family, friends, and neighbors.

Michael Attardi was a truly remarkable neighbor for Long Branch. While he was born in Neptune, he lived within the neighborhood of Long Branch for the past sixty-eight years. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Attardi was well regarded for his prowess on the football field. His greatest high school success was to lead the "Green Wave" of Long Branch High School to a state football championship. Known as "Iron Mike" to his close friends and family, Mr. Attardi was named to the first team All-State and All-County football teams quite an honor for any athlete.

Not only was Mr. Attardi triumphant on the field during high school, he also was a star football player at the Valley Forge Military Academy. His attendance at this academy allowed him to be named to the All-American Football team in 1954. After years had passed, the City of Long Branch and the State of New Jersey honored Mr. Attardi by electing him to the Long Branch Athletic Hall of Fame for his star abilities on the football field.

Aside from being an accomplished athlete, Mr. Attardi honorably served his country in the United States Army. He was well decorated in his eight years of service and received four medals as a Military Police officer. Perhaps his greatest accomplishments were his family, his marriage of forty-five years to Frances Tortoretti, their three children, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I am proud to acknowledge a truly great man for his dedication to family, community, and country. I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincerest condolences to the family of Mr. Michael J. Attardi. He will sorely be missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ANTHONY CHUNG-YI HO

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Anthony Chung-Yi Ho has provided outstanding service and contributions while serving as the Senior Officer with the Taipei Economic Council and Cultural Representative and Senior Assistant to the Honor-

able C.J. Chen, Taiwan's chief representative in the United States; and

Whereas, Anthony Chung-Yi Ho graduated from the National Taiwan University and joined Taiwan's foreign service in 1994; and

Whereas, Anthony Chung-Yi Ho has worked diligently during his time in Washington, D.C., to improve the understanding of Taiwanese-American relations held by Members of the United States Congress and their staff; and

Whereas, Anthony Chung-Yi Ho's service has served his country loyally and worked to establish a lasting friendship between officials in the Taiwanese and United States government; and

Whereas, Anthony Chung-Yi Ho will be greatly missed once he returns to Taiwan with his family next month;

Therefore, I join with members of Congress and their staff in recognizing Anthony Chung-Yi Ho for his exceptional work and immense contributions, and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF DR. MARY JO OLDHAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished educator from Southern Illinois on the occasion of her retirement. Dr. Mary Jo Oldham served the residents of Southeastern Illinois for 40 years, as an instructor, a division chair, a vice president and then President of Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg.

Dr. Oldham began her career as an instructor at North Gallatin Community Unit High School in 1964. She moved on to Harrisburg High School, before taking a job at Southeastern Illinois College. Dr. Oldham has been deeply committed to the philosophy of the comprehensive community college, and has always been a strong advocate for the Illinois community college system. She has worked with a variety of grant projects, most of which were focused on curriculum development and the use of alternative delivery systems at SIC. In 2000, she became the fourth President of Southeastern Illinois College.

Dr. Mary Jo Oldham is a native of Shawneetown, Illinois. She resides in Shawneetown with her husband, Larry Morgan, a farmer. It is an honor to pay tribute to Dr. Oldham for her years of service to the people of Southeastern Illinois. She will be missed, but I want to wish her and her family a very happy and well-earned retirement. Dr. Oldham's career will serve as a model for community college administrators for years to come.

RECOGNITION OF CONTINENTAL SOCIETIES INCORPORATED AND THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 49TH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the accomplishments of Continental Societies Incorporated as they are on the eve of their 49th Annual Conclave. This national organization of women has provided distinguished service to children for nearly half a century.

Started in 1956, Continental Societies began with a vision of providing resources for and supporting the welfare of children with special needs. As a result of engaged and avant-garde leadership, the organization blossomed and was able to spread its message across the nation. Today, Continental Societies has approximately 1,000 dedicated and noble women who serve its 49 chapters.

Among their many successes, perhaps the most noteworthy is their 1972 campaign titled "Operation Awareness: HEER" (Health, Education, Employment, Recreation). Having recognized these four areas as essential to young people, Continental Societies initiated a variety of programs to combat deficiencies in these four segments of youth life. In 1977, they added Arts and Humanities as another aspect of their endeavor.

To this day, Continental Societies remains steadfast in its commitment to improving the quality of life for children across the United States. As National President Tonya Greenwood—a fellow New Jerseyan—gavels in another chapter in their history, I once again, ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking this illustrious organization for their many years of service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2004 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2004 Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor commemorates and recognizes Americans of different ethnic backgrounds who have made a significant contribution to our society. These medals have been aptly named for Ellis Island, an endearing symbol of the immigrant roots and diversity that characterizes our great Nation.

When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States in just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17 Million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,000 people per day. Many of these newcomers had little to no knowledge of English, hardly any money, and many arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They arrived risking their lives in exchange for freedom and a better way of life.

America has always been a haven for immigrants from all over the world who have come to our shores with a common desire to forge a new life in a land of opportunity, liberty, and freedom—freedom from religious, economic, political or ethnic persecution. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was created in 1986 to honor those individuals who through their own perseverance, sacrifice and success, helped build our great Country. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. Six American Presidents, several Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Prize winners, distinguished athletes, artists, clergy, military leaders, and others from all walks of life have been past recipients of this distinguished award.

Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), an umbrella group of more than 250 organizations that spans the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions, the 2004 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients are once again a remarkable collection of individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding human beings and citizens of the United States. I once again commend NECO and its Chairman of the Board, my good friend William Denis Fugazy, for honoring these outstanding individuals, and for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulate all of the 2004 Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients. I would like to have the text of NECO's press release on the May 15th award ceremony, and the names of this year's recipients, placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY—NECO CHAIRMAN WILLIAM DENIS FUGAZY LEADS DRAMATIC CEREMONY

ELLIS ISLAND, NY, May 15—Standing on the hallowed grounds of Ellis Island—the portal through which 17 million immigrants entered the United States—a cast of ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to the life of this nation were presented with the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor at an emotionally uplifting Ceremony.

This year's event, whose date coincided with Armed Forces Day, was dedicated to the men and women of our armed forces. We would like to pay special tribute to the individuals serving in the U.S. armed forces both here and abroad. Several of the Medalists also serve in the armed forces; many more are honored veterans.

NECO's annual medal ceremony and reception on Ellis Island in New York Harbor is the Nation's largest celebration of ethnic pride. Representing a rainbow of ethnic origins, the recipients received their awards in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps towards a new life were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the U.S. in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

"Today we honor great Americans who, through their achievements and contributions, and in the spirit of their ethnic origins, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations."

said NECO Chairman William Denis Fugazy. "In addition, we honor the immigrant experience—those who passed through this Great Hall decades ago, and the new immigrants who arrive on American soil seeking opportunity."

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. To date, approximately 2000 American citizens have received medals.

NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the U.S., serving an umbrella group of over 250 ethnic organizations. Its mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity; promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony; and to combat injustice, hatred and bigotry. NECO has an additional humanitarian mission: saving the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions. NECO has founded The Forum's Children Foundation, which brings children in need of life-saving surgery from developing nations to the United States for treatment.

Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients are selected each year through a national nomination process. Screening committees from NECO's member organizations select the final nominees, who are then considered by the Board of Directors.

Past Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients include six presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, artists, members of the clergy, business executives, Nobel Prize winners and military leaders. Muhammed Ali, Frank Sinatra, Coretta Scott King, Generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell, Dr. Michael DeBakey, Bob Hope and Elie Wiesel are some of the distinguished citizens who have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2004 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.

Naji N.Abumrad, M.D. FACS., Chairman—Dept. of Surgery, Vanderbilt University Lebanese; Reem Acra, Fashion Designer, Lebanese; Arthur C. Anton, Chairman, Anton's Cleaners, Inc., Hellenic; Hon. Armand Arabian, Attorney, Arms Providers, Inc., Armenian; Lee Archer, Lt. Col. (Ret), Tuskegee Airmen/WWII, African; Garo H. Armen, Ph.D., Chairman & CEO, Antigenics, Armenian; Alfred S. Austin, CEO, A.S. Austin Company, Inc., English/German; Endre Alexander Balazs, Chairman, Matrix Biology Institute, Hungarian/Swedish; Dr. Mark L. Barbasch, Physician/Humanitarian, Polish/Israeli; John Berberian, President, Jon's Market Place, Armenian; Nicholas Peter Bissias, President & CEO, Conrad's/Cable's Corporations, Hellenic; Ernest Borgnine, Oscar Winning Actor, Italian; Doug Brooks, President & CEO, Brinker International, Ger/Eng/Ire/Scot; Wayne H. Brunetti, Chairman & CEO, Xcel Energy Inc., Italian; John P. Cahill, Secretary to the Gov, NYS Executive Chamber, Irish; Dr. George Peter Canellos, Prof. Of Medicine, Harvard Medical School/Dana-Farber Cancer Inst., Hellenic; Arcadio Casillas, President & CEO, Preferred Compensation Corp., Cuban; Anthony N. Charaf, Senior Vice President, Delta Airlines, Lebanese; Nicholas E. Chimicles, Senior Partner, Chimicles & Tikellis LLP, Hellenic; Henry L. Chung, Former President, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Chinese; RADM Vivien S. Crea, Commander, U.S. First Coast Guard District, German/Eng/Scottish; Haig R. Dadourian, President, Dadourian Export Corp, Armenian; Mario Daniele, Vice President, Robert Shulman Institute, Italian; John A. Daskalakis, Managing General Partner, JonCin & Sons, Ltd., Hellenic; His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate, Greek Orthodox Church of Amer., Hellenic; Charles Duval, President, Data Industries Ltd., African/French; Fawaz

Hellenic; His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate, Greek Orthodox Church of Amer., Hellenic; Charles Duval, President, Data Industries Ltd., African/French; Fawaz El Khoury, President, CMRK, Inc., Lebanese; Spyros Enotiades, Vice President, Clive Christian Dallas/Creative Design Cos., Hellenic/Cypriot; Jeronimo M. Esteve, President, Headquarter Toyota, Cuban; Thomas P. Fahey, Asst. Chief, NYC Police Department, Irish; Richard D. Fain, Chairman & CEO, Royal Caribbean Cruise Ltd., Lithuanian; Joseph R. Ficalora, President & CEO, New York Community Bank, Italian; Michael Ryan Flatley, "Lord of the Dance," Irish; Kenneth Frangadakis, DDS, Cupertino Dental Group, Hellenic; Charles Patrick Gallagher, Chairman & CEO, Gallagher Enterprises, LLC, Irish/German; Major Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti, Commander, AA, Marie Corps Air Bases Western Area, German/Italian; William (Josh) Gaspero, Writer/Publisher, Italian/English; Francesco Giambelli, Restaurateur, Italian; Robert Giannelli, Assistant Chief, Chief of Detective's Office—NYPD, Italian; Edmund Giegerich M.D., Exec. V.P. Medical Affairs, Long Island College Hospital, German/Italian; Sidney A. Goodman, Partner, The Goodman Group, Russ/Romanian/Lithuanian; Steven H. Grapstein, CFO, Kuo Investment Co., Polish/Russian; Dr. Michael Grasso III, Chairman, Dept of Urology, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Italian; Richard Greco, Acting Dir. Private Sector Dev., Coalition Provisional Authority, Italian; Pierson M. Grieve, Chairman & CEO, Ecolab, Inc., Scottish/Eng/French; J. Barry Griswell, Chairman, President & CEO, Principal Financial Group, Inc., English/German; Edward Grzedzinski, CEO, Nova Information Systems, Polish/Italian; George E. Hall, President, Clinton Group, Inc., Irish/Scottish; William D. Harris, CEO, 2004 Republican Nat'l Convention, English/Welsh; Thomas L. Harrison, Chairman & CEO, Diversified Agency Services Div., German/Irish; Roberto R. Herencia, President, Banco Popular North America, Puerto Rican; A. Barry Hirschfeld, President, A.B. Hirschfeld Press, Russian; Arlene Hirschfeld, Community Volunteer/Leader, Hung/Palestinian/Russ; Carole S. Hochman, Chairman & President, Carole Hochman Designs Inc., Russian/Latvian; Diarmuid M. Hogan, President & CEO, Global Excess Partners LLC, Irish; Stanley S. Hubbard, Chairman, Hubbard Broadcasting Inc., English/Norwegian; Lt. Gen. Charles L. Johnson, II, Commander, Electronics Systems Center, Irish/Italo/English; Barbara McNeill Jordan, Chairman, Claneil Enterprises Inc., Scottish/English; Nicholas P. Koutsomitis, President, Koutsomitis Architects PC, Hellenic; Charles LaGanga, Managing Director, Direct Access Partners, LLC, Italian; Margaret K. Lam, President & CEO, Prosperity Resources Inter., Chinese; Richard John Lanigan, Secretary-Treasurer, Office & Prof Employees IU, Irish; Lawrence P. Lataif, Esq., President, Lataif & Associates, Lebanese; Frederick S. Lee, Chairman, Global Institute of Finance & Banking, Korean; Patrick J. Lynch, President, Patrolmen's Benevolent Assoc., Irish; Dr. Muhammed Majeed, Founder & CEO, Sabinsa Corporation, Asian Indian; Sam Maloof, President, Sam Maloof Woodworker Inc., Lebanese; Steve A. Manta, Manta Industrial, Inc., Hellenic; Sandra March, Trustee, United Federation of Teachers, Romanian/Russian; Sal Marchiano, Sportscaster, WPIX-TV, Italian; Joseph A. Martinez, President, Dynaric Inc., Cuban; Patrick McDonough, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley, Irish/German; Jimmy Meng, President, Queens Lumber Co., Chinese; Frank Mercado-Valdes, President & CEO, Strategic Off Heritage Networks, Cuban/Puerto Rican/Jam; Michael J. Merlo,

Sr. Vice President & Chief Credit Officer, Signature Bank, Italian; Steven Mintz, Chairman, Unifood Group of Companies, Russian/Polish; William M. Mooney, Jr., Senior Vice President, Independence Community Bank, Irish; Sam Z. Moore, Chairman & CEO, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Lebanese; Joseph M. Murphy, Chairman, Country Bank, Irish; LeRoy Neiman, Artist, Swedish; Mike North, Broadcaster, WSCR—670AM (The Score), Italian/Irish; Roger V. Ohanesian, MD, President & CEO, The Armenian EyeCare Project, Armenian; George Pappas, President, MCS Advertising Ltd., Hellenic; Thomas Passios, President & CEO, Pinnacle Associates, Hellenic; Thomas H. Patchell, General Secretary Treasurer, United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters, Irish; Muriel Petioni, MD, President & CEO, Friends of Harlem Hospital Center, Caribbean; Edward Pinkowski, President & Founder, Pinkowski Institute, Polish; Joe Piscopo, Actor/Entertainer, Italian; Charles Louis Poulos, Entrepreneur/Civic Leader, Hellenic; Hon. Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, Argentine/Italian; John Psarouthakis, Ph.D., Founder & President, J.P. International, LLC, Hellenic; Dr. Kristjan T. Ragnarsson, Dept. of Rehabilitation Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Icelandic; Carmine F. Ragucci, Chairman, Worldwide Group, LLC, Italian; Gopal Raju, Chairman, Indian American Center for Political Awareness, Asian Indian; Maria Fiorini Ramirez, President/CEO, MFR, Inc., Italian; Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, District Council 37—AFSCME, AFL-CIO, African; Peter J.M. Romary, CEO, Tanner & Romary, PA, English/French; Dr. Horst Kurt Saalbach, Chairman, FESTO Corporation, German; John Salamone, Exec. Dir. & Chief Admin. Officer, NIAF, Italian/German; Edward P. Salzano, Executive VP/COO, LiDestri Foods, Italian; Stanley Selengut, President, Maho Bay Camps, Inc., Harmony, Concordia, Russian/Austrian; Joseph F. Seminara, Attorney, Kurzman, Karelson & Frank, Italian; Nancy A. Shamow, Ph.D, Executive Director, Ascent School, Russian; Woongkil Song, President, Fed. Korean Amer Assoc. Greater NY, Korean; Gus Stavropoulos, President, Wolverine Carbide Die Co., Hellenic; Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller, State of Texas, Irish/Scottish; Garrett A. Sullivan, Ret. President & Vice Chair, Applied Digital Solutions, Irish; Stanley R. Szemborski VADM USN, Principal Deputy Director, Office Of The Secretary Of Defense, Polish; Hon. William B. Taylor Jr., Afghanistan Coordinator, US Department of State, Scottish/English; Sami E. Totah, President, Oxbridge Group, Syrian/Lebanese/Israeli; Sava S. Tshontikidis, President, Laurel Dodge, Inc., Turkish/Hellenic; Kaya Tuncer, Chairman & CEO, ESBAS Aegean Free Zone, Dev. & Oper. Co.—Turkey, Turkish; Col. Tom L. Tyrrell USMC (Ret), Exec. Director & CEO, Scottish/Native Amer.; Charles J. Urstadt, Chairman & CEO, Urstadt Biddle Properties Inc., German/Irish; Ronald L. Vaughn, PhD, President, The University Of Tampa, Irish/German; James G. Veras, Exec. VP Emeritus, World Environment Center, Hellenic; Raghavendra R. Vijayanagar, MD, Director, Heart Institute Regional Medical Center, Asian Indian; John P. Volandes, Co-Founder & Director, Volmar Construction, Inc., Hellenic; Gus M. Vratsinas, Chairman & CEO, VCC, Hellenic; John P. Walsh, Chairman & CEO, Irish American Cultural Institute, Irish; Gerri Warren-Merrick, Vice Pres. Corp. Community Relations, Time Warner, African; Col. Kewyn L. Williams, Commander, US Army Garrison, African; Rev. Canon Frederick Boyd Williams, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Intercession, African/Native Amer. (Cherokee) Eng/Scottish; Warner

Wolf, TV Sports Broadcaster, Polish/English; Allen Wu Esq., Chairman, Wu & Kao, P.L.L.C., Chinese; Jay S. Yadav, M.D., Director, Vascular Intervention, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Asian Indian; Jon H. Yeung, Chairman & CEO, Youngtech, Inc., Chinese; Dae Kun Yoo, President & CEO, Y.S. Farm Country, Korean; Kiyoon Yoon M.D., Physician/Community Leader, Korean; Mike S. Zafirovski, President & COO, Motorola, Inc., Macedonian; Barry L. Zaret, M.D., Chief Cardiovascular Medicine, Yale University School Of Medicine, Russian/Austrian; Frederick A. Zito, Aerospace Engineer (Ret.), NASA, Italian.

## WESTERVELT CENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the village of Westervelt, as she celebrates her centennial. Established in 1904, the people of Westervelt have given much to the United States of America.

The village of Westervelt was named after Dr. J.C. Westervelt, who provided advice to many citizens on how to live happy and healthy lives. Since the founding of the village, many citizens have been blessed to call Westervelt home. This is true as well for Dr. Westervelt, who lived there until 1955, when he passed away at the age of 100.

I am proud to represent the people of the village of Westervelt and to share in this special occasion with them. I thank them for all they give to this great Nation and wish them continued success in years to come. Congratulations.

## RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF ANNA, ILLINOIS

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the sesquicentennial of one of the oldest communities in southern Illinois, Anna.

The city of Anna, Illinois, was platted as a community in 1853 by Winstead Davie. Anna was named for Mr. Davie's wife, who was one of the children of Mrs. Nancy Willard, an early settler of Jonesboro, Illinois. Anna was planned with the coming Illinois Central Railroad line in the area.

In 1857, business and commerce came to Anna with the Anna Quarry, which has produced crushed rock, lime and building stone ever since. The stone produced in the quarry was used to build the Stinson Memorial Library and the First Presbyterian Church in Anna. The library was designed by Walter Burley Griffin who was a student of famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. During the Civil War, Anna hosted Camp Dubois and was a major staging point for union activities in the western theatre of the war. During the famous Lincoln-Douglas Debates held in the fall of

1858 in Jonesboro at the Union County Fairgrounds, Abraham Lincoln stayed in a house on Main Street in Anna, Illinois.

In 1873, the Anna Mental Health Center opened providing employment for many residents throughout the region. The business section of Anna, which had been building up for two decades since the city's founding, suffered two major fires, one in 1876 and the other in 1879.

The Anna Fair was organized in December of 1879 and has come to be known as one of the top county fairs in Illinois. Held in August, the fair features horse racing, produce exhibits, livestock shows and other events.

Walter Willard and Rev. William Faris were responsible for opening the Union Academy, a private school, in 1883. For nearly 35 years the Union Academy served as an educational institution for many leaders in the area. In 1916, the Academy closed and the property came into the ownership of the high school.

Early Anna industries include Anna Pottery, known for its high quality work and the Flora Temple Mills, where flour was produced. Anna Pottery started operations in 1859 by C & W. W. Kirkpatrick, two Ohio brothers who migrated to the area. Clay found in area soils, together with the skill of the potters, brought fame and prestige to Anna Pottery. The brothers produced crocks, jugs and sewer tiles.

While the pottery facility closed in 1900, the one-of-a-kind items that were produced are considered folk art and fetch very high prices at auctions. Anna or Kirkpatrick Brothers pottery is one of the most sought after ceramics today.

Tobacco was processed in Anna from 1862 to 1870. Fruit and vegetables have also been important to the Anna economy since 1860. Apples and peaches are the chief commodities of the region and these fruits are marketed and sold to major metropolitan area markets. Anna was also home to a large Farmer's Market, built in 1934 to accommodate these products, the Anna City Hall now sits where the market once stood.

Anna is only a mile away from its sister city, Jonesboro, the seat of Union County, Illinois. Anna is a community rich in tradition and continues to serve as a major agricultural center for southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the founding of the community and the people of Anna, Illinois on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2004 I was not able to be here for three roll-call votes.

On rollcall No. 276 regarding H. Res. 591 expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and the sense of the House of Representatives that a month should be designated as "Community Banking Month," I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 277 regarding H.R. 4363, to facilitate self-help housing homeownership opportunities, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 278, regarding H. Res. 660, congratulating Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching a perfect game on May 18, 2004, I would have voted "yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Friday, June 18th, and Monday, June 21st, due to an unavoidable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall vote 267, the Jackson-Lee amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 268, the DeLauro amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 269, the Roybal-Allard amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 270, the Tancredo amendment to H.R. 4567, "no";

On rollcall vote 271, the Maloney amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 272, the Sabo amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 274, the Velázquez amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 275, H.R. 4567, the FY05 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, "aye";

On rollcall vote 276, H. Res. 591, expressing the gratitude of the House for the contributions made by America's community banks, "aye";

On rollcall vote 277, H.R. 4363, the Helping Hands for Homeownership Act, "aye"; and

On rollcall vote 278, H. Res. 660, congratulating Randy Johnson, "aye."

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEFFREY L. COOPER

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey L. Cooper, the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, for his extraordinary leadership and bravery in action against enemy forces. He has shown strength and courage throughout his many years of heroic service with the United States Marine Corps.

A native of Aurora, Illinois, Lt. Col. Geoffrey L. Cooper is married to June Madsen, and is the father of three daughters, Jennifer, Jessica and Jacalyn. He graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in November, 1973 and has since had a long and successful military career. In 1980, Lt. Col. Cooper was commissioned as Second Lieutenant upon his graduation from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. In 1980, he was also assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and served as an infantry platoon commander. He was appointed to Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, and served as Assistant Officer in Charge from 1983-1986. In 1986, he was assigned as Commanding Officer of Company B, 3rd Light Armored Vehicle Battalion.

Lt. Col. Cooper proved to be a strong leader as the Operations Officer for Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment, Okinawa, Japan. After leaving active duty in 1992, he joined the Individual Mobilization Detachment, Tactical Training Evaluation Control Group (IMADET). He served as the head IMADET representative for more than 75 combined arms exercises. In 2003, he was again activated and assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines Regiment in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Camp Pendleton.

Lt. Col. Cooper, along with the entire 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, was activated on February 23, 2002 and was deployed in February 2003. Nine hundred members of this Marine Forces Reserve Unit, combined with the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), conducted the longest series of synchronized combined arms and overland attacks in the history of the Marine Corps. The 800 kilometer advance, which began at the border between Kuwait and Iraq, experienced heavy combat with continued hostilities to the North of Baghdad. The combined combat force successfully destroyed nine Iraqi Divisions.

The battlefield swiftness of the I MEF during its campaign was unmatched by any force to date. The success of the operation was due to valiant efforts of men and women such as Lt. Col. Cooper. Lt. Col. Cooper's many accomplishments are indicated by his many decorations, which include: Navy Marine Corps Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Combat Action Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in saluting Lt. Col. Cooper's exceptional leadership in the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment. Also, I ask you to join me in wishing future success to Lt. Col. Geoffrey L. Cooper at his new Command, the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton.

#### RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2004 AS NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that will designate September 2004 as "National Life Insurance Awareness Month." I want to thank my friend PAUL KANJORSKI, the Ranking Member of the Financial Service Committee, for introducing this resolution with me and for his support on this important issue.

Today only four in ten adult Americans own an individual life insurance policy. And among those who do have life insurance, the amount often is too small to safeguard the financial future of their loved ones. As a result of insufficient coverage, family members often are forced to work extra jobs or longer hours, borrow money, or move to less desirable housing. These outcomes attest to the "crisis of underinsurance" that exists in our nation today.

Losing a family member is painful enough without it being compounded by financial difficulties. The goal of "Life Insurance Awareness Month" is to educate Americans about

will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of designating September 2004 as "Life Insurance Awareness Month," and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment, I was not present in the chamber on Friday, June 18 to cast my votes on rollcalls 267 through 275. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 267; "nay" on rollcall 268; "yea" on rollcall 269; "nay" on rollcall 270; "yea" on rollcall 271; "yea" on rollcall 272; "yea" on rollcall 273; "yea" on rollcall 274; and "yea" on rollcall 275.

Due to unavoidable travel delays, I was not present in the chamber earlier today to cast my votes on rollcalls 276 through 278. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each measure.

#### AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE THEIR LIVES AND MAKE DECISIONS BEST FOR THEM

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome all of my sharp, diverse female colleagues who are here tonight to speak on issues that affect women.

Right now, there are a myriad of anti choice legal efforts designed to undermine the basic tenets of *Roe v. Wade*. Never in my time in Congress have I seen so much misleading legislation geared towards women, court cases that refuse to vindicate our right to privacy, and so many blatant anti choice judicial nominees.

Americans have the right to live their lives and make decisions that are the best for them and their children. We are falling down a slippery slope of having the government dictate our moral, ethical, and private decisions. There is a small, fundamentalist, religious group which is overexerting their influence on the way our government is being run, and we must immediately put a stop to it.

Marian Wright Edelman, the President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, said "Justice is not cheap. Justice is not quick. It is not ever finally achieved." Looking out at this room of hopeful faces, I know that Justice can be achieved in our "battle for reproductive freedom" within our lifetime.

I am proud to be at the forefront of this battle, and I want to share some of my insight and strategy aimed at protecting a woman's right to choose.

I joined over a million people who believe that it is time to stand up for women's rights and demand a change in our administration on April 25, 2004 at the March for Women's Lives.

We marched because there is an attempt by our administration to undermine our fundamental rights. Women's health care includes reproductive services, access to contraception, and informed decisions made by individuals about their body, not their government.

My predecessor and longtime role model, Barbara Jordan, once said, "We want to be in control of our lives. Whether we are jungle fighters, craftsmen, company men, gamesmen, we want to be in control. And when the government erodes that control, we are not comfortable." The government is trying to erode that control, and this is something we must come together to prevent.

Right now we have an Administration that actively seeks to undermine a woman's right to choose. They falsely claim to be doing this in the interest of women and children, citing both the mother and child's well being as justifications for their actions. This same Administration has frozen the Title X family-planning program in each budget for the last three years. They have also cut domestic-violence prevention programs and frozen important programs for women and children, including the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Head Start, and child-nutrition services.

By contrast, they have proposed more than doubling funding for unproven, dangerous "abstinence-only" programs that censor health information from young people—and instead of supporting programs that help women who face violence, they have resorted instead to exploiting the issue for an anti-abortion political base. President Bush signed the so-called "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" with a false claim of being in a woman's best interest. This legislation would, for the first time in federal law, recognize an embryo or fetus as a separate "person" with rights separate from, and equal to, a pregnant woman.

Raising awareness must be a high priority, younger and older generations in America must begin to take this threat very seriously. Our right to chose is at its most precarious point since over 31 years ago, when *Roe vs. Wade* was decided. Our message will be clear: we will not tolerate the persistent government attacks on women's health and reproductive rights.

I am pleased that for the first time in its 95-year history, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) board of directors unanimously endorsed a pro choice march. The Black Women's Health Imperative has also signed on. These organizations are part of a growing majority that be-

lieve contraceptive education and abortion rights for black and minority women must be a priority. Unintended pregnancy rates for African-American women is almost three times the rate of Caucasian women, maternal mortality is 4 times higher for African-American women than Caucasians. One out of 4 African-American women had less involvement than they would like in decisions effecting their health care, with only 73 percent of African-American women receiving first trimester prenatal care.

By making abortion illegal, we are going to harm those who turn to back alleys and home remedies to "fix" their situation, a scenario faced disproportionately by minorities and the underprivileged. We cannot make abortion inaccessible, illegal, or shameful. We must stand up for women's rights and let them make informed choices.

After the March for Women's Lives, I thought we had begun to get our message across. It seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Last month, the Food and Drug Administration denied the application to make Plan B (emergency contraception) available for sale over-the-counter. This is an unprecedented intrusion of politics into science. Never has an administration so politicized an over the counter application, nor set aside the overwhelming recommendation of its panel of experts. Our administration would rather appeal to the far right than work to reduce the number of abortions. If over-the-counter availability of EC could prevent even ten percent of unintended pregnancies annually, it would result in 150,000 fewer abortions per year.

This decision stands in direct opposition to the administration's stated goal of reducing the number of abortions. Emergency Contraception is not an abortion. It is simply concentrated doses of the regular birth-control pill, taken soon after sex in order to prevent pregnancy. Emergency Contraception is not the same as RU 486, which terminates an already-established pregnancy. EC is safe and effective, and is not harmful if taken after a pregnancy has been established.

Over-the-counter sales would be particularly beneficial for sexual assault victims. According to scientific studies, approximately 25,000 women per year in the United States become pregnant as a result of rape. An estimated 22,00 of these pregnancies—or 88 percent—could be prevented if sexual assault victims had timely access to emergency contraception.

I hope that all of you are willing to take the step and be the voice to fight against this slippery slope. The battle for reproductive freedom is far from over. I want to close with a quote from one of our truly great female leaders, Susan B. Anthony, "Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less."