

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PETE BUNCE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer my personal thanks to Colonel Peter J. Bunce of the United States Air Force, for a job well done.

Many of us in Congress know Colonel Bunce, who for the past six years has worked as the Air Forces liaison to the House and then as liaison to the Budget and Appropriations Committees for both Chambers. I have traveled on international congressional delegations with Pete on numerous occasions, and in every case, his skill and attention to detail ensured a flawless CODEL. In addition, Pete has fostered a new level of excellence in communications between the Congress and the Pentagon on policy matters within his portfolio.

Colonel Bunce has served in this role at a very critical time in our Nation's history, keeping us advised about, and facilitating congressional visits to, our brave service men and women in Operations Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His efforts have been instrumental in keeping Members and staff aware of the costs and sacrifices of our military personnel as we prosecute and win this Global War on Terrorism. Pete knows these sacrifices first-hand. As many of my colleagues know, Peter's son Justin, a brave marine, was critically injured while defending our freedom in Iraq. We wish Justin a speedy recovery.

While I have relied on Pete's military advice, I have valued his friendship even more, and I know many of my colleagues on Capitol Hill share in that sentiment. In this regard, I wanted Colonel Bunce to know that each of us in Congress who have known and worked with him wish Pete and his family the very best and Godspeed in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL BISHOP ON THE RECEIPT OF HIS NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to J. Michael Bishop, the Chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco, which is located in my Congressional district, on his receiving the National Medal of Science. Chancellor Bishop, one of the 2003 National Medal of Science winners, will receive his medal in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House today. He and the other recipients are being honored for their devotion to advancing our knowledge of science.

The National Medal of Science was established in 1959 as a Presidential Award to be

given to individuals "deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, or engineering sciences." Congress later expanded this recognition to include the social and behavioral sciences. The National Science Foundation, an independent federal agency, administers this honor, the highest award in science given by the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Chancellor Bishop's biography truly reads like a Horatio Alger tale. He spent the first eight years of his educational life in a two-room schoolhouse in rural Pennsylvania and graduated from high school as part of a class of 80 students. He entered Gettysburg College hoping to become a doctor, but by the time of graduation he didn't think he wanted to practice medicine. However, he was interested in becoming an educator and after entering Harvard Medical School he knew he found his calling in research.

Since then Chancellor Bishop has distinguished himself in the biomedical field. Thirty six years ago, he chose to take an assistant professorship at a relatively new college on the west coast. He has not left the University of California, San Francisco since. He started as an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology working on the replication of poliovirus, but it was his work in oncology has been groundbreaking. In 1982 he won the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research, and in 1989 he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Both awards were shared with Harold Varmus for research that led to the discovery of proto-oncogenes, normal genes that can be converted to cancer genes by genetic damage. He became the eighth chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco in July of 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a part of the Bay Area, home to some of the finest schools in the nation. Proof of which can be seen in the fact that three of the eight recipients of the 2003 National Medal of Science work at schools in the Bay Area. In addition to Chancellor Bishop, Charles Yanofsky, of Stanford University, won an award for the biological sciences, and John Prausnitz of the University of California at Berkeley, was awarded a medal for engineering.

Mr. Speaker, in an area of the world which is home to some of the best and brightest minds in the world, Chancellor J. Michael Bishop stands at the top. This extraordinary academic and exceptional human being fully deserves to be honored by our nation for his work in oncology. It is my hope, and I am sure it is the hope of all of our colleagues Mr. Speaker, that one day his research will lead to a cure for cancer. I am delighted to pay tribute to Chancellor J. Michael Bishop on the day of his receipt of the National Medal of Science.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN LOWE WINNER OF TEXAS VALUES VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Justin Lowe, a senior at Lewisville High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for being one of the three winners of the Texas Values Arts Competition.

This is truly an outstanding accomplishment for Justin. More than 250 students from Plano, Denton, Lewisville and surrounding communities entered the contest. Diversity, History and Indivisibility were the chosen Texas Values featured in the winning artworks from North Texas students. Justin earned a U.S. Savings Bond from Huffines Auto Dealership.

Justin's art is now on a billboard going southbound on I-35E next to the Huffines dealership. Justin displayed his Texas pride with bluebonnets, the Alamo, and the Texas State flag in his painting. His piece will be up all through March for National Youth Art Month. The original was sold for \$800 at the Lewisville Education Foundation gala in November of 2005.

Justin Lowe's talents are not only a testament to his artistic skill but also a stellar example of how parents' and teachers' efforts are rewarded when combining a core curriculum with study in the arts. I am proud of the education system in Texas, especially our students, and involved parents and teachers at Lewisville High School, who commit their lives and time to fostering growth of our communities. And I wanted to extend a special thank you to Huffines Automotive for their generous contribution to these aspiring students.

IN HONOR OF GLENDALE ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Glendale Adventist Medical Center for a century of providing outstanding health care services to the City of Glendale and surrounding communities.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center was founded on a tradition of faith-based health care. Its mission has been to educate the community about the link between health and lifestyle decisions and to provide compassionate, professional health care services for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center has been offering families excellent health care for more than one hundred years. The hospital

• 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.

provides care not just within its walls, but throughout the community—in churches, schools, workplaces, and homes. The hospital is proud of the relationships it has fortified throughout the years with local organizations, groups, and individuals. Through the unified strength of these partnerships, Glendale Adventist continues its primary focus of meeting the health needs of our communities.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today to congratulate Glendale Adventist Medical Center for 100 years of exemplary public service, and for its immense commitment to the health and well-being of the City of Glendale and its residents.

HONORING MR. DON SNYDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a great Nevadan, Mr. Don Snyder.

For many years, I have not only known Don through his professional work with Boyd Gaming, but also as a friend. Don has had quite a career, working for the First Interstate Bank of Nevada for 22 years before taking the helm of the Fremont Street Experience as President and Chief Executive Officer and then moving on to Boyd Gaming, where he will be retiring as President of the Company. That's quite a career path for any person, and I congratulate him.

Don's leadership in the Las Vegas community will certainly be felt for many generations, and all Southern Nevadans owe him a debt of gratitude. Don has been instrumental in redeveloping Downtown Las Vegas, effectively giving Downtown the breath of new life in an area that is so important for the history of our great city. He has also been incredibly effective in leading Boyd Gaming, and I know he will be missed there.

During his busy career, Don has been active in such organizations as the Nevada Development Authority, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Las Vegas Performing Arts Center Foundation, United Way of Southern Nevada, Nathan Adelson Hospice, and the Tournament Players Club at Summerlin. The sky is the limit for Don, and I am looking forward to hearing about his next endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, Don Snyder, for being an example for all Nevadans as we continue to be the Entertainment Capital of the World.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN KEVIN P.
MILLER, USN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Kevin P. Miller, as he prepares to retire upon completion of 24 years of distinguished service. It is a privilege for me to honor his achievements

and commend him for his devotion to the Navy and our great Nation. Captain Miller was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy in 1981 and subsequently reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola for flight training in November of that year. In August 1983 he had earned the prestigious designation of a Naval Aviator.

Upon completion of A-7E Corsair II replacement pilot training, he reported to the "Marauders" of VA-82 completing two deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and one mini-deployment to the Norwegian Sea in USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68). In October 1987 Captain Miller joined the "Gladiators" of VFA-106, where he served with great distinction as Training Landing Signal Officer and Carrier Qualification Phase Head.

In October 1990, as a result of his superb leadership, Captain Miller was directed to serve on the staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing Seven embarked in USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN-69) where he made enormously successful deployments in *Ike* to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Arabian Gulf, and Norwegian Sea. Assuming greater responsibilities with each passing assignment, he then reported to the "Wildcats" of VFA-131 where he served in four different department head billets culminating in an embarked tour in USS *George Washington* (CVN-73) during her Maiden Deployment in 1994. His personal contributions led to VFA-131 earning the Estocin Award as the Navy's top strike-fighter squadron and recognition from the Chief of Naval Operations for an unmatched safety record.

After serving ashore on the staff of Commander, First Air Force/Continental NORAD Region at Tyndall Air Force Base he once again reported for duty afloat to the "Gunslingers" of VFA-105 aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) assuming command of the squadron in September 1998. He deployed two months later aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65S), participating in combat during Operations Desert Fox and Southern Watch. Following his command tour he earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and served on the CNO's staff as Strike Warfare Policy Officer. With many successful sea and shore tours behind him, Captain Miller culminated his career in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs as a highly effective liaison with Congress on important matters affecting Naval Aviation.

Having accumulated over 3600 flight hours and 1,000 carrier landings from the decks of 11 aircraft carriers, there is no doubting Captain Miller's courage and dedication. His superior contributions and distinguished service will have long-term benefits for both the Navy and the country he so proudly served. As Captain Miller enters his new profession I am proud to thank him for his service and wish him "fair winds and following seas."

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM SAVIDGE
OF SAINT HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Savidge, Vice

Mayor of Saint Helena, California, as he retires after 37 years of public service. His outstanding leadership and commitment to community service has made my hometown a better place.

Throughout the past 11 years, Bill has served selflessly as a member of the Saint Helena City Council. In 1994 Mayor John Brown, appointed Bill to the city council citing his voice and perspectives as qualifications for the job. Mayor John Brown was right. Since he joined the council, Bill's leadership has benefited our entire community.

Bill worked to pass a retrofit ordinance which lead to the restoration of 25 historic buildings in St. Helena. He reached out to youth of our community by leading the effort to build a teen center. Bill's public service was not limited to the City Council. He also served as St. Helena's representative to the county Housing Authority and, Housing Element Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Bill's devotion to community and country began many years before his time on City Council. Bill Savidge dedicated 24 years of his life serving our country in the Armed Forces. After earning his degree at Stanford University, Bill went on to become a pilot in the United States Air Force. He later received his MBA from George Washington University while stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base. Bill bravely fought for and protected our country in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In 1974 Bill retired from the military and he and his wife Charlotte moved to St. Helena.

Even though Bill will retire from public office, his dedication to community does not end here. He plans to continue his active role with Kiwanis, the Food Pantry, and other local organizations. With his new found free time he also plans to write his memoirs.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we honor William Savidge today, for his distinguished service to his community and to his Country and extend our best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

LVTV, CHANNEL 15 AWARDED TWO
TOLLY AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Lewisville Television Channel 15, LVTV, broadcasting from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for winning two Telly Awards.

The Telly Awards "honor outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions." For 26 years now, the Telly Awards have trying to do their part to support the visual arts in local communities. The Telly Awards encourage a very diverse field of applicants and try to distinguish themselves as an award of broad creativity.

Each award was for a LVTV-produced program. The first award was presented for Lewisville North High School's re-enactment of a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) called "Deadly Decisions: Controlled Substance." The second winning program was for a "Community Comments" episode on the West Nile Virus. "Community Comments" is an interview-styled program filmed by students from

the LISD Dale Jackson Career Center, produced by Calvin Dorsey.

LVTV has done a superb job of representing their community and involving students in promoting visual arts. I am proud of Lewisville and LVTV Channel 15 who continue to keep their public up-to-date on hometown news and to provide quality family entertainment.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT McKEOWN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted public servant who served some of the communities I represent for several decades. Scott McKeown lost his life in the recent Metrolink crash in Glendale, California. He spent 20 years with the City of Glendale and just recently celebrated his first year of service in the City of Pasadena's telecommunications department.

His exceptional attitude was an inspiration to all who knew him and his compassion and positive outlook were infectious. He had a passion for trains, especially locomotives, and instilled this love for the "iron horse" in his children. Scott McKeown is survived by his wife and two young children.

Working in the public sector is challenging and rewarding, and Scott embodied the spirit of public service through his longstanding service in our community. The tragic train crash last week was indeed a sad day for our community, and Mr. McKeown will be sorely missed.

HONORING MICHAEL MAYBERRY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Mayberry, Chief of Police in Henderson, Nevada. Chief Mayberry is retiring from the force after 30 years of dedicated service. He graduated from UNLV with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. Chief Mayberry also graduated from the 180th session of the FBI National Academy and the 29th session of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar in Quantico, Virginia.

Chief Mayberry began his career with the Henderson Police Department in 1976 as a reserve officer. In 1978 he was hired as a full time patrol officer and has had numerous assignments since that time. He has been a field training officer, detective, investigations division commander and support division commander. Chief Mayberry was named acting police chief in August 1999 and appointed police chief on May 2, 2000.

Southern Nevada is a well known tourist destination which is visited by millions of people throughout the world. This creates a unique security environment which requires unique and capable police officers. Mike's proven leadership during these difficult times goes a long way to explain why he truly deserved the title Chief of Police.

Under Chief Mayberry's tenure, the Henderson Police Department has become the most technologically advanced police department in the United States. On March 23, 2002, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA, accredited the department for its professional excellence.

Mike, I wish you all the best. It was a privilege to work with you during those years where our services overlapped. However it is a greater privilege to call you my friend.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Michael Mayberry is a dedicated officer who has worked diligently for the Henderson community. I ask my fellow colleagues to stand with me today and honor all police officers across the country, like Chief Mayberry, who have dedicated so many years to building a better community, which in turn contributes to a better Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, of March 8, I was delayed and missed Rollcall votes 53, 54.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on Rollcall votes 53 and 54.

It was my intention to vote: "yea on Rollcall 53; and "yea" on Rollcall 54.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

IN HONOR OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEVELAND POST OFFICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 200th Anniversary of the Cleveland Post Office, which embraces the legacy of Northeast Ohio's mail carriers. For two centuries, these fearless messengers have braved everything from freezing January snow to the blazing heat of July, to snarling dogs, in order to deliver the mail throughout our Greater Cleveland community and across our nation.

Joseph Briggs, a Cleveland postal employee, revolutionized the postal system when he convinced postal officials to adopt a policy of free home delivery. On July 1, 1863, as our nation was divided by the Civil War, 450 mail carriers began Free City Service Delivery in Cleveland, Ohio. Encouraged by the positive response, officials expanded this service to other areas.

As our nation's frontier rolled westward, so did the United States Postal Service. The Service grew alongside every new and growing city and town, delivering mail from faraway places to our mailboxes. They journeyed down dusty trails, winding rivers, city streets and country roads—wherever cities came to life, so did a new post office.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every past and present employee of the Cleveland Post Office and their outstanding legacy.

The mail carriers hold in their hands the important information we need—from lifechanging announcements to everyday correspondence. This centuries-old exchange of news, emotion and ideas, sealed in a Postal Service letter, not only communicated the events of our nation's history, but still serves to facilitate change and shape the direction of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE FORT COLLINS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1781

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I am continually grateful to the men and women who are currently serving in the U.S. military, and I am also reminded of the great sacrifices that have been made by our veterans. Sacrifices that have secured and maintained our freedom.

Recently, a local group of veterans received a special honor. In Fort Collins, Colorado, VFW Post 1781 received the prestigious Diamond Jubilee Award. The post earned this distinction in celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

VFW Post 1781 has maintained their post continuously since January of 1930. In fact, a copy of the original charter still hangs on the post's entryway next to a large display case filled with war memorabilia.

The post currently has 388 members and about 150 women in the ladies auxiliary. Post 1781 has been extraordinarily active; the chapter has not seen a drop in membership for 20 years.

This group carries on the VFW tradition of community service, working with other national organizations. Constructive community service is a founding VFW tenet with volunteerism benefiting education, the environment, health, and civic projects. For example, the VFW's citizenship education program is designed to stimulate an interest in America's history and promote patriotism.

In addition, the post and canteen are offered at no cost for veterans' memorial services.

The post is a place where many members spend their time with fellow veterans relaxing when they are between other routines, such as giving flag etiquette presentations or standing on the corner of College Avenue and Mulberry Street holding Support Our Troops signs.

In addition, the post contains a section of their building that is loaned to the Disabled American Veterans hospital ride program.

Except for monthly meetings, which are open to those with home membership at Post 1781, the rest of the building is available to VFW members from anywhere in the nation.

I applaud these retired military service men and women, not only for their service to our country, but also for their service in the local community.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I offer my warmest congratulations to the Fort Collins

VFW for their achievement of the Diamond Jubilee Award. May God bless our precious veterans and their families.

HONORING CONGREGATION
MISHKAN ISRAEL AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 165TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join Rabbi Herbert Brockman and the many friends and families who have gathered to celebrate the 165th Anniversary of Congregation Mishkan Israel. Marking its 165th anniversary, Mishkan Israel is the oldest continuing congregation in New England and the 14th oldest synagogue in the United States. This milestone is a very special occasion, not only for the administration and members of the congregation, but for our community as well.

First established in 1840 by a group of Bavarian Jews fleeing economic and social oppression, services, conducted in German and Hebrew, were held over the Heller & Mendelbaum Store in New Haven, Connecticut. A short time later, the congregation purchased the Third Congregational Church building which remained its home until 1897 when the temple on Orange and Audubon Streets was dedicated. With the continued growth of the congregation, the synagogue made its final move in 1960 to its present home on Ridge Road in Hamden.

The strength and continuity of a congregation is dependent, not only on its membership, but on its leadership as well. Since its earliest days when it was the first synagogue to be dedicated by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, who later became the leader of American Reform Judaism, Congregation Mishkan Israel has had a strong tradition of active leadership. Generation after generation, the rabbis who have come to Mishkan Israel have shared a passion for social justice—both here at home and throughout the world. In the 1870s, Rabbi Judah Wechsler opened the Torah to women, first allowing female confirmands to read from the sacred text; Rabbi Edgar Siskin became the first rabbi to be appointed to Yale University's faculty and helped to found Yale Hillel; and in the decades of the civil rights movement, Rabbi Robert Goldburg was an active champion of social justice protesting communism and inviting a myriad of speakers from Norman Cousins to The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. to address the congregation. Today, Rabbi Herbert Brockman upholds this legacy. Under his leadership, Mishkan Israel has opened its doors to the Urban Youth Center, a program for inner-city middle school children and sponsored the settlement of seven Russian Jewish emigrant families in New Haven.

In addition to its active leadership, members of Mishkan Israel have long been known for their endless contributions to the community. Volunteerism has always been strong force within the congregation and, through their compassion and generosity, the congregation has touched the lives of thousands over the years. Whether tending to the ill, volunteering at the local military hospital, purchasing Lib-

erty Bonds during World War I, or participating in the Pe'ah Project, which provides over a ton of vegetables from a congregant-run garden to area soup kitchens—the members of Mishkan Israel have shown a unique dedication to enriching our community.

Our houses of worship play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. In over a century, there have been many who have worshiped within their halls and many who have found peace and strength in the outstretched arms of Mishkan Israel. Throughout its history, Mishkan Israel has been an invaluable institution in the Greater New Haven Jewish community. It is with honor and the deepest thanks and appreciation for all of their good work that I stand today to pay tribute to Congregation Mishkan Israel as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary. Their contributions have left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will live on for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SARDONE

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Michael Sardone for his 21 years of dedicated public service to this Congress and the Federal Government. His career epitomizes professionalism and commitment to public service.

Mr. Sardone has served as an indexer and editor for the Congressional Record Index office, under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Printing and now a part of the GPO, since his appointment by former Senator Mathias of Maryland in 1984. His detailed knowledge of congressional history and process has earned him the respect of both his colleagues and Hill staffers. As an editor for the Congressional Record Index, he has also served as editor and project manager for the Congressional Directory and has spearheaded the production of indexes for both the House and Senate Journals.

Mr. Sardone is a Maryland native. He grew up in the Wheaton area of Montgomery County and graduated from Frostburg State University with a degree in political science. He met his wife, Ginny, at the Index office. She now works for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They have one son, Matthew.

As he embarks on new endeavors, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending gratitude for his hard work and dedication to the Congress and the Nation.

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS RECOGNIZED AS A "STORMREADY" COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend North Richland Hills, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its

recognition as a "StormReady" community by the National Weather Service (NWS).

North Richland Hills was recognized as a "StormReady" community because it met all of the criteria set forth by the NWS. For a community to be so honored, it must: establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings, and to alert the public; create a system that monitors local weather conditions; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and develop a formal hazardous weather plan which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

This is a noteworthy accomplishment because less than one percent of all cities and towns in the United States are categorized as "StormReady." The City of North Richland Hills cares deeply about its citizens and their safety. Severe weather is extremely common in North Texas where storms and tornadoes are frequent and set in with little warning. "StormReady" communities bring extra peace of mind to citizens.

North Richland Hills' "StormReady" status sets a wonderful model for other towns in Texas to improve their communication and safety skills which are needed to save lives and property. I am proud of North Richland Hills and its citizens who continued to better the community by doing the best in preparing for the worst.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN RON
SEGOVIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Ron Segovia's tremendous contribution to his community in my Congressional District of San Antonio, Texas.

Councilman Ron Segovia attended Harlandale High School in San Antonio, where he was a member of the ROTC. He studied at San Antonio College, and graduated from the Police Academy in 1975.

He served for 28 years as a San Antonio Police Officer, working in such special programs as DARE, SWAT, Crime Prevention, and Gang Resistance Education and Training. He was a part of the School Services program, which provided outreach and information to public school students.

Ron is also a successful small businessman. He owns Ron's Jewelers, which has been a fixture of the community for 22 years. He has used his role as a business owner to act as a benefactor and support educational programs in the community.

As a lifelong San Antonio resident he has given so much back to the community, as a protector, civil servant, and businessman.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize Councilman Ron Segovia.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED L. FIELDS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 549

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fred L. Fields, who is retiring after 40 years as a Boilermaker and 9 years as Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer of Boilermakers Local 549.

Fred Fields began his career in 1964 as a Boilermaker Apprentice at the Kaiser Steel shop in Napa, and finished his education through the Western States Field Construction Apprenticeship program.

Throughout his 40 year career as a California based Boilermaker, Mr. Fields has demonstrated outstanding leadership. He was elected by Local 549 to attend four Boilermaker National Conventions, where he was appointed to the Construction Division Committee by International President Charles W. Jones. He was elected as a trustee to the Executive Board of Local 549 in 1990, and was elected Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer in 1996 and was reelected in 1999.

Fred Fields was appointed to represent the western states as the 13 western states as the Trustee on the Boilermaker National Health and Welfare Trust fund by International President Jones in 1997. He serves on the Executive Board of the California State Board of the California State Building and Construction Trades Council for the Boiler makers.

Mr. Fields recognized the importance of the formation of California Unions for Reliable Energy (C.U.R.E) to the boilermaker profession when it was created in 1996, C.U.R.E has provided of construction jobs for his fellow boiler-makers.

Fred Fields has selflessly served his community as part of Local 549; donating food to needy families through the Loaves and Fishes Program, the Contra Costa Food Bank, and the Richmond rescue mission.

Mr. Speaker, it is always inspiring to see someone who has dedicated his life to improving conditions for his brothers and sisters in Local 549. Throughout Fred Fields' tenure as a Boilermaker, he has demonstrated not only commitment to his chosen profession, but also dedication to the citizens of his community. I am proud to recognize my constituent, Fred Fields, on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2005 during rollcall votes Nos. 53, 54, and 55, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather on my travel back to Washington, DC.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three resolutions: the Journal vote, H. Res. 133, a bill pertaining to funding of the standing committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and H. Res. 122, legislation urging the President to proclaim a special year of languages.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN JOEL WILLIAMS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of San Antonio City Councilman Joel Williams.

Mr. Williams has served both his city and his nation with distinction. A native Texan, Mr. Williams served in the United States Army Reserve for more than 25 years, rising to the position of Chief of the AMEDD Battle Simulation Center at Fort Sam Houston.

He has also been a leader in civil service and volunteer work. He was a member of the boards of Habitat for Humanity, the San Antonio Credit Union, and the East Central Independent School District. He worked on the Fund Distribution Panel of the United Way of San Antonio, and was a member of the Texas Association of School Boards.

He has consistently worked to improve the quality of education our children receive, and to safeguard the financial health of our community. He continues that work now, as City Councilman for San Antonio Council District 2. Joel Williams serves as an example of what discipline, courage, and dedication can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the contributions of San Antonio Councilman Joel Williams.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALABAMA A&M BULLDOGS

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Vann Pettaway and his Alabama A&M University Basketball team on winning its first Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship and earning a spot in the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. This is the first time that the Bulldogs have been invited to the NCAA Tournament in the seven years the program has been a Division I member.

The A&M Bulldogs finished this historic season with a record of eighteen wins and thirteen losses, culminating on Sunday afternoon with a nationally televised seventy-two to fifty-three victory over the Alabama State Hornets. In that game, Obie Trotter led all players with a game-high twenty four points, five assists and six steals and was named the SWAC's tournament MVP. Joe Martin finished second with seventeen points and six rebounds.

All of us in North Alabama are proud of our hometown heroes and will be rooting for the Bulldogs on Tuesday night when Coach Pettaway leads his team against the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies in Dayton, Ohio. All published accounts have said that the Bulldogs are playing their best basketball right now and are motivated to show the Nation why they deserve a spot in this tournament.

Mr. Speaker, these student athletes have set a fine example for future athletes in our

community. Their hard work, commitment, and dedication, on and off the court, are a large part of the team's success.

On behalf of everyone in North Alabama and all Bulldog fans across the Nation, I rise today to congratulate the Alabama A&M Bulldogs and wish them the best of luck against Oakland University.

THE GENETIC INFORMATION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2005

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to join Representatives BIGGERT, SLAUGHTER and NEY in introducing the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005. This bill will prevent abuses of genetic information for workforce and insurance decisions. Advances in genetic science are already saving lives and will save many more in the years ahead, but these advances should not be the basis for denying Americans their jobs or their health insurance.

One of the most significant scientific accomplishments in history has been sequencing the human genetic code. As a result of this achievement, scientists have identified genetic markers for a variety of chronic health conditions, increasing the potential for early treatment and prevention.

Unfortunately, the ability to predict disease through genetic testing and family history opens the door for discrimination, particularly the employment and the health insurance industry. Such a threat has deterred the public and scientists from taking full advantage of the important opportunities that genetic information provides. Without appropriate protections to encourage providers, the health care community and the public to embrace genetic testing, the health care arena will be incapable of taking full advantage of the important opportunities resulting from the advancement of genetic information and technology.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 prohibits health insurers in both group and individual markets from: using genetic information to impose enrollment restrictions or to adjust premium or contribution amounts; requesting genetic testing or results except as necessary for treatment, payment, or health care operations; and requesting or requiring the use of genetic information for the purposes of underwriting.

With regards to employment, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 grants enforcement powers to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and: makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or training program to discriminate against an individual or deprive an individual of employment opportunities because of genetic information; prohibits the collection of genetic information except where necessary to monitor the effects of toxic substances in the workplace, when authorized by the employee, or as required by law; safeguards the confidentiality of genetic information in the employment setting.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 brings public policy up-to-date

with science and ensures that every American can benefit from our scientific progress without the worry of genetic discrimination.

I urge all my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN
ROGER O. FLORES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of San Antonio City Councilman Roger Flores.

Roger Flores is a San Antonio native, from a small business family with a tradition of public service.

He graduated from Central Catholic High School, and received his Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the Fighting Aggie Band.

After college, Roger returned to San Antonio to join his family's restaurant business. He managed and operated two restaurants, and also found time to serve his community as the Vice President of the St. Anthony Elementary School Board, and as a member of the board of Positive Beginnings, Inc.

On May 27 of 2004, Roger was elected to the Council seat that his father had held four years before. Roger credits his family as an inspiration for his public service, and believes deeply in the role of the community in supporting and encouraging strong families.

Mr. Speaker, Roger Flores is the kind of citizen who holds our communities together: a successful small businessman, a dedicated father, and a selfless volunteer and public servant. I thank him for his commitment, and congratulate him on his election to the San Antonio City Council.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCIL-
MAN CARROLL SCHUBERT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Carroll Schubert for his outstanding work, both in the legal community and on behalf of the people of San Antonio.

Mr. Schubert is a graduate of Texas A&M University, and the University of Texas School of Law, and a specialist in both civil litigation and regulatory and public affairs. His long history of public service includes time as Commissioner for the Bexar County Civil Service Commission, on the Board of Directors of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, and as Chief Deputy District Attorney for Bexar County.

Mr. Schubert has given his time to a variety of organizations which work for the public good. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Wildlife Association, has been Chairman of the Board of Professional Contract Services, Inc., a state and federal

government contractor which provides jobs for people with disabilities.

From 1975 through 1978, Carroll was Executive Assistant to United States Senator Lloyd Bentsen. He was first elected to the San Antonio City Council on May 5, 2001, and was re-elected in 2003. He has worked as city councilman to improve city planning and the city's quality of life, and was the council's liaison to many of the San Antonio region's military bases and units.

Mr. Speaker, his career as a lawyer and a public servant has done credit to the city of San Antonio, and I am proud to have the opportunity to congratulate him here.

A TRIBUTE TO MELADY JEAN-
BAPTISTE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Melady Jean-Baptiste, who came to this country without being able to speak English, and now, after earning multiple degrees in education, serves as a role model for all who know her.

Melady Jean-Baptiste is a native of the city of Cap-Haitien in Haiti. She was born one of two daughters and three sons to a very loving, close knit, strong and progressive family. Her father immigrated to America at the age of 65 and began immediately to help his family immigrate. With her father in America, Melady attended the prestigious and elite College Regina Assumpta then continued at the Wetsal Secretarial School in Port au Prince.

In 1979, a few short years after her father left, Melady immigrated to America. The family searched for a church home and while walking in their neighborhood, they came upon Holy Trinity Baptist Church. Melady and her family began to attend services regularly at the Church. They were the only non-English speaking people in the congregation. Melady not only learned to speak English by attending the Sunday School class but she learned the biggest lesson of her life; that religion and education go hand in hand. Melady remains a faithful, tithing member of Holy Trinity Baptist Church (the fourth oldest Black Church in Brooklyn) and serves on the Deaconess Board and as a former president of the Pastor's Aide Ministry and the Women's Missionary Union.

Melady completed her two year degree at New York City Technical College (1987) her bachelor's four-year degree in less than four years, earning her B.S.W. at York College (1988). Two years later, she completed her M.S.W. in 1990 at Columbia University. Melady has also earned her a C.S.W., a Mono and Bilingual License and Certifications in Education. She is a member of a school based support team and uses her own life story to encourage students to not give up. She inspires many students to overcome learning difficulties and treats each child not as a social work case but as an individual who has an opportunity to succeed. She has enabled hundreds of children and families to overcome adverse moments in their lives and move effectively toward realizing their goals.

Melady is the quintessential American immigrant success story. She not only has utilized

education and her faith as tools for success but she has also served as a role model for others, including her family. Her sister Maryse has completed her professional nursing degree at Columbia University; her daughter Milady Jean-Baptiste Hartmann is a graduate of the Parsons School of Art & Design; and her second daughter, Tamar, stricken with a severe crippling form of rheumatoid arthritis as a child, completed her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College and will begin her graduate studies next semester. Her mother, Melanie, at 83, continues to advance her education as well. Melady is the aunt of Melanie and Rogerst J-B. Charles; mother-in-law of Philippe Hartmann and grandmother of Caroline and Dahlia Hartmann. She is forever grateful for the possibilities America has given her through the wonderful, great natural resources of historical Black Churches, Black pastors and educational opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Melady Jean-Baptiste serves as an inspiration to us all. Her dedication to education has improved not only her life but those she comes in contact with everyday. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

FEDERAL TRANSIT BENEFITS ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Transit Benefit Act. This legislation codifies Executive Order #13150 that directed all executive branch agencies to provide their employees in the national capital region with the full tax-free transit benefit provided under current law.

Initially the benefit was set at \$65 per month, but increased to \$100 per month beginning in January 2002.

Give up your car and parking spot and you can receive a voucher to cover a portion of your transit or van pool cost commuting to work. The benefit has been a godsend to this region, helping to reduce traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and improve quality of life issues for Federal employees.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government estimates that this benefit has boosted ridership in transit services and van pools by more than 100,000 Federal employees and reduced vehicle miles traveled between 40 million and 54 million.

The legislation I am introducing today will extend this benefit to the other branches of the Federal Government, the legislative and judicial branches, all independent Federal agencies, postal workers and the Smithsonian that were not covered by the executive order.

I have long sought to maintain parity in salaries and benefits for all Federal workers. This legislation restores parity ensuring that those Federal agencies that don't currently provide this benefit for their employees will do so.

The legislation will also remove current law restrictions and enable Federal agencies to offer their employees shuttle services between their office and transit centers like Metro, MARC, and Virginia Railway Express. Under current law, Federal agencies are prohibited

from providing shuttle services to their employees if it is not a part of official business.

The Federal Government is the region's largest employer. As such, it can and should do more to help its employees cope with some of the Nation's worst traffic congestion and in doing so help reduce harmful automobile emissions that have pushed this region into severe nonattainment.

This legislation was unanimously approved by the House Government Reform Committee last session. Its need is long overdue.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS SANDRA
ODESSA THOMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sandra Odessa Thompson in recognition of her service to New York City and her dedication to her community through her numerous civic commitments.

Sandra Odessa Thompson was born and raised in Brooklyn. Sandra is a permanent Associate Staff Analyst employed by the City of New York managing a portfolio of more than \$100 million involving cultural institutions at the Department of Design & Construction (DDC). She earned a BS in Biology from Pennsylvania State University, a MA in Human Sexuality and Health Education, and a professional diploma in Human Resources Management from New York University. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Origin*, a new women's magazine, which is the premier magazine for women in the Delaware Valley.

Over the years, Sandra has been actively involved in civic, community and fundraising events including a fundraiser for Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn, Inc., featuring the Broadway diva, Ms. Jennifer Holliday. She is a member of the Executive Board for the Organization of Staff Analysts (OSA); a member of OSA's Black History Committee; a team negotiator in 2004 for the City's Analysts; as well as a co-founder of DDC's OSA Chapter, where she serves as Vice-Chair of Contracts & Negotiations. Sandra has also received numerous honors, community and civic awards including: the Precinct/Clergy Community Award for fostering police-community relations; the OSA's first Elaine Cherry Memorial Award for Union Activism; several City Council Citations; and the 98.7 KISS-FM Strong Achiever Award. She has also been recognized as one of The 2000 Most Notable American Women and for her work as a budget analyst for the City's portion [\$65 million] of MoMA's (Museum of Modern Art) move from Manhattan to Queens and for one of her gardens (The Cloisters) she funded in a national magazine.

Additionally, Sandra is creating a mentoring and scholarship foundation in her parents' memory. She mentors several young ladies; actively recruits and networks (in NYC) for prospective Penn State University (PSU) undergraduates as an alumni volunteer; and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Previously, she was the past Recording Secretary and fundraiser for the 81st Precinct Community Council; a liaison between the 81st precinct community and youth councils; a strategic planning team member for the 2004

Youth Speak Outs & Borough Conference. Sandra also collaborated with the Kings County District Attorney's Office on the 2003 boroughwide Youth Speak Outs & Silence the Violence Youth Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Sandra Odessa Thompson has dedicated herself to her community through both her professional and numerous volunteer efforts. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE
UNIFORMED SERVICES

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues—Congressman TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Congressman WALTER JONES of North Carolina, and Congressman STENY HOYER of Maryland—to introduce a truly bipartisan resolution expressing support for the members of our Armed Forces and their families. In particular, this resolution offers support for those service members wounded or severely injured in service to the Nation, as well as support for the newly established Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Center. With the 2-year anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom arriving on March 19, I can think of no better way to salute our disabled and severely disabled troops who have returned home than the quick and bipartisan support of this resolution.

This resolution recognizes many efforts made by our brave men and women in uniform. It reaffirms our support for all members of the Armed Forces and their families. It acknowledges that all returning troops—whether an active, National Guard or Reserve component—should be treated with the same degree of dignity and respect. It pledges our desire to help all injured, wounded, and severely disabled service members returning home by providing the assistance they require to navigate the complicated medical and bureaucratic processes to transition back to active duty or civilian life. Most important, this resolution specifically acknowledges the number of National Guard and Reserve components called for prolonged duty in today's military and pledges Congressional support to the Department of Defense Joint Support Center to ensure we take care of our own once we bring them home.

I applaud the action of the Department of Defense for establishing the Joint Support Center on February 1, 2005. I, along with Mr. JONES and Mr. HOYER, proposed the same concept in H.R. 5057 in the 108th Congress. That bill was eventually introduced in the Senate by Senator BOND and Senator KENNEDY. It received full endorsements from every major veterans' and military service organization. We are proud to see that effort taken up by the Pentagon and welcome the Joint Support Center. This resolution supports the Pentagon's initiative by expressing Congress's strong commitment to the center and our assistance in ensuring that the center receives the resources it needs to succeed in its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this resolution quickly to send a clear message to our service men and women that the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 109th Congress are firmly behind them.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCIL-
MAN ART HALL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Art Hall for his service to the people of San Antonio District 8.

Mr. Hall was born in Hempstead, TX, and grew up in Lubbock. He attended Harvard University, and received a joint law degree/MBA from Texas Tech Law and Business Schools. He is an expert in finance and corporate law, and received the Pforzheimer Foundation Scholar Award at Harvard and the Clifford Chance Business Law Prize from the University of Wales.

Art Hall is a central part of the Texas legal community. He has been published in several law and international finance journals, including *St. Mary's University Law Review* on Minority Issues and the *Journal of International Financial Markets*. In 1998, he was hired to serve as the director of the Academic Excellence Program as an Adjunct Professor at St. Mary's Law School. He was also general counsel for the investment banking firm Southwestern Capital Markets, the nation's oldest Hispanic-owned investment banking firm. Today, Councilman Hall is an owner and the President of Presidio Asset Management.

Art Hall was elected to San Antonio's City Council in 2003. He is the youngest person ever to represent his district, and has the distinction of being the first African American elected outside of the city's East side. He has been named one of the city's "Top 40 Under 40" rising stars by the San Antonio Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Art Hall has an extraordinarily bright future ahead of him, and I am happy to have the chance to recognize him.

A TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE LUGO
SOSA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jeanette Lugo Sosa in recognition of her strong commitment to strengthening the education of our children.

Jeanette has been the principal of PS 151K since 1999. She has come full circle in the Bushwick community. As a child, she studied at PS 274K and IS 111, before earning a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Administration and a Professional Diploma in Psychology from New York University. Her administrative career began as Interim Acting Assistant Principal at PS 343, then as Assistant Principal at

IS 291 before being appointed to her current post.

PS 151K has truly blossomed under her strong leadership and administrative style. Reading and math scores have increased tremendously, and a science lab is now available for the students. Jeanette works diligently with a very active Parents' Association to promote an atmosphere of harmony and warmth. Under her tenure, the third through fifth grade violin orchestra, the third through fifth grade jazz band, and the kindergarten through second grade Piano Lab have all been created. Additionally, her leadership has been responsible for establishing the Fine Arts Lab for all grades. These accomplishments clearly demonstrate her passionate love of the arts.

Jeanette and her husband, Jose, are celebrating 25 years of wedded bliss. They are extremely proud of their three beautiful daughters: Celia, a Doctoral Candidate at Binghamton University; Margo, a kindergarten teacher at PS 145K; and Rebecca, a junior at The Mary Louis Academy for Girls.

Mr. Speaker, Jeanette Lugo Sosa has chosen to dedicate her career to educating our children and enriching their lives. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Florida for allowing me to participate in this tribute to our friend, Tillie Fowler.

I was privileged to get to know Tillie and to see how effective she was here in this body. I served with her on the Whip team, where her intelligence and leadership abilities were great assets. Tillie also had the universal respect of members of Congress in both parties because of her gentle demeanor and the way she got things done. She also enjoyed that same measure of respect from all the branches of our armed services. Tillie gained a seat on the Armed Services Committee and worked hard on issues to strengthen our military and improve the quality of life for our service personnel.

One of the newspaper stories referred to Tillie as a passionate advocate for the City of Jacksonville and for the military. There is no question about that, and she achieved success without raising her voice or pounding on the rostrum. She did it with a personal style that embodied all the characteristics of a Southern lady. Tillie was polite and courteous, always immaculately dressed, and easy to work with—yet tenacious in pursuit of her goals. Working Woman magazine once said about Tillie that she was a “diminutive Southern belle but tough as an old Marine.” She said she learned that lesson from her grandmother, who said being a lady doesn’t mean you can’t be tough.

Tillie heeded her grandmother’s advice, and it served her well throughout a career that was marked by pioneering accomplishments. She was one of only five women in her Emory Uni-

versity Law School graduating class. She won a seat on the Jacksonville City Council and was elected as the council’s first woman president. She earned high marks for her work ethic and ability to get things done. In 1993, she brought that same energy and determination to Capitol Hill.

She already had Washington experience as a former House staffer and in the Office of Consumer Affairs at the White House. Tillie’s abilities were recognized quickly and she became a leader on issues relating to our military. She also became a member of the House leadership team, serving as vice-chair of the Republican Conference.

Even after leaving Congress in 2001, Tillie was still being called on to tackle tough assignments. She chaired the commission that investigated sexual misconduct allegations at the Air Force Academy and was named to the panel looking into issues surrounding the treatment of prisoners in Iraq.

She never moved to Washington, choosing to commute back home every weekend to be close to her family and her strong Jacksonville roots. While Tillie focused much attention on the district and on issues important to Florida, her work touched lives all across our great country—especially those with ties to our military. That was evidenced by the strong outpouring of support the family received from so many Americans who appreciated Tillie’s faithful service.

The House of Representatives is a better place because Tillie Fowler served here. I am honored to help pay tribute to Tillie and her remarkable career.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN
CHRISTOPHER “CHIP” HAASS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Antonio Councilman Christopher “Chip” Haass for his dedication to public service in my community.

Councilman Haass attended Saint Mary’s High School in San Antonio, after completing high school he enrolled at Texas Christian University and received a degree in Political Science and History, then received a master’s in Education. After graduation he returned to Saint Mary’s as a government teacher, he is the first male alumni to do so.

At age 25 he decided to enter the political arena, and in 2003 he was elected and became the youngest Councilman ever elected in San Antonio’s history. He credits his energetic personality, and idealism that led the people of his community to call for reform.

Councilman Haass has distinguished himself during his term by improving the basic infrastructure of District 10. Soon after he entered office he passed bonds that secured monetary assets to parks and schools in the community.

He sees his future in public service, either as an elected official, working with non-profit organizations, or as an educator. He enjoys bringing people together as a community, and debating the issues. Councilman Haass has the ability to motivate others through his vision, and create a consensus.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Chip Haass has been an inspiring public servant, first as an educator, second as a politician, and lastly as a friend of San Antonio. I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize his dedication and hard work.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. It is an honor to represent The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such a selfless organization.

Mr. Speaker, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg was founded in 1966 to help families in need in South Williamsburg. Over the course of its 39 years of service to the Brooklyn community The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has thrived marvelously where today it represents more than 50,000 community residents and 148 not-for-profits, religious, educational, charitable organizations and civic associations in the Jewish community of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Under the tutelage of their President, Rabbi David Niederman, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has established itself as a direct provider of social and housing services and is the address for urban planning, public health and community development services for the Jewish community of Greater Williamsburg.

The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, has been a leader in providing low-income housing to the Williamsburg community. Their most recent project includes the development of a waterfront property at the site of the former Schaeffer Brewery, which has 149 housing units reserved for low-income people. Additionally, they are the central address for the New York State and New York City Departments of Health and the Center for Disease Control in researching and conducting pilot projects on Cancer and Shigellosis in the culturally rich Hasidic Jewish community. They have also been instrumental in providing treatment to those suffering from the adverse affects of tobacco as well as being involved in collaborative efforts with other not-for-profits in providing for the overall betterment of the Williamsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. After the destruction and decimation of many Hasidic dynasties in Europe during the Holocaust, it is truly an inspiration to see the Hasidic sects of Satmar, Pupa, Vishnitz, Vien, Tzelem, Skver, Klausenberg and Spinka join together under the umbrella of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and call Brooklyn their home.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and community groups similar to them.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of New Mexico Men's and Women's Basketball Teams on winning the Men's and Women's 2005 Mountain West Conference (MWC) Tournaments. From the Pit in Albuquerque to the Pepsi Center in Denver, these Lobo student-athletes have proudly represented the University of New Mexico.

The Lobo Men's 60–56 victory against Utah in the Mountain West Conference tournament garnered them the Mountain West Conference Championship. Equally impressive, the UNM Women's Basketball team beat Utah 47–37 for its third straight Mountain West Conference tournament victory.

Led by Head Coach Ritchie McKay, the Men's Basketball team secured an NCAA Tournament bid, the first since 1999. With a Conference Championship under their belt, this marks the 11th time the Lobo Men's team secured an NCAA tournament spot. The UNM Men are on a nine game winning streak as they look toward more "W's" in the NCAA tournament.

Now a perfect 3–0 in Conference title games, the Lobo Women, under the tutelage of Head Coach Don Flanagan, secured a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Women's basketball team has dominated the conference for the past three years and has garnered three consecutive Conference Championships. The Lady Lobos have now won 9 straight Conference Championship games as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend both the UNM Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, Head Coaches Ritchie McKay and Don Flanagan, the University of New Mexico and all the dedicated Lobo fans for this successful season. I am eagerly anticipating the teams' first round games in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent the University of New Mexico on the national stage. Go Lobos!

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS' 39TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to thank Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade for their service in Iraq and to welcome them home.

A Over the last year, the men and women of the 39th have worked to make a positive difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. They have faced their duties bravely, performed honorably and made a difference in the development of an emerging country.

Many years ago, the 39th chose to be represented by a Bowie knife laid over a diamond on their patch. The knife serves both as a tribute to The Bowie State and as a symbol of

their aggressive spirit, while the diamond symbolizes the only diamond field in North America located in Arkansas.

There is no doubt the 39th has lived up to the badge it proudly bares. Forceful and strong is why Iraq is better today than it was in April of 2004 when our brave men and women first pulled into Camp Taji. Forceful and strong is how they did their job in the most hostile environment, every day, for a year. Forceful and strong is why their families can wrap their arms around them now and welcome them home.

The efforts of the 39th have resulted in re-constructed Iraqi schools, hospitals, irrigation and sewage systems, and new recreational projects for children. The footprint they left in the Iraqi sand is far deeper than their boot size; and the sacrifice made by too many not coming home will never be forgotten.

We must take a moment, as we celebrate the return of our loved ones, to think of those less fortunate. Those who gave their lives defending strangers to ensure peace have made the noblest of sacrifices. They will be missed by their families and friends and honored by their country. We pray every day for those who loved them and thank them all for what they've left us with.

On behalf of the Congress, I thank all the members of the 39th Infantry Brigade for the immeasurable contributions they have made to peace, democracy and the Iraqi people. Their bravery and courage stand as a shining example of American ability and our debt to them can never fully be repaid.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCILMAN JULIAN CASTRO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Julian Castro for his distinguished career in public service, and his deep commitment to the people of San Antonio.

Julian Castro and his twin brother Joaquin were born on September 16, 1974, and grew up on San Antonio's west side. For all but one year of his education, Julian attended San Antonio public schools. Upon his graduation from high school, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he attended Stanford University. He graduated with a double major in Political Science and Communication in 1996, graduating with honors and distinction.

After college, Julian returned home to San Antonio, and took a position as a permanent substitute teacher at his alma mater, Jefferson High School. He also began his career in public service by working with the City's Special Projects Office on housing and economic development issues.

Julian ran for City Council in 2000, and won a seat representing District 7. He ran on a platform of economic development and revitalization for the city, and committed himself to these projects once in office. He worked to improve the community by cleaning up blighted neighborhoods, and was a leading voice for government ethics reform and public safety.

Julian Castro was 26 at the time of his election to the City Council, making him the

youngest elected city councilman in San Antonio history. He is just beginning on a promising career, and I know that he will be a major force for good in Texas politics for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the chance to thank him here for the work he has done thus far, and to wish him well as he continues to serve the people of San Antonio.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSA WITSELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rosa Witsell who has dedicated her career to her community and enriching the lives of our children.

Rosa grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and is the youngest of four children. She was nurtured in a home environment where there was a strong belief and faith in God. At age 10 she joined the Tabernacle Baptist Church and became a Sunday School Teacher and Secretary, and a member of the Junior Usher Board.

After earning her Bachelor's of Science from Johnson C. Smith University, Rosa moved to Brooklyn, New York where she continued her spiritual growth by joining the Brown Memorial Baptist Church under the Pastorate of the late Dr. Rev. Samuel Austin. She remains active in Brown's Ministries under her current Pastor, Rev. Clinton M. Miller, where she is a member of the Senior Missionary Society, Willing Worker's Club, and the 40/60 Friendship Club.

Rosa began her career path with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Director. She spent 12 years nurturing the young minds of 3 and 4 year olds in a distinguished pre-school program and broadening the horizon of 6 and 12 year olds in summer day camp. Rosa was later promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Recreation where she served the Harlem Community and later the East New York Community. She also served as her agency's liaison to Community Board Five, representing the agency at Community Board meetings, Youth Committee meetings, and providing invaluable support and assistance to the Board's staff.

After more than 20 years, Rosa retired from the Department of Parks, but remained in the East New York Community as Center Director of the Starrett-at-Spring Creek Teen Center. In addition to educational and cultural trips, Rosa implemented an annual Mother/Daughter Dinner, Double Dutch and Talent Show competitions, dance classes, and workshops dealing with job skills, AIDS awareness, and proper make-up. After 4 years as Center Director, Rosa resigned and joined the United States Postal Service where she is currently employed as a letter carrier. She enjoys the continued interaction with college students, young families, and seniors. Rosa's customers frequently thank her for her smile and excellent service. In fact, because her customers took the time to send letters of accommodation to the Postmaster, the Postal Service recognized her for outstanding customer service.

Rosa is a former Board member of Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, and a former Cadet Girl Scout Leader. She is a

single mom whose daughter Esteen, and son in-law Derrick are about to make her a first time grandmother in a few short months.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Witsell has dedicated herself to her professional career, to serving her community and improving the lives of our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church on celebrating 125 years of worship, fellowship, and outreach in Bay City, Michigan. On Sunday, October 16, the congregation of Messiah will recognize this milestone during a special service and dinner to be held at the church.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church found its roots in Bay City in 1880, when 50 individuals, immigrants from Sweden, came together and formed one of the most spirit-filled ministries in Bay County. During the past 125 years, Messiah has made a significant impact on the community. The members of Messiah have consistently heeded the call of Christ to assist all those who are in need of spiritual healing. The inspiration for living by Christian ideals is repeated again and again in the lives of the staff and laity of the church. In the intervening years, with God's blessing, and through the dedicated efforts of many, pastors and lay people alike, the membership has grown to 600 people, embracing a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Spiritual growth spurred physical growth, as the building itself had no choice but to expand to accommodate the new congregants. The original small frame building has given way to the present substantial brick building on the same location, now designated as a historic site by the State of Michigan. Although the building has changed, the high purpose of worship and community service remains the same.

I pray that during this glorious milestone the members and community of this magnificent church will come together and do as the Bible tells us in Psalms 33:1-4: "Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy. For the word of the Lord is right and all His work is done in truth."

For 125 years, Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church has been a dynamic force for the public good. At every time of social need or upheaval, the congregation has resoundingly responded by living the Gospel spoken every Sunday in the sanctuary. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the continuity of Christian life that has resonated for more than 12 decades and resonates today through Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church.

NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
BASKETBALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Niagara Falls High School Boy's Basketball team on winning the 2005 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AA Championship. The Niagara Falls Basketball Team is now ranked 7th in the country. The team won the state championship game by a score of 69 to 58, and just as noteworthy, they won the semifinals by over 50 points.

Every player on the team deserves credit for this victory. While Paul Harris, who won the Most Valuable Player award, should be congratulated, each team member worked very hard to bring home this championship title to Niagara Falls.

I wish to commend Coach Bazzani and his staff and the leadership of the Niagara Falls School District for giving these young men the support and instilling in them their perseverance and winning attitude. I would also like to compliment the other members of this team—the cheerleaders and the Pep Band. The band made up of students including a father, has been at all the games inspiring the team and cheering on the crowd with their antics. They are as worth watching as the team.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Niagara Falls Boy's Basketball team. Again, I wish to commend Coach Bazzani, the coaching staff, players and the community for this successful championship season.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN
ENRIQUE M. BARRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio Councilman Enrique M. Barrera for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Enrique Barrera began his professional career as an educator with the San Felipe School District in Del Rio Texas. His strong passion and dedication to serve the community lead him to move to San Antonio to serve as a counselor, social worker and administrator.

He later worked as an Employee Department Specialist with the United States Office of Personnel Management and then later as a Chief of Civilian Personnel Training at Randolph Air Force Base.

He continued with his professional career at the State Level and served with the Texas Department of Community Affairs, the Texas Department of Commerce and the Texas work-force commission.

In 2001 he decided to make a run for San Antonio City Council, and in May he was elected to District 6. In May 2003, he was re-elected to his second term, and has since brought integrity to the seat.

Mr. Speaker, an Antonio Councilman Enrique Barrera is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource to his county, and I am glad I had this opportunity to thank him for his work and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN ANTONIO CITY
COUNCILWOMAN PATTI RADLE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Patti Radle.

Patti Radle has lived a life of enormous service to her community. Since arriving in San Antonio in 1969, Ms. Radle has been at the center of volunteer project after volunteer project, working on issues ranging from urban development to education to civil rights.

For thirty years, she and her husband, Rod, have served as volunteer co-directors of the non-profit group Inner City Development, which provides emergency services for families in crisis, and educational opportunities for children and teens.

She served on the founding board of the first chapter of Habitat for Humanity in the United States, Habitat for Humanity San Antonio. She advanced the cause of civil rights in our state by organizing Martin Luther King memorial marches, and serving on the National Council of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

She worked for nine years as an elementary school teacher, and helped to make our public schools safer and stronger by founding school conflict resolution programs throughout the San Antonio area.

Mr. Speaker, Patti Radle has enriched our community with her creativity, her energy, and her vision for over 35 years. She continues to work to build a better future for San Antonio as City Councilwoman for San Antonio Council District 5. I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize her here, and to thank her for her many contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN
RICHARD PEREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Richard Perez for his commitment to serving his fellow citizens of San Antonio, Texas.

Richard Perez is the representative for San Antonio's City Council 4th District. He was raised by his parents in the exact district that he represents today, so it goes without saying that he is familiar with the area and its needs.

But his life of service to the community does not begin with his current role as a city council member; he has held various positions in city planning in such cities as Laredo and Austin that experienced tremendous city growth during his service. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as the Special Assistant to the Deputy

Secretary for three years, thus giving him a thorough understanding of the federal governments workings in communities like that which he represents now.

In 2001 Councilman Perez returned to his childhood home of San Antonio to assist in managing his families' small business Fairway

Landscape and Nursery Inc. It is through this position that he observes the challenges and obstacles facing small businesses of San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Richard Perez understands the concerns of the citizens, small businesses and everything else that is the

great city of San Antonio. It is because of this connection with the populace and his long standing record of public service that I am proud to let the people know of the commitment of Richard Perez to the community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 16

9:15 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider The Reliable Fuels Act, and The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005.

SD-406

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Air Force Acquisition Oversight in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-232A

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Finance
To hold hearings to examine expiring tax provisions.

SD-628

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Appropriations
Military Construction Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Army and Air Force.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the lifting of the European Union arms embargo on China.

SD-419

Intelligence

To hold a closed briefing on intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Judiciary
Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine obscenity prosecution and the constitution.

SD-226

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine national security space policy and programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-232A

4:30 p.m.

Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing regarding Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), focusing on the evolving IED threat and the Department of Defense's approach to addressing this issue.

SR-222

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH-219.

SD-106

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance.

SR-253

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the report entitled, "Back from the Battlefield: Are we providing the proper care for America's Wounded Warriors?"

SR-418

11 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Business meeting to markup The Federal Public Transportation Act of 2005.

SD-538

3 p.m.

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine posture of the U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-232A

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

345 CHOB

APRIL 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.

345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

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

345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

MARCH 16

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Howard J. Krongard, of New Jersey, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

SD-419

POSTPONEMENTS

11 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 21, to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, S. 335, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act, S. 494, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, S. 501, to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia, report of the permanent subcommittee on investigation, titled, "The Role of the Professional Firms in the U.S. Tax Shelter Industry", and the nomination of Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury.

SD-342