

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne (CCB) for its remarkable work in the community and its endless service to local residents. This year, the organization is celebrating its 35th anniversary and will be receiving special honors from the mayor.

The CCB is a civic group that offers assistance to non-profit organizations in the area and provides a wide range of services to local residents. The city of Bayonne greatly benefits from endeavors sponsored by the CCB, such as the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots drive, an after-school literacy program, and an annual scholarship award for high school seniors. Additionally, the CCB sponsors many local sports teams and assists veterans in hospitals throughout the state. With the help of dedicated CCB members, the organization has been successful in raising money for many worthy causes, among them the Police Athletic League (PAL), Bayonne's First Federated Church, and the battleship *New Jersey*.

To celebrate the CCB's outstanding work, Bayonne Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., declared that April 23, 2005, was Concerned Citizens of Bayonne Day. Special recognition was also given to Frank and Jean Perrucci, who have diligently offered their time and energy to the CCB since its founding in 1970. As an additional sign of gratitude, the mayor renamed the corner of 29th Street and Avenue A "Concerned Citizens Way" on April 30, 2005.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne for its extensive involvement in developing and sponsoring programs that benefit local residents. I applaud the CCB's dedication to serving its community over the past 35 years and have no doubt it will continue its admirable work in the city of Bayonne.

TRIBUTE TO MIHAN LEE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute Mihan Lee, an 11th-grader who lives in my Congressional district and attends Georgetown Day School. Recently, she competed against nearly 5,400 middle and high school students nationwide in an essay contest titled "Lincoln and a New Birth of Freedom." Her essay, "A New Country, A New Century, A New Freedom" earned her grand prize honors. The contest was held to commemorate the opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Spring-

field, Illinois. Mihan, a 17-year-old, second-generation Korean-American read her award-winning prose during the dedication ceremony.

Although Mihan's essay was not specifically about President Lincoln, she captured his message of freedom and courage in a story about her great-grandfather, who lived in Korea under Japanese colonization. Her great-grandfather, Jung In Seung, created the first Korean dictionary at a time when the language was banned under Japanese rule. He was arrested and interred in a prison camp until the liberation of Korea in 1945.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mihan Lee and wish her continued success in the years ahead. I submit her essay for the RECORD.

Grand Prize Winner: Mihan Lee, 11th grade.
Potomac, MD

A NEW COUNTRY, A NEW CENTURY, A NEW
FREEDOM

My understanding of freedom is inextricably tied up with my understanding of language. My great-grandfather, in 1940s Korea, was arrested for putting together the first Korean dictionary, when the language had been banned by the Japanese government. My great-grandfather believed that words, the medium by which we formulate and share ideas, can bind and break the very ideas they express if the language is that of an oppressor. He fought for the freedom of his people to express ideas in their own words; in so doing, he defended their very right to have ideas.

As I prepare for all the freedoms and responsibilities of adulthood, I remember these definitions of freedom I have inherited, and strive to make ones of my own—not only as the first generation of my family born in a new country, but also as an American youth at the birth of a new century. Sitting in the hall between classes, my friends and I discuss the faults of our school's administration, the right to same-sex marriage, the justification for the Iraq War. We feel it is our right to know and evaluate our surroundings, to speak and have our ideas responded to.

I believe that freedom in the 21st century means the liberty of individuals, regardless of age, race, gender, or class, to express themselves in their own words, and to use those words to shape history. We celebrate it, and yet we never stop fighting for it. I am Korean-American, I am young, and I am free. I speak—not always articulate, not often right, but always in my own words. I speak, and I listen.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AICPA'S JOURNAL OF ACCOUNTANCY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Journal of Accountancy, the Journal of record for the accounting profession, on its 100th anniversary this year.

The Journal of Accountancy, which is published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, is read by nearly 400,000 readers each month. Its contents include official releases of technical requirements for CPAs as well as news and information that enlighten readers about important relevant developments in and outside the profession and that enhance their professional competency.

As a CPA, I am keenly aware of the value of this publication. CPAs play a vital role in our economy, and since 1905 the Journal of Accountancy has helped keep them informed about key business trends.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that the JoFA has made during its first century and to recognize its editors, authors and art and production staff for their hard work. I extend my best wishes to the JoFA for its continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to other obligations, I unfortunately missed a recorded vote on the House floor on Thursday, April 28, 2005.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 150 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 210—Supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day, and recognizing the importance of intellectual property in the United States and worldwide).

HONORING COLLINS L. TOCKE

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collins L. Tocke who is retiring from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after 32 years and 10 months of service. Mr. Tocke began his career with the FAA on June 12, 1972 and ended his service on April 2, 2005.

Mr. Tocke began his career with the FAA as an air traffic controller at the Chicago Center and was later transferred to the South Bend Flight Service Station. He has been a controller at the Kankakee Automated Flight Service Station since February 1, 1987.

Mr. Tocke was born in Hope, Arkansas but spent most of his formative years in Chicago, Illinois. After High School, he went to college in Champaign, Illinois until he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Tocke served his country from October 1966 to October 1970.

On February 15, 1975, Collins Tocke married the love of his life, Kathy and are the

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

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

proud parents of one son, Christopher, who was born on June 17, 1982. Collins is an avid reader and is interested in the war in the Pacific, computers, and electronic music. Collins and Kathy plan on enjoying his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other individuals in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's families and communities.

CONGRATULATING THE MULVEE
FAMILY ON THE BIRTH OF
THEIR CHILD, JOHN RYAN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Patrick and Carrie Mulvee on the birth of their first child. John Ryan Mulvee was welcomed at 9:32 p.m. on May 2nd, 2005, weighing 7 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 21 inches long. John Ryan was named after his late paternal great-grandfather John J. Mulvee. I congratulate Patrick and Carrie on the new addition to their family and wish them years of continued health and happiness.

INTRODUCING THE MEDICARE
EARLY ACCESS ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, during Cover the Uninsured Week, I am pleased to introduce a bill to help nearly four million people age 55–65 obtain access to affordable health insurance. I am joined by my colleague Rep. SHERROD BROWN and more than 90 additional Democratic cosponsors in introducing the "Medicare Early Access Act," one of three signature bills that offer attainable, common sense solutions for the uninsured.

We have 45 million Americans without health insurance—8 million of whom are children. Millions more are underinsured with policy policies that exclude necessary benefits or charge a king's ransom for co-pays and deductibles. Increasingly, access to coverage and quality care in this country is determined by an ability to pay rather than medical need.

There are many approaches to addressing the needs of the growing population without health coverage in this country. As most of my colleagues know, I am an advocate of a universal health care system in which each and every American would have health coverage. That is the most fair, affordable, and sustainable solution to our national health care needs.

However, that won't be accomplished overnight. In the meantime, there are steps that Congress can and should be taking to develop immediate, if smaller, steps to providing people affordable health insurance coverage options. That's why we've joined together to introduce three separate bills that each target a specific population that is seeing its uninsured rate climb.

The Medicare Early Access Act targets early retirees; the Family Care Act, being introduced by Rep. DINGELL, targets children and families; and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act, being introduced by Rep. BARROW, targets small businesses and self-employed individuals.

The Medicare Early Access act would provide people age 55 to 65 with the option of buying into Medicare—a program with a proven track record that works.

Unfortunately, retiree health benefits have vanished or are quickly disappearing, leaving people with few or no affordable coverage options. Still, among the 55–65 population, it is more likely that someone who is retired will have health insurance than someone still in the workforce. Access to health insurance diminishes for individuals in low-wage jobs. Thirty-five percent of workers age 55–65 who earn less than 200 percent of poverty are uninsured compared with 17 percent uninsured nationwide.

Age rating and other underwriting techniques resulting in excessive premiums make coverage unaffordable. Those who are offered coverage are often required to pay astronomical deductibles and co-pays, or are severely limited by pre-existing condition exclusions, leaving them grossly underinsured.

In 1965, Medicare was specifically designed to provide coverage for those the market would not insure. Today we have the opportunity to expand on the original purpose of Medicare by providing access to people the market does not adequately cover. The Medicare Early Access Act would reduce the number of uninsured, provide better coverage for the underinsured, and improve the health status of this vulnerable population without harming Medicare or other insurance markets.

That's why the Medicare Early Access Act makes so much sense. It would allow people in this cohort to buy-into Medicare and enjoy the exact same benefits available to all other Medicare beneficiaries. Premiums for these new participants would be based on actuarial calculations of the cost of providing services to the population. There would be no effect on the Medicare trust fund because premiums will cover the entire cost of services provided.

To ensure premiums are affordable, the bill provides a 75 percent advanceable, refundable tax credit. Thus, participants would pay a monthly premium equal to 25 percent of the cost of the program—an amount similar to what employed individuals pay for their health benefits.

I am pleased to report that advocacy organizations representing consumers and seniors agree with us. The Medicare Early Access Act has been endorsed by the AFL–CIO, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Consumers Union, Families USA, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, SEIU, and the UAW.

This bill would provide affordable, comprehensive coverage to the most vulnerable uninsured who have few, if any, health insurance options in the current marketplace. The system necessary to implement this bill is already in place; all we have to do is agree the uninsured deserve viable coverage options. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact the Medicare Early Access Act this year.

Following is a summary of the bill.

THE MEDICARE EARLY ACCESS ACT

The Medicare Early Access Act gives early retirees and others between ages 55 and 65 the option of purchasing Medicare coverage. Millions of near elderly who are uninsured can benefit from a Medicare buy-in. This bill provides affordable health insurance to a vulnerable population, while protecting the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund.

ELIGIBILITY

Starting January 2006, individuals age 55–65 who do not have access to coverage under another public or group health plan are eligible to purchase Medicare. Enrollees will receive the full range of Medicare benefits. Participants are not required to exhaust employer-based COBRA coverage before choosing the Medicare buy-in option. At age 65, buy-in participants move into regular Medicare.

In addition, because employers are dropping retiree health benefits at an alarming rate, early retirees who have access to retiree health coverage may also participate, and their employers can wrap around the Medicare benefit.

PREMIUMS

Enrollees must pay a premium to receive Medicare coverage. The premium will be set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at the actuarial level necessary to cover the full cost of services provided to the buy-in population. The premium will be adjusted annually to ensure its accuracy. Premiums will also differ slightly by region to reflect geographic differences in healthcare costs.

TAX CREDIT

Program enrollees receive a 75 percent refundable, advanceable tax credit to offset premium costs. Thus, participants in the Medicare buy-in are only personally responsible for 25 percent of their monthly premiums. The tax credit is modeled on the payment mechanism created by the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) health care tax credit for displaced workers, which was enacted in 2002.

FINANCING

Premiums are deposited in a new Medicare Early Access Trust Fund. Participant premiums and tax credits are transferred to the Early Access Trust Fund to pay for Medicare services, ensuring this new program does not financially affect Medicare.

METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT LOGS 10 PERFECT
YEARS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important accomplishment in Colorado. The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District earned its second consecutive Platinum Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA, formerly the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies) for its second consecutive five-year period without a single numerical violation of its discharge permit.

The award was presented May 1, 2005 at NACWA's 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

According to NACWA, earning two back-to-back Platinum Awards has been achieved by only five other wastewater treatment agencies

in the country. Two Platinum Awards represent 10 perfect years, during which the Metro District has discharged almost 530 billion gallons of treated, high-quality water into the South Platte River and completed more than 100,000 chemical and biological analyses that verify there were no permit violations.

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District's 345 employees have every right to be proud of this accomplishment. It places them among the elite protectors of the environment in the nation.

These accomplishments result from the efforts of many. The District has an outstanding maintenance department, a well-engineered plant, great support groups, and management who always strive to do the best for their ratepayers. They also have a dedicated operations staff that continually gives examples of their ability to get things done no matter what the challenge.

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District serves approximately 1.5 million people. Its service area includes most of metropolitan Denver and encompasses 380 square miles, including all of Denver and parts of Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties. Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, and part of Westminster are included.

The Metro District collects and treats about 130 million gallons of wastewater a day at its 185 million-gallon-a-day Central Treatment Plant five miles northeast of central Denver. This plant is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Rocky Mountain West.

Formed under Colorado law in 1961, the Metro District provides wholesale wastewater transmission and treatment service to 57 local governments, including both cities and sanitation districts in metropolitan Denver. The Metro District began treating metro Denver's wastewater in 1966.

NACWA implemented the National Environmental Achievement Awards program in 1983 to recognize the excellence that was occurring routinely at many wastewater treatment agencies across the country.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO TRANSFER CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR TO SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. The idea that the United States Congress should demand that Nigeria deport a former president of Liberia to stand trial in a United Nations court in Liberia is absurd!

I do not object to this legislation because I dispute the charges against Charles Taylor. Frankly, as a United States Congressman my authority does not extend to deciding whether a foreign leader has committed crimes in his own country. The charges may well be true. I do, however, dispute our authority as the United States Congress to demand that a foreign country transfer a former leader of a third country back to that country to stand trial before a United Nations kangaroo court.

As the resolution itself cites, one top U.N. official, Jaques Klein, has already pronounced

Taylor guilty, stating "Charles Taylor is a psychopath and a killer." But the resolution concludes that "Congress urges the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to expeditiously transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to undergo a fair and open trial. . ." So it is probably safe to guess what kind of "trial" this will be—a Soviet-style show trial. The United Nations has no business conducting trials for anyone, regardless of the individual or the crime. It is the business of Liberia and Nigeria to determine the fate of Charles Taylor.

If we in the United States wish to retain our own Constitutional protections, we must be steadfast in rejecting the idea that a one-world court has jurisdiction over anyone, anywhere, regardless of how heinous the accusations. The sovereignty we undermine will eventually be our own.

HONORING MARTI JONES

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marti Jones upon being named a finalist for the 2005 Congressman John Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service.

Initiated in 2002, the Moakley Award is given to a staff member of the New England Congressional delegation who demonstrates strong innovative methods of thinking and effectively works on behalf of their constituents.

Marti has worked in New Hampshire politics for over 20 years. Before joining my office in 2003, Marti worked for U.S. Senator BOB SMITH (R-NH) for 18 years, starting when he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and later, the U.S. Senate. Before working for Senator SMITH, Marti served as Assistant to the Mayor for Manchester Mayor Bob Shaw.

Marti's commitment to the citizens of the Granite State extends far beyond the walls of our Manchester district office. Marti has been involved in Granite State Ambassadors, the Board of Directors for the Photographic Historical Society of New England, a past President of the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Junior Miss Scholarship Program and a past member of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board and the Moakley Family for recognizing Marti's accomplishments and those of the other finalists. I congratulate and thank Marti on her years of hard work and dedication to New Hampshire.

MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn memorial to the estimated 1.5 mil-

lion men, women, and children who lost their lives during the Armenian Genocide. As in the past, I am pleased to join so many distinguished House colleagues on both sides of the aisle in ensuring that the horrors wrought upon the Armenian people are never repeated.

On April 24, 1915, over 200 religious, political, and intellectual leaders of the Armenian community were brutally executed by the Turkish government in Istanbul. Over the course of the next 8 years, this war of ethnic genocide against the Armenian community in the Ottoman Empire took the lives of over half the world's Armenian population.

Sadly, there are some people who still deny the very existence of this period which saw the institutionalized slaughter of the Armenian people and dismantling of Armenian culture. To those who would question these events, I point to the numerous reports contained in the U.S. National Archives detailing the process that systematically decimated the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. However, old records are too easily forgotten—and dismissed. That is why we come together every year at this time: To remember in words what some may wish to file away in archives. This genocide did take place, and these lives were taken. That memory must keep us forever vigilant in our efforts to prevent these atrocities from ever happening again.

I am proud to note that Armenian immigrants found, in the United States, a country where their culture could take root and thrive. Most Armenians in America are children or grandchildren of the survivors, although there are still survivors among us. In my district in Northwest Indiana, a vibrant Armenian-American community has developed and strong ties to Armenia continue to flourish. My predecessor in the House, the late Adam Benjamin, was of Armenian heritage, and his distinguished service in the House serves as an example to the entire Northwest Indiana community. Over the years, members of the Armenian-American community throughout the United States have contributed millions of dollars and countless hours of their time to various Armenian causes. Of particular note are Mrs. Vicki Hovanessian and her husband, Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, who have continually worked to improve the quality of life in Armenia, as well as in Northwest Indiana. Three other Armenian-American families in my congressional district, Dr. Aram and Mrs. Seta Semerdjian, Dr. Heratch and Mrs. Sonya Doumanian, and Dr. Ara and Mrs. Rosy Yeretsian, have also contributed greatly toward charitable works in the United States and Armenia. Their efforts, together with hundreds of other members of the Armenian-American community, have helped to finance several important projects in Armenia, including the construction of new schools, a mammography clinic, and a crucial roadway connecting Armenia to Nagorno Karabagh.

In the House, I have tried to assist the efforts of my Armenian-American constituency by continually supporting foreign aid to Armenia. This past year, with my support, Armenia received \$84 million in U.S. aid to assist economic and military development. In addition, on April 16, 2004, I joined several of my colleagues in signing the letter to President Bush urging him to honor his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian people have a long and proud history. In the fourth century, they became the first nation to embrace Christianity. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire was ruled by an organization known as the Young Turk Committee, which allied with Germany. Amid fighting in the Ottoman Empire's eastern Anatolian provinces, the historic heartland of the Christian Armenians, Ottoman authorities ordered the deportation and execution of all Armenians in the region. By the end of 1923, virtually the entire Armenian population of Anatolia and western Armenia had either been killed or deported.

While it is important to keep the lessons of history in mind, we must also remain committed to protecting Armenia from new and more hostile aggressors. In the last decade, thousands of lives have been lost and more than a million people displaced in the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabagh. Even now, as we rise to commemorate the accomplishments of the Armenian people and mourn the tragedies they have suffered, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and other countries continue to engage in a debilitating blockade of this free nation.

Consistently, I have testified before the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee on the important issue of bringing peace to a troubled area of the world. I continued my support for maintaining the level of funding for the Southern Caucasus region of the Independent States (IS), and of Armenia in particular. In addition, on February 26, 2004, I joined several of my colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush urging him to ensure parity in military assistance between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives JOE KNOLLENBERG and FRANK PALLONE, for organizing this special order to commemorate the 89th Anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Their efforts will not only help bring needed attention to this tragic period in world history, but also serve to remind us of our duty to protect basic human rights and freedoms around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VIRGINIA RIDGE AND VALLEY ACT OF 2005

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2005. Southwest Virginia possesses the State's best outdoor experience, with the highest mountains, most interesting rivers and superb hunting, camping, fishing, hiking and backpacking opportunities. With the preservation of our region's natural assets in mind, I have joined with U.S. Senator JOHN WARNER in introducing the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2005. If enacted, the legislation would create 7 new Wilderness Areas, 2 new National Scenic Areas and would expand 6 existing Wilderness Areas. The new or expanded areas would be designated in portions of Bland, Craig, Grayson, Giles, Lee, Montgomery and Smyth Counties within the Jefferson National Forest.

Designating a tract of land as wilderness enables the U.S. Forest Service to preserve

the scenic and undisturbed character of the landscape. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, picnicking, backpacking, bird watching, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, spelunking, rock-climbing and many other outdoor activities would be continued and encouraged in the new Wilderness Areas. At the same time, motorized traffic and mechanized equipment would be banned to prevent any disruption to the ecosystems and diverse wildlife in the areas.

The seven proposed Wilderness Areas are: Stone Mountain (Cave Springs)—The Stone Mountain proposed Wilderness Area is a 3,270-acre tract of land adjacent to the North Fork of the Powell River in Lee County. The property is considered to be the least disturbed forest in all of Southwest Virginia and is home to populations of two rare salamanders. The Stone Mountain and Payne Branch trails are included as part of the proposed Wilderness Area and provide convenient access for hikers and hunters wishing to visit the Wilderness Area. The trails are also connected to an adjacent campground at Cave Springs.

Raccoon Branch—The Raccoon Branch proposed Wilderness Area is located in Smyth County in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The property contains 4,223 acres of extremely rugged country characterized by high ridges and low streams. Eight major trails provide excellent access for hunters, fishermen, hikers and horseback riders and two nearby campgrounds serve as convenient trailheads. In addition, 4.5 miles of the Appalachian Trail also traverses the proposed Wilderness Area.

Garden Mountain—The Garden Mountain proposed Wilderness Area contains 3,291 acres of land which lies on the southern flank of Garden Mountain in Bland County. The area borders the unique geological structure of Burkes Garden and possesses two developed trails, totaling 8 miles when combined. Along the northern boundary, the Appalachian Trail leads across the summit of Garden Mountain, while the Lick Creek Trail provides access to the area along the valley bottom.

Hunting Camp Creek—The Hunting Camp Creek proposed Wilderness Area encompasses the headwaters of both Hunting Camp Creek and Little Wolf Creek in Bland County and is characterized by its exceptionally pristine nature. The area consists of 8,470 acres that stretch from ridge top to ridge top. The Appalachian Trail traverses the area in addition to two informal trails along an old logging railroad grade next to Hunting Camp Creek and along the crest of Brushy Mountain. Brushy Mountain forms the Southeast boundary of the proposed wilderness, and Garden Mountain forms the northwestern edge. Virginia Routes 623, 615 and 610 complete the area's boundary.

Lynn Camp Creek—The Lynn Camp Creek proposed Wilderness Area is also located in Bland County and is 3,226 acres in size. The area is characterized by three parallel ridges which enclose the major stream valleys of Lick Creek and Lynn Camp Creek and provide the opportunity for good views. From the top of Lynn Camp Mountain, hikers can view Chestnut Ridge and the Beartown Wilderness. From Brushy Mountain, hikers overlook the valley of Lynn Camp Creek on one side and Big Walker Mountain on the other side. In addition, both Lick Creek and Lynn Camp Creek are excellent brook trout waters.

Brush Mountain—The Brush Mountain proposed Wilderness Area is located in Montgomery County, adjacent to the Town of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. The area is 4,794 acres in size and extends approximately 8 miles along the northwest slope of Brush Mountain. The property is characterized largely by its remoteness, despite its proximity to the suburbs of Blacksburg, providing hunters and hikers with a feeling of true wilderness solitude.

Brush Mountain East—The Brush Mountain East proposed Wilderness Area is adjacent to the Brush Mountain proposed Wilderness Area and is located in Craig County. This tract is 3,769 acres in size and shares many of the characteristics of its neighboring proposed Wilderness Area. Brush Mountain East also possesses excellent views along Craig Creek and Brush Mountain's steep mountain face.

The Virginia Ridge and Valley Act also includes the designations for two new National Scenic Areas. Differing from Wilderness Areas, the guidelines protecting National Scenic Areas allow mountain biking and limited motorized access in certain portions of the Scenic Areas. At the same time, the natural and historic resources within the proposed National Scenic Areas would be protected to preserve the landscape.

The proposed National Scenic Areas designated in the legislation are:

Bear Creek—The Bear Creek proposed National Scenic Area is located in Smyth County and includes 5,503 acres. The area extends from the crest of Walker Mountain southward to the crest of Brushy Mountain and includes the enclosed valley of Bear Creek between the two mountains. An extensive network of trails is included in the proposed area, including more than four miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Seng Mountain—The Seng Mountain proposed National Scenic Area is 6,455 acres in size and is located in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area in Smyth County. Rowland Creek Falls, a 45-foot cascading waterfall is a major scenic attraction in the area. The area also includes a network of recreational trails and convenient access is provided to visitors via the Hurricane Campground and Skulls Gap Picnic Area.

Finally, the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act would expand six existing Wilderness Areas to further protect the unique and undisturbed landscape of the region.

Lewis Fork Wilderness Area in Smyth and Grayson Counties will be expanded to include an additional 308 acres.

Little Wilson Creek Wilderness Area in Grayson County will be expanded by 1,845 acres.

Kimberling Creek Wilderness Area in Bland County will be expanded to include 612 additional acres of wilderness.

Peters Mountain Wilderness Area, which is located in Giles County, will be expanded to include an additional 1,203 acres.

Mountain Lake Wilderness Area in Giles and Craig Counties will be expanded by 5,476 acres.

Shawvers Run Wilderness Area in Craig County will be expanded to include an additional 2,456 acres.

I am pleased to report that the new proposed designations which are included in the legislation which Senator Warner and I have introduced have received local support. Each

of the proposed Wilderness and National Scenic Area designations has been endorsed by either the U.S. Forest Service or the Board of Supervisors of the County in which the area would be located.

The legislation has also garnered significant support in the U.S. House of Representatives by several other Virginia Congressmen. U.S. Representatives BOBBY SCOTT (VA-03), JIM MORAN (VA-08), FRANK WOLF (VA-10) and TOM DAVIS (VA-11) are original co-sponsors of the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act. I look forward to working closely with my Virginia colleagues in both the House and the Senate to obtain approval for this worthy legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE UJA
FEDERATION OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the UJA Federation of Bayonne for its outstanding service to the Jewish community. The UJA Federation hosted its Holocaust memorial program on May 3, 2005, in New Jersey.

As an umbrella organization for Jewish residents, the UJA Federation strives to support and sustain the local Jewish community. Apart from development, it focuses on issues related to the Holocaust and the remembrance of that tragic event.

The UJA Federation of Bayonne will soon be hosting its Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance. The keynote speaker will be Edward Mosberg, a survivor of the Krakow Ghetto and the Plaszow and Mauthausen concentration camps, who will share his experience of living in Poland during World War II. The observance will also include readings by children from local Jewish schools and a candle lighting ceremony by local Holocaust survivors. The day will serve as an opportunity to reflect on this dark hour of world history, in the hope that we may gain wisdom for the future by remembering the past.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the UJA Federation of Bayonne for its support and outreach to the residents of New Jersey and its worthwhile efforts to honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust.

FLORIDA'S TENNIS SEC
TOURNAMENT TITLES

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate both the University of Florida's Men's and Women's Tennis teams on claiming the South Eastern Conference's Tournament Titles. The second-seeded and fifth-ranked University of Florida men's tennis team won the SEC tournament for the third time in school history, as the Gators defeated fifth-seeded and 26th ranked Tennessee on Sunday, April 24, 2005 at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex in Athens, GA. With the victory, the

Men's team moved to 20-5 on the year and earned the SEC's automatic invitation to the NCAA Championships marking their 15th consecutive trip. Likewise, the University of Florida women's tennis team staged an unbelievable comeback rallying to win its 4th consecutive and 14th overall SEC Tournament title with a 4-2 victory over third-ranked Kentucky, Sunday afternoon at the Alabama Tennis Stadium. I congratulate both of Florida's Men's and Women's tennis teams on their SEC tournament title and wish them much luck as they head into the NCAA Tournament!

HONORING MR. JOHN PACO

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young American, Mr. John Paco, of San Antonio who has dedicated his life to helping others. Nor would this be the only body to recognize the work of John Paco. The American Ambulance Association has chosen to honor John as a 2005 Star of Life for over 10 years of service in emergency medicine. As lead supervisor for American Medical Response at Randolph Air Force Base, John has been at the forefront of improving the care and streamlining the operations in his unit. John's peers nominated him for this award because they know in a crisis of any sort, John can be counted on. Moreover, John's attitude conveys to his coworkers and patients good will and competence.

In situations where one's health and livelihood hang in the balance, a steady hand, a smile, and cool, quick efficiency can make the difference between surviving and serious, even permanent disability. The same way you and I go to our office and make decisions that may affect the lives of many Americans, John goes to his workplace, but the stakes are much higher. A fraction of a second lost or misused or a thousand other x-factors can mean immediate and irreversible change for a person unable to fight for his or her life.

John's demeanor enables him to quickly connect with others, a skill vital in working with others when the consequences can be so dire. One of John's coworkers has said he will make the best of a bad situation which strikes me as a fitting description for what he does every time he dons his uniform. When someone dials 911, the situation is grave, so having someone as able and devoted as John on the scene ensures both a high level of competence and care. His can-do attitude and efficacy are crucial in a profession like John's and his leadership inspires those who serve under him.

San Antonio is proud to have one of its own commended, especially a person who has given so selflessly of himself and has touched the lives of so many in our community. By giving so much of himself, John his efforts in helping to streamline and improve a number of procedures vital to the timely care of the injured. The PowerPoint presentation he helped develop demonstrated the costs financial and otherwise of ambulance collisions to all involved.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WALTER H.
RICHARDSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Walter H. Richardson, one of Miami-Dade County's quintessential religious leaders. During the Annual Unity Day Celebration held at the Allen Chapel AME Church in Miami last April 24, 2005, Bishop Richardson was honored, along with other distinguished members of our church community. The theme: "United in Christ, Reaching out to Touch Others with God's Love," saliently symbolizes the ministry of this humble Man of God.

It was in the mid 1940s when he came down to Miami from his native Ansonville, North Carolina after accepting the Lord as his personal Savior. Indeed, it was a unique calling that evoked God's choice: "... for many are called, but few are chosen." As a young man, he supported himself by getting a job at the old Miami Sears & Roebuck Store. He got engaged to his sweetheart, Poseline McLaughlin, whom he left behind in North Carolina, and she later joined him in Miami after she also accepted the Lord. They got married and were soon blessed with two sons. Their marriage lasted for 49 years until her untimely demise in 1996.

This tribute to Bishop Richardson comes at a time when his ministry is defined by the primacy of his consecration to God's covenant of love and compassion to all those hungering for the good news emanating from the Lord's Gospel. His calling is symbolic of his readiness to reach out to those who seek refuge and solace in the sanctuary of his Church, and bespeaks of God's preeminence in the conduct of their lives.

The longevity of his commitment to the less fortunate has become legendary. When I think of his early work with the civil rights movement, his untiring efforts paralleled much of our nation's history as we struggled through the harrowing challenges of racial equality and simple justice for all. I came to admire him for his understanding and empathy for the "little people and poor folks" of our community. Blessed with a lucid common sense and a quick grasp of the issues at hand, Bishop Richardson's influence continues to be felt at a time when our community needs to put in perspective the agony and dissatisfaction of marginalized blacks and other minorities yearning to belong and pursue the American spirit of optimism.

This is the magnificent legacy of Bishop Walter H. Richardson. My pride in honoring him today and my privilege in sharing his friendship are only exceeded by my gratitude for everything he has sacrificed on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALLIE E.
BROOKS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Professor Allie. E. Brooks, Jr.,

Principal of Wilson High School in Florence, S.C. Mr. Brooks is retiring after 35 years as a public school educator. I join the citizens of Florence and the students of Wilson High School in expressing deep appreciation and gratitude to him for a lifetime of magnanimous service.

Mr. Barnes was born in Florence on January 29, 1946 to the parents of the late Allie E. Brooks, Sr. and Thelma H. Brooks. He is married to Barbara Faye Eaddy Brooks, and they are the proud parents of three children: Deanna Fredrica Brooks, Thelma Susanna Eaddy Brooks, and Allie Eugene Brooks, III and a daughter-in-law, Janelle Hargrove Brooks.

In 1964, Mr. Brooks began his formative education at Holmes Elementary School. He completed Wilson Junior High School, and graduated from Wilson High School, where he is currently serving his thirty-first year as principal. A graduate of South Carolina State University, where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in mathematics, Mr. Brooks received a Masters of Education degree in Education Administration from the University of South Carolina. In addition, he completed an Institute on the Principal and School Improvement at Harvard University.

Mr. Brooks began his professional career as a mathematics teacher at Moore Middle School in Florence. That assignment was followed by tenure as Assistant Principal at West Florence High School before being named Principal of his Alma Mater in 1974.

Mr. Brooks is a loyal member and deacon of Savannah Grove Baptist Church in Effingham, S.C. In addition to his church leadership positions, he is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Florence Boys and Girls Club and the BB&T Bank Advisory Board. He has also been active in numerous civic organizations such as the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Florence West Rotary Club, and served his country honorably for more than two years as an officer in the U.S. Army.

His awards and commendations are numerous and include: Florence Civitans "Citizen of the Year" Award, "Principal of the Year for 2000 Award" by the South Carolina Association of Secondary School Principals, and South Carolina "2004-05 Principal of the Year" by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Allie E. Brooks, Jr. for the immeasurable service he has rendered to our country and his community through his roles as a well loved Principal, highly honored civic leader and incomparable role model. I sincerely thank Mr. Brooks for his personal friendship and life-long commitment to helping others, and wish him a long, enjoyable retirement, and Godspeed.

HONORING HEAD START COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Head Start Community Program of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant

organization I am proud to represent! On May 4, 2005 Head Start is celebrating its Fortieth Anniversary.

Founded in 1965, the Head Start Community Program of Morris County is a nonprofit organization serving approximately 200 low-income children between the ages of three and five and their families. Head Start's comprehensive program continues to demonstrate immense success by being instrumental in preparing children to begin school successfully. They offer a comprehensive approach to early success in school, from medical check-ups to nutritional meals.

Today, Morris County's Head Start program is stronger and more successful than ever. Eileen Jankunis, the Executive Director of the Head Start Community Program of Morris County, her staff, and core of dedicated volunteers are a testament to Head Start's accomplishments. They are ensuring our children, those who need it most, are given the same opportunities as other children to get a "Head Start" in a nurturing environment. Above all, they are demonstrating tremendous focus and dedication to providing every child with the building blocks of learning so that they can succeed in school and later in life.

Head Start is an integral part of establishing a sound foundation for our children. The continued success of Morris County's Head Start program demonstrates that, and I am honored to represent their needs in Congress. Early-childhood development is a key component of our educational system, and Morris County's program is doing a superb job of getting our kids ready for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to honor Morris County's program. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Head Start Community Program of Morris County for their forty years of service! Again, I offer my praise and thanks to their dedicated trustees, administration, wonderful teachers, support staff, volunteers and active parents who work tirelessly on behalf of Head Start's children.

IN MEMORY OF PAT CIMMARUSTI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Pat Cimmarusti, who died this past week after 87 years of service to his family, community and Nation.

I have known Pat for more than 30 years, and he has been a good friend to my wife, Janice, and me.

Pat was born in Santa Monica, California, on January 16, 1918. After service in the U.S. Army, he and Ann Smaldino married on June 7, 1942. They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary last year.

Pat and Ann's first home together was a farm in Malibu, but as they began a family Pat opened a plumbing and contracting business and they settled in Los Angeles. In 1974, they opened an Italian grocery store and vegetable market in Hollywood with their three children. The store and market were an extension of Pat's personality. He loved to cook steak dinners and make his own spaghetti sauce.

He used to take his grandchildren to a farm in Oxnard to handpick tomatoes. The next

day, Pat arose at 4 a.m. and began making spaghetti sauce. By the time family began to arrive, the sauce was halfway done and Pat was preparing lunch for his wife, children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He had a hearty laugh, a warm smile, large brown eyes and great pride in his family.

Community was also important to Pat. He was a member of the American Legion and Elks Club in Pasadena, a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of UNICO National and a member of the Sons of Italy in America. In 2000, Pat was honored as one of the UNICO men of the year. He also was honored by Cardinal Roger Mahony.

Among the events Pat cherished in his life was meeting President Ronald Reagan and being blessed, with his family, by Pope John Paul II in Rome. He equally cherished attending every sporting event and graduation his children and grandchildren were involved in.

Pat is survived by his wife, Ann; his children and their spouses, Loretta Cimmarusti Chicoine and her husband, Richard, and Lawrence and Amalia and Ralph and Hallie Cimmarusti; grandchildren, Patti Chicoine Nelson and her husband, Marc, and Patrick, Ralph, Annie, Larry, Paula and Loretta Cimmarusti; and great-grandchildren, Lauren and Grant Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our condolences to Pat's family and in honoring his loving service to family, community and Nation.

HONORING CHRIS TOMPKINS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Tompkins, a young man whose short but extraordinary life recently came to an end.

I met Chris many years ago during my first campaign for Congress. He held campaign signs for me on street corners, though the signs were nearly as big as him. I could tell then, even at such an early age, that he was a go-getter. I knew that Chris was a special young man who would achieve much. And achieve he did.

Chris served as one of my congressional pages during his junior year of high school. He went on to the University of Florida, where he enrolled in the honors program. He became the University's first Truman Scholar and later served as student body president of Florida's law school.

After law school, Chris worked as a legislative aide to a local state House member where he played an integral role in crafting the State's Y2K plan. Chris then returned to Hillsborough County to become an agricultural attorney. He was elected supervisor of the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District and became heavily involved in Republican politics, serving as a member of the county's Republican Executive Committee for 16 years. He also volunteered his time and talents to many civic causes because he cared about the community in which he lived.

Chris was in the midst of a campaign for the Florida House of Representatives when he

was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. Through it all, Chris kept his head high, often cheering up those of us trying to lift his spirits. He passed away last weekend surrounded by the friends and family who so loved him.

Mr. Speaker, my heart aches for Chris and his family. I hope that his mother, Betty Jo, is comforted by knowing that Chris enriched my life and the lives of others he touched. We shall never forget him or the long legacy he has left.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLAND'S
MAY 3RD CONSTITUTION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the anniversary of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution.

This document signified the spiritual and moral renovation of the Polish nation after a period of stagnation caused by foreign influences under the Saxon kings. It has become a proud and integral part of the civic and patriotic activities in many cities in our great country, in Poland, and throughout the world.

To the Poles and their descendants, May 3rd is a national holiday for it bestows upon the Pole a priceless heritage of humanitarianism, tolerance and a democratic precept conceived at a time when most of Europe lived under the existence of unconditional power and tyranny exemplified by Prussia and Russia.

Poland's parliamentary system actually began at the turn of the 15th Century, but a series of defensive wars, internal stresses, outside influences, widespread permissiveness and excessive concern for the rights of dissent brought Poland to the brink of disaster and anarchy in the 18th Century. Urgently needed reforms became imperative.

The May 3rd, 1791 Constitution was the first liberal constitution in Europe and the second in the world, after the Constitution of the United States.

Following the American pattern, it established three independent branches of government—executive, legislative and judiciary. Throughout the constitution runs philosophy of humanitarianism and tolerance including: perfect and entire liberty to all people; rule by majority; secret ballot at all elections; and religious freedom and liberty.

But, most importantly, the constitution abolished the one-vote veto powers of individuals who would undermine proposals, for their own dubious reasons.

The constitution curtailed the executive power of the King and State council. It forbid them to contract public debts, to declare war, to conclude definitely any treaty, or any diplomatic act. It only allowed the Executive branch to carry on negotiations with foreign courts, always with reference to the Diet (Parliament).

In terms of democratic precepts, the May 3rd Constitution is a landmark event in the history of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Polish constitution was deemed too dangerous by the tyranny of absolutism still rampant in Europe. Thus Russia, Prussia and Austria decided to wipe out "the Polish cancer

of freedom" from the face of the earth. In 1795 partitioned Poland ceased to exist as a state. For 123 years of foreign occupation (1792–1918) and again from 1939 to 1989, the Third of May Constitution kept the Polish spirit alive as a symbol of freedom, generated healthy pride among people of Polish ancestry everywhere, and inspired them to fight to regain their lost independence.

Our very own country owes part of its being to the inspiration the 3rd of May Constitution provided.

The principles and values set in ink were the very same that brought to our shores Polish freedom fighters Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko. For their dedication to the American cause, these sons of liberty are honored to this very day in both Poland and the United States, proof of the mutual loyalty to the philosophy and beliefs instilled in each country's Constitution.

It is for this reason that I remind my esteemed colleagues and constituents of the importance of Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791, and congratulate all the Polish Americans in my district on this honorable day.

INTRODUCING THE GAS PRICE
SPIKE ACT OF 2005

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as the summer peak driving period begins and as gas prices remain high, I am introducing legislation today to reduce the price of gasoline. The bill, The Gas Price Spike Act of 2005, is co-sponsored by 33 Members of Congress.

The bill will address the spike in price of gasoline by placing a windfall profits tax on oil companies; giving tax credits for the purchase of ultra efficient vehicles; and provide federal grants to reduced mass transit fares.

Consumers are being gouged at the gas pump. And, the only thing rising faster than the price of gasoline right now is the skyrocketing profits of the oil companies.

Washington can no longer ignore this issue. High gas prices are eating away at consumer's disposable income and could lead to a further economic downturn.

The bill will: Institute a windfall profit tax on gasoline and diesel. Such a tax is to be imposed on all industry profits that are above a reasonable profit level. This proposal would not increase the cost of gasoline because this proposal does not tax the price of gasoline. It only taxes excessive profits of refineries and distributors. Any attempt to increase prices to recover the lost revenue in taxes is simply taxed at 100% making the price increase worthless.

Transfer the revenue from the windfall profits tax to Americans who would buy ultra efficient cars, made in America, with a tax credit. These will be made directly available to the purchaser of a car that traveled over 65 miles on a single gallon of gas. Today average cars get less than 30 miles per gallon.

Establishes a broad based, far reaching program to promote mass rail transit inter- an intra-city. The bill makes funding available to regional transit authorities to offset significantly reduced mass transit fares during times of gas price spikes.

The co-sponsors are Reps. SERRANO (D-NY), ABERCROMBIE (D-HI), DEFazio (D-OR), FRANK (D-MA), McDERMOTT (D-WA), SOLIS (D-CA), FILNER (D-CA), CARSON (D-IN), GRIJALVA (D-AZ), LANTOS (D-CA), LEE (D-CA), MCGOVERN (D-MA), MCKINNEY (D-GA), WOOLSEY (D-CA), OWENS (D-NY), STRICKLAND (D-OH), CONYERS (D-MI), DAVIS (D-IL), SANDERS (I-VT), FARR (D-CA), HINCHEY (D-NY), EVANS (D-IL), NADLER (D-NY), KANJORSKI (D-PA), SHERMAN (D-CA), LEWIS (D-GA), GUTIERREZ (D-IL), VISCLOSKEY (D-IN), KILDEE (D-MI), SLAUGHTER (D-NY), KAPTUR (D-OH), OLVER (D-MA), STUPAK (D-MI).

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP KANSAS CITY
KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DEBATE TEAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues outstanding news that, for the second straight year, the Kansas City Kansas Community College [KCKCC] debate team, coached by Darren Elliott, has swept both community college national championships.

Even more impressive, the 2005 KCKCC team won with an almost entirely new team—just two sophomore returnees from last year's 2004 national championship team.

The KCKCC team completed its sweep by winning both the team and Lincoln-Douglas debates at the Phi Rho Pi national championships in Philadelphia after winning the CDEA [Cross-Examination Debate Association] Community College National Debate Championship title at San Francisco State University in late March. KCKCC dominated the Phi Rho Pi championships by putting both teams in the finals of the Policy Two-Person Debate and since both finalists were from the same team, sophomores John Brethauer of Tonganoxie and Peter Lawson of Leavenworth shared first place honors with freshmen Clay Crockett of Emporia and Garrett Tuck of Overland Park. In addition, the KCKCC duo of Blue Valley freshmen Laura Koslowsky and Ashley-Michelle Papon took second.

Lawson then went on to become the first debater ever to repeat as National Policy Lincoln-Douglas One-Person Debate champion by finishing undefeated throughout the tournament. KCKCC entered 4 persons in the event with all 4 making it to the elimination rounds, with Tuck and Koslowsky closing out the finals with Crockett finishing third. In winning the CEDA title, Tuck, Brethauer and Crockett were named to the All-American first team and Lawson to the second team. They were joined on the national championship team by Kyle Bragdon, Papon and Koslowsky. At an open meet that debated the topic, "How the U.S. should reduce fossil fuel consumption," KCKCC won the title by defeating 4-year teams from West Virginia, Vanderbilt, San Francisco State, Towson, Eastern New Mexico, Vermont, Rochester, Cal-State Chico, and Georgia State.

With all 5 freshmen returning next year, I look forward to the KCKCC debate team winning 3 in a row! The team was honored at a

reception hosted by Governor Kathleen Sebelius at the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka, and I am proud to have this opportunity to add to their well-deserved accolades by entering this statement into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
LIEUTENANT ROY ZALETSKI**

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Lieutenant Roy Zaletski has completed his tour in the Navy's House Liaison Office; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Roy Zaletski has demonstrated a commitment to meeting challenges with dedication, confidence, and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Roy Zaletski will continue in his service to the United States of America as Assistant Air Detachment Officer on the USS NEW ORLEANS; and

Whereas, in this post Lieutenant Roy Zaletski will protect our great Nation and play an important role in the War on Terrorism.

Therefore, I am honored to join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in recognizing a true patriot, Lieutenant Roy Zaletski.

IN HONOR OF BRETT HARWOOD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brett Harwood for his outstanding accomplishments in the business world, his commitment to serving the community, and his generous philanthropy. Mr. Harwood will be honored for his impressive and visionary work by Liberty Health at its annual gala on May 5, 2005, in New Jersey.

A successful businessman, Mr. Harwood helps run his family's company, Harwood Properties, LLC, which is based out of Jersey City, New Jersey. Founded in 1920, the business has been passed down through the generations and continues to flourish. Mr. Harwood has achieved great success in the parking services industry. Apart from his work in New Jersey, he currently serves as director of the National Parking Association in Washington, DC.

Throughout the years, Mr. Harwood has combined his strong leadership skills with his desire to support and develop multiple community and charitable organizations. As the former vice-chairman of the Liberty Health Board of Trustees, he gave his time and energy to ensure the completion of the Jersey City Medical Center-Wilzig Hospital. Additionally, he made the first donation to the Capitol Campaign, which has raised 16 million dollars to support the new medical center. Mr. Harwood has also generously donated to the Jewish Home and Rehabilitation Center and to Franklin and Marshall College.

Actively involved in the community, Mr. Harwood is a member of Temple Sharey Telfilo

Israel in South Orange, the Ben Franklin society, and the Franklin and Marshall Leadership Council.

Mr. Harwood was born in Orange, New Jersey and holds a bachelor's degree in government. He graduated with his J.D. from Temple University Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar that same year. Before joining Harwood Properties, LLC, he worked at various law firms, concentrating on creditor's rights. He and his wife, Margie, are the proud parents of two children and are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary this year. When Mr. Harwood is not busy with his business and community affairs, he spends his free time sailing, traveling, and relaxing on the beach.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brett Harwood for his dedication to serving others, his admirable work in the community, and his great efforts to improve the quality of life for people of New Jersey.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today marks the national commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Six million Jews were murdered as a result of state-sponsored, systematic persecution.

The Holocaust is not just a story of destruction and loss; it is a story of an apathetic world and a few individuals of extraordinary courage. It is a remarkable story of the human spirit that thrived before the Holocaust, struggled during its darkest hours, and ultimately prevailed as survivors rebuilt their lives.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is a vehicle for honoring the victims of the Holocaust and reminding us all of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign.

This year's observance marks the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. On VE Day, those living in Allied Countries celebrated the end of the war. Those imprisoned in concentration camps had lost too much and seen too much evil to celebrate.

The history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments. We should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny.

We must actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society.

The Jewish Holocaust revealed to the world the horrors man can perpetrate if racial and religious hatred are allowed to fester in the heart of society.

As we remember those who were killed because of racial and religious hatred, we must act to stop these crimes against humanity today.

Civilians in Sudan are being systematically murdered, raped and brutalized by the government and other forces. And yet, the world has not acted. Last July, the House recognized these atrocities but has done little to intervene. The United States and the international community have an obligation to end this humanitarian crisis.

While we reflect on the Holocaust and its victims, and honor the survivors, rescuers and liberators, we should strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning, understanding, and remembrance.

HONORING DOOLITTLE'S RAIDERS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 16, 2005, I had the privilege of honoring members of the famous Doolittle's Raiders, who held their annual reunion this year in Mystic, Connecticut, which I am proud to represent in this House.

On December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, the United States was attacked by Japan. On April 18, 1942, the United States struck back directly at the enemy. On that day, Lt. Col. James Harold Doolittle and his co-pilot, Richard Cole, and their comrades-in-arms conducted their heroic raid.

On April 16, I was joined by many others at the Mystic Liberty Pole to honor these men and their courage. During the observance Boy Scout Troop 76 raised a ceremonial flag and a plaque was dedicated by Stonington First Selectman William Brown. It was my honor to present the Raiders with a congressional coin and a citation.

The air raid was the first strike against the Japanese mainland. It was a relatively small action, only 16 bombers dropping 32 bombs over five cities. But it elevated America's morale because it demonstrated that we had the ability to strike back. However, the raid was not without cost. None of the 80 combatants landed safely after the raid. Eleven crews had to bail out over China, three into the water, one crash-landed and another landed in the Soviet Union where the crew was held captive.

An eastern Connecticut newspaper, The Day, wrote about the sacrifices made by Doolittle's Raiders. The newspaper said, "The history books recount how eight Doolittle Raiders were taken captive by the Japanese and how four were released at the end of the war. But they don't talk about the conditions the airmen endured, locked alone in tiny cells, their only contact with the outside world the tray of slop that was shoved through the door every day. If you want a sense of what it was like, lock yourself in your bathroom for two years and nine months, retired Lt. Col. Chase J. Nielsen told about 1,000 high school students who gathered Friday in Leamy Hall at the Coast Guard Academy. 'You eat like a pig, and you live like one,' Nielsen said."

This is the story of men who demonstrated heroism of inconceivable dimension. They took action against an enemy whose military machine was spreading across the Pacific. Not only did the Raiders' bold attack rally American spirits at home, it struck fear into the Japanese Imperial High Command, forcing them to redeploy troops back to the homeland. This helped turn the tide of the war and led to our eventual victory.

It was appropriate that we gathered at the Mystic Liberty Pole. It is a place of patriotism and public spirit. We honored those patriotic and public spirited men because they volunteered so many years ago to put their lives on

the line for the liberty we all enjoy today. If not for their sacrifice, our world would be a far different place.

May God bless them all for what they did, keep them in good health, and may God Bless America.

SALUTE TO DR. PEGGY CHABRIAN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Peggy Chabrian, who is President and Founder of Women in Aviation, International. The organization was incorporated in 1994 following the success of the annual International Women in Aviation Conference conducted in 1990.

With Peggy Chabrian commitment the conference began with 150 participants in 1990 and today that organization has grown to more than 3,000 attendees. Women in Aviation International now represents over 7,000 women and men from all segments of the aviation industry including general, corporate, commercial and military. Women in Aviation International is the premier organization in recognizing women's accomplishments in aviation. They not only highlight accomplishments by women but also provide a substantial number of educational scholarships and aviation vocational opportunities for women.

A long-time aviation enthusiast and professional aviation educator. Dr. Chabrian is a commercial/instrument multi-engine pilot and flight instructor who has been flying for over 20 years. Most recently she added helicopter and seaplane ratings to her flight qualifications.

Dr. Chabrian has held many top positions in aviation education including her tenure at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and her Chair of the aviation department at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Chabrian was the second woman to ever hold the position of dean of an engineering school in the United States. She is currently also the publisher of Aviation for Women magazine.

The recipient of numerous aviation and education awards, Dr. Chabrian has received the FAA Administrator's Award for Excellence in Aviation Education and the Civic Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She has been inducted into the Crown Circle of the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education. In December 2001 she received the Vision Award from Business and Commercial Aviation magazine.

Dr. Chabrian is active in numerous aviation organizations and serves as a member of several boards including the Centennial of Flight Advisory Board, the Experimental Aircraft Association Foundation and the Museum of Aviation. She is the past president and board member of the University Aviation Association.

I know that other Members of Congress join me in congratulating Peggy Chabrian on her untiring efforts in promoting and recognizing women in aviation.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT AMENDMENTS' BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the comprehensive Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights Act of 2005 (H.R. 533), introduced by Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS. Rep. CONYERS' new bill amends and improves the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), enacted after the chaos of the 2000 presidential election. Congressman CONYERS has done the Nation an important service by systematically reviewing HAVA (including conducting his own hearings here and elsewhere in the country) against the actual experience of the 2004 elections.

The three amendments to HAVA that I introduce today similarly arose out of my own experience during the 2004 elections here in the District of Columbia and campaigning in other parts of the country during the 2004 presidential elections. The first, Section 303A, is an amendment that responds to long lines throughout the country, which may have deterred significant numbers of voters. This amendment to HAVA would require states to permit counties or other subdivisions upon request to begin voting prior to the scheduled date of an election. During the recent election, some subdivisions had voting machines that were modern and plentiful, while other jurisdictions in the same state were burdened with scarce and out-of-date machines, resulting in long lines. In the pivotal state of Ohio, which determined the outcome of the close 2004 presidential election, the controversy was deepened by reports that lines were particularly long in counties where there were large minority populations compared with largely white counties.

One reason for the difference is that in many states, voting machines are purchased by counties or other subdivisions. Differences in income levels, tax bases and other issues often result in large disparities within the same state in the availability of machines. Small changes in the day voting begins can help eliminate these disparities and the lines that can discourage the exercise of the right to vote, without the often significant capital investment in new equipment.

Section 2 of my bill adds a section to HAVA that responds to calls to my office concerning absentee ballots which inadvertently did not include postage, or had insufficient postage. This section requires officials to accept such absentee ballots. Postage mistakes may be made depending on the number of issues on the ballot and the resulting size and weight of the envelope containing the ballot. The cost to authorities, if any, is de minimis. There should be no doubt that such ballots should be counted.

Section 3 amends HAVA to eliminate the confusion when first-time or infrequent voters or others go to incorrect voting sites or when the usual voting site has been changed. To encourage voting, voters registered anywhere in the state could cast a provisional ballot and have it counted and verified. However, voters would be told the correct polling site to allow the option of going to the correct site and

thereby avoiding any doubt that their ballots would be counted.

The 2000 presidential election was a calamity of such historic proportions that it cast doubt on the validity of the election of the President of the United States and led to the enactment of HAVA. The continuing problems in the 2004 elections were serious, unacceptable, and controversial. Although that election also was close, it did not have the razor thin margin of 2000 that delayed certification and settlement of the final result through a Supreme Court decision. However, the 2004 elections were another close call that yielded bitter controversy. Congress must be willing to learn from our continuing experience to make improvements in protecting the right to vote as they are needed. My bill simply uses the experience from my own district and elsewhere to contribute to this effort.

HONORING MRS. JESSIE HALE
DOWNS

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership, character, and outstanding achievements of Mrs. Jessie Hale Downs.

In 1944, a young couple expecting their first child began a ministry known as the Jimmie Hale Mission with the purpose of reaching out to the poor in downtown Birmingham. The couple did not have much material wealth, but what they lacked in money they made up in vision. Unfortunately, the young husband passed away eight months later, leaving his 27-year-old wife and unborn daughter widowed and fatherless.

A single, homeless mother, Jessie Hale resolved to continue the ministry. Serving as the Executive Director for 46 years, Miss Jessie shepherded the Mission to its present state of 6 different facilities in central Alabama. Mrs. Downs has touched the lives of countless men, women, and children through her selfless acts of compassion and charity.

Now 88 years old, Miss Jessie remains the matriarch of the Jimmie Hale Mission. She continues to travel around central Alabama speaking about the vision and ministry of the Mission. She is the epitome of compassionate activism, and I am proud to call her one of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, while I was with my son and daughter-in-law during the birth of their daughter, the House considered an important vote on the ethics rules governing the House. Being with my family during the birth of Kate was a thrilling experience, and I am grateful for the blessing she has already been to our extended family.

Had I been present for Rollcall Vote #145, I would have joined my 20 colleagues in opposing the change in the rules. The changes

proposed at the beginning of the 109th Congress made sense, and should have been implemented.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE—50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL SKI HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum that honors the birthplace of the national sport of skiing in Ishpeming, Michigan. The National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum is celebrating 50 years of honoring the history and the sport of skiing along with the athletes, coaches and supporters of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA).

The USSA, originally known as the National Ski Association (NSA), first considered a national ski museum in 1938 during a national convention. With great support, historian Harold Grinden thought it was appropriate for Ishpeming to be the site for the building because in 1904 the local Ishpeming Ski Club founded the national group making it the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. However, due to World War II, the NSA could not begin building the museum until 1947. After 6 years of organizing, designing and construction, the museum was finally dedicated in February 1954.

It was that year that Grinden proposed honoring the "greats" of their sport through an induction into a "Hall of Fame" as many other national sports were doing at the time. Then in 1955, the National Ski Museum's name was changed to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum. To date, the Hall of Fame proudly displays photos and short bios of 342 inductees.

In the 1980's space became a problem for the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum. In 1992, the group opened their doors to a new structure over 6 times larger than the original building. With the additional space, the Museum was able to feature newly designed depictions of such historic events as Norwegian "ski troopers" carrying infant Prince Haakon over mountains to safety in 1206 and a mural by local artist Roger Junak of the American 10th Mountain Division in WWII during the ferocious battles of the Italian Campaign. It also displays a WWII "weasel", used as a groomer in its early years, as well as various forms of uphill transportation and a historic timeline of the development of skiing.

The current building with its "ski-hill" sloped roof remains in Ishpeming, Michigan and encompasses a gift shop, library of more than 1,300 books, magazines and videos, as well as an auditorium featuring a 20-minute orientation for visitors. Early medals won by famous athletes of the sport are displayed with pride along with the most modern of ski equipment emphasizing the growth of the sport through the years. The most historic reference in the collection is a replica of a ski and pole dug out of a Swedish bog dating back to some 4000 years.

The U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum rightly honors the legacy and athletic

greatness that has graced this sport through history. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum on their first 50 years and in wishing them success in the future as they continue to honor the past.

REINTRODUCTION OF BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY FLATS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today reintroducing a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the federal government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative BEAUPREZ. It is identical to a bill we cosponsored in the 108th Congress.

BACKGROUND

In the 1950s, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator WAYNE ALLARD to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says "nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right" except for "such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge." And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to "address the impacts" mineral rights "may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts."

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the federal government to acquire the minerals. However, neither DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Udall-Beauprez bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It would not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government. It also would not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire—any transaction involving the new "credits" or any exchange could take place only with the concurrence of the party selling minerals to the United States. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In addition, the bill includes a provision to make clear that the Federal government cannot expand the Rocky Flats site by obtaining any non-Federal lands or interests in lands that are outside the site's boundaries except with the consent of the owners of those lands or interests.

In developing the original bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department, gave careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and made revisions to earlier drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act"—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short outline of the revised bill:

OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS ACQUISITION BILL

BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of mineral rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats: authority to provide "credits" (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be

used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same state).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section 1—

(1) provides a short title: "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act."

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands—provided that the owners of the acquired lands or interests concur—instead of or in addition to cash.

Section 2—

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits (with the concurrence of the party transferring lands or interests to the United States), exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats,

(2) defines "credits," making clear that they can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, can be transferred, and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) specifies that no lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of Rocky Flats can be acquired by the United States for the purposes of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act except with the consent of the owners of such lands or interests.

(5) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed as part of the wildlife refuge and cannot be developed or transferred out of Federal ownership; and

(6) specifies that the bill adds to the Interior Department's existing authority and does not reduce any authority the Department already has.

CONGRATULATING LOGAN
MANKINS ON BEING DRAFTED
BY NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Mankins on his selection by the New England Patriots in the 2005 NFL Draft. Mr. Mankins was selected by the Patriots in the first round of the Draft on April 23, 2005.

Mr. Mankins is a native of my hometown, Cathey's Valley, in Mariposa County. He attended Mariposa County High School, where he excelled in football and basketball. He was a two-year, two-way starter at linebacker and tight end for the Grizzly football team and was the team MVP, as well as an all-league selection.

In 2001 Mr. Mankins began a three-year career at Fresno State. During his career he

played as a left tackle on the offensive line, protecting the quarterback from opposing defenses. In 2004 he was a second-team All-American selection and was also named to Sports Illustrated's All-Bowl team. He was the first offensive lineman ever to be named team MVP for Fresno State. In his final 387 passing plays, he did not allow a single sack.

Mr. Mankins is the first football player ever drafted by the NFL from Mariposa County. He was selected by the Patriots to play guard on the offensive line. I am sure pro-football will be more exciting this year for the people of Mariposa County, as they watch a friend and neighbor playing for one of the most prestigious teams in America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Mankins on his well-earned success. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating his remarkable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING ALS AWARENESS MONTH AND THE ALS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a progressive disorder that occurs when motor nerve cells in the central nervous system cease functioning and die. Each year, over 5,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with this illness. There are 600 patients in Georgia alone. Sadly, there is no known cause, cure, or means of control in the advanced stages, ALS care can cost up to \$200,000 per year, depleting the financial resources of patients and relatives.

In Georgia, families impacted by ALS are blessed to have the support of The ALS Association of Georgia, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against ALS and the support of patients and their caregivers. Over 80% of all monies raised goes directly to patient services. Services offered include information and referrals, home nursing visits, support groups, coordination of medical care, equipment loan, children's counseling, respite care, public education and awareness, and research support. The suffering of patients and the anguish and struggle of caregivers must be supported and alleviated as much as possible.

I commend The ALS Association of Georgia for all of their good work in serving patients with this devastating disease. During the month of May, which is ALS Awareness Month, I urge all citizens and my colleagues here in Congress to become educated about ALS and to lend their aid to combating this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, sixty years ago the guns and bombs in Europe fell silent, and President Truman announced victory over Europe to a proud and free world.

I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of this great and very important day, and to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of the men and women who so bravely served to defeat hate and aggression.

I join millions of people participating in thousands of events, in New York City, all across the United States, and around the world, in observing and honoring the courage of American service-members, allied soldiers, and homefront workers.

During April 1945, allied forces led by the United States overran Nazi Germany from the west while Russian forces advanced from the east. On April 25, American and Russian troops met at the Elbe River. After 6 years of war, suffering, and devastation, Nazi Germany was formally defeated a few days later on May 8, 1945.

It was a bittersweet victory. Over 400,000 American soldiers died in World War II; 350,000 British soldiers gave their lives; and a staggering 20 million Russian soldiers and civilians perished in the war fighting German aggression on their home soil. The war also brought about the most horrendous systematic murder which humanity has ever known, the Holocaust.

In memory of all the victims of World War II, it is our duty to raise our voices as one and say to the present and future generations that no one has the right to remain indifferent to anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial or religious intolerance.

This is an occasion to remember and commemorate. We must remember why the war was fought, remember the victims and heroes, and thank those who fought so hard and sacrificed so much.

V-E Day marked the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by unspeakable horror and war. Although freedom did not come to every European nation following the defeat of Nazi Germany, today we stand at the threshold of a very hopeful future based on sovereignty, democracy, freedom and cooperation.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor those individuals who gave their lives during the liberation of Europe, to thank the veterans of World War II, and to commemorate the defeat of Nazism and Fascism by freedom-loving people.

HONORING DR. PORTIA HOLMES SHIELDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in recognition of a true leader,

scholar and public servant, Dr. Portia Holmes Shields. While we cannot claim her as a native of our State her extraordinary service as the seventh President of Albany State University has proven that she not only made Georgia her home these past nine years, she made it better.

When Dr. Shields first became President of Albany State University in 1996, she not only faced the challenge of being the first woman in that role, she confronted a campus ravaged by floodwaters. She met the challenge head-on and spearheaded a \$153 million flood-recovery program that brought new life to the Southwest Georgia institution. Yet beyond improvements to the university's face and physical structure, under the direction of Dr. Shields, Albany State University has become an institution to be proud of.

Today, enrollment is up nearly 20 percent as Albany State maintains the third-highest retention rate among the University System of Georgia's 34 colleges and universities. Since the fall of 1996, the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen also jumped by more than 120 points. By following her own personal mission of putting students first, Dr. Shields has helped recruit the best and brightest and has added three new undergraduate programs at the institution including the state of Georgia's only forensic science program. In addition, her prowess as a fundraiser has been instrumental in making her vision for the University possible today and into the future.

This Friday, May 6, 2005, I will join Albany State University in honoring Dr. Portia Holmes Shields and wishing her continued future success in whatever path she might choose. However, here in this hallowed hall, I rise on behalf of the city of Albany, the Second Congressional District and the State of Georgia to honor the extraordinary contribution that Dr. Shields has made to our community and to the many students whose lives she has touched. She will be truly missed.

SMALL BUSINESS BILL OF RIGHTS AND SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the Small Business Bill of Rights (H. Res. 22).

I think it is time we help small businesses so they can in turn help themselves. Small business owners desperately need our help in ensuring they can provide their employees with the best possible benefits.

What better time to consider this bill than on National Small Business Week. I would be remiss if I did not mention that last year's Small Business Person of the year was from Columbus, Georgia. Sheree W. Mitchell started with an SBA loan in 1989 and turned her day care center business, Growing Room Inc., into a \$5 million per year enterprise. I think Sheree should be a poster child for small businesses. She has proven that with persistence and entrepreneur thinking it is possible to build a successful enterprise from scratch.

I also want to congratulate the 2005 SBA Award winners for the state of Georgia: Tom Eaves, President and CEO of Star Software

Systems Corporation in Warner Robins, Georgia—Small Business Person of the Year; Win Roshell, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year; Mountville Mills, Inc., Family-Owned Small Business of the Year; Amanda Rodriguez, Young Entrepreneur of the Year; C. Vance Leavy, Small Business Journalist of the Year.

These folks know what it takes to successfully run a small business and they should be recognized and praised for it. They were selected to be honored based on their record of stability, growth in employment and sales, financial condition, innovation, response to adversity, and community service.

I am strongly supporting H. Res. 22 for people like those I've just named. This piece of legislation clarifies Congressional support for seven key issues importance to every small business. As a former small business owner, I can testify to the importance of each one of these. These seven issues are: reducing health insurance costs through Association Health Plans, ending frivolous lawsuits, red tape relief, tax relief, increasing access to capital, opening access to government contracts and reducing energy costs.

These issues are commonsense rights every small business owner deserves and I hope the passing of this resolution will bring awareness to the seven areas this resolution addresses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-sponsor and vote for the Small Business Bill of Rights.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a national sports organization that began in Ishpeming, Michigan. The United States Ski and Snowboard Association is the national governing body for Olympic skiing and snowboarding and is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 6th.

Originally founded as the National Ski Association (NSA) in 1904 by the local Ishpeming Ski Club, the NSA was the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. The group changed their name to the United States Ski Association in 1962 and, as snowboarding grew in popularity and gained credibility as a sport, the final name change occurred in 1997 to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA).

As the governing body for U.S. Olympic ski and snowboarding, the USSA has been consolidated since 1988 with the U.S. Ski Team in Park City, Utah where the team has been based since 1974. However, as a tribute to the founding roots of the organization, the United States National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum is still based in Ishpeming, Michigan where it also celebrates its 50th anniversary May 6th. The Hall of Fame proudly displays photos and short bios of 342 inductees.

In the one hundred year history of the USSA, it is proclaimed as the most diverse of any Olympic Sports organization with seven different athletic sport programs. The USSA Olympic Sports programs include alpine, cross

country, disabled, freestyle, ski jumping, Nordic combined and snowboarding. The USSA manages 14 different men's and women's national teams, accounting for half of the Olympic Winter Games events.

In order to be serious international competitors, the organization requires the tremendous number of athletes to be trained and supported by an ever larger network of people. The USSA is comprised of 30,000 athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers and more than 100,000 parents, supporters and devotees. With this powerhouse of world class talent and support, the USSA should have no problem fulfilling their goal of making the United States of America the best in the world in Olympic skiing and snowboarding by 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the United States Ski and Snowboard Association on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in bringing home the Olympic spirit and the "gold" throughout the next century.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act. I introduced similar bills in the 107th and 108th Congresses.

The bill is intended to help local communities identify ways to protect the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area, especially the region just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes much of the land in this backdrop area, but there are other lands involved as well.

Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. The portion of the range within and adjacent to the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The open-space character of this mountain backdrop is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses. But rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands within and adjacent to that national forest.

We can see this throughout Colorado and especially along the Front Range. Homes and shopping centers are sprawling up valleys and along highways that feed into the Front Range. This development then spreads out along the ridges and mountain tops that make up the backdrop. We are in danger of losing to development many of the qualities that have helped attract new residents. So, it is important to better understand what steps might

be taken to avoid or lessen that risk—and this bill is designed to help us do just that.

Already, local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern Denver-metro area. However, some portions of the backdrop in this part of Colorado remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their open-space qualities. This bill acknowledges the good work of the local communities to preserve open spaces along the backdrop and aims to assist further efforts along the same lines.

The bill does not interfere with the authority of local authorities regarding land use planning. It also does not infringe on private property rights. Instead, it will bring the land protection experience of the Forest Service to the table to assist local efforts to protect areas that comprise the backdrop. The bill envisions that to the extent the Forest Service should be involved with federal lands, it will work in collaboration with local communities, the state and private parties.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe it is in the national interest for the federal government to assist local communities to identify ways to protect the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado. The backdrop beckoned settlers westward and presented an imposing impediment to their forward progress that suggested similar challenges ahead. This first exposure to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West helped define a region. The pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day. We need to work to preserve it by protecting the mountain backdrop as a cultural and natural heritage for ourselves and generations to come. God may forgive us for our failure to do so, but our children won't.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet about this bill.

COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

Generally: The bill would help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area in a region generally west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop: The backdrop consists of the mountainous foothills, the Continental Divide and the peaks in between that create the striking visual backdrop of the Denver-metro area and throughout Colorado. Development in the Denver-metro area is encroaching in the Front Range backdrop area, and thus adversely affecting the esthetic, wildlife, open space and recreational qualities of this geographic feature. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range. There is a real but fleeting opportunity to protect both protect Rocky Flats—a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat—and to assist local communities to protect the scenic, wildlife, and other values of the mountain backdrop.

What the bill does: Study and Report: The bill requires the Forest Service to study the ownership patterns of the lands comprising the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in a region generally west of Rocky Flats, identify areas that are open and may be at risk of development, and recommend to Congress how these lands might be protected and how the federal government could help local communities and residents to achieve that goal.

Lands Covered: The bill identifies the lands in southern Boulder, northern Jefferson and eastern Gilpin Counties in the Sec-

ond Congressional District; specifically, an area west of Rocky Flats and west of Highway 93, south of Boulder Canyon, east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway, and north of the Golden Gate Canyon State Park road.

What the bill would NOT do: Affect Local Planning: The bill is designed to complement existing local efforts to preserve open lands in this region west of Rocky Flats. It will not take the place of—nor disrupt—these existing local efforts.

Affect Private Property Rights: The bill merely authorizes a study. It will not affect any existing private property rights.

Affect the Cleanup of Rocky Flats: The bill would not affect the ongoing cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats nor detract from funding for that effort, and will not affect existing efforts to preserve the options for wildlife and open space protection of Rocky Flats itself.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. KENNETH B. CLARK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding life of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark who passed away on May 1, 2005 at his home in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, NY. Dr. Clark was 90 years old.

Dr. Clark was a social scientist best known for his pivotal research used during the Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954. Along with his wife, Mamie Phipps Clark, the two documented studies of the damaging affect on black school children from the separate-but-equal doctrine. As an attorney, Thurgood Marshall successfully used this research in his argument against racial segregation in public schools. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the practice of racial segregation as unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Dr. Clark was born in the Panama Canal Zone on July 14, 1914. His mother is credited as his model of perseverance and struggle through social issues. Over the objection of his father, Dr. Clark's mother insisted on returning to the United States. She made the solo trip back to New York City with Clark and his sister Beulah, in 1919. As a seamstress at a sweatshop in the garment district, Dr. Clark's mother supported her children and became one of the first stewards for the women's garment union. "Somehow she communicated to me the excitement of people doing things together to help themselves," Dr. Clark once said.

In addition to his work in psychology, Dr. Clark had many of his own groundbreaking achievements as an educator and leader. In 1940, he became the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree at Columbia University in New York. His wife later became the second African American to earn a doctoral degree there. Dr. Clark served as the American Psychological Association president, and in 1960, he was the first tenured African-American professor at the City College of New York. The State Department hired him as a personnel division consultant from 1961–62. By 1966, Dr. Clark was a member of the New York State Board of Regents where he remained for 20 years. After retiring from the

Board of Regents, Dr. Clark set up a consulting company that specialized in equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

Dr. Clark is survived by his daughter, Kate Harris, his son, Hilton B. Clark, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mamie Clark died in 1983. Dr. Clark's work as an educator and researcher remains a lasting legacy for civil rights issues. He was motivated by belief that a "racist system inevitably destroys and damages human beings; it brutalizes and dehumanizes them, black and white alike."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Clark was an eminent scholar whose legacy will be cherished and remembered. He was a mighty influence who brought people together across racial lines. His spirit and insight were instrumental in establishing equality in education and beyond. The impact of Dr. Clark's work helped to raise the dignity and worth of all Americans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM H. CROCKER SCHOOL ON ITS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the William H. Crocker Middle School of Hillsborough, California, located in my Congressional district, for its 4th consecutive year as a recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Award.

For the year of 2004, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell announced the 33 public and six private schools in California selected by United States Secretary of Education Rod Paige, as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Blue Ribbon Schools.

Schools who receive this honor demonstrate excellence in education and genuine investment in the value of that education for our children. It is my honor to congratulate each and every faculty member and parent of Crocker Middle School whose dedication to the education of their children indisputably earned Crocker Middle School the honor of being a Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Speaker, this 21-year old national recognition program sponsored by the U.S. department of Education encourages states to nominate public kindergarten through grade twelve schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. The schools endure a rigorous application process, with success resting mostly on test scores, growth, and achievement in reading and math over three years. All schools selected as winners met the 2004 Adequate Yearly Progress criteria. Additionally, all schools have already been named as a California Distinguished School, or meet the qualification required to apply for this state awards program.

On November 5, 2004, Crocker Middle School received the 2004 No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon Schools Award in Washington D.C. On February 7, 2005, I was invited to celebrate this accolade on the campus of Crocker. As my two daughters Annette

and Katrina are alumnae of William H. Crocker Middle School, I was delighted to be a part of the celebration both as a father of and as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, during my visit to the campus and after spending an assembly period with the students, parents and faculty of Crocker, I witnessed the immense enthusiasm and spirit this school fortunately possesses. As the only middle school in the nation to have received this distinction four years in a row, I have no doubt that under the leadership of Principal Janet Chun, William H. Crocker Middle School will continue to shine.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for House Resolution 250, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Hepatitis B Awareness Month. Hepatitis B is a serious health concern that unfairly attacks minority populations.

Almost 350 million people worldwide are infected with hepatitis B, with 75 percent of those infected living in Asia. This disease has similar effects on the same groups of people here in the United States. Asians have the highest rate of chronic hepatitis B of all ethnic groups. Chronic hepatitis B rates for the Asian Pacific Islanders population range up to 15 percent, which is more than half of all the Americans diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B.

African Americans are three to four times more likely than Caucasians to be infected with hepatitis B. Additionally, the African American workforce, consisting of over 3 million people, tend to work in occupations, such as nursing, health care and emergency services until they develop the more serious illnesses.

Over half the United States' total Asian American population lives in just three states, with 1.2 million living in New York. Seventeen percent of New York's population is of African-American descent.

The hepatitis disease is extremely dangerous, because not only does it lead to life-threatening illnesses such as cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer but it can also be easily transmitted through blood and body fluids, unprotected sex, and unsterilized needles. Also, many of those who have become infected with the disease will not have recognized symptoms until they develop the more serious illnesses.

Hepatitis B can be a preventable disease if vaccination programs, increased awareness, better disease management and public education initiatives are ongoing. By recognizing the week of May 9th as National Hepatitis B Awareness Week, we can join together and attack this life-threatening disease. During Hepatitis B Awareness Week, several community events are scheduled that will bring together physicians and public health advocates, patients and at-risk populations to increase awareness and education on prevention, and treatments for hepatitis B.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to lend my support for passage of this resolution and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT ON THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ADEQUATELY INVESTIGATE PRISONER ABUSES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to the recent Human Rights Watch report, *Getting Away with Torture?: Command Responsibility for the U.S. Abuse of Detainees*. This report reveals the unthinkable: The torture carried out against prisoners under U.S. authority may have been part of an official government policy. The report also points out that none of the government and military investigations carried out so far has independently examined the culpability of top civilian and military officials.

Despite strong evidence showing that high-ranking U.S. officials may be responsible for carrying out immoral and illegal policies, "independent" investigations have focused on protecting high-ranking officials and punishing subordinates instead of bringing the guilty to justice.

These actions run counter to the United States' long-standing commitment to the spirit of the Geneva Convention. The War Crimes Act of 1996 provides criminal punishment for Americans who commit a war crime inside or outside the United States, and defines a war crime as any "grave breach" of the Geneva Conventions. The Anti-Torture Act of 1996 criminalizes acts of torture occurring outside the United States' territorial jurisdiction regardless of the citizenship of the perpetrator or victim.

It should not have to be stated, but the United States must operate under the laws it has passed. If crimes have been committed they must be investigated completely.

This report raises important issues and calls for the United States Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to carry out an investigation and prosecute all government officials and private citizens that developed, approved and carried out these torture policies. I urge my colleagues to read the report, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2005/us0405/>.

INTRODUCTION OF EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAND TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION EX- TENSION ACT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to address an issue of importance to Eastern Washington University, located in my district in the town of Cheney,

Washington. Eastern Washington University owns a 21 acre parcel of land known as Badger Lake. The property was originally deeded to the university by the federal government under the 1926 State Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This property is restricted to the purpose for which the law was enacted, education and recreation, and it carries a "reverter clause which says that the land will revert to the federal government, Bureau of Land Management—Department of Interior, if not used for these purposes.

However, the property is located in a rural area that is not conducive to the intended recreation or education uses. The only way Eastern Washington University could legally sell or exchange the land is if federal legislation passed which releases the patent conditions on this property. In 1983, the university, with the help of Speaker Tom Foley and Senator Slade Gorton, and supported by the Bureau of Land Management, was successful in getting legislation passed (Public Law 97-435) that removed the restrictions for a five year period. Unfortunately that window expired in 1988.

In the last Congress former Congressman George Nethercutt was successful in passing legislation extending the 1983 law. H.R. 4596 passed the House of Representatives on September 28, 2004 by unanimous consent.

I rise today to reintroduce legislation to address this issue.

FAMILYCARE ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in our great land of opportunity and wealth, there are many Americans who have no access to one of the most basic needs: health care. In our Nation today, nearly 45 million Americans are uninsured. Today I offer a way to begin addressing this problem by introducing the FamilyCare Act of 2005. In conjunction with the Medicare Early Access Act and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act that my colleagues are also introducing today, the enactment of these bills could cut the number of uninsured in half.

The FamilyCare Act of 2005 is a family-centered bill that aims to provide coverage for the 7.5 million working families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level. This act builds upon two programs, Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, that have successfully covered many low-income persons, individuals with disabilities, and children. It would ensure families who move from welfare to work do not lose coverage and makes it easier for low-income working families to obtain health insurance.

Improving our Nation's healthcare system continues to be a complex challenge that must be a matter of national priority. By taking these first steps, it is our hope that in the future all Americans will be able to meet their healthcare needs.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF
EAST BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
COMPETING IN THE WE THE
PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE
CONSTITUTION PROGRAM

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students of East Brunswick High School that recently won the national finals for the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. The participating students from East Brunswick High School, after winning the statewide competition, represented New Jersey in this year's final. Through their hard work and determination, the national finals competitors earned the opportunity to visit and compete in our nation's capital. East Brunswick High School was the defending champion and I am proud to say that they have achieved this high level of excellence again this year. They won because they are articulate, have presence of mind, and can think on their feet, and because they know the U.S. Constitution inside and out.

The students of East Brunswick came a long way to earn the right to compete in Washington. To participate, every student needed to learn about a variety of concepts ranging from the philosophical origins of the Constitution to its role and interpretation in today's society. After spending countless hours reading primary and secondary sources, the students created a four minute presentation to answer the question posed to them about the Constitution. The students then formulated their own opinions, which needed to be defended during six minutes of questioning from judges. The judging is based on the students understanding of constitutional principles and their knowledge of both historical and contemporary issues. At the national competition, the judges are practicing lawyers, college professors, as well as current and former State Supreme Court judges.

The education of our youth about our democracy and the meaning and importance of our Constitution is imperative. As important as it is to have a basic knowledge of the laws and interpretations of the Constitution, it is equally as important to understand the reasons for which they were created. Every United States citizen should know and understand these fundamental principles, and through participation in this program, the students from East Brunswick High School have accomplished just that. These competitors serve as examples to students throughout the nation as to what one can achieve with an in-depth knowledge of the tenets of our government. These students are our future leaders and the next generation that will continue to defend democracy and uphold the Constitution. I know these students, and while I admire their knowledge and intelligence, I admire even more their passionate dedication to our American ideals.

The participating students from East Brunswick competed against more than 1,200 students from across the country. This program was created by The Center for Civic Education in 1987 and over 26 million students have participated in it. The goal of the program is to educate high school students on the impor-

tance of continued civic involvement. These exceptional students met here in Washington from April 30th to May 2nd to display their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and its founding principles.

I would like to congratulate the students of East Brunswick High School, who are: Rajiv Agarwal, Elliot Chiu, Yan Cui, Aditi Eleswarapu, Michael Genson, Stephanie Horowitz, Frances Huang, Manisha Johary, Michael Kofsky, Kevin Kuo, Sam Lau, Alexandra Palmer, Resham Patel, Mark Pruce, Panwan Punjabi, Caroline Rana, Natalie Rana, Sana Sheikh, Allison Sorkin, Ilana Stern, Eric Struening, Lauren Volosin, and teacher Alan Brodman.

These names themselves suggest such a diversity of origins and heritage that it calls forth our national motto "E Pluribus Unum"—from many we are one. That these students devote themselves to learning about our system of self-government that is the key to our greatness is inspiring.

I am so proud of these young constitutional scholars and wish them luck in all their future endeavors. May these exceptional students continue to understand and uphold democracy.

INSTRUCTION TO CONFEREES ON
MEDICAID

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, during my absence for the birth of my granddaughter, Kate, the House considered a motion to instruct the conferees on the budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 95.

On rollcall vote No. 134, I would have been proud to join my colleagues from Georgia, led by Mr. DEAL of Georgia, in opposing the motion to instruct. One thing I have learned about Washington during my time here so far is that a "cut" is actually not a cut at all—it is merely a reduction in the rate of growth. When we have so many programs driven by formulas that continue to grow year after year, the way to deal with the problem is not by denying any problem exists, but by taking steps to deal with the underlying issues that created the problem.

The House Leadership has taken admirable steps to deal with the problems of continued growth in mandatory spending, and I am thrilled that we are moving forward with reductions in mandatory program spending. These are not cuts, but are commonsense steps to manage the people's resources wisely.

INTRODUCING THE RAILROAD
COMPETITION IMPROVEMENT
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2005

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago, Congress voted to deregulate the Nation's railroad industry and enacted the

Staggers Rail Act. The railroad industry at that time was in dire straits. Years of low profits, deferred maintenance, and ill-conceived regulatory policies had resulted in a very sick industry. We were assured that deregulation was the cure. We were told that economic regulation had outlived its usefulness; that it was preventing the industry from competing effectively with trucks, barges, and pipelines; and that there were still a sufficient number of rail carriers to provide significant rail-to-rail competition. We deregulated the industry.

At the outset, some good things did happen. America's railroads are much healthier today than they were in 1980. Industry rates of return that hovered in the 1–2 percent range in the 1970s were up in the 6–9 percent range in the 1990s. Today, U.S. railroads account for 42 percent of intercity freight ton-miles; more than any other mode of transportation. In fact, U.S. railroads move four times more freight than all of Western Europe's freight railroads combined.

North American railroads currently earn \$42 billion in annual revenues. The most recent financial reports are strong. For the first quarter of 2005, BNSF Railway's freight revenues increased \$451 million, or 18 percent, to a first quarter record of \$2.9 billion. Consumer products revenues increased \$203 million, or 22 percent. Agricultural products revenues were up \$86 million, or 20 percent, to \$524 million. Industrial products revenues increased \$84 million, or 15 percent, to \$647 million. And coal revenues rose \$78 million, or 15 percent, to \$598 million resulting from record haulage of 66 million tons for utility customers.

Union Pacific reported a first quarter 2005 record for commodity revenue: \$3 billion in 2005, up 8 percent from 2004. Energy revenues were up \$81 million, or 14 percent, to \$668 million. Agricultural revenues were up \$37 million, or 9 percent, to \$448 million. Industrial products revenues were up \$67 million, or 12 percent, to \$630 million. And chemical revenues were up \$31 million, or 8 percent, to \$441 million.

CSX's surface transportation revenue for the 2005 first quarter was \$2.1 billion versus \$1.9 billion in 2004. Metals revenues were up \$19 million, or 16 percent, to \$138 million. Forest products revenues were up \$84 million, or 11 percent, to \$176 million. Coal, coke, and iron ore revenues were up \$84 million, or 20 percent, to \$506 million. And automotive products revenues were up \$6 million, or 3 percent, to \$208 million.

Norfolk Southern's general merchandise revenues for the 2005 first quarter reached a record \$1.1 billion, an increase of 12 percent over the same period in 2004. Metals and construction revenues led the growth with a 22 percent increase, followed by paper, up 19 percent, and chemicals, up 14 percent. Coal revenues increased 17 percent to \$467 million in the first quarter compared with the same quarter last year.

With the exception of Union Pacific, all of the Class I railroads in the U.S. are making higher profits. BNSF's net earnings for the first quarter of 2005 were \$321 million, up \$128 million from the same period in 2004. CSX's net income was \$579 million, up \$30 million from 2004. Norfolk Southern's net income was \$194 million, up \$36 million from 2004. And although Union Pacific's profits were lower than 2004 figures, the railroad's net income was \$128 million in 2005.

But all of these gains have come at a price. Competition requires competitors. Yet since 1980, over 40 Class I railroads have consolidated into just seven Class I railroads serving the entire North American continent, four of which—two in the West (Union Pacific and BNSF Railway) and two in the East (CSX and Norfolk Southern)—control over 95 percent of the railroad business. This unprecedented consolidation has resulted in entire States, regions, and industries becoming captive to a single Class I railroad.

These captive shippers often tell me that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has been too concerned about the financial health of the railroads and not concerned enough with the financial health of the railroads' customers.

I believe them. The STB's procedures have made it difficult for rail customers to secure meaningful relief from high rail rates and poor rail service, even though the Staggers Rail Act directed the STB's predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission, to ensure that rail rates remain reasonable when there is an absence of effective competition.

During the years since the STB was first authorized in 1997, I have received numerous complaints from captive shippers about the high rates they are charged and the poor service they sometimes receive.

Laramie River Station is an example. Laramie River Station (LRS) is a coal-based electric generating plant that produces power for more than 1.8 million consumers in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. LRS is served by a single railroad, BNSF Railway, which delivers 8.3 million tons of coal annually from the Wyoming Powder River Basin to LRS, a distance of approximately 175 miles. In September 2004, the LRS contract expired and BNSF unilaterally imposed massive freight rate hikes on the LRS traffic. Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of the owners of LRS, tells me that these increases call for more than double LRS' prior freight rates. The initial tariff rates are projected to double again over time. According to LRS' owners, these increased rates are four times BNSF's average coal rates, and will cost electric power consumers \$1 billion over the next 20 years.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative located in La-Crosse, Wisconsin, has experienced similar problems. The Cooperative asserts that failure by the Union Pacific Railroad to deliver 25 percent of scheduled shipments of Utah coal resulted in Dairyland's overall fuel budget increasing by roughly 10 percent. Dairyland is also bracing for a 49 percent increase in rail rates in 2006. Other shippers have suffered similar fates.

The lack of true competition has also affected farmers. Montana grain producers advise me that their counterparts in Nebraska—where a limited amount of rail competition exists—pay less in transportation costs than Montana farmers to ship grain to Portland, Oregon, despite the 200 miles in additional distance the Nebraska grain has had to travel. The Montana farmers estimate that this disparity has cost them about \$60 million a year.

In these and other similar cases, the captive shippers have found that there is no realistic possibility of meaningful relief from the STB. This is hardly the competitive environment envisioned when Congress voted to deregulate the railroad industry.

Unfortunately, my concerns have fallen on deaf ears at the STB. This year, Chairman Roger Noyer has discussed the possibility of moving a "clean" STB reauthorization bill (i.e., one with no change to existing law other than funding levels) in the 109th Congress. I have told him the same thing I told him in the 108th Congress and the same thing I told his predecessor: I believe that any STB reauthorization bill must adequately address the concerns of captive shippers.

That is why I introduced legislation in the 106th Congress, the 107th Congress, and the 108th Congress that would reauthorize the STB and reform its policies and procedures. Other Members of Congress, including Congressman RICHARD BAKER, introduced similar legislation to reform railroad regulation. But to date Congress has failed to act upon these bills, and the STB has operated without an authorization since 1998.

When the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held hearings on railroad competition last Congress, it was obvious that Congressman BAKER and I shared the same concerns about captive shippers and the lack of competition in the railroad industry. So this year, we've decided to join forces. Congressman BAKER and I, and 13 of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, are introducing a bipartisan STB reauthorization and reform bill, entitled the Railroad Competition and Improvement Act of 2005. A bipartisan companion bill, S. 919, has been introduced in the Senate.

This bill will preserve existing rail-to-rail competition in areas of the United States where competition is working, and take action to reduce impediments to competition that adversely affect rail customers. The bill establishes four new primary objectives of U.S. rail transportation policy, all of which focus on competition and shipper needs. These primary objectives are: (1) To maintain consistent and efficient rail transportation service for shippers, including the timely provision of rail cars requested by shippers; to promote effective competition among rail carriers at origins and destinations; and to maintain reasonable rates in the absence of effective competition.

The bill will also:

Eliminate "bottlenecks." Under the bill, on the request of a shipper, the carrier must establish a rate for any two points on the carrier's system where traffic originates, terminates, or can be interchanged. In addition, the reasonableness of the rate would be subject to challenge. This bill will give shippers access to competitive rail service even if a single carrier has monopoly control over a short, bottleneck portion of a route.

Create competitive rail service at switching points. The bill requires rail carriers to enter into reciprocal switching agreements where the STB finds that such agreements are in the public interest or where agreements are needed to ensure rail service is competitive. The bill also prohibits the STB from requiring that the petitioning carrier show conduct inconsistent with antitrust laws.

Eliminate "paper barriers." These barriers are contractual agreements that prevent short-line railroads that cross two or more major rail systems from providing rail customers access to competitive service on one of these systems. The agreements require the short-line railroads to deliver all or most of its traffic to the major carrier that originally owned the short line facilities. Under the bill, where such

restrictions were approved prior to the enactment of this Act and have been in effect for at least 10 years, the STB must terminate the restriction, upon request, unless the STB finds that the termination would be inconsistent with the public interest or materially impair the ability of an affected rail carrier to provide service to the public.

Establish a new regulatory process for "Areas of Inadequate Rail Competition." The bill allows the STB to designate a State or substantial part of a State as an Area of Inadequate Rail Competition (AIRC), upon petition of a Governor or Attorney General of a State, Member of Congress, or the Rail Customer Advocate of the Department of Transportation. Upon the designation, the STB has 60 days to provide remedies authorized by current law to resolve the anti-competitive conduct. The bill also requires the Rail Customer Advocate to conduct an oversight study of AIRCs within one year of the date of enactment.

Highlight rail service problems. The bill requires the STB to post on its website a description of each complaint from a customer about rail service. The STB is also required to submit an annual report to Congress regarding rail service complaints, and the procedures the STB took to resolve them.

Create an arbitration process for certain rail disputes. The bill allows either party to submit a dispute over rail rates, rail service, and other matters under the jurisdiction of the STB for "final offer" binding arbitration, for relief within the jurisdiction of the STB.

Eliminate fees for filing rail rate cases. Shippers are now required to pay a \$61,000 fee for filing a rate case. Effective May 6, 2005, this filing fee will double to \$102,000. The filing fee for all other complaints will increase from \$6000 to \$10,100.

Improve the rate reasonableness standard. The bill prohibits the STB from using their current practice of requiring shippers challenging rail rates to submit estimates of the costs of constructing and operating a new, hypothetical railroad that carries only the commodity that the shipper transports. The STB currently compares the expense of the hypothetical railroad with existing rates to determine whether the challenged rates are reasonable or not. Under the bill, the STB would be required to adopt a new method based on the railroad's actual costs, including a portion of fixed costs and an adequate return on debt and equity.

Create an Office of Rail Customer Advocacy in the Department of Transportation. The Rail Customer Advocate would accept rail customer complaints; collect, compile, and maintain information regarding the cost and efficiency of rail transportation; and participate as a party in STB proceedings. The Rail Customer Advocate may also petition the STB for action.

Authorize a study of rail transportation competition. The bill requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of rail carrier competition since the enactment of the Staggers Rail Act of 1980.

Require the STB to consider all effects of mergers. Under the bill, the STB must consider the effects of mergers on local communities and is required to impose conditions to mitigate the effects of those mergers.

Reauthorize the STB. The bill provides the STB \$24 million for FY2006, \$26 million for FY2007, and \$28 million for FY2008.

I am pleased that a number of organizations are supporting this bipartisan effort, including

the Alliance for Rail Competition, Consumers United for Rail Equity, the American Chemistry Council, the National Industrial Transportation League, Edison Electric Institute, the National Association of Wheat Growers, and the National Barley Growers Association.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, in introducing this bill. Together, we will work to ensure passage of this important legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support for House Resolution 250, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Hepatitis B Awareness Month. Chronic liver disease is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, so it is imperative for the Congress and federal government to become more focused on Hepatitis viruses.

Viral hepatitis represents a disease entity caused by at least 5 unrelated viruses which attack the cells of the liver. The majority of viral hepatitis cases are due to the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), or hepatitis C virus (HCV). Infection with hepatitis B virus can produce a chronic infection which may lead to death from chronic liver disease.

Studies show that 4.9 percent of Americans have been infected with HBV, of whom 1.25 million are chronically infected. The expected direct medical costs associated with acute and chronic HBV infection for one U.S. birth cohort are estimated to be \$81.9 million. The consequences of hepatitis-induced chronic liver disease may not become apparent until decades after infection.

Using the national data, it is estimated that more than 931,000 New Yorkers have been infected with HBV, with 46,550 of these persons chronically infected. An estimated 342,000 New Yorkers have been infected with HCV, with 237,500 of these persons chronically infected. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are complex infections that have significant epidemiologic, social and medical impact.

In addition to the potential financial burden to the state and the Nation, viral hepatitis can have a tremendous impact on the lives of many New Yorkers. As a result, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) identified the need for a comprehensive, collaborative and organized approach by partners across New York to address the public health problems associated with viral hepatitis.

On June 3 and 4, 2003, the NYSDOH, along with partners and stakeholders from across the state, participated in the Viral Hepatitis Strategic Planning Summit. This summit was to be the beginning of the development of a statewide viral hepatitis strategic plan. The two-day meeting began with presentations by representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH. Then the participants were divided into four focus areas: (1) Prevention, (2) Education, (3) Surveillance and Research, and (4) Medical and Case Management. The focus areas served as the central elements of the strategic

plan. By the end of the 2-day meeting, each focus area identified 3 to 5 priority issues, which were then developed into long-term goals, each with strategies and 5-year action plans for meeting the goals.

On Wednesday, May 11, at the Millennium Hilton, 55 Church St. in New York City, the Aim for the B campaign will conduct a media event to call greater awareness to hepatitis B. Speakers and panelists for the New York event include confirmed representatives from the Mayor's office, Hepatitis B Foundation, Weill Cornell Medical Center and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. There will be other community events from coast-to-coast the week of May 9, and I salute those associated with this outreach and prevention effort.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the chance to convey my unity of support for House Resolution 250 and for the impressive awareness efforts being conducted nationwide to address hepatitis B.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD H. WIENER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS THE 107TH PRESIDENT OF THE BERGEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Mr. Richard H. Wiener, the incoming President of the Bergen County Bar Association in the great state of New Jersey. Mr. Wiener will be inaugurated as the Bergen County Bar Association's 107th President on the occasion of its Annual Dinner Dance on Friday, May 6th, and I ask that my esteemed colleagues join me in recognizing his outstanding achievements on behalf of the legal profession and on behalf of the communities of northern New Jersey.

A member of the Bergen County Bar Association since 1983 and a member of its Board of Trustees for the last dozen years, Richard H. Wiener has distinguished himself in the practice of law. His leadership has been recognized by his colleagues at Aronsohn, Weiner & Salerno, P.C. of Hackensack, New Jersey, a highly regarded law firm well-known for representing many prominent banking institutions and leasing companies in countless and often highly complicated litigation matters. The Managing Partner of his firm since 1985, he has demonstrated particular expertise in commercial litigation and family law for more than two decades. Because of his peers' acknowledgment of his professional abilities and his sharp legal intellect, Richard H. Wiener currently serves as Chairman of the Legal Committee for the Eastern Association of Equipment Lessors and as a prominent member of the National Legal Committee of the Equipment Leasing Association, and has lectured extensively around the nation on behalf of both organizations on various aspects of banking law and equipment leasing.

A graduate of the University of Maryland and the Hofstra University School of Law, Richard H. Wiener has also achieved professional recognition for his thorough and meticulous legal scholarship and his impeccable professional reputation. He served a Judicial

Clerkship under the Honorable Edward J. Van Tassel JSC from 1983 to 1984, and has been named to numerous leadership positions by the Bergen County Bar Association. He currently serves as Chairman of the Bench Bar Liaison Committee, as an active member of both the Civil Practice and Family Law Committees, and is a longtime member of the Bergen County Judicial Selections Committee. Previously, Richard H. Wiener was appointed Chairman of the Bergen County Ethics Committee on Fee Arbitration by the Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey, and was one of two attorneys named by the State Supreme Court to serve on the Committee on Character from 1994 to 2002. One of his most enduring legacies to the legal profession is the purchase of the building housing the Bergen County Bar Foundation's headquarters, also home to the offices of the Bergen County Bar Association, which was made possible through the tireless fundraising efforts that he helped lead along with several other prominent members of the Bar Association.

Above all, Richard H. Wiener has distinguished himself as a man dedicated to his family and his community. He, his wife Bonnie, and their beloved daughter Danielle have lived in Wyckoff, New Jersey for eleven years. In that Borough, he has devoted his time and effort to innumerable good causes. A past President of the Wyckoff Public Library Board of Trustees, Richard H. Wiener currently serves the Borough as its Traveling Softball Coordinator, an active basketball and softball coach, and as Chairman of the Wyckoff Recreation Committee. These are but a few of his many volunteer activities over the years.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing the professional and civic contributions of the next President of the Bergen County Bar Association, Mr. Richard H. Wiener.

"TORN FROM THE FLAG"—NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a new documentary film now in production dealing with the 1956 Hungarian Revolt against Soviet occupation. Entitled "Torn from the Flag," the film is being prepared as part of the 2006 celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising. This film will include important archival material and recently opened files that have not been available until recently. It will also include insightful interviews with Hungarian freedom fighters, former political prisoners, secret police, and foreign citizens who participated in or witnessed the events.

On October 13, 1956, students and workers commenced a spontaneous uprising against the repressive communist dictatorship. Against all odds, they successfully took on and defeated the police and installed a new government. There were eighteen days of freedom before Soviet tanks and military forces launched a major attack on November 4 crushing, once and for all, the uprising. Some

20,000 Hungarians and 3,500 Russians died in the fighting. The defeat of the Hungarian Revolt was one of the darkest moments of the Cold War, but it was also one of the early indications that the freedom-loving peoples of Central and Eastern Europe could not be forever repressed.

The documentary takes its name from one of the most memorable images of the 1956 Hungarian Revolt. The revolutionaries cut from the center of the Hungarian tricolor flag the coat of arms of the communist People's Democratic Republic of Hungary. The flag with a hole in its center was emblematic of the Hungarian people's desire to rip out communism from their homeland, and this has been one of the most enduring symbols of the 1956 Revolution.

Like the student revolution in Tiananmen Square, China, in April 1989, where Chinese students were brutally suppressed after a massive demonstration for democratic reform, the Hungarian Revolt provided the world with sharp insights into communist tyranny. The governments of the Soviet Union in 1956 in Hungary and China in 1989 at Tiananmen Square used similar tactics in cracking down on dissidents. In my office, everyday I see a large picture of the brave Chinese student who stood boldly in front of a long row of tanks during the Tiananmen revolt. That Chinese student and the brave Hungarian revolutionaries of 1956 represent the fighting spirit of all men and women against tyranny.

The 1956 Revolution in Hungary is full of lessons and inspiration for people living under repressive regimes even today. The heroic fight of thousands of young men and women has played a crucial role in leading to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to note with me the upcoming 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, to watch for the documentary "Torn from the Flag", and to rejoice that men and women everywhere are willing to unite in the fight, despite overwhelming odds against them, in order to free themselves from tyranny and repression.

TRIBUTE TO WYANDOTTE COUNTY/
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MAYOR/
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CAROL MARINOVICH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was once talking with a group of constituents from Wyandotte County, and asked who they looked up to in Kansas City, Kansas.

A gentleman said, "I can't say I look up to her because she is barely five feet tall, but I do admire and respect Carol Marinovich."

As Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, Carol Marinovich established a record of achievement that inspired awe throughout the Kansas City area and beyond. Whether as a teacher, special education coordinator, or Kansas City Councilwoman, she has brought a sense of hope, pride and progress to Wyandotte County.

First elected as Mayor of the City of Kansas City in April 1995, she served as Mayor/CEO

of the Unified Government since its establishment in April 1997, stepping down from that post on April 20th of this year.

During that time, Carol provided leadership in a period of unprecedented change and growth that has transformed Wyandotte County into a place with much to celebrate. She spearheaded the city/county consolidation process, taking two separate entities and bringing them together into one more effective and efficient government. House by house, she worked with neighborhood groups to reinvest in our neighborhoods. Evidence of that success is everywhere: the Mount Zion Estates, Turtle Hill, Cathedral Pointe, Mission Cliffs, Rainbow Park, Mount Carmel Place, Carmelle Estates, River's Edge East, Jersey South, Nehemiah, and the Strawberry Hill Townhomes and St. Peter/Waterway. In 2004, 500 housing permits were issued in Wyandotte County—a 40 year high. In the same year, crime dropped by 7 percent and Wyandotte County experienced the fewest murders in ten years and unemployment dropped for the first time in five years.

With Carol's guidance, downtown revitalization has been spurred by projects such as the Hilton Garden Inn with the adjacent, renovated Reardon Center, the new Board of Public Utilities building, and the federal Region VII Environmental Protection Agency headquarters. She has helped make dreams of developing western Wyandotte County a reality, where the Village West project is still expanding. Today we are all proud it is home to the Kansas Speedway, Cabelas, the Nebraska Furniture Mart, and the Great Wolf Lodge. As she left office, \$1,000,000 of redevelopment projects were under construction in the city's urban core, and the mill levy had dropped 18 percent during her tenure.

In 1989, Carol became the first woman elected to the City Council of Kansas City. Six years later, she was the first woman elected Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas. During her tenure, she received the Excellence in Local Government Award from the League of Kansas Municipalities and has been recognized by *Governing Magazine* as one of the Public Officials of the Year in America. She was picked by *Kansas City Magazine* as "Best Local Politician" and was awarded the Excellence in Community Service Award by the Points of Light Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I'm 6'2" tall, but I look up to Carol Marinovich. Mayor/CEO Carol Marinovich turned our community into a place where you would want to work, shop, live and raise a family. I am proud of everything she has accomplished and even more proud to call her a friend. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD for review by the House of Representatives an article that was carried by the *Kansas City Star* on the day Mayor Marinovich concluded her tenure in office.

[From the *Kansas City Star*, Apr. 20, 2005]

MARINOVICH LEAVING DRIVER'S SEAT
WITH KCK TRANSFORMED, MAYOR'S TERM ENDS
(By Mark Wiebe)

A bleak landscape confronted Carol Marinovich when she was elected mayor of Kansas City, Kan., in 1995: high crime, plummeting population, a crumbling retail base.

Today, violent crime has been cut in half, record numbers of housing permits are being issued, and Wyandotte County boasts the largest tourist attraction in Kansas with its Village West retail district.

One constant throughout that decade of change has been Marinovich, the former schoolteacher who once said she decided to run for mayor because "it was my town—and it was going down the tubes."

Tonight, Marinovich ends her political career in local government when Joe Reardon is sworn in as the Unified Government's second mayor and CEO. After 16 years in public service, she leaves behind a county that has shed its image as the area's beleaguered stepchild.

During that time, she's made countless tough decisions, but the ones she believes will shape her legacy are often overlooked in the narrative of the county's success: consolidation of the city and county governments in 1997, and neighborhood revitalization.

The latter helped Marinovich, 54, cultivate allies at the grass-roots level. Consolidation was but one issue that created political enemies for her, and some complained of her unyielding style. Even among some of her most vocal critics, though, there is a grudging respect for the change she helped usher in.

That stubbornness, supporters said, was a decided asset.

"Has she upset people? Made them mad? Yes," said Cindy Cash, president of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce. "When you're doing what you think is best for the community, you do run the risk. . . . But she does have the best interest of the community at heart."

PROGRESS, NOT POLISH

Marinovich isn't a highly polished politician. Her extemporaneous moments are sometimes peppered with unfinished sentences. She is not adept at working a crowd. Put her in a cocktail party where she doesn't know anyone, she says, and "I'd probably stay five minutes then get in my car and go home."

The issue that secured her first political victory, to the City Council in 1989, is one that remains close to her heart: the revitalization of the city's urban neighborhoods. She kept that emphasis through her six year tenure on the council and then into the mayor's office.

"Neighborhood groups weren't heard of" before Marinovich became mayor, said Patty Dysart, executive director of the Armourdale Renewal Association. "I can remember five or six. But they would ride in parades and that was about it."

Today, the county boasts more than 130 neighborhood groups, many of them active in crime watches and cleanups, reporting code violators and organizing community events.

As soon as she was elected, Marinovich established "impact teams" that made cleanup sweeps through neighborhoods. Such efforts demonstrated to neighborhood leaders like Dysart—tough-talking and demanding grass-roots supporters—that Marinovich meant business.

"She didn't have my respect at first," Dysart said. "I just didn't think she cared, especially about Armourdale."

Her opinion changed when Marinovich participated in an impact team and attended some of Dysart's meetings. She realized then that Marinovich was "just quiet and shy but has this big heart."

HARD-WON RESPECT

Despite her supporters' admiration, Marinovich leaves a city that is not entirely enamored of her. In her 2001 run against Elmer Sharp, she grabbed what many considered an unimpressive 53 percent of the vote. In this month's mayoral election, she supported former state Rep. Rick Rehorn; he lost by an 18 percent margin.

Former Unified Government Commissioner Joe Vaught, who backed Marinovich in 2001,

said her stubborn and uncompromising leadership style had alienated some people.

Still, he said, "our city moved forward, and she was in charge. So whether I liked her or didn't like her, the city moved forward and that was important."

Then there's the county's Achilles heel: high property taxes. Despite an 18 percent reduction in the Unified Government's rate of taxation since 1997, most property tax bills continue to rise as property values surge.

State Sen. David Haley, who lost to Marinovich in a landslide in 1997 and who later sparred with her on many legislative matters, accused the mayor of not doing more to lower taxes. "I just think she had the power to be a catalyst for progress for the taxpayers," he said. "It's not an abuse of power; it's just an underutilization of all that office could have done."

Despite that criticism, Haley insisted that Marinovich "does have a track record that is enviable. And at the end of the day, she accomplished a tremendous amount for Wyandotte County."

Marinovich acknowledges that the Unified Government, which came with the promise of more efficient government, needs to rein in spending. In 1997, county and city spending stood at \$168.8 million. In 2003, the last year available for the government's actual expenses, that figure had jumped 24.6 percent, to \$210 million.

Wage increases, rising health-care costs, the addition of nearly 100 employees—many of them hired to form a new emergency medical service—account for much of that increase. But with a budget that stands at more than \$250 million this year, the government's expenses aren't going down.

Marinovich, who attributes many of the budget issues to the plight of an aging city, said one of the biggest challenges for the next administration would be to get that spending under control. If it can't, she said, "That doesn't bode well for the future."

A LASTING MARK

If Marinovich controlled her legacy, she would place revitalization and consolidation of the city and county governments above economic development. County Administrator Dennis Hays seconds that.

Consolidation ended decades of local Democratic Party machine politics. But, Hays said, it also gave the community a single body to make decisions. "We could not have done what we did with the speedway and Village West without it," Hays said. "Our community needed a single voice to take a risk and move forward."

Consolidation also gave Marinovich immense power. With a veto threat in hand, the ability to break tie votes and the authority to hire and fire the administrator (with the commission's support), the Unified Government's mayor occupies a position of strength that other mayors around Kansas City can only dream of.

It's a government with true executive power, said real estate agent Mike Jacobi,

co-founder of the consolidation movement. And Marinovich has used that power responsibly, he said: "She restored our integrity. Taxes were skyrocketing; values were falling. 'When you restore the integrity of the community,' he said, 'it's OK to invest here again. It's OK to live here again.'"

THE MARINOVICH LEGACY

The most visible evidence of Wyandotte County's economic resurgence under Carol Marinovich is Kansas Speedway and Village West commercial district.

To make way for that massive complex in 1998, Marinovich and the Unified Government Commission displaced 150 families in western Wyandotte County—the most difficult moment of her political career, she has said.

Other hallmarks of her tenure: Consolidation of the city and county governments. Voter approval of consolidation in 1997 quelled the influence of a powerful Democratic Party machine that had overseen decades of economic decline.

As a city councilwoman, she teamed with District Attorney Nick Tomasic to take on the city's adult entertainment industry, eventually wiping it out.

With the Unified Board of Commissioners' support, she stepped up the demolition of blighted structures and cracked down on code violators, angering landlords who viewed the measures as too harsh.

LEFT UNDONE

The unfinished business that Marinovich had hoped to address: Furthering economic development to broaden the tax base and lower tax bills for property owners.

Creating plans for an ambitious development near the confluence of the Missouri and the Kansas Rivers.

Bringing more commercial and residential development to the urban core.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Marinovich insists she doesn't know what she will do next. Her immediate plans are to take a brief vacation and to spend more time in her garden and with her husband, Wyandotte County District Judge Ernie Johnson.

Is another run for higher office looming? "Not at this point," she says. "I don't enjoy the politics. Never have. I don't think I ever will."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1989: Becomes first woman elected to the Kansas City, Kan., City Council.

1995: Becomes the city's first woman elected mayor, defeating incumbent Joe Steineger.

1997: Wins voter support for consolidation of the city and Wyandotte County governments; elected first mayor and CEO of the county's Unified Government, defeating state legislator David Haley.

2001: Wins second term as mayor and CEO, defeating former City Councilman Elmer Sharp; plans are announced to use tax incentives to bring Cabela's, Nebraska Furniture Mart and Great Wolf Lodge to the city.

2002: Named one of the nation's top 11 public officials by *Governing* magazine.

2004: Announces she won't seek re-election, becoming the first mayor in decades to leave voluntarily.

April 20, 2005: Hands over office to Mayor-elect Joe Reardon.

RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT DAVID WALLACE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public servant. Lieutenant David Wallace has served the people of Litchfield, Illinois, for over 20 years as a firefighter and a training officer for first responders. Like all firefighters, he has dedicated his career to protecting the people of his community.

But on June 7 of last year, Lieutenant Wallace went above and beyond the call of duty, even for his noble profession. Just after midnight, a 9-1-1 dispatcher reported people trapped in a fire in a mobile home just two blocks from Lieutenant Wallace's own home. Though off duty, he rushed out the door and was the first rescuer on the scene. Upon arrival, he noted the heavy black smoke billowing out of the building's back porch. Knowing that there was an individual trapped in the home, but also aware that his own safety equipment was aboard a fire truck that was yet to arrive, Lieutenant Wallace made a split-second, life-or-death decision to enter the burning building and attempt a rescue.

Once inside, Lieutenant Wallace found a man on the floor, unconscious with a weak pulse. Relying on his firefighter training and his instincts, Lieutenant Wallace crawled the ten feet between the door and the victim, and began to drag the man out of the burning building. Just as he reached the door, the first pumper truck reached the scene, and a fire captain and an EMT arrived to assist in the rescue. The victim was rushed to St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield and is alive today thanks to the brave efforts of Lieutenant David Wallace.

At this year's annual ceremony in Springfield, Illinois, Lieutenant David Wallace will be awarded the Firefighting Medal of Honor for his actions that night. I want to congratulate Lieutenant Wallace, his wife Mary and his son Michael on this award, and thank David Wallace for his commitment to protecting the lives of the people of Litchfield, Illinois.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for April 2005.

1334 LHOB

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To resume oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act.

SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Program.

SD-562

2 p.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine OSHA and small business, focusing on improving the relationship for workers.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine data broker services, and the treatment of such services under existing State and Federal privacy laws.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Park Service's funding needs for administration and management of the national park system.

SD-366

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-232A

5 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

MAY 11

9 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal recognition of Indian tribes.

SR-485

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's translation program.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 895, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the proposed Workforce Investment Act Amendments of 2005, and pending nominations.

SD-430

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-232A

11:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

2 p.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine 21st century biological threats.

SD-430

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 100, to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado, S. 235 and H.R. 816, bills to direct the Secretary of

Agriculture to sell certain parcels of Federal land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada, S. 404, to make a technical correction relating to the land conveyance authorized by Public Law 108-67, S. 741, to provide for the disposal of certain Forest Service administrative sites in the State of Oregon, S. 761, to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area, and H.R. 486, to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

Foreign Relations
European Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the United States-European Union regulatory cooperation on emerging technologies.

SD-419

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations.

SD-419

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to the planning, providing, and paying for veterans' long-term care.

SR-418

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-222

	MAY 18	SEPTEMBER 20	amine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
9:30 a.m.		10 a.m.	
Judiciary		Veterans' Affairs	345 CHOB
To hold hearings to examine issues relat- ing to protecting the judiciary at home and in the courthouse.		To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-	
	SD-226		