and columnist for the weekly paper Zig Zag. He has also served on the board of directors for the National Association of Cuban Journalists.

For his exemplary work, Mr. Cayón Diéguez has received numerous awards and accolades, including being named one of the 100 most outstanding Hispanic journalists by Hispanic Media 100.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring José C. Cayón Diéguez for his impressive career accomplishments and his dedication to serving the Hispanic community. I applaud him for the positive impact he has made through his work as a journalist, and I am confident that he will continue to enrich the lives of those who read his publication in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE RICHARD BYRD

HON. W. TODD AKIN
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw the attention of the House to the passing of my friend and one of Missouri's finest elected officials, the Honorable Richard Byrd. Richard Byrd was known for his ready helping hand and his deep commitment to the people he represented.

Returning home last Saturday, the day after the first half of the 96th Session of the Missouri General Assembly was completed, Representative Byrd collapsed of an apparent heart attack after carrying his suitcase into his home. A friend to many, his death was a shock to all who knew him.

Richard Byrd received his JD from Washington University Law School and practiced commercial litigation law while serving as a Kirkwood, Missouri city councilman from 1994–2000. He served in the Missouri State House representing the Kirkwood area since 2000, where he made his mark by always listening both to colleagues and constituents, by his consistent willingness to help draft bills and amendments, and by explaining the legal ramifications of complex legislative proposals.

Richard Byrd worked hard to the very end. He was known for burning the midnight oil, always happy to help those who came to him for advice, and had a quick eye for detail. He had the ability to influence those around him and when he spoke, others listened and respected what he had to say.

A man involved in his community, he served on the St. Louis County Charter Commission, on the board of directors of the Missouri and St. Louis Easter Seals organizations, and assistant district commissioner of the St. Louis Area Boy Scouts. He was a member of the Kirkwood Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and coached soccer at St. Genevieve DuBois Catholic Church.

We extend our deepest condolences to his lovely wife, Moira, and their children Richard and Eleanor. We are also thankful for his life—a life of service well-lived. Richard, you will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian was re-elected president of the Republic of China on Taiwan. On the occasion of the first anniversary of his second term in office, I offer my congratulations to President Chen and the people of Taiwan.

President Chen continues to work to ensure Taiwan's democracy and freedom, and seeks reconciliation and cooperation with Taiwan's opposition party leaders. He also is leading Taiwan's efforts to gain membership in the World Health Organization and other international organizations. Without membership or observship in the World Health Organization, Taiwan is literally an orphan in the world health arena.

I am pleased that our government has come out strongly in support of Taiwan's bid for World Health Assembly observship this May.

As we join our friends in Taiwan in celebrating President Chen's anniversary, we also recognize Taiwan's steps toward democratization. These include Taiwan's end of martial law in 1987, first direct presidential election in 1996, first change of governing party in 2000 and first national referendum in 2004. Taiwan's example is encouraging to all those who seek and support freedom and democracy around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF JOHN H. JOHNSON

HON. MIKE ROSS
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life of John H. Johnson. Born in 1918 in Arkansas City, Arkansas, Mr. Johnson has set an example for us all by being both an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. I would like to recognize Mr. Johnson's contributions to Arkansas and our Nation.

Mr. Johnson is the founder, publisher, and chairman of Johnson Publishing Company, the world's largest African-American owned publishing company. He is also the publisher of Ebony and Jet Magazines. Ebony alone has a circulation of 1.7 million people and reaches 11 million readers monthly.

In 1982, Mr. Johnson was the first African American to be named on Forbes' list of the 400 wealthiest Americans. Mr. Johnson's long list of awards and achievements include: the Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987, the Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones Entrepreneurial Excellence Award in 1993, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996—the highest honor this nation gives to a citizen, the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame Award in 2001, The Vanguard Award in 2002, and The Trumpet Award in 2002.

Arkansas City and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have worked together to create the John H. Johnson Cultural and Education Museum. On Saturday, May 21st this museum will be dedicated in Desha County, Arkansas. This museum will capture Mr. Johnson's life by restoring his boyhood home and will include period memorabilia, printed material, and video chronicles about Mr. Johnson's life.

In addition to the museum, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is in the planning stages of opening a learning center in Arkansas City and an academic complex at the University of Arkansas of Pine Bluff. These institutions will undoubtedly become a tremendous asset and staple of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Johnson, and am delighted that the John H. Johnson Cultural Education Museum will be open for Arkansans to see firsthand Mr. Johnson's lifetime of work and contributions to our nation. His dedication, entrepreneurial spirit, and legacy will continue in Arkansas for the years and decades ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the City of Trenton.

This past weekend, the City of Trenton celebrated the establishment of their city. In 1818, William Lewis and his brother-in-law, A.W. Casad of Trenton, New Jersey located Lewis' farm at the location where the city now stands. A few years later, in 1825, the first church congregation with others soon to follow. In 1853 the area found itself in need of a Post Office, which was given the name of Trenton. On May 14, 1855, Trenton, Illinois was established. Less than a year later, on February 16, 1856, the Village of Trenton was chartered with Joseph Hanke as the first Mayor. A little over 30 years later, on September 20, 1887, Trenton was incorporated as a City.

In 1955, the year of its centennial, with a population of 1,400, the City of Trenton was given the nickname, the "Friendly City", and went on, in 2003, to receive the Governor's Hometown Award.

Today, the City of Trenton has grown to a city of 2,700 citizens under the current Mayor, Robert Louis Koentze. Here's to the City of Trenton and all who reside there.

HONORING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 190th year of existence of the Hurricane Baptist Church of Lebanon, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the church's anniversary on Sunday, May 29, 2005, with an afternoon program.
STATEMENT TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

HON. DENNIS KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2005, I made the following statement during a hearing in the House Committee on Government Reform on “Securing Our Borders: What We Have Learned from Government Initiatives and Citizen Patrols”:

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairman Davis, for holding this important hearing and thank you to the witnesses. We can all agree on the tremendous importance of securing our border. But frankly, I am not confident in how our government has been handling border security one bit. I have two concrete examples of deficiencies on the part of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. One is clear evidence that the office has been investigating that I’d like to highlight—that I think are representative of a much greater problem.

The first case involves how U.S. Customs has handled an investigation into slave labor allegations regarding a product that we import into the U.S.—as you know, importing products made with slave labor has been illegal since 1930. Allegations of slave labor used in the production of pig iron, in the Para state of Brazil, came out in the summer of 2004. As the United States reportedly imports 92 percent of the pig iron produced in Brazil, most of which is produced in Para, it is highly probable that this importation violates section 1307 of the U.S. Tariff Act of 1930, which states: "All goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict labor or/and forced labor or labor inden
tured labor under penal sanctions shall not be entitled to entry at any of the ports of the United States unless the importation thereof is hereby prohibited."

I sent a letter to U.S. Customs to ascertain what actions had been taken in response to this violent and unethical act. I finally got a response, which said that Customs had opened a file on the case in July 2004, and had referred it to the FBI Attaché Brasilia for further investigation. The rest of the letter explained how logistical difficulties had prevented even a single investigator from visiting Para for a site visit. One example: "The Amazon region in Brazil is a remote area where the majority of the roads to this area are only accessible via 4-wheel drive vehicles." The Trans-Amazon highway, an important route for the economic development in that area, runs right through Para. It can carry the pig iron out of Para, but can’t take our investigators into Para.

And frankly I would be surprised if none of the generations of the Flatt family have also attended Hurricane Baptist Church. Former members, their friends, family and new have been invited to join “The Little White Church down in Cedar Forest” on its special day of thanksgiving and praise. I am sure Hurricane Baptist Church will continue to make a positive difference in the community for the next 190 years. I cordially congratulate the congregation and Brother Williams for all the good they have done.

The inaction of the investigators in this case is highly unsatisfactory, and I am deeply disturbed by the implications of such inadequacies. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, along with FBI Attaché offices, are responsible not only for investigating violations of labor laws, but also for keeping terrorists out of our country. I believe the inefficiencies highlighted in this case reflect the greater threat to the national security interests of the United States. Furthermore, I am disturbed to think of the possibility that trade motivations are hidden behind the inadequate investigation in charge of securing that all the American miners forced to compete with slave labor would also be disturbed by that possibility.

The second case involves the presence of an international terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles, in the United States, and his recent application for asylum. Posada, a CIA-trained Cuban exile, was responsible for organizing the bombing of a Cuban airliner flying from Bermuda to Venezuela. The bombing killed 73 people on the plane on October 6, 1976. In addition to the Cuban air
crash, Posada was implicated in the 1976 Washington, DC assassination of former Chilean government minister Orlando Letelier. Letelier, a prominent opponent of the Pinochet regime, was killed along with the American Ronni Moffitt in a car bombing, which was at the time, one of the worst acts of foreign terrorism on American soil. Carter Cornick, a retired counterterrorism specialist for the FBI who worked on the Letelier case, said in an interview that both bombings were planned at a June 1976 meeting in Envigo attended by Posada in addition to others. Mr. Cornick said that Posada was involved “up to his eyeballs” in planning the attack. A newly released 1976 P.B.I. document has confirmed this. Furthermore, at the time of the bombings, Venezuelan police found maps and other evidence in Posada’s Venezuelan home that tied him to the terrorist killings.

Posada is imprisoned in Venezuela, but escaped while waiting for an appeal in 1985. In 1989, he was convicted of serving in the Pinochet regime. In 1994, he was convicted of plotting the assassination of former Chilean president Salvador Allende. Posada is a permanent resident of Miami, and his recent application for asylum intends to hold will shed some light on how Posada is trying to evade justice.

Yet the U.S. government has not even acknowledged it. Roger F. Nortega, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs in the State Department said he did not even know whether Posada was in the country. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said in a recent press briefing that he was not aware of where he presently is, I think it’s fair to say we don’t know.

The U.S. government has not sent teams of investigators into South Florida to find Posada—or if they have, the investigators haven’t done a very good job of finding him. No bounty has been offered to recover Posada. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol is responsible for securing our border, and preventing terrorists from crossing it, yet a known international terrorist—who committed an act of terrorism on U.S. soil that killed an American citizen—and, I believe, a terrorist, and the U.S. government hasn’t done a thing. It just isn’t a political priority.

I hope this hearing and the series of hearings on border security that this Committee intends to hold will shed some light on not only the two cases I described, but on the larger problem that those cases represent: major deficiencies on the part of the U.S. government to investigate Customs and Border violations, when it frankly isn’t in the political interest of the United States. That is unacceptable. We cannot pick and choose when to apply our laws and our laws must be applied in universal situations. And when they aren’t, it compromises our national security. Thank you.