EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FIRST BIODIESEL FACILITY IN THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Denton, under the leadership of Mayor Euline Brock, for its commitment to renewable energy. The City of Denton has teamed up with Biodiesel Industries, Inc., to construct the world’s first renewable biodiesel facility. This facility opened at the City of Denton Landfill on March 29, 2005.

Biodiesel is a nontoxic, biodegradable alternative to petroleum diesel that substantially reduces air pollution. The Denton facility demonstrates a further commitment to clean energy by powering the facility by renewable biogas extracted from the adjacent City of Denton Landfill. The facility’s expected initial production capacity will be approximately three million gallons of pure biodiesel per year. The fuel will be used by the City of Denton’s entire diesel fleet and will also be sold through regional distribution channels to promote private participation.

The City of Denton’s use of a biodiesel fuel mix is expected to reduce emissions by twelve tons per year. The opening of this facility demonstrates Denton’s dedication to cleaning up the air we breathe—this is especially important in the North Texas region as we work to comply with Clean Air Act requirements. Additionally, this opening shows Denton’s commitment to reducing air pollution, foreign oil dependency and generating local economic development.

As a nation, we need to look for affordable renewable fuel sources for our future. The City of Denton has shown how partnerships between local governments and private firms can help to protect the environment in an economically feasible way. I would like to applaud the City of Denton for their leadership on this issue.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDREW J. MAIR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, Andrew “Andy” Mair. Through Andy’s incredible career, he has traveled the world and had many exciting experiences. I am glad to take this opportunity to share with you his life.

At age twenty-two, Andrew J. Mair married his wife Norma Asmus. In the following seven years, they had two daughters, purchased a farm, and settled in Fort Collins. He became President of the Larimer County Farm Bureau. He was a member of the Boxelder School Board, and Elder in the Fort Collins Presbyterian Church.

At age thirty-three, Andy sold his farm and moved to Denver so he could attend the University of Denver. After graduating he took a job with the Colorado Farm Bureau. Andy also worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the Director of the Denver Office of Conservation and Stabilization. Three years later, he was transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

With the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Andy made his first trip around the world. One year later, Andy was appointed as Administrative Officer in the American Embassy in Rome, Italy. There, Andy met Pope John Paul VI and handled logistics for President John F. Kennedy, including three trips for Jacqueline Kennedy, and two trips for Vice President Johnson.

Another exciting point in Andy’s career was when he was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs. He served as the head of the United States Delegation to all United Nations Food and Agriculture organizations in Rome. He also represented the United States at the United Nations headquarters in New York for their World Food Program.

Through his vast experiences while working for the government, Andy has earned several awards including the U.S. State Department’s Meritorious Honor Award, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Award of Distinguished Service. He received his most cherished award in 1983, the National Farm Bureau Award. To this day, Andy is still the only Coloradan to have received this award.

Andy’s accomplishments are numerous and ongoing. Just this year, Andy was approached by Colorado State University’s Agriculture Department requesting his papers, records and letters to be placed in the CSU Agriculture Archives.

As the Deputy Director for Health Care Legislation and Senior Legislative Advocate for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) national office in Washington, DC, Madeleine has been a key healthcare advocate on Capitol Hill regarding federal policy. After nearly 7 years of service, Madeleine is retiring from SEIU. SEIU represents 1.8 million working people in the areas of health care, public service, building service, industrial and allied trades.

Madeleine has been instrumental in fashioning both the strategy and substantive health care policy to advance the goals of SEIU. She has made countless visits to Capitol Hill on the behalf of American workers to meet with congressional staff on important health care policy issues. She has also worked with numerous organizations that share SEIU’s goal of improving our nation’s health care system.

Most important, Madeleine has been an important partner with the City of New York in advancing several important health care issues, including fiscal relief for Federal Medicaid matching rates, bioterrorism, Bioshield I and II, Ryan White Title I, Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding, smallpox vaccinations, indigent care costs for undocumented immigrants, Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission, disaster response capabilities, immunizations for children, the adult vaccine program, and Medicare.

Most recently, she worked with New York City to insure the passage of the Smith Bingham amendment, which blocked Senate passage of $14 billion in budget resolution cuts to Medicaid and called for Congress to have a bipartisan commission on Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, Madeleine Golde has been a leader in advocating for a health care system that ensures all Americans have quality and affordable health care coverage. 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.

HONORING SODUS SPARTANS’ BOYS BASKETBALL CLASS C STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sodus Spartans for their victory over Faith Heritage to capture the 2005 Class C State Championship title. The 76–65 win marked the first state championship for the boys’ basketball team as well as the Sodus School athletic program.

Emanuel Reaves and Gregory Logins led the team, scoring 17 and 22 points, respectively. They are currently 27–0 and are looking to capture the number one spot in the state within their class. Coach Jim Sergeant and the team deserve recognition for their consistent hard work and attainment of the championship title.

Coach Jim Sergeant, Alan H. Granger, and Robert Miranda, as well as players Robert McDowell, Emanuel Reaves, Johnny McClary, Roderick Johnson, Gregory Logins, Matthew Sombathy, Antonio Parker, Jeffrey Kuhn, Dennis Gorobtschuk, Jaroslaw Konikiewicz, Hauke Bruns, Brian Hanagan, Lionel Webber,
Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor several members of our Nation’s military who have recently returned home after serving our country with distinction in Iraq.

Specialist Rocky Padgett, Specialist Chad Sumner, Specialist James Tyson Zigler, Specialist Bud Rath, Specialist Bradrick Graves, Specialist James Arnold, Specialist Jason Yanna, Specialist Michael Easdon, Corporal Jason W. Fitzgerald, Sergeant Christopher Callaway, and Sergeant John L. Tety all serve our deepest appreciation and respect. In the face of tremendous danger, these 11 men bravely answered the call of duty to fight our enemies abroad so that we would not have to fight them here at home. Because of their efforts, America is safer today than it was just 2 years ago.

On behalf of the grateful citizens of the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to welcome these heroes home. America owes these men, and all who serve beside them in the War on Terror, a tremendous debt, one that we will probably never be able to fully repay. Today, we thank them for their courage, their patriotism, their service, and their sacrifice.

As these men return to their families, friends, and the lives they left behind, I want to ensure that they do so secure in the knowledge that it is through their service that America will one day be free from the horrors of terrorism. It is because of their service, that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy freedom, peace, prosperity, and the many other blessings that God has bestowed upon this great land, the United States of America.

Gentlemen, on behalf of a grateful Nation, welcome home.

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, my predecessor as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Financial Services, John LaFalce, made enormous contributions during his tenure in Congress to our deliberations on financial services issues, and as a private citizen, he continues to do so. I have myself benefited in a number of conversations from his knowledge and wisdom about a range of issues. One of those about which he is most concerned is the current plan for a change in international financial regulations known as Basel II. On March 11, John LaFalce published a very thoughtful, well-informed article in the American Banker, outlining his concerns about the implications of Basel II. This is a subject currently before us in the Financial Services Committee, and while not widely known, is of great importance to our financial system. Because of that, I ask that the article by John LaFalce expressing his deep reservations about Basel II be printed here.

 Basel II PLAN IS A CRISIS IN THE MAKING

In the coming year, Congress and U.S. bank regulators will decide whether to adopt new capital regulations that would impact the entire U.S. banking system.

Current discussions on Basel II are focusing on the minute details, rather than the more important question of whether the proposed accord makes any sense at all. In my view, Basel II is fundamentally flawed, and actually dangerous, for numerous reasons.

First, it is based on a fanciful premise that sophisticated risk-management models enable banks to manage their capital asset in a way that is neither too low, nor too high, but just right. I hope my former colleagues and others do not gamble the stability of our domestic and global financial system on this theory.

Recent financial crises, such as at Long-Term Capital Management, should serve as a stark reminder that matter how sophisticated, are subject to unpredictable market forces and, most important, human judgments, mistakes, and even manipulation.

With every large bank in the world lining up to play the Basel II capital game, and a financial system that is increasingly interdependent, the consequences of even an inadvertent mistake could be devastating. The odds are too high that Basel II, if adopted, could trigger a systemic financial crisis.

Second, Basel II’s proponents have been too quiet about the most fundamental tenet of banking regulation—safety and soundness—and the critical role that an adequate capital cushion plays in the safe and sound operation of our banks and banking system. A Basel II regime would be reckless, unsafe, and unsound, all because it is fundamentally flawed.

It would allow banks to use complex risk-based models that few if any corporate executives or directors will ever comprehend. It would reward banks that manipulate their models over time to achieve the lowest amount of capital reserves possible.

It would also create powerful incentives, competitive pressures, and irresistible temptations for the nation’s largest banks to restructure their capital models to achieve the lowest amount of capital reserves possible. Banks will be able to artificially improve their performance by manipulating capital levels, much as we have seen some companies manipulate earnings.

The new capital regime will severely undermine the competitiveness of small or medium-size banks because of the dramatically lower capital levels that the largest banks will achieve. We now know that two of the nation’s largest banks have achieved capital ratios that are lower than the capital levels at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But Basel II would actually allow banks to hold less capital for the same mortgage assets than Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are required to hold, estimates of which are high enough that Basel II banks would have to hold for mortgage assets would also be at or below the capital level that led to the savings and loan crisis.

And we know that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, remarked recently that it was important for the nation’s largest financial institutions to “...remain above the high regulatory thresholds.”

He added that “because of the broader implications of a failure for the financial system as a whole, in particular to the supervisory framework for the largest systematically significant banking organizations...”
Sixth, proponents like to argue that Basel II is necessary to create competitive equity among internationally active banks. No capital accord will ever accomplish that objectivity, both because of significant differences in accounting standards and the wide disparity in the quality of regulation abroad, as Jerry Hawke has stated.

Global regulatory consistency will never be achieved, particularly when foreign banks abroad are examined only sporadically and without the same thoroughness as U.S. banks. The reality is that U.S. banks have proven stronger, more profitable, and more resilient than their foreign counterparts in recent economic cycles.

Seventh, there clearly is an effort afoot, pending Basel II’s adoption, to abolish the leverage ratio as inconsistent with the principles of Basel II. Congress and U.S. regulators must not weaken our country’s important regulatory protections such as the leverage ratio and prompt corrective action regulations to enable the questionable supervisory oversight abroad.

Although some at the Federal Reserve have provided assurances that the leverage ratio will be maintained under Basel II, some have left that question open. And powerful institutional and lobbying forces have already voiced their preference for capital regulations based exclusively on risk-based credit models, and have called for the elimination of the leverage ratio.

This cannot be allowed. Among other things, the leverage ratio ensures that regardless of the risk-based models used by banks, there is at least a base level of protection in the event of a crisis, rather than relying primarily on an insurance fund or taxpayer bailout.

In sum, decades as a legislator have convinced me that the most effective regulations are those that are easy to understand, can be applied objectively and consistently, are not subject to manipulation, and can be monitored effectively by supervisors, managers, and market participants. This is particularly the case when dealing with issues affecting the stability of our domestic and global financial systems.

With some reasonable updating, the existing Basel I approach can continue to meet these goals and ensure that sufficient capital is available as a cushion against mistakes or unanticipated crises. Basel II would take us in a dangerous direction toward subjective self-assessments of capital and a dependence on complex theoretical models that are subject to manipulation and incapable of being effectively monitored.

I see no consideration of safety and soundness as a II debate, and no recognition of the danger of adopting a new capital regulation that goes in the exact opposite direction from the recent reforms concerning corporate governance, regulatory oversight, and internal controls.

Mr. Bell was involved in various organizations. He was a proud member of the Ontario Motor Speedway and Riverside Speedway Booster Clubs. In addition, he was a charter member of the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club and helped to organize the widely-popular Friday's Day Parades. Bill was a charter member of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and is the former Owner, Editor, and Publisher of The Ranchos Independent, a newspaper dedicated to serving the Madera Ranchos community.

Bill is survived by his wife Pat, and their two children James and Julie.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor posthumously Mr. William Bell for his service and dedication to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering and celebrating the life of William "Bill" Bell.

CHIEU LE AND LEE’S SANDWICHES—COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chieu Le, founder and chief executive officer of Lee’s Sandwiches in Orange County, California.

An immigrant and a business leader, Mr. Le was recognized by the Asian Business Association of Orange County in 2003 for his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to the communities his company serves.

In 1981, one year after immigrating to the United States from Vietnam, Mr. Le and his family bought their first catering truck and began serving sandwiches in the community.

Twenty years later, they opened the first Lee’s Sandwich Shop in Garden Grove, California. The idea of a fast-food style restaurant serving Vietnamese sandwiches came from Mr. Le’s late son, Minh.

Today, Lee’s Sandwiches is the fastest-growing restaurant chain in the West, with 35 stores in operation or development.

Mr. Le and his family also believe in giving back to the community. In response to the tragedies of the 9–11 attacks and the Tsunami in South Asia, Lee’s Sandwiches raised nearly $200,000 in total for the victims of these disasters.

The Le family is as an example of a successful business in California that continues to give back to its community. I believe that Mr. Le and Lee’s Sandwiches will continue to expand the commitment to the communities they serve.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST W. ASCHERMANN—85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ernest W. Aschermann on the occasion of his 85th birthday. Mr. Aschermann, who was born of German immigrant parents who passed through Ellis Island
at the turn of the century, turns 85 on April 18th. We honor Mr. Aschermann for having been a great football star at Ossining High School in Ossining, New York, earning him a full scholarship to Syracuse University. Upon graduation, Aschermann returned to his alma mater to teach, coach, and be a mentor to many over 37 years. Aschermann still holds the distinction for having the only undefeated baseball team in Ossining history.

He was the husband of Vivian Bernice Ottaviano and the father to Ernest and Kurt. At a celebration in Ossining on April 9th, over 40 family members will travel from across the country to celebrate this great American’s birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Mr. Aschermann as he achieves this momentous milestone, and I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere best wishes for many more to come.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST FRANCISCO G. MARTINEZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give remembrance to Specialist Francisco G. Martinez, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Spec. Martinez suffered a fatal wound to the hip when his unit made contact with small arms fire from the insurgents. Spec. Martinez was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Korea. He was 20 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Spec. Martinez’s life today. SPC Martinez grew up with a military background. His father, Francisco Thomas Martinez, served in the United States military from 1981–1991. SPC Martinez swore off the military in high school. Although SPC Martinez did not always come. It was my honor to represent Specialist Francisco G. Martinez, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE LIVES OF WARREN AND FERN WOLIVER

HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Warren and Fern Wolaver. They are literally a walking history book of Larimer County, Colorado, and I would like to share with my colleagues a little about their lives in my district.

October 4, 2004 marked the 65-year wedding anniversary of Fern and Warren Wolaver. Their lives together have been spent in servitude to their community and family. They have lived for 35 years in their present home, located in a dry lakebed, with the road leading to their home being the dry streambed. Warren was born on the bluff that overlooks their current home.

Warren’s great grandfather traveled on a covered wagon and settled on Milner Mountain, close to the current Wolaver home. His grandfather was a sheriff and a State Representative.

Big Thompson School has played a large role in the lives of Fern and Warren since they attended as children. Four generations of Wolavers have attended this school including their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They have gone to Big Thompson School for many chill suppers, Parent Teacher Organization meetings, Christmas concerts and other programs. There was only one year that Fern and Warren missed a function at the Big Thompson School and that was in 1984 when there was four feet of snow on the ground.

Fern and Warren have had some interesting careers as farmers and ranchers. Through their farm, Wolaver Cherry Company, they have grown massive amounts of cherries including one year in 1960 when they were able to harvest 100 tons of cherries. They’ve also grown wheat, barley and corn, and raised turkeys and steers.

Fern worked in the family factory, Wolaver Packing, and served as a trustee. Fern was also a congressional aide to former Colorado Senator Hank Brown for ten years, and worked for Congressman Wayne Allard for five years. She worked as the clerk at their church, Buckhorn Presbyterian, for twelve years.

In addition to farming their cherry orchard and other crops, Warren has an extensive history in public policy. He was appointed to the “100 Man Committee on Local Government” in 1963 and serving in 1976, he spent eight years on the state board of Social Services. In 1976 he served as vice chair of the Big Thompson Flood Recovery Committee, as well as serving two terms on the Big Thompson School Board. He was also a Larimer County Commissioner from 1960 to 1976.

Looking at the lives of Fern and Warren, one cannot help but be amazed at their experiences. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the Wolaver’s and to wish them the best in health and prosperity for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM F. WRIGHT, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend William F. Wright, Jr. who has been a leader in his community and is celebrating his 25th Pastoral Anniversary at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Wright was born in Aiken, South Carolina to William Frank Wright and Willie Weaver Wright. He was reared in Nash County, North Carolina and graduated from Nash Central High School and North AT&T State University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree. In 1979, he received a Master of Divinity Degree from Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wright was called to the gospel ministry in 1975 and was licensed to preach by the East White Oak Baptist Church that same year. In 1977, Rev. Wright was ordained by the Guilford Association. His pastorate was at West End Baptist Church in Reidsville, North Carolina. Under his leadership, West End extensively renovated the sanctuary. After nineteen years with Lorillard Corporation, Rev. Wright retired as a manager to become the full-time pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is the former president of the Board of Directors of the Lorillard Credit Union.

As a gospel preacher and community servant, Rev. Wright has served with and led many community and interfaith coalitions and groups. Under his leadership, the Greensboro Pulpit Forum undertook some of its most challenging work, including the community buying and stewardship program, which led to a decent labor contract between the K-Mart workers and Unite, their labor union. From the helm of the Pulpit Forum, he has served his fellow preachers as motivator, leader, and confidant. Rev. Wright has served on the Board of Directors for Greensboro Urban Ministries, the Greensboro Housing Resource Board, the Greensboro Fair Housing Board, the Greensboro Human Relations Commission, the Greensboro 100, and the NAACP.

His honors and awards are many. Under his leadership, New Zion has been named “Church of the Year” by the NAACP more than five times. Rev. Wright, himself, has been named “NAACP Man of the Year” for 1995. He was recently honored at the NAACP National Meeting with a community service award for his role in the K-Mart struggle.

Rev. Wright’s leadership in the church is matched by his leadership in the community. Five years before it became fashionable, Wright had the Pulpit Forum release a thirty-two (32) page position paper in which the church was challenged to enter into the business of confronting the problem of youth and drugs in the community. This work included workshops, direct contact actions, and visits into the communities where our youth suffer. In the spring of 1993, there was a daylong event where thirty young men admitted to gang involvement and being members of rival gangs. Everyone joined together in a joint statement declaring an end to his gang rivalries.

On a personal level, this Pastor is known in the Greensboro community as a “Pastor's
Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders, the varsity boys’ basketball team that won their first Class B State Title. The 57-47 victory was well earned after trailing to the Carle Place Frogs for the majority of the game.

Junior shooting guard Anthony Hall scored a game-high 26 points, and helped the Red Raiders get back into the lead in the final quarter. Coach Chip Tatro and the rest of this outstanding team deserve congratulations after their third attempt, and consequent victory, in winning the championship.

Coach Chip Tatro, Christopher Mike, Jared Boisvert, Mike Beck, Anthony Hall, Todd Piccola, Dan Gorman, Tim Patchett, Jonathon Dennison, Adam Husk, Andy Weaver, Jason Clair, Sean McGinn, Chris Timbs are all equal contributors to the outstanding 2005 season.

I commend the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders for their enthusiasm and hard work in reaching their goal. Congratulations and good luck on future seasons.

HONORING THE VAN VANDALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Van Vandals boys’ basketball team who won the Texas 3A championship on March 11, 2005. In their first trip to the state finals in sixty-three years, the Vandals beat Graham High School to return home with the state championship trophy. This is an accomplishment that the young men on the team will remember for the rest of their lives.

As the congressional representative of the members, coaches, and supporters of the Van Vandals, it is my pleasure to recognize their outstanding accomplishment today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, since 1982, my congressional activities have been covered by the Sun Chronicle, which provides news for the Greater Attleboro, Massachusetts area. It is a newspaper which understands the importance of solid and thoughtful coverage of events that happen within its area. At the same time, it pays due attention to national issues, and it has also been an important advocate for fair treatment for that part of Massachusetts in which it circulates.

Its interest in all three of these elements came together on March 18 when the Sun Chronicle published a gracious and thoughtful editorial about the appointment of an Attleboro native, Joe Solmonese, to be the head of the Human Rights Campaign. The Human Rights Campaign is an organization that the Sun Chronicle has honored for fair treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, and I am among those who were very pleased that Mr. Solmonese was selected, given the combination of skill and talent that he brings to the job.

As the Sun Chronicle noted, “Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign” and it is also honored and fortunate to have a newspaper with the generosity of spirit to editorialize as well as it did on this subject. I ask that this editorial be printed here.

NEW YORK.—After 12 years advocating for abortion rights, Attleboro native Joe Solmonese might have opted for a less divisive field of work. Instead, he is taking over leadership of the largest national gay-rights group at a time when the same-sex marriage debate has rivaled abortion for volatility and virulence.

“My challenge is to talk about why the equality we seek is not just important to our community, but should be important to everyone,” Solmonese said. “I have to believe in the optimism and fair-mindedness of the American people.”

Solmonese was named last week as the new president of the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign and will formally assume the post April 11.

He plans to start his tenure by traveling around the country, meeting with state and local activists.

Since 1993, Solmonese has been a strategist for EMILY’S List, a political action committee supporting state and federal candidates of Democratic women who favor abortion rights. He was its chief executive for the past 2½ years, helping raise fund-raising records but also seeing candidates his group endorsed lose 2004 Senate races in Florida, South Carolina and Missouri.

Solmonese graduated from Boston University with a degree in communications after growing up in Attleboro. One of his role models was the local congressman, Barney Frank—a role that he became in 1981 when openly gay politicians were almost unheard of.

“Barney Frank is an incredibly heroic person, but also someone who is absolutely in touch with his constituency,” Solmonese said in a telephone interview. “He’s a man who values family more than anyone I know.”

Solmonese came out as gay in his early 20s; he recalls attending a Human Rights Campaign dinner where he was 22. Before joining EMILY’S List, he was an aide to former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and a fund-raiser for Frank.

He credits his parents, both schoolteachers, with inspiring him to pursue a career in political activism. Solmonese Elementary School in Norton is named after his father, Joseph.

“After a decade in the reproductive rights movement, I see myself having been in the fight for a progressive America,” he said. “Groups like the HRC are very much at the forefront of that fight.”

Another common denominator for the abortion-rights and gay rights movements is their determined and politically well-connected constituency who focus on those two issues have claimed credit for the Republicans’ strong showing in the 2004 election.

“The American people fear a whole range of things right now, from terrorism to their economic future,” Solmonese said. “Our opposition has been pretty crafty at capitalizing on that fear, using whatever means necessary to make political gains.”

Many conservative groups are now waging a two-pronged fight against gay marriage. They are lobbying Congress to approve a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman; they also hope many more states will join the 17 that already have amended their constitutions to exclude gay marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign was among numerous gay-rights organizations participating earlier this month in a strategy session aimed at competing effectively in upcoming state ballot campaigns regarding gay marriage.

Solmonese says he hopes Massachusetts will be one of those states. He notes that its pioneering legalization of same-sex marriage has positive, not negative, results. “Massachusetts is still there, with loving, committed families. Let on with their lives and experiencing the same rights and responsibilities that all Americans do,” he said. “We want to shine a light on what happened in Massachusetts, and tell the American people who we truly are.”

He replaces another Massachusetts political activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president late last year, citing differences with its board.

Her departure coincided with speculation in the gay media, and elsewhere, about dissension among the HRC board and some of its major gay-rights groups. Solmonese said he has detected no serious rifts since his hiring was announced.

ATHLETE HONORED BY ANOTHER ACTIVIST

ATTLEBORO HONORED BY ANOTHER ACTIVIST

Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign—the nation’s largest gay civil rights group—and just days prior to a well-covered loosening on the West Coast of the bans on same-sex marriage.

Joe Solmonese, 40, who is gay, brings to his new role a history of activism that began when he became student council vice president while a junior at Attleboro High School in the early 1980s.
Mr. ISRAEL. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, New York to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of American POWs at the end of World War II.

Sixty years ago this spring, over 100,000 American and Allied POWs were liberated by Soviet troops as they swept aside enemy forces in Eastern Europe. This liberation marked the end of forced marches, stinging cold, constant hunger and the everpresent threat of summary execution by a collapsing Nazi regime. Simultaneously, advancing Allied forces attacked Hitler’s death camps and their wretched legacy of inhumanity.

As we observe this anniversary, I am truly proud to have the American Airpower Museum at the Republic Airport in Farmingdale in my congressional district. The museum has established a new permanent tribute to honor those who endured the POW “stalags” and to solemnly mark the liberation of the death camps built by the Third Reich for the purpose of murdering millions of European Jews.

The museum’s tribute includes a recreated watch tower and barracks, a detailed diorama of a German “stalag,” the names of those New Yorkers who were POWs during World War II and a tribute to American POWs in other conflicts. This will mark the first permanent museum tribute to American POWs in the New York region.

It is vital that we continue to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and pay tribute to both the victims and the brave soldiers who contributed to the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule. I strongly commend the leadership that the American Airpower Museum of Farmingdale has taken on this issue and urge other museums to follow suit.

RECOGNIZING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL’S NAME TO THE GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL GOLD LIST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Flower Mound High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition on the Gold List of Grammy Signature Schools.

I congratulate Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department, under the leadership of Danna Rothlisberger, Lewisville ISD director of performing arts, and Mark Rohwer, chair of the performing arts department, for their outstanding achievement. Flower Mound High School was only one of seven schools in the nation promoted to the Gold List from their original recognition as a Grammy Signature School.

Flower Mound High School received $7,000 cash reward for its performing arts department as part of their promotion. Mr. Rohwer has promised to spend a portion of the money to hiring composers to write specific pieces for the band, orchestra and choir, and to buy new equipment.

Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department is a stellar example from which Texas schools should model their performing arts departments. Their commitment to educating students through the arts is to be admired and replicated.

I am proud of the education system in Texas; especially our involved parents and teachers at Flower Mound High School who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM “SLIM” SOMERVELL

HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Willis “Slim” Somervell, who has dedicated his life to God, his family, and the United States of America.

Slim has said, “You need to be true to yourself and you need to have beliefs and a value system. Without those, what are we?” These are wise words. As I learned about the life of service that Mr. Somervell has led, I am inspired by his beliefs and his values.

Service to America is one value Slim holds dear. He entered the United States Navy in 1941. In 1944, Slim was commissioned as a general and navigation officer for the USS Landing Ship Medium 142.

In addition to having command of the Landing Ship Medium, he also commanded Patrol Craft 1262, which conducted air and sea rescues in the Caribbean. He was also Executive Officer of the Patrol Craft Escort 877. Slim worked in the Fleet Weather Center in Washington, DC and conducted Navy weather research in Norfolk, Virginia. He served on the Forrestal, CVA–59. He was also the staff meteorologist for the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, later for the Western Pacific 7th Fleet and ultimately commanded the Navy Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia.

Devotion to family is another value that is important to Slim. While on assignment in Monterey, California, he met his wife Mary. They married in 1949 in Kerrville, Texas. They had five children, four girls and one boy. Slim and Mary are now grandparents of thirteen.

Slim will often tell you, “What more can a person ask for than children and grandchildren who turn out to be good citizens.” As you can tell, Slim is quite proud of his family.

After 30 years of faithful service to our country, Slim retired. But this did not slow him down. Slim took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation in their cloud seeding program. Later, Slim worked for the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. Slim spent 15 years in that department as a manager, researcher and also a teacher.

In addition to service to family and service to our country, Slim also strongly believes in service to God. Slim and Mary attend Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. There, Slim serves as a lector and a communion minister.

Slim has been truly blessed with a great career and a great family. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Somervell. May God continue to bless the Somervells for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MAE CATHERINE GREENE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mae Catherine Greene in recognition for her dedication to her community.

Mae Catherine Greene fondly known as “Cat” by family and close friends is almost a life long resident of the east New York community of which she has been an integral and staunchly loyal advocate. She was born in Chadbourn, NC in March of 1957, the ninth of ten children of a proud and independent working mother.

Mae obtained her education in the neighborhood she so greatly loves and admires. She attended P.S. 149, I.S. 292 and William H. Maxwell High School in East New York, New York. Mae, who has been married for almost 27 years to her childhood sweetheart, Richard Greene, is the proud mother of six children who still live in east New York as well.
Having six children in the public school system and being a concerned, loving and dedicated parent, Mae took a strong interest in the neighborhood’s public school system. She was very involved and an active presence in many different capacities. She served as President and Secretary on the Community Board 19 and President of the P.T.A. at P.S. 213, I.S. 171 and I.S. 292. Additionally, she was Chapter 1 Chairperson for the District for both P.S. 213 and I.S. 171 as well as P.A.C. President for the Board for two day care centers, Georgia-Livonia and Einstein in East NY.

Mae is not only an advocate for education, but she is also very involved in community and politically based issues and activities. She has been a longtime advocate for senior citizens, immigrant and housing rights. Mae has served as Secretary to the Tenants’ Advisory Board and Property Manager at Elva McZeal Housing Development and as a Community Advisor at Beekman Houses in the Bronx, NY. She also set up a parents’ rights advocacy for immigrant parents at P.S. 213, was a community liaison for Health Plus, and an advocate for the senior citizens at Elva McZeal Houses.

Mr. Speaker, Mae Catherine Greene has strengthened her community through her numerous volunteer efforts with the PTA, the Community Board, and local housing associations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the truly remarkable person.

HONORING MSGT ROBERT F. GREEN, JR.

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MSGT Robert F. Green, a resident of Ontario, New York is retiring from the United States Air Force after years of dedicated service.

His retirement allows for reflection on what can only be considered a sterling career. He has admirably served his country without complaint. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. ANNE DORA MOORE HALL

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the life of Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall, 4 passed away on March 16, 2005. Mrs. Hall was born in Cherokee County, Texas to Miles Cleveland and Mary Margaret Hall. She lived most of her life in Dallas and had a long, successful career as an insurance executive.

A mother to two children, Robert and Steven, and wife to Bergen Hall, Mrs. Hall was also very active in her community. She was an officer in the Pierce Brooks Gospel Foundation, served on the Texas Safety Council, and worked with the Crippled Children’s Foundation of America. She was also engaged in politics as a member of the White Rock Women’s Republican Club, the Public Affairs Luncheon Club, and working at her local precinct during elections.

As a mother, a wife, a businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall’s life embodied the values of family, community, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

JEFF JACOBY SHOWS INTEGRITY ON TORTURE ISSUE

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

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HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. ANNE DORA MOORE HALL

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By “extreme circumstances” he meant is often called the “ticking-bomb” scenario: A deadly terror attack is looming, and you can prevent it only by getting the information your prisoner refuses to divulge. Torture might force him to talk, thereby saving thousands of innocent lives. May he be tortured?

Many Americans would say yes without hesitating. Some would argue that torturing a terrorist is not nearly as wrong as refusing to torture a terrorist who might otherwise kill nine 11. Others would insist that monsters of Mohammed’s ilk deserve no decency.

As an ignignant reader (one of many) wrote to me in the wake of the cruel abuse of some U.S. detainees, “The terrorists . . . would cut your heart out and stuff it into the throat they would proudly show off. They care for the detainees, if it will produce the information we need?”

Here’s why:

First, because torture, as noted, is unambiguously illegal—illegal under a covenant the United States ratified, illegal under Fed- eral law, and illegal under protocols of civiliza- tion dating back to the Magna Carta. Second, because torture is notoriously unre- liable. Many people will say anything to make torture stop, no matter what they will refuse to yield no matter what is done to them. Yes, sometimes torture produces vital information. But it can also produce false leads and desperate fiction. In the ticking-bomb case, bad information is every bit as deadly as no information.

Third, because torture is never limited to just the guilty. The case for razors and elec- tric shock rests on the premise that the pris- oner is a knowledgeable terrorist like Mo- hammed or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But most of the inmates in military prisons are noth- ing of the kind. Commanders in Guantanamo acknowledge that hundreds of their prisoners pose no danger and have no useful informa- tion. Here’s how abuses re- ported to date involved men who were guilty only of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And fourth, because torture is a dan- gerously slippery slope. Electric shocks and beatings are justified if they can prevent, an- other 9/11? But if the shocks and beat- ing don’t produce the needed information? Is it OK to break a finger? To cut off a hand? To save 3,000 lives, can a terrorist’s eyes be gouged out? How about gouging out his son’s eyes? Or raping his daughter in his presence? If that’s what it will take to make him talk, to defuse the ticking bomb, isn’t it worth it?

No. Torture is never worth it. Some things we don’t do, not because they never work, not because they aren’t “deserved”; but because our very right to call ourselves decent human beings depends in part on our not doing them. Torture is in that category. We can win our war against the barbarians with- out becoming barbaric in the process.

**RECOGNIZING ERIN ROBBNETT, WINNER OF TEXAS VALUES VIS- UAL ARTS COMPETITION**

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2005**

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jean Allard, a lifelong serv- ice to the Colorado State College of Agri- culture and Mechanic Arts, (today it would be known as Colorado State University). She studied home economics and was a textile major. Jean was active in sports such as basket- ball, field hockey, softball and swimming. She graduated in 1942.

Jean made all of her own clothes during high school and college, which is evidence of her creativity and willingness to work hard. She comes from a family with a strong work ethic. Her grandparents, James and Jane Ross, homesteaded in Fort Collins when they came from Scotland in 1867. Jean’s family grew grain, hay, and raised purebred Hereford cattle. Their original homestead remained on 1600 Horsetooth Road through the 1980’s. Jean met Amos Allard at Fort Collins High School and they married on July 18, 1941. Their time together as a newlywed couple was short-lived as Amos was soon drafted into the Navy during World War II in 1944. After Jean graduated from Colorado A&M, they moved to the Allard family ranch in Jackson- son County, Colorado where they raised Here- ford cattle. In 1962 they sold their ranch and moved back to Larimer County.

The Allards bought a 297–acre farm in Loveland, west of the current Hewlett-Packard facility. On their property, Walt Clark Middle School was built, 3 churches and private schools were established, and over 830 homes in Loch-Lon (Lake Meadow Land). Jean was instrument in the development of Big Thompson senior housing in Loveland. She also sold the lots at

**Denton, Lewisville and surrounding communi- ties entered the contest. Over Time is the name of Erin’s piece which represents changes that have occurred during Texas’ his- tory. With Erin’s win, she received a savings bond from Huffines Auto Dealerships.**

Erin’s piece had the pecan tree, mocking bird and bluebonnets. She chose the Alamo and a soldier standing where the head piece would be. The head piece is half com- plete representing Texas’ past and present.

Erin Robnett’s talents are not only a testa- ment to her artistic skill but also a stellar ex- ample of how parents and schools are rewarded when combining a core curriculum with study in the arts. I am proud of the educa- tion system in Texas, especially our stu- dents, and involved parents and teachers at Crownover Middle School, who commit their lives and time to fostering growth of our com- munities. And I wanted to extend a special thank you to Huffines Automotive for their gener- ous contribution to these aspiring students.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN ALLARD**

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

**OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2005**

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jean Allard, a lifelong serv- ice to the Colorado State College of Agri- culture and Mechanic Arts, (today it would be known as Colorado State University).

Jean was born in Alamosa, Colorado. She came to Fort Collins at the age of five where she grew up on a farm and graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1938. She at- tended the Colorado State College of Agri- culture and Mechanic Arts, (today it would be known as Colorado State University).

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Loch-Lon, dealt with builders and typed warranty papers. Amos was active with the Board of Realtors where he served as a legislative liaison.

Through hard work, the Allards have been quite successful in Larimer County. They have two sons, current U.S. Senator WAYNE ALLARD and Kermit Allard, both living in Larimer County. They have four granddaughters and 6 great grandchildren.

Jean Allard has witnessed much change in Larimer County. The timeless value of hard work has truly been demonstrated by Jean. I wish the best for the Allard's and hope that their legacy will continue for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COUNCIL OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF FLATBUSH

HON. EDOPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. It is an honor to represent the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to their selfless endeavors of more than a quarter century.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush, was founded twenty six years ago to assist families in need in the greater Brooklyn area. Over the course of its many years of dedication to the Brooklyn community The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has truly emerged as a premier organization committed to assisting those who have nowhere else to turn.

Under the leadership of their Executive Director, Rabbi Yechezkel Pikus, The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has established itself as Brooklyn’s central address for social services, immigration services and many forms of crucial emergency assistance.

The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has been instrumental in creating successful employment programs and developing Small Business services. Through the Leader Family Employment Center and the South Brooklyn Business Outreach Center they have empowered people with the tools to succeed in their professional endeavors. Additionally, they are renowned for providing vital outreach to the elderly and homebound with particular attention and sensitivity to Holocaust survivors. They have also developed a scholarship fund to send children from disadvantaged families to summer camp.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. Their uncompromising commitment to Jewish ideals and ethics is an inspiration for us all.

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

RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN BUTCH FLANAGAN AND HIS YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Butch Flanagan of the Lewsville Fire Department, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his long career serving the public.

Captain Flanagan, who has spent the last 34 years with the Lewsville Fire Department, will retire April 5, 2005. He has been the city’s longest current employee and was named “Firefighter of the County” in 2004 by the “Heroes of Denton County.” Captain Flanagan worked his way up through the ranks and has been highly dedicated throughout his career. He once said, “I can’t ever see myself doing anything different.”

Captain Flanagan was born and raised in Lewsville, graduated from Lewsville High School, and now lives in Graham. He was one of the first full-time Lewsville firefighters and rose through the ranks to become captain. Captain Flanagan has been described as role model in the department and at home. Both his peers and superiors look up to Captain Flanagan as a mentor. One Lewsville fire chief said “He'll getcha outta trouble in a hurry” and “you know no one’s going to get hurt” when Captain Flanagan is in charge. The Chief also said that the Lewsville Fire Department was “blessed” to have such a man serve with them.

I am proud to represent Captain Butch Flanagan and the Lewsville Fire Department. Captain Flanagan has committed his life and time to protect and serve our community at any time, anywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE GADDAR MOVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Gaddar Movement and the brave individuals who contributed to the Indian Independence Movement. An event to commemorate the memories of the Gaddar Movement will occur in Fresno, CA, on April 3, 2005. In spite of the trials and hardships, the goal of India’s independence was achieved and the Indian people now live in a sovereign nation filled with hope and opportunity.

It is important to honor the sacrifices that so many have made for the cause of freedom. Just as the early Americans were guided by the doctrine of liberty embodied in the Declaration of Independence, the members of the Gaddar movement also understood the importance of autonomy for the Indian people. Many of these immigrants endured loss of life and property, but they persevered and have made major contributions to the U.S., both socially and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous efforts of those brave individuals who contributed to the Gaddar Movement. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing their courage and commitment to freedom.

IN MEMORY OF CONNIE SKIPWORTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, Connie Skipworth, who died on March 17, 2005, at the age of eighty-four.

Connie was a joy to know. Lively, humorous, and filled with the spirit of life, she dedicated much of her time to making everyone feel like part of the family. Connie was born on February 18, 1921 in San Bernardino, California.

By the late 1930s, Connie was married to Skip Skipworth and returned to California, spending those first years working as a riveter for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach during World War II.

Connie has spent much of her years participating in the life of the community. Connie and her sister, Irene, opened their first restaurant in 1945, The Old Mexico Cafe in Long Beach. Seven years later, Connie opened the Zarape Cafe in Las Vegas, later returning to The Old Mexico Cafe a year later, where she worked as a manager, saving up enough money to build The Azteca in Garden Grove in 1957.

Connie was very devoted to her family, and encouraged them to reach for greatness and to realize their potential. The Azteca was a success, and the business brought in money to the family, and joy to the community. She was a great woman making everyone feel comfortable by flashing a quick smile, and by greeting everyone by their first names.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Skipworth dedicated herself to making our town a wonderful community to live in. Connie is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER ANN PARROTT ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a highly valued citizen of my home city of Newark, New Jersey. Mother Ann Parrott celebrates her 80th Birthday on May 6, 2005. She is the mother to six wonderful children and grandmother to fourteen. She has dedicated her life, for almost five decades, to the social and spiritual improvement of her community.

Active in her church, she wears a myriad of hats ranging from Sunday school teacher to choir member. One of her most honorable contributions, however, has been the establishment of the LightHouse Temple Community Services in Newark, New Jersey.

Founded in 1989 as an addition to the LightHouse Temple, Community Services modestly
began as a soup kitchen where she served homemade soup and combread to the homeless in Newark. It now functions as one of the great providers of comprehensive care to the homeless and less fortunate in the state of New Jersey by offering emergency shelter, food, clothing and job placement to many in the Newark area.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives would join me in honoring Mother Ann Parrott, who becomes 80 years young on May 6, 2005, for her tireless work for the Newark community. She is a paragon of true virtue through her selfless dedication to the betterment of others. I am proud to have her in my Congressional district and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY GREG TAYLOR AND INVESTIGATOR SHANE NORIE FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Deputy Greg Taylor and Investigator Shane Norie of the Cooke County Sheriff's Office, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for their recognition from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States Attorney’s Office in Sherman.

Deputy Greg Taylor and Investigator Shane Norie have been involved in numerous drug busts. Year after year they have been responsible for collecting information that would lead to keeping drugs out of our communities and schools. Now, Investigator Norie has been selected to go to the DEA School located in Virginia.

Sheriff Mike Compton of the Cooke County Sheriff's Office says that officers like Taylor and Norie have made an impact on the war against drugs. Compton also praises the whole department's efforts to keep drugs off the streets and continue to build and foster strong relationships with the DEA.

I am proud of Cooke County Sheriff’s Office and leaders like Deputy Greg Taylor and Investigator Shane Norie who help keep our community safe and clean. Thanks to those who commit their lives and time to protect and serve our community at any time, any where. Through their efforts, we can all lead better lives.

HONOURING THE SERVICE OF BILL MARTIN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of my district who will be receiving special recognition soon for a lifetime of service to his community.

William C. “Bill” Martin is best known for his leadership as Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. But his work in the Washtenaw County community goes far beyond his work in the field of sports.

Whether creating First Martin Corporation for real estate development, founding the Bank of Ann Arbor, creating a three-on-three basketball tournament to raise money for the public schools or helping rebuild Island Royale’s ranger station, Bill Martin has been a community leader whose work has benefited thousands of his fellow citizens.

On several occasions, Bill has been asked to step in and help turn around troubled programs, including both the UM Athletic Department and the UM Alumni Committee. In both cases, his hard work and leadership helped get the ship and get things moving forward. That metaphor is quite appropriate, since Bill also has had a very successful competitive career in sailing and has contributed time and energy to the sport, both nationally and internationally.

He also has served with distinction on the board of his alma mater, Wittenburg University and also spent many years on the Washtenaw Land Conservancy Board, including ten years as president. He also has been a member of the advisory board for the University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women.

On May 2, 2005 the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County will present Bill with its Humanitarian Award, an honor bestowed every other year to an outstanding citizen of the community. Bill Martin is truly one of those deserving citizens, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this upcoming award and thanking him for his outstanding leadership in Michigan and around the nation.

IN HONOUR OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women’s History Month. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women’s History Month and a time to honor, “American women of every race, class and ethnic background who have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.”

For 2005, the theme of Women’s History Month is “Women Change America.” In celebration of this month, I would like to focus on two women from Wisconsin’s history and honor their contributions to society.

First, I would like to recognize Cordelia Julia Grace Wales. Wisconsin resident Julia Grace Wales made her mark in Wisconsin as a peace activist, scholar, an English instructor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a dedicated Christian. In 1914, in light of WWI, Wales decided to write her famous Wisconsin peace plan, a plan that she believed would end WWI. Wales made a genuine contribution to women’s history in Wisconsin and America’s tradition of peace movements.

Born in Portage, Wisconsin, Margery Latimer was a social movement activist and an accomplished author. Her book became well-known in the literary world after writing three highly acclaimed novels dealing greatly with the romanticism era. She once said, “There’s only one possession that’s worth having and that is the capacity to feel that life is a privilege and that each person in it is unique and will never appear again.”

The third woman I would like to honor is Zona Gale. Also born in Portage, Wisconsin, Zona Gale was a great novelist and short-story writer. Her most famous work was her novel, Miss Lulu Bett. This novel was adapted as a play in 1920 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1921. As an activist for women’s rights and the creation of the Wisconsin Equal Rights Law, prohibiting the discrimination of women, many of Gale’s feminist politics were expressed in her novels and then plays. Zona Gale passed away in 1938 in Portage, Wisconsin, but her voice will live on through her novels and efforts for women’s rights in Wisconsin and around the country.

These three women, along with so many others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. Whether in art or literature, activism or teaching, they deserve our remembrance, not only during the month of March, but throughout the rest of the year as well.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF BRIAN J. SMITH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Mr. Brian Smith, newly appointed Chief of the Waterfront Police Commission of New York & New Jersey, who was sworn into office on Friday, March 25, 2005.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for he has a long history of leadership, creativity, and commitment to his noble profession.

After attending Saint Francis College, located in Brooklyn, New York, Brian joined the National Park Service as a U.S. Park Ranger. He eventually ascended to the rank of Supervisory U.S. Park Ranger within the Law Enforcement Division. During his tenure with the National Park Service Brian’s talents and stellar reputation earned him a membership with the elite U.S. Park Ranger Special Events Team. Brian also attained a multitude of special licensures ranging from a certified K-9 handler to a RED Card Wild Fire Fighter.

In 1980, Mr. Smith decided to become an officer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Brian was assigned to oversee operations at the various Port Authority facilities such as, the Holland Tunnel and Newark International Airport. After three years of service, Brian felt compelled to make a career change and opted to leave his position with the esteemed Port Authority.

Brian decided to pursue a career with the U.S. Customs Service in the Tactical Enforcement Division; this would prove to be an eighteen year venture. Initially, Brian entered the bureau as a Special Agent with the Office of Investigations and Internal Affairs and quickly flourished. He received a promotion soon after he began with the agency and subsequently served a term at the U.S. Customs Service
Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Patricia A. Dickman, a woman who after years of dedicated public service, will retire from her position as the Village of Orchard Park Mayor in Erie County, New York.

Mayor Dickman’s devotion to developing a better future for her community was evident early, as she chose to dedicate 12 years to the teaching profession, educating young people.

Over the last 30 years Mayor Dickman expanded her dedication from working with youth to working with the community as a whole.

Mayor Dickman’s government service is extensive. Prior to her election to the seat of Mayor, Ms. Dickman worked for 6 years on the Village of Orchard Park Planning Board, including 4 years as Chair. She also served as a Village of Orchard Park Trustee for 6 years and has led the Beautify Orchard Park Committee for 24 years.

Throughout her tenure as Mayor, Ms. Dickman has sat on several local boards and organizations including: the Erie County Sewer District III, the Southtown’s Sewer Agency, the Village Officials Association and the Erie County Governments Association.

Though her accomplishments are too numerous to mention here today, some of the highlights of her service consist of contributing to local economic development through the “Facade” program and facilitation of infrastructure projects including reconstruction of Route 240/277. At the same time, through the duration of her term, the Mayor has been successful in maintaining the lowest tax rate in Erie County.

It is with great pride and gratitude I stand here today to recognize Village of Orchard Park Mayor Patricia Dickman, a genuine public servant and faithful community advocate, may her life in retirement be met with the many triumphs achieved in her years as Mayor.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. CARSON, Mr. Speaker, the Schiavo family tragedy has touched the hearts of Americans across the country. This is a family that has for fifteen years intently battled with what for most of us are distant fears. Now millions of us, in conversations at the office with our friends and colleagues and at the dinner table with our families, are trying to decide what we would do in their situation, what we would want for ourselves and for our loved ones. It is a conversation we need to have as a nation. But it is a question that will remain unsolved unless that time comes when our families are faced with tragedy as the Schiavo family has been.

Today we can argue what we hope we would do in their situation, what we think we would want for ourselves, and what we think is right. But we do not know what it means to be a member of the Schiavo family. We in Congress can only pretend.

Can any of us even imagine the agony that this family has weathered over the past fifteen years? Can any of us here in Washington pretend to have the authority to decide which members of this family in Florida are “good” and which are “bad”? I have listened to some of my colleagues condemn Michael Schiavo, a man they have never met and do not know, as wicked. Some of my colleagues have suggested that this man they have never met, this man who has suffered immeasurably through this agonizing family tragedy, is motivated by selfishness and cruelty. Some have suggested he has no respect for life. Let us see these accusations for what they are: a sick and shameful attempt to destroy a man’s character and to tear apart a family, all in the name of political gain.

My colleagues, this will be a day looked back upon with shame. It will be the day that 100 Senators and 435 Members of Congress and one President, none of whom are members of this family, none of whom have stood alongside Terri Schiavo over the hardships of the past 15 years, none of whom know her wishes, none of whom would have lifted a finger were it not for a sick sense of political opportunism at the expense of the family—it will be the day these 536 strangers decided that the family wasn’t good enough, that it was time for 536 strangers to decide, without any evidence or personal connection, what was good for a family they have never met.

This is a choice we would never wish upon anyone, but which families must make between themselves and God alone. May Congress never again pretend to be part of such a covenant.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Lansdowne Christian Church of Baltimore County marking its 100th year of celebrating Memorial Day Services.

The Church, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1777 by the U.S. Department of Interior, is the only Church in the United States built to honor the men of the Grand Army of the Republic and the sacrifices they made to preserve the Union.

On May 14, 1905, the first annual Memorial Service for the Grand Army was held at the Lansdowne Christian Church. Memorial Day was established in the wake of the Civil War to remember and pay homage to all those who had died in service to our nation. The Service on the last Sunday in May continues today.

This year’s service will be held on May 29, 2005, continuing a tradition for which Church members and the community should be very proud.

Today, we are engaged in armed conflict in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Many of our soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and it is important that we honor their commitment to freedom and democracy.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the Lansdowne Christian Church for making duty, service and dedication to our nation a central focus of church life.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Ken Slavens, of Saint Helena, California, for his 21 years of public service. His outstanding leadership and commitment have helped to make my hometown the incredible community that it is today.

Born and raised in Saint Helena, Ken’s appreciation, love, and devotion to protecting and preserving this small, unique community are obvious from his many years of dedicated service. With an innate knowledge of his community and unyielding compassion, Ken was elected to the office of City Council in 1994.

His energy, drive, and undeniable hard work are only a few of the many reasons that he was appointed as Vice Mayor in 1997. Shortly thereafter in 1999, Ken was elected Mayor of Saint Helena.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure on the City Council and as Mayor, Ken has been a strong advocate for Saint Helena on numerous boards throughout Napa County and California. These include the Long Range Water
Mr. McDowell was a World War II B-17 pilot who flew 31 missions over Germany. On January 13, 1945, on his second mission over Mannheim, Germany, Mr. McDowell's aircraft was hit by enemy fire. The heavy flak hit the cockpit floor and sent a piece of shrapnel through his clothing into his right calf. The severely damaged plane was unable to return to the base, and was forced to land at Manston England Air Base. Mr. McDowell was taken by the medics to the hospital, treated and released with a cane. The B-17 was so damaged that it never returned to action.

Last year, Mr. McDowell and his family approached me about getting his long overdue Purple Heart. Unfortunately, before I was able to present the Purple Heart to him, Mr. McDowell passed away. Mr. Speaker, while it is unfortunate that Mr. McDowell is not alive to receive his Purple Heart, I know that his family will cherish the medal and his memory for the rest of their lives. Mr. McDowell's story is emblematic of many who served in World War II and surely places him as a member of the "greatest generation."

HO\NORING UNDERSHERIFF CURTIS L. WATSON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. STARK and I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Undersheriff Curtis L. Watson to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department over the past 34 years. Curtis joined the department in 1970 and steadily climbed its ranks to become the undersheriff in 1993, providing excellent service throughout his tenure.

In 1970, Curtis had just completed a tour in the United States Air Force. On the advice of his brother, he applied for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, where he was hired as a sheriff's deputy and assigned to work at Santa Rita Jail.

Curtis had worked his way up to the position of lieutenant at Santa Rita when he first made the acquaintance of Charles Plummer, the Alameda County Sheriff, in 1987. Curtis's competence and confidence made a positive impression on the sheriff, who would remember him when their paths crossed again a few years later.

After advancing to captain and becoming the commanding officer of the North County Jail in Oakland, Curtis took the commander's examination in April 1992, finishing with the highest score of any candidate and again catching the attention of Sheriff Plummer. By that time, Curtis had made such an impression that when the undersheriff position came open in 1993, Sheriff Plummer tapped him to fill it.

With his promotion to undersheriff, Curtis became not only the highest-ranking African American in the Alameda County Sheriff Department's 152-year history but also the highest-ranking black sheriff's official in the state of California.

Curtis served as undersheriff from 1993 until his retirement on March 24, 2005. Only one other undersheriff in the entire history of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department served longer than Curtis's 12 years in the position. On the occasion of Curtis Watson's retirement, we would like to honor his contributions to law and order in Alameda County over the past 34 years. He has served with distinction and dedication, breaking down barriers and forging new paths. We salute him for his commitment and loyalty to our community, and we are certain that others will draw inspiration from his accomplishments for generations to come.

The Investment Tax Simplification Act of 2005

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, our position as the world's leading economy is founded on the principle of entrepreneurship. This spirit inspires us to seek new and innovative products and services which enhance Americans' lives by exploring bold business ventures.

After two failed attempts to start an automobile manufacturing company, in 1903, Henry Ford and 11 business associates raised...
$28,000 (nearly $600,000 in today’s dollars) to establish the Ford Motor Company, ushering in the age of modern transportation. This venture not only enhanced the free flow of products and people across the nation, but also spawned a revolutionary assembly-line production process, increasing manufacturing productivity and efficiency. At the same time, millions of new jobs were created in other new fields, such as part manufacturers, service repair technicians, salesmen, and customer service representatives.

Venture capital also played a significant role in the boom of entrepreneurship that contributed to the unprecedented economic growth of the 1990s. According to the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), venture capitalists raised over $250 billion between 1994 and 2000 for investment in start-up companies. This frenzied business activity helped spur initial Public Offerings (IPOs) over the same period worth over $84 billion, boosting the value of financial markets. One major product of this tremendous financing activity was the commercialization of the Internet, which continues to have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. The Internet allows people to connect from all over the world, enhancing the free flow of products, services and most importantly, information. This technological revolution also created hundreds of thousands of American jobs, such as software developers, information technology technicians, salesmen and customer service representatives, many of which did not exist before.

The start-up capital raised by these entrepreneurs included ideas such as the automobile and the Internet possible and played a key role in transforming the U.S. economic and social landscape. So what’s next on the horizon? What new industry will revolutionize the U.S. economy?

If we ever intend to find out, it is imperative that we continue to encourage greater investment spending in the economy. In 2003, President Bush and the Congress took an important step forward by reducing the capital gains tax rate for individuals to 15 percent. Since then, this policy has grown at an average rate of 4.5 percent, business investment has increased by $230 billion, financial markets are up $2 trillion and over 3 million new jobs have been created. However, this increase in efficiency that would result from the effects of the lower rates on the allocation of investment will not be realized unless [the rates] are perceived to be permanent.

Reducing the capital gains tax is also a proven winner at increasing revenues to the Federal Treasury. After the 1997 capital gains tax cut from 28 percent to 20 percent, increased economic activity resulted in an increase in capital gains revenues, from $54 billion in 1996 to $118 billion in 2000, a gain of nearly 120 percent. And as a result of the 2003 capital gains tax cut and other tax relief provisions, last year the Federal Treasury realized $10 billion in unanticipated revenues.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Investment Tax Simplification Act of 2005. Enhancing the free flow of capital in the economy will stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship, providing enormous benefit for the American people.

I am very proud to acknowledge the efforts of Head Coach Robert Lee, Assistant Coaches Rennie Bailey, Carlin Hartman and Jason Kennermer. I also want to congratulate the players on their achievements in the 2004–05 season—Orien Green, Brian Hamilton, Chris Cameron, Dwayne Mitchell, Travis Wade, Spencer Ford, Ross Mouton, Adam James, Derek Gray, Cletis Fobbs, Anthony Rhodman, and Alphonso Williams. Finally, it is important to recognize the Rajin’ Cajuns staff—Trainor Travis Soileau, and Managers Chase Mancuso, Will Keliner and Khadim Kandji.

The 2004–05 season was a great success and these young men and their coaches should be proud of their achievements. I want to thank them for bringing enthusiasm and excitement to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the Southwest Louisiana community.

Mr. Boustany. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Special Agent Gerrit Kobes for being awarded a Silver Star for his bravery and heroism while serving in Iraq. Kobes, a member of Washington’s Army National Guard, saved the lives of Iraqi National Guard soldiers who were attacked by enemy fire. Kobes was presented with the medal in February by Major General Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Kobes, 23 years old, was a medical specialist assigned to a unit that provided security support for the 1st Cavalry Division special unit. His convoy was assigned to move Iraqi soldiers and equipment from Baghdad to Fallujah. On November 3rd, a rocket-propelled grenade hit one of the trucks carrying Iraqi National Guard Members. According to Army accounts, Kobes ran 500 meters through enemy fire to get to four wounded Iraqi soldiers. He treated the soldiers and was again exposed to insurgent fire as he loaded the soldiers onto vehicles.

Kobes is from Kettle Falls, Washington. He is married to wife, Erica, and has two sons, Tyson, 3, and P.J., 10 months.

In recognition of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, I would like to honor John M. Harpole for his 50 years of service with Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. During his tenure with Missiles and Fire Control, he has served in the areas of Database Design, Facility Operations, Information Technology, and Manufacturing. We thank John for his dedication not only to the defense industry and the company, but also to the country we serve.

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Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Specialist Gerrit Kobes for fearlessly sacrificing his own safety in order to save the lives of wounded Iraqi soldiers. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Specialist Kobes for his service to our country and Iraq, and congratulate him on earning a Silver Star.

TRIBUTE TO TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

HON. DEVIN NUNES
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative JIM COSTA, to pay tribute to Tulare County Superior Court Judge William Silveira who has faithfully served as judge for more than 25 years. His career is distinguished by his innovative efforts to improve juvenile justice, involve parents in the rehabilitation of their delinquent children, and bring together a comprehensive approach to the disparate factors that influence this unique area of law.

Judge Silveira was instrumental in building support for the construction of a new juvenile detention center in the county, along with probation offices and a new juvenile court complex.

He has also helped create a 100-bed juvenile boot camp and one of the first juvenile drug courts in the country, which has gone on to receive national acclaim.

During his time on the bench, he has traveled the county speaking as a leader in juvenile justice and has helped other communities establish their own programs.

At home, he is widely involved in many community activities and boards apart from his work on the bench, and he remains the loving husband of Marylin with children Matthew and Amy.

Once again, Representative COSTA and I encourage you to join us in applauding his many years of dedication as a judge, whose thoughtful approach to the administration of justice has forever changed the legal landscape of Tulare County. He leaves a legacy of hard work, compassion, and justice that stands as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO INTRADO INC. OF LONGMONT, COLORADO

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation for the services provided by the men and women of Intrado Inc., headquartered in Longmont, Colorado.

For over two decades, telecommunications providers, public safety organizations and government agencies have turned to Intrado for their communications needs. As North America’s leader in 9–1–1 infrastructure and services, Intrado was founded with the objective of improving public safety and we continue to have a tradition of giving back to the community. Intrado’s corporate culture is built around employee involvement in causes that are both local and national in scope. From Intrado’s core business of 9–1–1 to the widely participated employee volunteer activities, Intrado aims to make a positive contribution to society.

Intrado’s ongoing mission is to continually improve the quality of the 9–1–1 system, available to first responders, e.g. police, fire and emergency medical personnel. Since the first 9–1–1 call was made, Intrado has played a key role in defining, building and maintaining the complex emergency communications infrastructure. In 2004, Intrado products, services and systems saw more than 900 million calls to 9–1–1, and the volume continues to grow.

Intrado emphasis on corporate citizenship is reflected in numerous activities. For the past two years Intrado has partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to assist cities and towns across the US to deploy the Intrado IntelliCast® target notification system as a tool to help win the fight against time in locating missing children. Operating like 9–1–1 in reverse, the IntelliCast system automatically delivers a telephone message to neighborhoods about thousands of targeted homes and businesses within minutes, helping ensure the most efficient dissemination of relevant information to safely and quickly recover missing children.

Intrado waives the fees for launching missing children alerts in an effort to support a community’s need for quick action in those situations.

Intrado’s encouragement of community involvement and volunteerism has resulted in support for local food drives, assistance with armed forces care packages, and financial donations to a number of charitable efforts around the country. In addition, in 2004 Intrado began support of the 911 For Kids program in Denver and surrounding cities. 911 For Kids provides 9–1–1 education for children in elementary schools to ensure they know how to call for help in an emergency.

Finally, Intrado is actively working to design and build the next generation emergency services network to address and support the changing communications requirements. Intrado’s extensive intellectual property in emergency communications management and fundamental 9–1–1 operations—combined with the world’s largest pool of experienced personnel in these areas—makes Intrado the clear leader for this task.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the fine men and women of Intrado, Inc. for working to make our communities safer and better places to live. They represent some of our country’s best, and I hope they continue to call Colorado home for years to come.

CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER HONORS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN WILDLIFE ARTIST JOHN A. RUTHVEN FOR RECEIVING THE 2004 NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS

HON. ROB PORTMAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and Brown County, Ohio constituent, John A. Ruthven, who will be honored on April 21, 2005 by the Cincinnati Museum Center in the regional recognition for his selection by President Bush to receive the 2004 National Medal of the Arts. The National Medal of the Arts is the highest award presented to an artist or patron in the United States, and John is the first wildlife artist to receive this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Specialist Gerrit Kobes for fearlessly sacrificing his own safety in order to save the lives of wounded Iraqi soldiers. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Specialist Kobes for his service to our country and Iraq, and congratulate him on earning a Silver Star.

John will be honored by the Museum Center for his career in art and his many connections to the Museum Center. I am told that, over the years, he has used actual specimens from the paintings of local birds to the National Museum Center and one of its predecessor museums, the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, as models for his original paintings. A special exhibit of selected Ruthven works at the Museum Center will open to the public on April 23, 2005—Earth Day. In the exhibit, Audubon’s prints, including the Carolina parakeet, Henslow’s sparrow, and Passenger pigeon, will be displayed with John’s paintings of the same subjects, and the actual specimens from the Museum Center’s collection. Three days later—April 26, 2005—is the 220th anniversary of John James Audubon’s birth.

The coincidence of Audubon’s birthday is underscored by the fact that Audubon, too, had many connections to the Cincinnati Museum Center of Natural History. He was the Museum’s first employee, hired as a taxidermist and to create exhibits. Audubon supplemented his Museum income by drawing portraits, teaching art, and even opened his own art academy. While in Cincinnati, Audubon created five paintings of local birds that were among the first contributions to his acclaimed Birds of North America.

There can be no doubt that John Ruthven is our Audubon, and a true American treasure. John has said, “I believe art is as necessary to our heritage as our architecture.” Both record past and present in the effort to educate and enrich the lives of people today and in the near future. It is my desire, through my paintings, to record for later generations some of the beauty of nature that exists in my life-time.

John’s wife, Judy, is also accomplished. She was project manager and co-chair of the Historic Georgetown Project to restore the Georgetown, Ohio courthouse square buildings. With John, she passed the brick Brown County homestead of President Ulysses S. Grant, who grew up in picturesque Georgetown. Judy is a Grant scholar, and she spent a tremendous amount of energy to ensure that the building was historically accurate. The Ruthvens later donated the structure, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, to the State of Ohio. In addition, Judy has supported numerous other organizations, including the Ohio Humanities Council.

She is one of Southern Ohio’s more dedicated state Senate to receive the National Medal of the Arts, being honored by the Museum Center, and his life as an acclaimed artist, and we wish him luck in the many projects to come.
Chapter President Dorothy Bowles, "Equally impressive is the dedicated service that Tutt has given and continues to give to Tennesseans."

Bradford was a member of the University of Tennessee Development Council from 1980 to 1983 and served on the board of Maryville College from 1974 to 1979 and from 1981 to 2003. He served on the boards of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Knoxville Museum of Art, Thompson Cancer Survival Center, and Takehome Mental Hospital, the Tennessee Technology Foundation, the Boys Club Foundation, the Blount Hearing and Speech Foundation, and the Blount Library Foundation. He was also a member of the Blount County Industrial Development Board from 1970 to 1972.

Bradford has received many honors and awards. He was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Bristol Junior Chamber of Commerce, and he received the Sequoyah Literacy Award from the Tennessee Historical Commission. Junior Achievement named him to the East Tennessee Business Hall of Fame in 1990. In 1994, the University of Tennessee named him Volunteer of the Year.

The National Society of Fund-Raising Executives named Bradford Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year. He was president of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce in 1960 and president of the Kiwanis Club in Maryville in 1967.

The Follies are scheduled for 6 p.m., Saturday, June 18, at the Knoxville Convention Center. The annual roast of newsmakers is sponsored by the East Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and raises funds for communications scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Polkissippi State Technical Community College.

This year's skits and songs will feature Vol football coached Phillip Fulmer in "The People's Court," state Rep. Tim Burchett and his "shadow," "Hysterical Preservation" highlighting Cherokee Country Club, and a legal battle royal with Knox County Mayor Mike Ragland, Sheriff Tim Hutchison, and Commissioner Wanda Moody. Local TV anchors and meteorologists will add their special brand of fun to the event.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF FIREFIGHTER NEIL LARIBEE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee of Southington.

The son of a fireman, Neil Laribee first volunteered to fight fire for the town of Southington in 1952. A dedicated public servant, Neil has protected the Southington community for over fifty faithful years. Known around the Plantsville Engine Company #2 firehouse as "Deke," he has been instrumental in shaping the Department throughout the years. Neil has been a loyal friend and source of fire and rescue information to both new and veteran firemen. Consequently, at 52 years of service has retired from the Southington Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee and to thank him for his years of service to the town of Southington.

Tribute to Frank Collins

HON. DON SHERWOOD
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my predeces-sor in Congress, former Representative Joseph M. McDade, who served in the House for 36 years, has informed me of the passing on February 18 of Frank Collins, a prominent attorney from Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and former Scranton native. Mr. Collins graduated in 1948 from Scranton Preparatory School, where he was a classmate of Congressman McDade. Collins attended Marist College and graduated in 1952 from the University of Scranton. He later received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955. Collins worked for several banks during his distinguished legal career and most recently worked at the law firm of Collins, Johnson and Markey in Media, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Katharine, and seven children and six grandchildren.

Those who knew Collins best pay high trib-ute to his intellect, integrity and character. Congressman McDade said of Collins, "His life is a testament to the joy of intellectual pur-suit and the use of the Socratic method to at-tain dependable decisions. Our heartfelt sym-pathy goes to his lovely wife, Katie, and their children."

In a moving and eloquent memorial deliv-ered by a fellow attorney and close personal friend, Henry B. FitzPatrick, Collins was re-membered for his many friendships, sense of humor, athletic achievements in basketball and golf, enduring and loving marriage, and professional and personal accomplishments. "Frank Collins chose to be a lawyer," FitzPatrick eulogized. "It doesn't take long until that profession separates the upright from the rest. It asks questions which can only be answered by those who are serious about being honest, those who can interrogate the depth of their soul to see if there is further will to be summoned for the finding of the right an-swer. Frank had that quality of honesty—oth-erwise he would not have had the trust, as he did, of clients and fellow lawyers."

"But, all we know that professional honesty might not accompany a person home. The fearlessly scrupulous judge or lawyer might with wife or husband be disingenuous and de-ciful; few of us are honest all of the time; Frank Collins was one of that few. He was un-able to put a knife in the crack between the levels of integrity demanded of him in his per-sonal and professional lives. For there was no crack, but only the seamless cloth of honesty."

Those are high words of praise for a truly remarkable individual. Congressman McDade for bringing the exemplary life on Frank Collins to my attention so that I could bring it to the attention of my col-leagues.
IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL. NAZARIO SERRANO, USMC
HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Nazario Serrano, USMC who was killed by enemy action on January 30 in Anbar province, Iraq. He was killed as a result of being struck in the chest by small-arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Serrano, 20, from Irving, Texas was expected to return home from Iraq in only two weeks to meet his newly born son Landon Heath and marry his highschool sweetheart, Amanda Story. Serrano had never seen his son, but only saw pictures of his new son by e-mail. I grieve with the Serrano family and family over their loss. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country and the United States Marine Corps.

Lance Cpl. Serrano was a 2003 graduate of Irving High School, which is also where his two surviving brothers, Javier and Daniel, now attend. Previously, he attended Austin Middle School in Irving, and enjoyed basketball, hunting, and riding his motorcycle. May God bless the memory of Lance Cpl. Serrano and comfort his family during this difficult time. I will be keeping his memory, and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

BASKETBALL CATAMOUNTS—STANDOUTS ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM
HON. BERNARD SANDERS
OF VERMONT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, like all of us who live in Vermont, and many millions across the nation, I was thrilled when the underdog Catamounts of the University of Vermont defeated Syracuse in the opening round of the 2005 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. Syracuse was a national power; the nucleus of its team won the national championship two years earlier. Its players were accomplished, well-coached and a credit to college basketball.

But the University of Vermont team rose to the challenge, coming from behind in the final minutes of both regulation play and overtime. Led by the greatest basketball player to come out of Vermont, Taylor Coppenrath of West Barnet, Vermont the Catamounts showed how teamwork and a tenacious defense could elevate a team to national prominence. During the regular season Coppenrath was the second leading Division 1 scorer in the nation with 25.7 points per game, and for the third straight year he was the player of the year in the America East conference. He was joined on the team by T. J. Sorrentine, a sharp-shooting point guard (fifth in the nation with 3.6 three-point field goals per game) whose passion and precision shooting define the Catamounts. He too had earned the America East player of the year and has three first-team selections to his credit. The international contingent made up of Germain Mopa Njila of Cameroon, whose career scoring high of 20 points on 9 of 10 shooting was the mainstay of the Catamount offense against Syracuse; Martin Klimes of the Czech Republic, whose smothering defense held All-American Hakim Warrick in check, and Canadian David Hehn, who selflessly threw himself into the Cats’ tight defense and patient and exceptionally effective passing game.

It was talent and tenacity. All five Vermont starters played at least 40 minutes, and Klimes and Coppenrath never had a rest on the bench at all. The Catamounts stuck with a game plan designed by Coach Tom Brennan and Associate Head Coach Jesse Age, which called for ball control, constant passing and careful work against Syracuse’s famed 2–3 zone until a shot opened up.

No one should be surprised that they showed poise and intelligence on the hardwood. The UVM basketball team had a 3.09 grade point average (GPA) for the fall semester. The starting five has a cumulative GPA, including all the courses the players have taken in their time at UVM, above 3.0. This is an exceptionally high and rare statistic for basketball teams that play at the highest level, some of which graduate less than half their teams members. Martin Klimes, majoring in business, has a 3.82 GPA, one of the highest averages in his entire college. Graduate Mopa Njila, a computer science and information systems major, has a GPA of 3.21. Sociology major T.J. Sorrentine averages 2.75, while David Hehn has a stellar 3.57 GPA in business. Wooden Award finalist Taylor Coppenrath averaged 2.80 in secondary education and competed at the elite level in basketball, while student teaching in the math department at Colchester High School.

Their academic performance is exceptional for UVM athletes. The state university is as dedicated to graduating student athletes as it is to fielding fine teams (its men’s hockey team recently played in the ECAC Final Four, and its ski team was second in the nation at the NCAA national championships). The overall GPA for student athletes is 3.08, which is higher than the GPA for the student body as a whole.

The Catamounts captured the attention and the heart of the entire nation. To the wonderful, inspired members of that team, and to the coaches, the state of Vermont extends its sympathy. To one and all, may you have the memories you deserve in all of the Catamounts of the University of Vermont.

HONORING JANICE GRUENDEL AS SHE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE ACES EDUCATION FOUNDATION
HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the ACES Education Foundation as they recognize the outstanding contributions of a dedicated member of our community and my good friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel. Janice has spent a lifetime working with children, focusing much of her time and effort on early childhood education. A psychologist by training, Janice has dedicated her professional career to improving the environment in which our children learn and grow. After receiving her Ph.D. from Yale University, Janice served as Deputy Commissioner with the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services, the Department of Mental Retardation, and the Department of Public Health. She moved on to become the Vice President of Education and Technology at Rabbit Ears Productions, Inc. and was co-executive producer of the Emmy-nominated public broadcast documentary, “Mommy, Who’ll Take Care of the Children,” a 2004 Public Broadcasting System Children’s Television Award winner.

In 1995, Janice, along with Shelly Geballe, Judy Soloman, and Nancy Lustman, embarked on a very special project founding...
Connecticut Voices for Children. CT Voices is a research-based public education and advocacy organization that works statewide to promote the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth and families. Janice and the co-founders of CT Voices have built this very special organization around a staff with education and experience in early childhood, health, government and the non-profit sector. With such comprehensive vision and talented staff, CT Voices has been able to provide new and unique insights into the impact of policy and issues on today's youth and families. In fact, in just under a decade, CT Voices has become a leading voice in public policy with political leaders, the media, other advocacy groups and others regularly turning to them for public and budget analysis. The outstanding success of CT Voices allows this organization to have a real impact on public policy—a reflection of the remarkable efforts of Janice and her co-founders.

Currently serving as the Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Connecticut's Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice’s expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In addition to this role, she also continues as a lecturer at the Yale University Child Study Center and acts as a part-time senior consultant fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children. I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Herb; her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Liz, Darren and Yoya, and Stephen and Jana; her grandchildren, Alisia, Elena, Vivian, and Matteo, as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in congratulating my dear friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel as she is honored by the ACES Education Foundation. Her many years of dedication and commitment has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut and a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of our young people for generations to come.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. MARK E. SOUDER
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound sympathy for the passing of Pope John Paul II, a man whom I’m certain will go down in history as one of history’s greatest leaders.

This Pope’s remarkable life—a tremendous intellect, limitless compassion and deep spirituality—will form the foundation of his teachings about the inherent dignity of every human being. Shaped by his experiences under Nazi and Communist regimes, the Pope taught us that this dignity is the first principle from which all others derive, calling on us to respond to the needs of the weakest among us. As he wrote in “Sollicitudo Rei Socialis” in 1987, “[T]his love of the preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care, above all, those who are disabled and of a better future.”

Human dignity, he also reminded us, should never be eclipsed by oppressive political systems, which deny the individuality of the person. Nor should the dignity of the human person be destroyed using tools of what he so correctly condemned as “ideology of death,” such as legalized abortion or physician-assisted suicide.

Pope John Paul II spoke to the world about the importance of every human person, and he especially addressed the responsibility of our nation during his visit to the United States in 1995. I am submitting this statement for the RECORD, in which the Pope so eloquently called on us to live up to our democratic responsibilities, reminding us that, “[d]emocracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life.”

The freedom of this country can only be understood within context of the moral responsibilities of our democracy. As we mark the passing of this tremendous man, I believe we should remember his exhortation to the United States: “At the center of the moral vision of your country is the recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development.”

“I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death.”

May God grant Pope John Paul II eternal light and peace, and may his personal witness to faith, hope and courage remain in our hearts and those of all the world.

STATEMENT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES GIVEN ON OCTOBER 8, 1995

Dear Mr. Vice-President, Dear Friends, Dear People of America,

As I take leave of the United States, I wish to express my deep and abiding gratitude to many people.

To you, Mr. Vice-President, for graciously coming here today to say goodbye. To the Bishops of the Dioceses I have visited and the many people. To the students of the Academic All-Star Program I have called the “Bright Lights of Kentucky” who have ensured efficiency, good order and safety.

To the representatives of the various Churches and Ecclesial Communities, who have received me with great good will, to Americans of all races, colors and creeds, who have followed with interest and attention the events of these days; to the men and women of the communications media, who have helped me to bring the words and the images of this visit to millions of people; and especially to all those who, personally present or from afar, have supported me with their prayers.

I express to the Catholic community of the United States my heartfelt thanks! In the words of Saint Paul: “I give thanks to my God every time I think of you—which is constantly in every prayer I utter.” (Phil 1:3).

I say this, too, to the United States of America: today, in our world, it is, many other nations and peoples look to you as the principal model and pattern for their own advancement in democracy. But democracy is more than a system of government. It is, if it is not to turn against everything that it is meant to defend and encourage. Democracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life. But these values themselves must have an objective content. Otherwise they correspond only to the power of the majority, or the wishes of the most vocal. If an attitude of skepticism were to succeed in calling into question even the fundamental principles of the moral law, the democratic system itself would be shaken in its foundations (cf. Evangelium Vitae, 70).

The United States possesses a safeguard, a great bulwark, against this happening. I speak of your founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. These rights are grounded in and embody unchanging principles of the natural law whose permanent truth and validity can be known by reason, as the natural law is written in man’s heart (cf. Rom 2:25).

At the center of the moral vision of your founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person, especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development. I say to you again. America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death.

At the end of your National Anthem, one finds these words: “Then conquer we must, when our cause is just. And this be our motto: ‘In God is our trust!’ America: may your trust always be in God and in none other. And then, “The star-splangled banner in triumph shall wave O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave’.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOMINEES FOR KENTUCKY NEW ERA/ROTARY ACADEMIC ALL STAR TEAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Kentucky New Era/Rotary Academic All Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky. The Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were selected based on performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors and recognitions, extracurricular activities and achievements, extracurricular activities (both community based and school-related), employment history, and an autobiographical essay.
Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my District are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among America's—future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:


Ryan David Mullen, Andrew Christian Chiles, Barry Eli Knoblock, Paul Thomas Latham, Joshua Allen Fitzhugh, Sarah Christine Wilson, William Matthew Suiter, Amy Nicole Adams, Norman Bradley Fox, Sam Mitchell, Terri's husband. Bringing this bill to the floor of the United States of America.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PAR-ENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF
HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the heart-wrenching details of Ms. Terri Schiavo's case are well known to all of us. Her personal case, not to mention the family rift that has resulted, is certainly a tragedy and my heart goes out to Terri, her husband, parents, and loved ones who are struggling to do what they believe is best for Terri.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that should be determined by those very people. This is not a matter for Congress to decide. Unfortunately, since Terri's family has been unable to agree on the best course of action, they have had to endure, and continue to endure, the legal battles. While it is unfortunate, that is what our legal process is for, and it has repeatedly ruled in favor of Mrs. Schiavo's husband. Bringing this bill to the floor of the House marks yet another example of the Congressional leadership's subversion of the judicial process. Anytime the leadership disagrees with a ruling by a court, they strip it of its power. This is not the way these matters should be handled. It is not only subversion of the legal process, but of the Constitution of the United States of America. And this is a gross overreach.

In fact, in a 1990 case before the Supreme Court, Scalia said, "clearly and unequivocally" and the German armed forces "3" device, Order of St. George, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (posthumous) and the German armed forces and the German armed forces and the German armed forces and the Bronze Hour Glass device, NATO Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with "3" device, Order of St. George, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (posthumous) and the German armed forces...
On March 26, 2005, Mike lost his life while fighting to defend America in Afghanistan. His military vehicle, with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis, struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan claiming his life and the lives of three other Indiana Army National Guardsmen.

At his home in Bluffton, Indiana he was known as a loving husband and father. He was a member of the Bluffton Fire Department and he will not soon be forgotten by this grieving community of Bluffton, which will say goodbye to him this week. According to his wife Dawn, “Mike very much believed in the cause for which he gave his life. His entire family and friends have supported him in his endeavors.”

I rise to offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Dawn; his two children, Emily and Adam; his parents Thomas and Kay Hiester; his two sisters, Megan and Michele; his nephews Casey, Jesse, Kyle and Jared; his niece Carley; and all those across northeastern Indiana and all of our state who cherish the memory of this hero.

Master Sergeant Michael Hiester is a hero, whose service and sacrifice bolstered the hopes of millions of Americans and Afghans. The memory of his sacrifice and service will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LEE, Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 18 and H. Con. Res. 32.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sentiments that these resolutions advance. There is no doubt that there must be an end to brutal human rights violations against the Syrian people and that a Syrian-occupied Lebanon poses a threat to the stability of the Middle East.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am firm in my belief that we must find a peaceful, nonmilitary solution to foster peace in the Middle East. These resolutions, while overwhelmingly approved by the House, must not be cited as tacit approval for any future preemptive military action against Syria.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. ED CASE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to express my unqualified support for House Resolution 55, reprinted below and of which I am a proud cosponsor, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, and in doing so to acknowledge the truly inspiring work of generations and millions of Rotarians over the last century.

Mr. Speaker, can there be a better example of selfless public service than that of Rotary International? From humble beginnings in Chicago in 1905, the world’s first service club now claims 1.2 million Rotarians in some 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries. And it has found a special home in my own great State of Hawaii, with 41 clubs operating in all four counties, from Hanalei Bay to Hilo Bay.

The secret of Rotary International’s success is that it evokes our innermost desire to give back to our worldwide community, as captured in its motto: Service Above Self. Its now famous Four-Way Test—Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?—is a lighthouse not only for its own efforts but for those of all of us.

One hundred years of individual, community, statewide and countrywide projects have solidified Rotary International’s reputation and collectively earned it widespread recognition. But no project better exemplifies the spirit, success and potential of Rotary International than PolioPlus, its partnership with the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to eradicate the scourge of polio from the face of our earth.

Most of us of adult age in our country remember the polio scares and tragedies of decades past, but we do not regard polio as a credible threat even to the least developed nations due to widespread immunization and other advances. That is not true universally: polio still exists and strikes randomly, especially in South Asia and Africa.

In 1985, Rotary International undertook a truly breathtaking endeavor: to eliminate polio through universal immunization. And with its partners in the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Polio Eradication Initiative—and funding from many governments including $260 million since 1996 of our own—it has brought polio to its knees: 1988’s 350,000 cases internationally are today’s couple hundred.

But we all know that the last few steps of any marathon are often the hardest, and so it is with polio. I certainly saw the challenges in my trip last year to Afghanistan—one of just six countries where polio is still endemic—where the challenges in simply reaching some of the most remote and isolated communities in our world are staggering.

Yet with the help of Rotarians near Rotary International’s efforts have been redoubled, and I want to tell you about just one inspiring contribution: that of Rotarian Bob “Motorcycle Bob” Mutchler and his wife, Patti. For the last seven years Bob, himself a victim of polio, and Patti have undertaken several marathon motorcycle rides across our country and world to highlight PolioPlus and raise funds for polio’s endgame.

Bob and Patti recently kicked off their last PolioPlus Ride, the “Centennial Ride”, in our Hawaii, aiming to cover all fifty states ending in Alaska this summer. On Tuesday, March 15th, they and local Rotarians and other well-wishers started their engines in my hometown of Hilo and set off on the first leg of their latest adventure, a trip around my Big Island, followed by rides around Maui and Kauai and capped by a journey around Oahu on Saturday, March 26th, which I was honored to start. They’re now off riding the mainland, taking our aloha with them; you can follow their journey at www.polioplusride.org. Where Patti’s keeping a journal.

Bob and Patti Mutchler exemplify the spirit of Rotary International, as did Mike Nelson, President of the Rotary Club of Volcano on the Island of Hawaii. Mike embraced the Mutchlers’ efforts and chaired their Centennial Ride in Hawaii. Tragically, he lost his life in an auto accident on February 23rd; the ride was dedicated to him, and we remember him with the deepest appreciation and admiration as representing the true spirit of Rotary International.

Mr. Speaker, with an incredible century Rotary International has had, epitomizing the very best of our country, our world and our human race. We pause, in House Resolution 55, for a brief moment to recognize and honor Rotary’s achievements, bolstering the legacy of Rotarians everywhere, while appreciating our actions on behalf of all of our citizens, would have us move beyond as soon as possible to the remaining and urgent tasks at hand. Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO SAUL STERN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDBN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Saul Stern who will receive the Project Interchange Am Yisrael Chai Award on May 25, 2005. Saul Stern has worked tirelessly on behalf of Project Interchange to provide American political and civic leaders with a first-hand look at the vibrant democracy of Israel. His efforts have increased the understanding of many American leaders of the special bond shared by the United States and the State of Israel.

Saul has made involvement with international, national and local Jewish and secular communal affairs a lifetime commitment. Over the years, Saul has accompanied many political and military leaders to Israel to help educate them about the complex issues affecting Israel. A passionate supporter of Project Interchange, he believes that the most effective way to help people understand the value of the U.S.-Israel relationship is by becoming a true eyewitness to life in Israel.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Saul Stern for his commitment and dedication to fostering understanding between the United States and Israel.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO SILVA GUAl

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Silva Gual, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Silva Gual is a Medical Doctor and member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and basic human rights. Dr. Silva Gual is dedicated to bringing liberty to Cuba and ending the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

Because of his belief in the non-negotiable rights of all people to freedom, democracy and
human rights, Dr. Silva Gaul was arrested by the dictatorship on March 18, 2003. This heinous arrest was a part of the regime’s March 2003, deplorable, island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Silva Gaul was sentenced to 10 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to cubaninfo, while imprisoned in a repugnant dungeon Dr. Silva Gaul declared a hunger strike to protest the inhuman treatment of political prisoners in Castro’s gulag. It has also been reported that Dr. Silva Gaul has been transferred to a maximum security section where the conditions are even harsher.

Dr. Silva Gaul, despite being imprisoned, despite facing even more severe maltreatment in the inhuman gulag, continues to advocate for liberty. Dr. Silva Gaul is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Silva Gaul and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAUL RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saul Ramirez for his commitment to serving the citizens of Laredo, Texas.

Saul Ramirez began his career as a Laredo City Council Member in 1982. He has held a number of positions in local government, and his contributions to town and country have helped transform Laredo into an international center of commerce.

As the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, he handled major federal neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and homelessness programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As Assistant Secretary he oversaw rehabilitation programs such as Community Block Grant, Hope for Ownership of Single Family Homes, Home Investment Partnership, and various other programs that establish funding for housing and support services.

Among other accomplishments in his distinguished career, Mr. Ramirez created the Laredo Affordable Housing Finance Corporation in 1990. He has worked hard to help some of Laredo’s poorest neighborhoods. Working to improve housing in the Laredo community, Saul Ramirez’s tireless efforts ensure that our citizens have a decent place to live.

A former mayor of Laredo, Mr. Ramirez is no stranger to the unique needs of his community. Serving at a time of great community dedication have helped to transform Laredo’s poorest neighborhoods. Working to redo Affordable Housing Finance Corporation partnership, and various other programs that oversaw rehabilitation programs such as Com.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the important contributions of Saul Ramirez. His hard work and community dedication have helped to transform Laredo into the city it is today.

HONORING NEAL MCBRIDE

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Neal McBride for being recognized as 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations. This special honor is truly well-deserved.

Mr. McBride has been an active member of the community within the South County region since the late 1980’s. He has served as the chair or coordinator for numerous civic groups including the South Run Coalition, South County Schools Alliance, the Laurel Hill Development and Arts Center and the Cold War Museum. In addition, McBride has also served as an officer with the Federation of Lorton Communities and Newington Forest Community Association. He is director-at-large of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, a member of the Lorton Heritage Society, a Lorton Arts Foundation Advisory panelist and a member of the Laurel Hill Planning Task Force.

In 2003, Mr. McBride was honored by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with the title of “Lord Fairfax.” Mr. McBride, a retired health care management specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs, has lived in South Springfield since 1981.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Neal McBride for all of his efforts on behalf of the Mount Vernon area. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. McBride’s past accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS DAVID LARSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson of Wheaton, Illinois. Corporal Larson was killed on November 3, 2004 when his unit took fire from terrorists in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Nick was killed in the ensuing firefight. He had been serving in Iraq since mid June 2004 and his tour was set to end in January 2005.

Lance Corporal Larson was 14 years old when he did more than 100 push-ups for a recruiter. Nicholas told his mother after 9/11 that he joined the Marines because “I just want to make a difference.”

He began his service after graduating from Wheaton North High School in 2003. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. Corporal Larson followed in the footsteps of his father, who served in the Navy.

Teachers and administrators at Wheaton North High School described Nicholas as quiet and focused and an intense student. And always knowing he wanted to be a Marine.

Lance Corporal Larson was a young man of only 19 when he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Our deepest sympathies to his beloved family: David and Anne Larson, and his sister Katie Larson. The entire community joins in mourning Nicholas’s loss.

We honor the memory of Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson and the dedication and bravery with which he served our nation and the people of Iraq.

IN HONOR OF MR. BENJAMIN DE LA SELVA

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Benjamin “Ben” De La Selva. Ben was born in Somoto, Nicaragua, in 1939. He migrated to the United States in 1961, subsequently serving in the U.S. Army for six and a half years. In the mid 1960s he studied French and Polish at the Defense Language Institute, DLI, and then spent a year in Vietnam (1966–67) with the 173rd Airborne as Prisoner of War interrogator and French linguist. Ben was in Dakto, Central Highlands, at the onset of one of the Vietnam War’s bloodiest battles. After leaving the military and getting a college education through the GI Bill, Ben was hired at DLI, where he occupied numerous positions from 1972 to 2005.

During his rise from teacher to dean at DLI, Ben trained thousands of military linguists, guided several generations of language teach Lancers and mentored supervisors and managers who now occupy leadership positions. Moreover, he supervised every DLI language program and participated in the development of much needed Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic curricula. During the last 20 consecutive years, Ben served as dean of every DLI resident school, a credit to his solid leadership qualities. As a dean, he participated in several pioneering initiatives including Team Teaching, the Faculty Personnel System, and the introduction of up-to-date teaching methods. Likewise, Ben was at the forefront of DLI’s giant leap to modern-day technology. Ben retired on January 3rd, 2005, but is still associated with the U.S. government in his capacity as President of the DLI Alumni Association, a non-profit organization he founded in November 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is an excellent example of the immigrant young man who arrives in the USA with a high school diploma, serves in the military, gets an education through the GI Bill, pursues and flourishes in a governmental career, and 40 years later retires with an impeccable and distinguished record. Ben truly believes he has achieved the American dream. He exemplifies the highest aspirations of this nation. I am proud to honor him today.
TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM SOLOMON
HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself for the betterment of Texas, and the lives of those around him. Mr. William Solomon is a fine member of my home community of Dallas, Texas and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his outstanding work as the latest recipient of the Linz Award—Dallas County's oldest award for recognizing exceptional community and humanitarian volunteer efforts.

Bill Solomon began working in 1967 at the company that his grandfather founded in 1918. Austin Industries, Incorporated, the largest commercial and industrial contractor in Dallas. In 1970, Bill was named president of the company, and he continues to serve as chairman of Austin Industries today.

Mr. Solomon is also a renowned civic leader, a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the World Preffit Organization, and the Northaven United Methodist Church. He serves on the boards of the A. H. Belo Corporation, the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Hoblitzelle Foundation. In addition to this, he has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Bill Solomon has demonstrated an unfailing and tireless commitment to the betterment of Dallas County, the State of Texas, and the entire Nation. With his steady guidance and strong leadership, in 1991, he founded the Dallas Together Forum, where he has potentially made his greatest impact. This multi-racial group of approximately 30 Dallas business leaders met monthly to discuss ways to reduce racial tension and improve minority economic opportunities. The Dallas Together Forum helped defuse racial tensions in the '80s and early '90s, and its impact on racial harmony is still felt today.

Bill Solomon is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He is a credit to Dallas, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues, Zale Corp. and The Dallas Morning News in congratulating Bill Solomon on a job well done.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about the recipient of the Linz Award, activist, and leader. He is a credit to Dallas County and its impact on racial harmony is still felt today.

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The Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers represents a group of extremely talented and dedicated students who, at a young age, have already shown amazing promise and success. The HOST/SHPE RSLC offers potential members the opportunity to share valuable knowledge and learn from other SHPE leaders. The goal of RSLC is to provide students with the leadership skills necessary for success in the business world, as well as the organizational, managerial, and technical skills essential for developing and enhancing the infrastructure of their respective SHPE student chapters and pre-college programs. In addition, students learn how to interact and network with SHPE corporate officials, which can lead to long-lasting, professional relationships. Under the strong leadership of Daniel Lozano, the conference has been organized to assemble more than 200 students from across the eastern United States, including Puerto Rico.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of the students in HOST/SHPE, as well as the strong commitment on the part of the RSLC Committee and Daniel Lozano to organize this worthwhile event. I applaud the students' dedication and their success, and wish them the best as they head towards an already bright future.

IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS IN TECHNOLOGY/SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AT THE NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology (HOST), the New Jersey Institute of Technology’s student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). HOST/SHPE was honored for its outstanding achievements at the Region IV Student Leadership Conference (RSLC) Gala Banquet on March 19, 2005.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
OF MASSACHUSETTS
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute David Hannon who is being honored today for his outstanding work as President and Chief Executive Officer of the South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Since Mr. Hannon’s tenure as President and CEO began in 1986, South Shore Hospital has experienced considerable growth and development, adding programs consistent with the highest quality of medical care in the region, and bringing to the community a level of excellence that was once the domain of prestigious academic medical centers in major cities. In addition, David has promoted sustained investments in hospital infrastructure, including new medical technologies and health care equipment.

These initiatives have enabled the hospital to grow from a small community facility to a regional medical center offering highly complex and sophisticated care—from acute and outpatient services to home health and hospice care—to more than 650,000 residents in southeastern Massachusetts.

In addition to caring for the medical needs of the community, he has also taken an equal- strong interest in the outstanding work of the 3,000 employees who are the very heart and soul of South Shore Hospital. Through their collective efforts, South Shore Hospital has become a leading health care provider in the state of Massachusetts, with a record of clinical excellence and superb patient care. That is reflected in the hospital being the first in the Commonwealth to earn maximum recognition with commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations for three consecutive review periods.

On behalf of a deeply grateful community, I want to join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in thanking David Hannon on a job well done.

HON. HENRY CUellar
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.

Tommy Williams is an excellent example of a sheriff who understands the needs of his community. Sheriff Williams has been serving his community since 1973, when he first became sheriff of Atascosa County.

Sheriff Williams is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Master Peace Officer certificate. Williams has also served as President of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. He is a member of the National Sheriff's Association, Sheriff's Association of Texas, the Poteet VFW Post and the American Legion Post.

Sheriff Williams believes that an informed public is better equipped for preventing crime in our streets and neighborhoods. As part of his duties and responsibilities, Sheriff Williams provides security for the operation of county and district courts as well as enforcing county ordinances and other state laws.

Sheriff Williams is a major resource for his county and sets a great example for his law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the past and future accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.
Mr. BONNIE K. MILLER of Pennsylvania. Mrs. UNDERWOOD, did you say the President pro tempore?

Mrs. UNDERWOOD. Yes, Ms. Speaker.

Mr. BONNIE K. MILLER. Mrs. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. DAVIES be permitted to introduce the accompanying resolution without a vote and without reference to the morning order of business.

Ms. Speaker, I am honored to introduce a resolution to recognize the efforts of the community of Mauldin, South Carolina, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The resolution, H. Con. Res. 44, recognizes the resilience and determination of the Mauldin community in the wake of this historic natural disaster, and calls upon the House to extend its support and assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and in affirming our commitment to the principles of recovery and rebuilding.

Thank you, Ms. Speaker.
Ms. Matthies has been a strong advocate for health care in Guadalupe County. She has been involved in nursing for almost 30 years, and is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Texas Nurses Association, the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives, and the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Betty Ann Matthies entered public service in 2000, as Seguin District 7 City Council Member. In 2004, she was elected Mayor of Seguin. In addition to her executive responsibilities, she finds time to give to a variety of volunteer organizations. She is a member of Seguin Senior Citizens, the Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and she is director of the Pecan Museum.

Betty Ann Matthies has done a great deal for the people of Guadalupe County, both as a nurse and a public official. Her energy and spirit of volunteerism serve as a wonderful example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthies.

HONORING REVEREND KENNY SMITH
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend Kenny Smith for his exceptional work in the Northern Virginia community as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Vienna, Virginia, and president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Reverend Smith received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He continued on to Virginia Union University’s School of Theology, where he graduated magna cum laude with a master of divinity degree. Reverend Smith also holds a doctor of ministry degree from Virginia Union University’s School of Theology.

Reverend Smith serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Vienna and as an adjunct professor at the Howard University School of Theology. He is also the immediate former moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and was elected in June 2003 as Vice President of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

During his time as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Reverend Smith has been a model of positive influence in the community. His congregation has partnered extensively with Habitat for Humanity and built several houses for needy families, contributing both labor and funds for materials. Through Reverend Smith’s leadership, the church adopted Shelter House, a shelter located in Falls Church, Virginia for homeless families. First Baptist Church has provided Shelter House with toys, gifts, funding and other resources for the residents since 1990.

Reverend Smith’s dedication to his community has been recognized by many awards, including the Dean’s Pastor’s Award from the Howard University School of Theology, the Outstanding Achievement in Religion Award from the Howard University Alumni Club of Northern Virginia, the Religious Affairs Award from the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. He has also been honored by Horizon Community Outreach Group, Fairfax County Public Schools, Old Dominion Bar Association, and the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

Reverend Smith has been an invaluable asset to the Northern Virginia community. He deserves to be commended for his work in the community and on his time as president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

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

HONORING SPECIALIST ADRIANA N. SALEM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army Specialist Adriana N. Salem, of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Specialist Salem was killed on March 4, 2005 when the vehicle in which she was riding turned over near Tikrit, Iraq. She had been serving in Iraq since February and had been in Afghanistan for much of 2003.

Specialist Salem was a 2001 graduate of Elk Grove High School, where she played violin for 4 years in the school orchestra. Her future goal following high school was to position herself to join a Police Force, and following 9/11 Adriana enlisted in the Army to further that goal. At Elk Grove High School she is remembered as a student who loved learning, arrived early and was a leader in class and athletics. Specialist Salem was assigned to the Fort Stewart, GA based 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, Division Support Command.

Specialist Adriana Salem was a young woman of 21 when she made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Our deepest sympathies go to her beloved family—her mother Sandra, her father Shamshoum “Sam,” and her sisters Christina, Sabrina, Allexandria, and Larissa—as well as to her other family and friends. The entire community joins in mourning Adriana’s loss.

We honor the memory of U.S. Army Specialist Adriana N. Salem and the dedication and bravery with which she served our Nation and the people of Iraq.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUDLEY KNOX LIBRARY NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dudley Knox Library staff of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, located in my Congressional District. The Naval Postgraduate School is an academic institution focused on graduate and research programs relevant to the Navy’s interests. For the second consecutive year, staff members from the Dudley Knox Library will be honored by the Library.

Dudley Knox is recognized nationally as a leading library in government and defense information. The library has been selected from among more than 2,000 libraries operated by the federal government to receive the 2004 Federal Library/Information Center of the Year award in the competitive library/information center category.

The Federal Library of the Year Award applauds the library’s exemplary achievements throughout the past year. The award is based upon customer satisfaction and innovative services and resources. During the past year the Knox Library has created several new services, including a virtual reference service, an active instruction program that has attracted more than 2,300 users, and an added wireless internet service. The Library also provided foreign language keyboard support in response to requests from international students who comprise 25 percent of the student body.

In addition, the library added a Homeland Security Digital Library, a state-of-the-art digital library to serve the needs of a particular user group. It is cited by others as a model for its use of emerging technologies with other agencies and groups.

The Dudley Knox Library owes its success to its dedicated and skilled staff of 34. Throughout the year the entire staff has consistently made sure that library members obtain accurate information for their academic and research endeavors. It is not uncommon to find more than 10 percent of the resident student population in the Library at any one time during the day.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Dudley Knox Library staff for their exceptional dedication and creativity in their jobs and their continual pursuit in developing an outstanding library. Out of more than 2,000 libraries and information centers operated by the federal government, the Dudley Knox Library has deservedly earned the 2004 Federal Library/Information Center of the Year award.

IN HONOR OF DR. JACK SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jack Smith for his outstanding courage and important service abroad as a physician in Afghanistan.

After being called to duty in October 2004, Dr. Smith was sent to serve in the 325th Medical combat unit of the United States Army. While in Afghanistan, he spent much of his time in platoon hospitals, often near dangerous combat operations. The situation required that Dr. Smith utilize his strong skills constantly made sure that library members
and raised in Bayonne, Dr. Smith works at the Bayonne Medical Center.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jack Smith for his brave work in Afghanistan. We are grateful for his courage in the face of danger and his service to our country in the name of freedom.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCILMAN DANIEL GUERRERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important achievements of San Marcos Councilman Daniel Guerrero, of my Congressional District.

Daniel Guerrero is a native of San Marcos, and graduated from San Marcos High School in 1995. He decided to further his education and earned his Bachelors Degree in Mass Communication/Public Relations in 2000 from Texas State University.

Mr. Guerrero was elected to the San Marcos City Council in 2004. He is actively involved in the community, giving his time to a variety of organizations that work for the public good. He has worked as City Councilman to improve city planning and the city’s quality of life.

Daniel Guerrero served as President of LULAC No. 654, and was appointed by the City Council to serve on the Arts Commission. He is an inspiration for his public service, and involved in the community, giving his time to a variety of organizations that work for the public good.

Daniel Guerrero's career as a public servant has done credit to the city of San Marcos, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

HONORING DELEGATE JAMES H. DILLARD
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005


Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972–1995. He served in the Virginia General Assembly and was appointed by the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Delegate Dillard on his retirement from the General Assembly. Through his long and distinguished career Delegate Dillard has touched the lives of countless Virginians. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Dillard and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGGY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. GALLEGGY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005 I was unable to return to Washington from California for consideration of and the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 90.

COMMENDING SEA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION STUDENTS WHO AIDED IN RESCUING 49 HAITIAN REFUGEES

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, very few of life’s important lessons come from a book. That is the educational philosophy of the Sea Education Association, a unique program based at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972–1995. He served in the Virginia General Assembly and was appointed by the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

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it were spotted later. A meal of rice and beans was prepared for the unexpected passengers.

"WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT"

An escort boat met the Corviff off the coast of Jamaica, and delivered the Haitians safely to Port Antonio early Thursday morning.

The students and parents were rest-

ing in port before finishing off their sailing semester in Key West, Fla., on March 19.

The captain and students were not im-

mediately available for comment, but Bullard said parents who were contacted expressed great pride in their children’s role in the rescue.

“What we have in our planned curriculum is the study of oceanography, and the history and literature of the sea and skills like navigation and weather forecasting,” said Bullard. “One thing you learn that is not in the curriculum is that we’re all in the same boat.

“This group of students got a chance to learn this literally.”

Waves of unrest and poverty have driven thousands of Haitians to seek refuge outside their country over the past decade. One common destination is Jamaica. Many Haitians are denied refugee status and forced to return home.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND L.A. WILLIAMS, JR.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend L.A. Williams for his serv-

cice to the Wheatley Heights First Baptist Church and to the San Antonio community.

Reverend L.A. Williams is a native Texan whose ministry reaches far beyond the walls of the Wheatley Heights First Baptist Church and into the San Antonio community. Currently serving as the Moderator of the Guadalupe District Missionary Baptist Association, College, Incorporated, and other organizations such as the Baptist Minister’s Union of San Antonio and Vicinity, Reverend Williams is always trying to reach out to the community to offer a helping hand.

 Born in Houston, Texas, Reverend Williams attended E.L. Furr High School, and upon graduating studied at Southwestern Business College and the Union Baptist Bible College and Seminary. His awe-inspiring dedication to education intuitions to houses of worship, and from medical centers to the oil fields, from farms and ranches to the world of high tech, to the Texas Lyceum has been committed to promoting the stewardship of the values, traditions, and resources and diversity that is Texas. States are all Lyceum Alumni.

The Texas Lyceum membership reflects the rich diversity of Texas and succeeds because it seeks to identify and prominently promote the unique values of our state that bring us all together as Texans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the over 600 alumni and 96 current direc-
tors. Judging from where Lyceum alumni can now be found it is obvious that the Lyceum has successfully met its goal of educating the next generation of leaders in Texas. The Lyceum should be extremely proud of its accomplishments.

From the courtroom to the board room, from farms and ranches to the world of high tech, from medical centers to the oil fields, from education intuitions to houses of worship, and from city councils to the halls of Congress and even the White House, Lyceum alumni are woven through the leadership structures of the state of Texas and this nation. Numerous state legislators, Members of Congress, a sitting U.S. Senator, the current Governor and even the current President of the United States are all Lyceum Alumni.

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The Texas Lyceum has been committed to promoting the stewardship of the values, traditions, resources and diversity that is Texas.
HONORING LEE LEONARD FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN JOURNALISM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, a most distinguished career in journalism is coming to an end with the retirement of Columbus Dispatch statehouse reporter Lee Leonard. The dean of the Ohio Capitol press corps, Lee’s career has spanned five decades, with most of that time spent covering state government and politics in Columbus.

Lee began his journalism career with United Press International in Boise, Idaho in 1962 and spent six years with UPI in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania covering state government. He moved to Columbus in 1969 and became manager of UPI’s Statehouse bureau. Lee has covered 11 national political conventions, interviewed former presidents Eisenhower and Carter and was voted one of UPI’s 20 most respected bylines in a national survey of subscribing newspaper editors. Among his many awards and honors is a first place prize from the Press Club of Cleveland in 2001 for politics and government writing.

For the last 15 years, Lee has reported for the Columbus Dispatch. He is a living Statehouse encyclopedia who is widely respected and admired, both by his journalistic peers and those in state government. It’s not surprising that “just call Lee” has become a common refrain at the Dispatch offices whenever a question has arisen about state government.

As a former state legislator who has enjoyed many dealings with Lee over the years, I am glad to join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him a long and active retirement.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF REVEREND EDWARD L. HAYES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of the Reverend Edward L. Hayes.

Reverend Hayes, who was born in 1948, is a long-time Texan. He attended school in the San Antonio area and later became a graduate of the Guadalupe Seminary. In 1982 Reverend Hayes was ordained to the ministry at Shiloh. He served as Pastor at St. Frederick Baptist Church for nine years before moving to St. Stephen Baptist Church in October of 1994.

A dedicated and passionate member of our local community, Reverend Hayes has worked tirelessly as the MLK Commission Chairman for San Antonio and has been instrumental in the Meals on Wheels for Christian Seniors program. His dedicated community service has helped those who need it the most.

It is important to recognize the good work of spiritual leaders in our community. The service and leadership of people like Reverend Hayes is important, especially for the elderly or less fortunate among us. Reverend Hayes spends his days providing not only community guidance, but also leading by his good example.

Reverend Edward Hayes and his wife Rice have three children and one grandchild. Rice Hayes is a local teacher at the Judson School District.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Reverend Edward L. Hayes.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act.

The Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act (FEDPA) simply states that in cases where federal jobs are contracted out, a federal employee should not lose his or her job if that employee is an individual with a significant physical or developmental disability and had been hired under a program designed for individuals with such disabilities.

The FEDPA was drafted to respond to a particular situation that occurred at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland in 2003. The hospital, which has developed an innovative and successful program hiring developmentally disabled individuals from our local community to work in its kitchen and cafeteria. Many of these individuals have worked there for more than twenty years. They are hard-working, reliable, and beloved by the naval officers and staff. I was shocked to learn that the Administration had selected these positions to be subject to competitive sourcing.

In other words, these hard-working disabled employees, who had been hired under a federal program designed specifically to hire the severely disabled, would be forced to compete for their own jobs against people who were not disabled, leaving them on the verge of losing their jobs. I wrote the President about this injustice and am pleased that as a result of our timely intervention, plans to compete these jobs have been withdrawn and these individuals have been able to keep their jobs and the sense of dignity that comes with them.

But it is unconscionable that other severely disabled federal workers might have to suffer through the same scenario. The FEDPA will protect federal employees with severe disabilities from losing their federal jobs as a result of contracting out. The bill does allow for jobs to be outsourced, but it is unconscionable that federal employees with severe disabilities might have to suffer.

To their supporters, the administration’s requirement that they compete their jobs misses the point that government employment has always been about more than the bottom line. Through various policies and laws, federal agencies for decades have gone out of their way to hire members of certain populations, from veterans to disabled people to welfare mothers and students.

“There are different goals of the federal government, and one of those goals is to get different people into real jobs,” said Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), who met last month with the scullery workers at the National Naval Medical Center.

“...And this [policy] will undercut that goal.”

Bush has strongly defended “competitive sourcing,” calling it one of his most important management initiatives. He says forcing government workers to compete with private contractors for their jobs promotes government efficiency and saves taxpayer dollars—even if the jobs stay in-house. An OMB report by the Office of Management and Budget said federal agencies have identified $341,820 jobs that are ripe for such competition, of which 103,412 are being evaluated for possible contracting.

“We are confident that the savings and service benefits expected from this effort will soon follow,” Clay Johnson III, OMB’s Director of Management and Budget, said in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The 21 workers in the hospital scullery are different: All are mentally retarded, but they perform crucial services that promote the employment of people with disabilities.

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NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER CONSIDERS REPLACING DISABLED WORKERS

(By Christopher Lee)

President Bush’s efforts to make government run more like a business collided this month with the reality that, in many ways, government is not a business. For the two years, the Navy, as part of the Bush administration’s initiative, has been studying whether a private contractor should take over the custodial and food services provided by 21 federal employees at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

It is just one small example of Bush’s “competitive sourcing” initiative, which requires hundreds of thousands of civilian servants across the government to prove they can do their work better and more cheaply than a private contractor, or risk seeing the work outsourced.

But in one important way the 21 workers in the hospital scullery are different: All are mentally retarded, but they perform crucial services that promote the employment of people with disabilities.

To their supporters, the administration’s requirement that they compete their jobs misses the point that government employment has always been about more than the bottom line. Through various policies and laws, federal agencies for decades have gone out of their way to hire members of certain populations, from veterans to disabled people to welfare mothers and students.

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deputy director for management, said that day.

That provides scant comfort to employees such as Devorah Shapiro, 30, who has worked at the hospital for 10 years. She worries what will happen if she loses her job.

"I like working here," Shapiro said. "It was a break from the first half of her eight-hour shift. "I work on the belt. I help push carts upstairs sometimes. I wash plates, pick silverware--I do everything."

Shapiro landed the job after interning at the hospital while a student at Rock Terrace School, a public campus in Rockville that serves children in grades 6 through 12. "I live in a group home and I have to pay the rent there," said Shapiro, her dark curls tacked neatly under a hairnet. "And I have to work, or else they'll ask me to leave. I don't want to leave my friends. I don't want to leave my house. It's too nice."

The work isn't easy. The employees, clad in blue uniforms and white plastic aprons, remove trash and utensils from used trays as they navigate across a wackyき work floor. Many wear earplugs to block out the drone of the industrial dishwasher that cleans the dishes and trays that pass through it on a conveyor belt before the workers retrieve and stack them in neat piles. Shifts begin at 5:30 a.m. and finish as late as 7 p.m. James, a former Rock Terrace student, has worked in the kitchen for 22 years. That is long enough for him to earn several promotions and enough money to buy a home in Hagerstown, where he lives with his parents.

"I started out when I was 16 years old and just kept on working; the years just flew by," he said. "I can't get to keep asking people. When I was in school, I was pretty wild. They got me in the job... and I've been doing good ever since here."

Randy Severt, a teacher at Rock Terrace, said more than 300 students have interned or worked at the hospital since the school formed a partnership with the institution in 1979. The Navy got reliable, long-serving employees for hard-to-fill positions. The students, who earn between $9.42 and $12.80 an hour, were given an opportunity to work, learn about money management and become more self-sufficient.

Providing such opportunities is a long-standing goal of the federal government. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 banned discrimination against disabled people in federal hiring and encourages efforts to develop affirmative action plans to hire more people with disabilities.

Most of the scullery workers joined the hospital under a federal hiring authority that allows agencies to take on people with mental retardation as provision employees, then convert them to permanent status after two years of satisfactory service. The government employed 1,734 mentally retarded workers in 2000, about one-tenth of 1 percent of the 18 million-strong federal civilian workforce, according to the Office of Personnel Management. (Overall, more than 120,000 disabled people worked for the government that year, more than 7 percent of the federal workforce.)

If the hospital scullery work goes to a private contractor, it will mean a big adjustment for the 120,000 disabled people who, due to circumstances and disability, do not cope well with change, Severt said.

"They have problems finding jobs on their own," Severt said. "Some of them can do certain jobs. They locate well for themselves and they don't have a lot of skills," Severt said. "Some of them can speak well. Some of them have very good social skills. But they are retarded, and they need help every step of the way. They just don't adapt."

Hospital officials say the quality of the work isn't at issue. "They're very loyal employees," said Cmdr. Martie Slaughter, the hospital's nutrition manager. "I've only been here for two years and they are like my family."

In similar competitions across the government, the in-house bid has triumphed more often than not, according to the OMB. Even in the cases where the private sector has won, employees often have gone to work for the contractor. But the scullery employees are at a decided disadvantage.

"If you are special needs, you have a great need for greater supervision," Slaughter said. "We all know that supervision costs money."

Jerry Leener, whose son Mike, 27, has worked at the hospital for eight years, said that any change in the situation "would be a big blow over," said Leener, who added that he might be coming out of federal funds. So we haven't had a cost saving as it relates to these kids. What's more, we've displaced them from their loved ones working here. They love being a part of this."

Military officials have been sympathetic but unmoved. Slaughter said that early on in the process she was getting a waiver for the workers, but none was forthcoming. Over the last year, parents of some workers have written to Navy officials and members of Congress seeking help, but with no concrete results.

As recently as two weeks ago, Navy officials said they were managing the situation. Parents of the workers grew nervous as a December deadline loomed for the hospital to submit its bid to keep the scullery jobs in-house. They were told that a decision on whether a contractor would take over could come as soon as March.

Then on Oct. 2, 10 days after Van Hollen's visit to the scullery and after inquiries by The Washington Post, Navy officials passed the word internally that they had been directed to temporarily stop working on the competition. The job competition had not been cancelled, but postponed until further notice, an internal e-mail said.

Parents said they were given a vague explanation that the job competition had gone on longer than current law permits. A provision in the recently passed 2004 Defense Appropriations bill blocks new funding for single-function job competitions that have exceeded 24 months, and multifunction competitions that have exceeded 30 months. Navy officials at the hospital did not respond to two requests for more information about the decision.

"I have a suspicion that they were starting to feel political pressure and decided to put it on hold, and that maybe this thing would blow over," said Leener, who added that he remains uncertain about whether his son's job is safe. "We took it as a big victory, believe me, but it's a temporary one."

Trent Duffy, an OMB spokesman, said agencies may cancel job competitions that jeopardize protected workers such as veterans or disabled people. "It is permissible for agencies to make that determination and cancel a competition because these protected populations could lose certain people, could potentially lose their livelihoods," Duffy said.

"They absolutely have that discretion under the law," Van Hollen, who wrote a letter to Bush before the study, said he reviewed the Navy's decision as little more than political expediency. He still believes competitive sourcing is "a one-size-fits-all contracting-out policy that does not take into account other important goals of the federal government," he said.

"I still think it's an example of their policy run amok," Van Hollen said. "There's no doubt what happened here. You want to applaud the Navy for reversing its decision, but you can't have a member of Congress or a member of the press visit every site where you've got... contracting out going on with model programs."

CONGRATULATIONS TO WESTINGHOUSE WARRIORS CITY BASKETBALL TITLE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 26 the young men of George Westinghouse Career Academy High School's basketball team, lead by coach Quitman Dillard, won the Fourth City Championship in the last six seasons.

The game was never really in doubt and second place Simeon could never get any closer than eight points in the second half. By a score of 67–52, Westinghouse clinched their place at the top of the Chicago Public League. According to press reports, one of the Navy's top high school basketball proving grounds.

The 72 team Chicago City league is reportedly used by some college coaches as a benchmark for the success of their recruiting efforts.

The Westinghouse team was powered by DeAndre Thomas, rated by many as the best high school player in Illinois. Thomas scored 29 points, snagged 9 rebounds and had three assists.

However, the victory was definitely a team effort. Westinghouse had 23 assists.

Marquis Johnson scored 14 points and secured 11 rebounds and Corey Caston each scored nine points. Caston had 7 assists.

Mr. Speaker, Westinghouse Career Academy, which serves the Austin, South Lawndale and West Garfield Communities, is a public school fighting its way to the top in every category.

Eighteen percent of its almost 1400 students are enrolled in honors classes. They were City champs in the C–CAP culinary arts competition.

Westinghouse students have earned nine medals in Academic Decathlon competition.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I salute Westinghouse Career Academy and Principal Dr. Lona C. Bibbs.

The Westinghouse Warriors are setting an example for the entire school by now setting their sights on the next task: the State finals. All Chicago wishes them the very best.

The Westinghouse Warriors have, through their hard work, their determination and their talent, achieved a remarkable record.

Congratulations to the Westinghouse team, their coach and to each of these outstanding young athletes individually.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Baylor University Women’s Basketball Team on their success during the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament. With a record of 31–3, the Lady Bears have risen to the challenge and have represented the Big Twelve and the State of Texas with pride. Led by point guard Chelsea Whitaker, the Lady Bears have won their way into the Championship game where they will face Michigan State tonight.

I attended the Lady Bear’s 68–57 victory over LSU in the Final Four game on Sunday and was particularly excited for junior forward Sophia Young, who scored 21 points in the game, and was named the Tempe Regions’ MVP earlier in the tournament. As a Member of the House International Subcommittee, I was able to help bring Miss Young’s mother, Annie Christopher, from St. Vincent, West Indies to see her daughter play collegiate basketball for the first time. Sophia is a very talented basketball player and I am glad that she was able to take her place as a member of the Baylor basketball team through the U.S. Immigration program. We as a nation embrace talent such as Sophia’s athletic gifts and we recognize the value of reuniting families for important moments. After Baylor’s latest victory when Sophia was able to hug her mother in the stands, you could see that this is truly the real face of immigration.

I also want to congratulate Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson on her great achievements at Baylor. Tonight, she has a chance at history when Sophia was able to make it to the championship. She truly deserves all the credit she receives for winning a championship as a player and coach. She has achieved history; a win over Michigan State tonight.

Rev. Stevens was born the third of seven children in Westlake, Louisiana. His father, Willie Stevens Jr., was also a minister. Paul Stevens first came to Texas to study for his Master of Arts degree, which he received from the Houston Graduate School of Theology.

Rev. Stevens has been a minister for over 20 years and is a certified Pastoral Care Specialist. Under his leadership, the New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church has grown from 188 to over 560 members. He has served the needs of his growing congregation by overseeing the construction of a 1.5 million dollar worship center, and the founding of several new ministry programs.

In addition to his formal duties, Rev. Stevens has found the time to participate in several community organizations. He is a member of the NAACP and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, a board member of the Community of Churches for Social Action and the Cooperative Ministry for Higher Education, and a member of the Baptist Ministers Union of San Antonio and Vicinity. Reverend Stevens has been married to Belinda Hubbard Stevens for 20 years, and is the father of two teenagers, Paul Jr. and Kayla.

Mr. Speaker, he is a source of tremendous strength for his community and his congregation, and his commitment to serving his fellow man serves as a powerful example. I am proud to have the chance to honor him here today.

President Harris deserves special recognition for his unwavering support of programs that provide services and encouragement to underrepresented and non-traditional students. It is fair to say that the Sacramento City College Classified Senate would not exist without his encouragement and his support. President Harris’ views on participatory governance promoted an unprecedented level of collegiality on campus.

In 2004, directly as a result of Dr. Harris’ leadership, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaffirmed Sacramento City College accreditation without conditions—the highest level of accreditation a college can receive.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Harris’ friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his great career, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento’s most successful and respected educators.

President Harris is well-known for his resolve to foster positive changes, which has resulted in many improvements to the Sacramento City College campus, including the restoration of the Auditorium, renovation of the City Cafe, and construction of a Child Development Center, Center for Physical Excellence, and the Learning Resource Center, “a grand and gleaming hitech wonder.”

Since the beginning of his presidency, he has had the vision and drive to push for the development of light rail directly to the City College Station; and under his leadership, Associated Student Government students presented a Resolution in Support of Regional Transit to the Los Rios Board of Trustees, which resulted in a student vote of the Universal Transit Pass fee and a Regional Transit Pass for all public transit bus and light rail systems in Sacramento, Yolo, Folsom, El Dorado and Elk Grove.

During his presidency, Sacramento City College co-sponsored the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. event. In 1996 inaugurated an annual Capital Shrine Bowl to raise awareness and funding for Shriners Hospitals for Children. It was also under Dr. Harris’ stewardship that Sacramento City College, in partnership with Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region, expanded its Associate Degree Nursing Program and Sutter has committed more than $16 million through 2010 with the goal of educating 450 registered nurses.

Dr. Harris also helped establish Beta Eta Pi, a campus chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. He helped to create a $7,500 scholarship to pay the induction fee for students who need assistance, and was one of only 24 college presidents honored with the prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction which recognizes college presidents for outstanding efforts in promoting the goals of Phi Theta Kappa at the chapter level. Also, a decade ago, President Harris supported the creation of Susurrus, the college literary journal, which has twice won first place in the National Community College Humanities Association Annual Literary Magazine Competition.

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Marvelle has two sons, Marvin and Leslie Holmes. Her oldest son was elected to the Maryland State Legislature in 2002 and presently serves on the Environmental Matters Committee as well as other leadership roles within the Maryland House of Delegates.

Marvelle is recognized by her church, friends, and relatives as someone who continues to donate her time and talents to improving the community. I would like to add my wishes to the many friends and admirers. I wish you a happy 75th birthday Ms. Marvelle S. Wilson, and many more.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANGELINE NAZARETIAN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Angeline Nazaretian, known by her friends and colleagues as Angie, upon her appointment as Grand Electa for the Order of the Eastern Star in the State of Alabama. Dr. Nazaretian lives in my Congressional District and is a member of the Athens Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Order of the Eastern Star is the world's largest fraternal organization to which both men and women may belong.

Dr. Nazaretian moved to Athens in 1958 and has demonstrated a deep commitment and strong love for her adopted community ever since. She has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for young and senior individuals in the area.

She retired from Athens State University in 1999, after forty-two years as a Professor of Health and Physical Education and the Director of Alumni Affairs. During her tenure at Athens State, she worked with the faculty and students, local churches, and schools in the Athens-Limestone community to develop physical education programs in elementary and secondary level schools.

Dr. Nazaretian is a board member and volunteer for numerous community organizations. As an instructor for the American Red Cross, she developed various programs in First Aid, Water Safety, and C.P.R. She also served as a member of the R.S.V.P. Advisory Board, where she helped organize a Fitness Program for the Elderly, which is now part of the Community Wellness program. Furthermore, Dr. Nazaretian is recognized as one of the first leaders in Alabama to develop the Special Olympics program in the State.

Mr. Speaker, for her hard work and dedication, Dr. Nazaretian is respected by all who know her. On April 2, the Athens community gathered to celebrate and honor her achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to congratulate her on behalf of everyone in North Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO FRED KOREMATSU

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Fred Korematsu, who passed away last week at the age of 86. In his early years, Mr. Korematsu experienced America at its worst, but he did so as an American at his best. Many years later, in large part thanks to Mr. Korematsu and his courageous actions, our country atoned for its mistakes, and took great steps towards fulfilling the promises embodied in the words of our Founding Fathers.

Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland, California on January 30, 1919. An American citizen by birth, Mr. Korematsu was nonetheless among the Americans of Japanese heritage ordered to report to World War II internment camps in May 1942. He defied the order, choosing instead to marry his girlfriend and live the life he believed that, like any other American, he was entitled to. That dream did not materialize; in May 1942 he was caught, arrested and jailed for failing to report as ordered.

Mr. Korematsu maintained that his Constitutional rights had been violated by the forced internment order, given without evidence, specific charges, or a trial. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. Korematsu sued the government and appealed his case to the Supreme Court. He lost the landmark Korematsu v. the United States by a vote of 6 to 3. In the majority opinion, Justice Hugo Black wrote that the internment was based not on "hostility to him or his race" but on "military necessity." In his dissent, Justice Frank Murphy spoke out against the internment in no uncertain terms: it "goes over the very brink of constitutional power and falls into the ugly abyss of racism."

For almost forty years, Fred Korematsu's conviction stood as a black mark of U.S. jurisprudence. In the early 1980's Peter Irons—a professor of Political Science at University of California, San Diego—discovered documents in which government intelligence agencies categorically denied that Japanese Americans posed any security threat whatsoever. For the Supreme Court case, the official reports exculpating Japanese-Americans were suppressed. In the course of his investigation, Irons unearthed other reports describing government claims of Japanese American spying as "intentional falsehoods.

In light of this information, in November 1983 Judge Marilyn Patel of the San Francisco Federal District Court overturned Mr. Korematsu's conviction. Five years later, the specter of state-endorsed racism was finally lifted for all American Americans when federal law provided apologies and payments to those wrongly relocated during the war.

There is no doubt that Fred's case figured prominently in the quest for justice for those American citizens wrongfully interned during the war. In 1983 President Ronald Reagan acknowledged Mr. Korematsu's role by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian award. Like Rosa Parks, who insists she was just tired when she took her bus seat in Montgomery, Fred Korematsu was not looking to change the world when he refused to be interned. But just like Rosa Parks, his defiance reverberated throughout our country, and engendered change as profound as his action was simple.

Mr. Korematsu spent his years after the war in California realizing his dream of a simple life; he worked as a draftsman and raised a family. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, his son Ken, and his daughter Karen Korematsu-Haigh.

His is a life worth remembering; his defiance a testament to the potential for greatness with- in every ordinary American; his story a reminder of the progress our country has made, and a beacon keeping us ever hopeful for a better future. In the words of President Clinton, "In the long history of our country's con- struction, it is in the common man and ordi- nary citizens stand for millions of souls . . . . Plessy, Brown, Parks . . . . To that distin- guished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu."

Mr. Speaker, Fred Korematsu was an American. He saw a wrong and did what he thought was right. With simple courage, he stood up to an entire nation and demanded that it make good on its promises. He should be remem- bered and honored, and as common men and women not all that different from him, we should strive to walk in his footsteps, fighting for equality and justice wherever their defense is needed.

REMEMBERING MICHELLE BULLOCK MARRS, DEDICATED HEALTH-CARE ADVOCATE

HON. JIM COOPER
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michelle Bullock Marrs of Nashville, Tennessee. Michelle Marrs was the Chief Executive Officer of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center in Nashville. She was a dedicated health-care advocate for all Tennesseans, especially the poor, uninsured and underserved. The community suffered a great loss when she passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2005.

Michelle Marrs was born on July 13, 1952 in Louisburg, North Carolina. She attended grade school in Louisburg and Raleigh, and went on to receive a Bachelors Degree from North Carolina Central University and a Masters in Education from Harvard University. Before moving to Nashville, she served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Metroline Comprehensive Health Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was instrumental in generating significant funding for a Women's Center and Teen Clinic. She also dedicated much of her time to mentoring young women who were beginning their careers in healthcare.

Michelle's numerous public service awards included the 2004 Urban Legend Award for exemplary contributions for empowering communities and changing lives; The Ladies of Distinction Incorporation Award for dedicated service to African American Women in Healthcare in 2004; the Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership Living Legend Award in 2003; and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Public Service Award in 2000. Michelle was an officer of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center's million-dollar building project. Though diagnosed with a terminal illness, Michelle's clarity and resolve to ensure continued community healthcare led to the
HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to the life of Mr. Edward Switzer. Mr. Switzer recently passed away, leaving a legacy of community work and commitment to those he loved. He was a magnificent figure who was dedicated to his family and friends. It gives me no greater pleasure than honoring his memory today.

The life of Mr. Switzer took him from Regent, North Dakota, where he was born and raised, to serving in the Air Force during World War II. He attended a one-room grade school and went on to earn his Master's degree from North Dakota State University. After completing his graduate education, Mr. Switzer settled in San Bernardino, where he became my early supporter for the San Bernardino Valley College Board of Trustees.

To all those who knew Mr. Switzer, he exhibited generosity of spirit, love for his community, and dedication to his work. He constantly challenged the status quo, was never afraid to speak his mind, and undoubtedly left an immeasurable impression.

Mr. Switzer turned to teaching chemistry at San Bernardino College for almost forty years and was a dedicated professor, who demonstrated genuine concern for his students. He realized that many students were having difficulty understanding basic chemistry concepts that were being taught using advanced techniques. Mr. Switzer decided to create a more clear methodology for teaching chemistry by specializing in making the fundamentals of chemistry easier to understand. His passion for the subject that he taught and dedication for teaching led him to become Chair of the Department of Chemistry. In addition to being a remarkable professor, Mr. Switzer celebrated his retirement by serving his community board by setting up after-school programs for teenagers.

I join today with family and friends in paying my respects to Mr. Switzer. He was a generous and humble human being who touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by all. He has touched my life as a friend and mentor. His inspiration and encouragement have led me to hold office and be who I am today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND HOWARD ANDERSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many contributions that Reverend Howard Anderson has made to his community.

Howard Anderson is a native of New York City. He first came to Texas to attend the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, from which he received his Masters in Divinity.

Reverend Anderson was ordained in 1980 under the authority and order of St. Paul Baptist Church in San Antonio. He served under the leadership of Live Oak Baptist Church in New Braunfels, and began his interim tenure at Coliseum Park Baptist Church in San Antonio in October 1995.

Mr. Anderson has also had a distinguished career in military service. He served for 15 years, winning the Military Excellence Award from the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and rising to the highest possible enlisted rank: Chief Master Sergeant.

Finally, Reverend Anderson has been a tireless volunteer and community activist. He is an active Mason, a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and a Golden Heritage Life Member of the NAACP. He serves as President of the Ministers Conference of the American Baptist Convention of Texas, and is an adjunct faculty member at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Howard Anderson has proven himself to be an outstanding leader, a committed community activist, and an exceptional spiritual resource for the San Antonio community. He has truly distinguished himself, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE INTEL CORPORATION AND THE INTEL FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID WU
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the employees of the Intel Corporation and the Intel Foundation for their efforts to provide tsunami relief to the Indian Ocean region.

As we all know, on December 26, 2004, a 9.0 earthquake erupted off the coast of Indonesia. Following the earthquake, a major tsunami swept across the region, destroying lives, homes and businesses in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, and Thailand. Along with governments, citizens, businesses, and other private organizations around the world, Intel’s employees and the Intel Foundation mobilized and delivered critical supplies and funds that helped save lives and begin the reconstruction process.

I stand here today to applaud Intel and its employees, many of whom live and work in my district in Oregon. Without their good work, many more lives may have been lost because of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL SMITH

HON. JIM DAVIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sergeant First Class Paul Smith, of Tampa, Florida.

Yesterday, President Bush posthumously awarded Sergeant Smith with our nation’s highest military honor—the first Medal of Honor awarded to a soldier since 1993. Sergeant Smith always gave his fellow soldiers, his country and his family his very best. But on April 4, 2003, Sergeant Smith showed extraordinary valor when making the ultimate sacrifice for the soldiers whose lives he saved and the values and ideals that have made this country great.

Sergeant Smith had always wanted to serve our country as a professional soldier, and when he graduated from Tampa Bay Technical High School at 18, he immediately enlisted in the Army. He went on to serve in the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo before serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Smith was known for holding his soldiers to high standards, but on April 4, 2003, he held himself to the highest standard of all. Sergeant Smith’s unit, B Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion was constructing a prisoner holding area at Baghdad Airport when the unit came under attack by nearly 100 Iraqi soldiers. Sergeant Smith immediately organized the unit’s defense and risked his own life to hold back the enemy and help move injured soldiers to safety.

Despite Sergeant Smith and the unit’s efforts, the enemy continued to fire on the compound. When faced with the call of having to pull his troops back, Sergeant Smith chose instead to take an exposed position behind a
mounted .50-caliber machine gun and fire through three boxes of ammunition before being mortally wounded by enemy fire.

The official medal citation said Sergeant 1st Class Smith’s “courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith’s extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division ‘Rock of the Marne,’ and the United States Army.”

Paul Smith was a loving and devoted father, husband, brother and son. While the Medal of Honor will never fill the enormous hole in hearts of Sergeant Smith’s family, this honor signifies our nation’s deepest appreciation for Sergeant Smith’s heroism and sacrifice. His courage and patriotism will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MAYOR OF SCHERTZ, HAL BALDWIN

HON. HENRY CUellar
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Baldwin, mayor of Schertz, Texas, for his commitment to public service.

Hal Baldwin’s life has been fully dedicated towards helping of his fellow citizens ever since he served with the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing at Naba Air Force Base during the Korean war. He continued to serve with the U.S. Air Force until 1974, when he retired from the military profession as a senior master sergeant.

After the conclusion of his military tenure, Baldwin moved back to Schertz where he served 6 years as the assistant city manager of Schertz. After his tour of duty as the assistant city manager, Baldwin was appointed to the Schertz City Council in 1983. He served his community with distinction in this post until May 1994 when the City Councilman Hal Baldwin became the Mayor Hal Baldwin.

Now, going on 11 years of service to Schertz as Mayor, Hal Baldwin also has spent 48 lovely years with his wife Barbara. They have five children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grand children, all of whom Mayor and Mrs. Baldwin love dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize the Schertz mayor, Hal Baldwin, for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND LESTER J. GILLESPIE, SR.

HON. HENRY CUellar
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of the Reverend Lester J. Gillespie, Sr.

Rev. Gillespie is a native of San Antonio, Texas. He comes from a family tradition of spiritual service; he is the son of the late Rev. W.G. Gillespie and the late Sister Vernell Gillespie-Jones. He received his Bachelor and Doctor of Divinity from the Guadalupe Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as a Doctor of Divinity from the American International Theological Seminary.

Lester Gillespie has had a long and distinguished career of community service and religious leadership. He is a former Pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Crystal City, Texas, the 2nd Vice President of the Ministers Conference of the National Baptist Convention of America, and Moderator of the United Fellowship Baptist District Association. He has worked to reach out to some of our State’s most troubled citizens as Chaplain of the Frio County Jail Ministry and Chairman of the Gang Intervention Committee of the Southern Baptist Association of San Antonio.

Currently, Rev. Gillespie serves as the Organizer and Pastor of the Greater Love Missionary Church in San Antonio, and National President of the Ministers United for Ministerial Development. He provides invaluable spiritual leadership to both his San Antonio church and the national Baptist community. Finally, he helps to build a future for the next generation as founder of the Rev. W.G. Gillespie and Vernell Gillespie-Jones Memorial Institute Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gillespie is one of our most accomplished and beloved community leaders, and I am proud and happy to have the chance to honor him here today.