Ms. Travis is the daughter of David and Marcia Travis of Brocton, NY and the granddaughter of Edward Sunday. Mr. Sunday is a member of the National Grape Cooperative and a retired 30-year employee of Welch’s. Amy participates in the 3–1 program at SUNY Fredonia making this the third time she has been awarded with the scholarship. This fall Amy plans to return to Fredonia State to major in music education.

I am honored Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor these accomplished and bright women.

CONGRATULATING THE GRANT FAMILY ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR CHILD, ALLISON MARIE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Bill and Claudia Grant on the birth of their child. Allison Marie Grant was welcomed into this world at 7:04 am on June 17th, 2005, weighing 6 pounds 12½ ounces. Both the mother and father’s families were present to celebrate the joyful birth. The entire Citrus County community welcomes their newest citizen. I congratulate Bill and Claudia on the new addition to their family and wish them years of continued health and happiness.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF
HON. CHARLES W. DENT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my support for the Community Services Block Grants, and take a moment to highlight the effect these grants have on my district. My CSBG funds are used to support the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV). I have a long history of working with the CACLV on a wide range of antipoverty initiatives which include housing, hunger, and community development, and I have seen the positive contributions that CACLV has made as a result of CSBG funding.

CSBG grants are uniquely effective because they are locally-controlled and respond to the particular needs of each community. The grants produce a return on investments of one of its homeless shelters and all of its small business development work and perhaps even more.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that my district and the nation need the services that Community Action agencies provide. Although I understand the tight budget constraints we face, these programs stimulate the economy and improve the quality of life for the residents of my district. As the appropriations process advances, I would like to express my support for funding levels equal to the final FY 2005 appropriations for CSBG.
Currently, 362 hardworking Mainers are employed in the Limestone facility. Aroostook County and Northern Maine have already been devastated by the closure of the Loring Air Force Base. Additional job loss, along with the losses due to the proposed realignment at Brunswick Naval Air Station and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, would have a serious impact in Maine. It is important for me to meet personally with Governor Baldacci, so that we can stress the critical service that this facility provides for the military and its vital importance to the Maine economy.

INTRODUCING THE FREEDOM FROM UNNECESSARY LITIGATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Meanwhile, earlier this year, surgeons in West Virginia walked off the job to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeopardized by the epidemic of large (and medically questionable) malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve a series of piecemeal, usurious measures that are best left to the states. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assent of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by consorting my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of St. Matthias Parish, of Parma, Ohio, as they celebrate twenty-five years of faith, guidance and love for parishioners, and for the greater good of the community.

Twenty-five years ago, St. Matthias was established by the late Bishop James A. Hickey. Bishop Hickey was later appointed to serve as Cardinal James A. Hickey. He announced that St. Matthias, a former mission parish, would now evolve into a full-fledged parish. Father Vincent Moraghan became the first Pastor of the church. On June 28, 1980, the first Mass was held at Green Valley School in Parma. The friendly and warm atmosphere of St. Matthias Parish has remained constant through the years. This spirit of cooperation and unity brought forth the planning and construction of a new church and rectory, completed by 1987. Following Pastor Moraghan’s retirement, Father Raymond Sutter was appointed as Pastor, and continues his service to St. Matthias to this day.

The leadership and members of St. Matthias are a unified force of strength and assistance for many within the parish, and also for those in need outside the parish. Volunteers continue to plan and implement programs such as the Volunteer Visitors Program, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Red Cross Drives, and the “Manna” Fundraiser, all of which serve to provide assistance and lift the spirit of individuals and families throughout our community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of St. Matthias Parish, as they celebrate twenty-five years of offering spiritual guidance for countless families and individuals. Since 1980, the parish has evolved in structure and location, yet it remains a steady beacon of light, faith and hope, that embraces the spiritual needs and everyday struggles of all parishioners.

HONORING ZACHARY AGETT UPON RECEIVING THE J.C. MATTESON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Zachary Agett, a resident of Chautauqua County, City of Jamestown, upon the occasion of receiving the J.C. Matteson Memorial Scholarship.

Zachary was awarded the scholarship for his honorable character and athletic achievement. Both on and off the football field: Agett displays dedication, selflessness integrity and leadership, many of the same admirable attributes that J.C. Matteson demonstrated.

This scholarship fund was established by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation in honor of J.C. Matteson who died a very honorable death in Iraq last October. J.C. Matteson was a student and football player at Southwestern High School.

His father, James Agett, to head up the fund-raising efforts for the scholarship for years to come. James Matteson’s goal is to raise $29,000 and award two $1,000 scholarships in the coming years.

In the fall Agett plans to attend Washington and Jefferson University, where he will play football and major in biology. It is a wonderful honor to share the characteristics possessed by a fallen hero.

Zachary Agett is an upstanding young man and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor him today.

TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND CHINA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America, recently wrote an opinion piece for the San Jose Mercury News. In this piece, Mr. Miller addresses some serious concerns about the Chinese government’s trade policies and their efforts to control and limit information on the Internet. Mr. Miller makes some excellent points and I encourage all of my colleagues to review his article.

(From the San Jose Mercury News, May 23, 2005)

IN WALKING OFF SOFTWARE MARKET, CHINA FORGETS TRADE GOES TWO WAYS

(By Harris N. Miller)

Chinese trade practices have long been the subject of complaint from U.S. manufacturers, particularly in the textile industry. American high-tech firms now see the storm clouds forming for their own business sectors. Two trends are particularly disturbing: China’s leaders are quietly closing the doors to domestic market software competition while simultaneously attempting to expand government control over the Internet.

Despite U.S. protests, the Chinese government has published draft regulations that effectively would close China’s government market to American and other foreign software companies. Software is likely to be the...