

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO EUGENE R.  
MCGRATH

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Eugene R. McGrath, a distinguished member of the business community.

Mr. Speaker, Eugene R. McGrath is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Edison, Inc., the holding company; and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of its largest subsidiary, Con Edison of New York, the regulated utility. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Mr. McGrath joined Con Edison of New York as an engineer following college graduation in 1963. He eventually held key executive positions in the utility's major operating and customer service areas and managed fossil-fired and nuclear generating plants. He was elected Vice President in 1978, Executive Vice President in 1982, and President and Chief Operating Officer in 1989. He became Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in September 1990.

Mr. McGrath serves on the board of directors of many organizations that advance economic development, human services, culture and education. He is chairman of the Union Square Partnership; director of AEGIS Insurance Services, Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, Barnard College, the Business Council of New York State, the Fresh Air Fund, the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research, Inc., Manhattan College, the Partnership for New York City, Schering-Plough Corporation, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Economic Club of New York, the Development Advisory Council for the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

Within the energy industry, Mr. McGrath is a director of the Edison Electric Institute and a member of the Energy committee of the New York Building Congress.

A native New Yorker, Mr. McGrath earned a mechanical engineering degree from Manhattan College in 1963, a Masters in Business Administration from Iowa College in 1980 and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University in 1989.

Consolidated Edison, Inc., one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, with approximately \$10 billion in annual revenues and \$24 billion in assets, provides a wide range of energy-related products and services to its customers. Its subsidiaries include Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., Con Edison Solutions, Con Edison Energy, Con Edison Development, and Con Edison Communications.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments and selfless service of Eugene R. McGrath, as he is more than worthy of our recognition today.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL-  
MAN DAVE DAVIA

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of out-going Westminister City Councilman Dave Davia.

Although Dave has been on the Council only since 2004, his involvement in the Westminister community began long before then. He has served on the Westminister Human Services Board since December 2002 and became the chair in 2004. Dave also takes part in the Westminister Rotary, Adams County Inter-faith Hospitality Network, Adams County District 50 Community Education Foundation, and the CedarBridge Homeowners Association,

Currently, Dave is employed as a business systems consultant at Wells Fargo. In addition to this he has also served on the Wells Fargo Education Committee and the Wells Fargo Bank Cup Committee.

As a Westminister City Councilman, Dave's focus has been on diversifying the city's tax base, redeveloping blighted areas, monitoring water supply and responding to growth through participation in transportation projects for the city. He has been vigilant in his quest for these projects and has gained a well-deserved reputation for expertise and thoughtfulness.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to recognizing the ethic of public service among other Westminister City Council members, I ask my colleagues to join with me in acknowledging Mr. Dave Davia.

We often debate and pass legislation at the Federal level that has far-reaching, significant, and sometimes unintended consequences, for local governments. That is one reason I believe it is so important to recognize and honor the men and women who work hard by holding office at the county and municipal level. Many of these individuals are among the best and brightest public policy advocates in our country, but they are not always recognized for the long hours, minimal pay, and difficult work they undertake.

Dave Davia is one of these people. He has worked hard on behalf of the people in his community and I wish him every success in the future.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON K. SNEED

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant First Class Brandon K. Sneed, 33, originally of Norman, Oklahoma, died on October 10, 2005, in Iraq. Sergeant First Class Sneed was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, Georgia. According to initial reports, Sergeant First Class Sneed died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. His survivors include his wife, children, and parents.

Brandon Sneed was a devoted husband and father and was eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sergeant First Class Sneed died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN  
TUCKER

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family, friends, and colleagues of John Tucker, a constituent and citizen of Baytown, Texas, who passed away September 25, 2005, at the age of 83.

Born in Victoria County, Mr. Tucker served in the Army Air Corps as a gunnery instructor during World War II. He also served in Japan during the Korean War. After the war, he went to work for ExxonMobil, where he stayed for 33 years, retiring in 1980.

But it is not only his distinguished careers in the Armed Forces and at ExxonMobil that I wish to honor today. John Tucker's service to the community of Baytown as one of its greatest philanthropists is also worthy of our recognition. Mr. Tucker established and chaired the "Friends of Lee College" organization with 14 of his friends in 1986. In 2000, he raised over a million dollars for the college for an admirable purpose: to establish a childcare center at the college so that single mothers could

• 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.

attend classes and finish their educations. These are just two examples of the many acts of generosity and kindness he performed for the citizens of Baytown. He also served as board chair for the Baytown Museum and served on the boards of the American Diabetes Association, the Lee College Foundation, the Hospice Advisory, and the Texas Exes of Baytown, receiving several awards from these organizations in recognition of his service.

Honored as the 1999 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year and the 2001 ExxonMobil Refiner of the Year, Mr. Tucker was best known for his uncanny fundraising abilities, his exceptionally happy demeanor, and his dedication to his family, especially his wife Jane.

He will be greatly missed by the citizens of Baytown and all those who knew him, and I ask that you remember the Tucker family in your thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II AND  
KOREAN WAR VETERANS AR-  
THUR NIELSON

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur Neilson, a proud veteran who served during both World War II and the Korean War.

Within two days of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Neilson volunteered to serve and defend America. During his eight years in the Marines, Mr. Neilson served in the Solomons, Bismarck Island and the Philippines.

Following his retirement from the Marines in 1949, Mr. Neilson once again answered the call to duty and volunteered to join the Army in 1950. Deployed to Korea, Mr. Neilson was wounded by North Korean soldiers during a gun battle. Hiding in a foxhole and covered only by a tarp, Mr. Neilson hid from the approaching North Korean troops and the massive snowfall that enveloped his hiding spot.

Suffering from the gunshot wound and frostbite, Mr. Neilson was eventually saved by passing American troops. For his sacrifices over his twenty-five year military career, some of Mr. Neilson's awards include the Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

I know that Mr. Neilson's wife of more than 50 years, Joyce, and their four children are extremely proud of the career and accomplishments of Mr. Neilson. They have traveled throughout the world with him and have been at his side when he has been recognized with many awards for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Arthur Neilson should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. They are truly part of America's greatest generation.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNARD B. BEAL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bernard B. Beal, a distinguished

member of the business community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard B. Beal is Chief Executive Officer of M.R. Beal & Company, a nationally recognized investment banking firm. Mr. Beal founded the minority-owned firm in 1988 following a successful career in municipal and corporate finance at Shearson Lehman Hutton. The oldest continuously operating African-American investment bank in the United States, the firm offers investment banking, financial advisory and broker-dealer services to municipalities, state governments and numerous corporations in the telecommunications, media, technology, energy and financial services industries.

M.R. Beal & Company is headquartered in New York City, with offices in Sacramento, Chicago, Dallas, Baltimore, New Orleans and Washington, DC. Through the end of 2004, the firm has co-managed municipal financings exceeding \$450 billion, senior-managed over \$7 billion and has served as an underwriter in over 3,200 municipal transactions. For the past decade, M.R. Beal & Company has been ranked as one of the top twenty underwriters of municipal securities nationwide. In addition, the firm has consistently been a member of the Black Enterprise 100 List and was named BE's Finance Company of the Year in June of 2001.

Mr. Beal serves on several boards. He is the Chairman of the A Better Chance Foundation whose mission is to increase the number of well-educated minority youth capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society. Mr. Beal serves on the Municipal Executive Committee of the Bond Market Association and is a Trustee of the National Foundation for Affordable Housing.

Mr. Beal has received numerous professional and civic awards. He has the distinction of being one of only three people listed on both the Black Enterprise list of the 25 Hottest Blacks on Wall Street in 1992 and the Top 50 Blacks on Wall Street in 2003.

A graduate of Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, Mr. Beal also received a Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the Stanford University School of Business. He was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Sacred Heart University.

Mr. Beal is married to Valerie Lancaster Beal and is the proud father of two children, Michael, a senior at Harvard University and Erica, a senior at Horace Mann High School.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Bernard B. Beal as he offers his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard B. Beal's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING SAMANTHA "SAM"  
DIXION

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks and appreciation to Ms. Samantha "Sam" Dixon for her exemplary public service as Westminster City Councilwoman for the past sixteen years. Her tireless efforts have made a positive difference in the lives of many people in Westminster and the surrounding communities. Although she is stepping down from the Westminster City Council, I know that she will continue to stay involved in important community matters.

Ms. Dixon began serving on the Westminster City Council in 1989 and has served as mayor pro tem twice, from 1995 to 1997 and again from 2000 to 2002. In addition to serving on the City Council, she has been involved in a variety of community boards and councils. Among these include the Economic Development and Private Industry Councils of both Adams and Jefferson Counties, Arvada High School's Cooperative Occupational Education Program, Westminster Community Artist Series, Colorado Municipal League's Policy Committee, and the Westminster Human Services Board. She is also a founding member of Front Range Foundation for Educational Excellence and Westminster DARE Foundation. She served as a council liaison to the city Human Services Board and the City's representative to the Adams County Economic Development Board, which she chaired in 1997.

Ms. Dixon's passion for her community extends to important issues affecting the entire region, especially the cleanup and closure—and future use—of the former U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rocky Flats nuclear weapons production facility west of Westminster. She has been an early and active voice on addressing the environmental issues at this site, and has been working with her colleagues in the surrounding communities to make sure the cleanup and closure of this site is thorough, safe and effective. The expertise she developed on this issue resulted in her being selected as the City's primary liaison on Rocky Flats issues. In that capacity, she has been a member of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments (Coalition) since its creation and also served on many predecessor community oversight groups and committees.

Her work at Rocky Flats led to her selection as Chair of the Energy Communities Alliance (Alliance) in 1999 after having served as vice-Chair from 1998 to 1999. The Alliance is composed of local governmental officials and others from across the country to advise DOE on the environmental aspects and other issues associated with nuclear weapons production facilities. Her work on the Alliance is a testament to her dedication to making sure that the public's health and safety is protected around these facilities.

Ms. Dixon also finds time to be a teacher-tutor with the Cooperative Occupational Education Program at Arvada High School. Her commitment to quality education can be observed through her participation in the Arvada Senior High School's Drop-Out Program and the Jefferson County District 1 Judicial Review Committee where she is a past chair.

Ms. Dixon is a well-recognized leader in the Westminster community. Her honors and awards include Jefferson County Mother of the Year, Metro North Chamber Volunteer of the Year and several marketing achievement awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing my gratitude to Ms. Dixon for her tireless work. Although her work and the issues she has championed are serious and important, she brought a refreshing, positive outlook that was infectious. Through all of this work—at times difficult and controversial—she maintained a sense of humor and humility in her interactions with others, without compromising professionalism or respect of others and their views. In a time when faith in our political system is faltering, we should recognize and acknowledge people like Ms. Dixon who have an innate devotion to enhancing the quality of life in our communities. I am proud to offer my appreciation for her work and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AUBURN  
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman BACHUS, we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the Auburn Early Education Center in Auburn, Alabama, for its receipt of the prestigious Intel Corporation and Scholastic "School of Distinction" Award. This school, through the hard work of its faculty and staff, has set a national standard in literacy achievement through innovation. We are proud to commend its laudable accomplishments.

The Auburn Early Education Center serves the needs of all kindergarten students enrolled in Auburn City Schools. This school, in developing its curriculum, focuses on a child-centered approach to learning. It is this focus, along with the integration of reading in all subject areas, that led Intel and Scholastic to recognize the Auburn Early Education Center from among 3,000 excellent competitors as one of twenty schools worthy of being designated as a "School of Distinction."

Mr. Speaker, because of the Auburn Early Education Center's success in the area literacy achievement, they will receive a grant of \$10,000 and will share in a host of technological prizes designed to further improve learning opportunities at the school. It is our sincere belief that this institution will continue to serve as a guiding example to primary schools across the United States of what is possible in literacy education when faculty, staff and parents come together with the common purpose of providing the best education to students. We are honored to recognize the Auburn Early Education Center before this body and this nation for their devotion and commitment to quality education. Congratulations on your well deserved recognition as a "School of Distinction."

HONORING CHANNEL INDUSTRIES  
MUTUAL AID ON THEIR 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the largest mutual aid organizations in the world, Channel Industries Mutual Aid, for their 50 years of service to Houston and the surrounding areas.

Formed in 1955 under the name of the "Houston Ship Channel Industries Disaster Aid Organization," in 1960 it became the non-profit corporation "Channel Industries Mutual Aid." Its objective remained the same: to provide mutual assistance in case of emergency situations, whether natural or man-made.

With over 100 industrial, municipal, and governmental members such as Shell Oil, Celanese, the City of Houston Fire Dept., and the U.S. Coast Guard, CIMA joins these together to respond to fire, hazardous material, rescue and medical emergencies along the Houston Ship Channel.

CIMA provides disaster assistance not only to the Houston Ship Channel, but cooperates with mutual aid organizations all along the Texas and Louisiana coastlines, and has shared its response readiness procedures with international organizations such as the International Red Cross, and countries such as Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.

For its invaluable service to the City of Houston, the 29th District of Texas, the Gulf Coast, and the rest of the world, I extend CIMA my deepest gratitude, and my heartfelt congratulations on 50 years of excellence.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VET-  
ERANS OF POLK COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave soldiers of Polk County, Florida who served during World War II.

At a ceremony to be held Saturday, October 22, 2005, Congressman ADAM PUTNAM and I will present representatives from each of the five United States Armed Forces with commemorative coins honoring their service during World War II.

As General George Patton once said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

The Polk County veterans we are honoring this weekend clearly met General Patton's description above. They proved themselves in battle in Europe, Africa and the Far East. Their sacrifices on the battlefield preserved liberty and freedom for millions throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like these Polk County World War II veterans should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in

battle. They are truly part of America's Greatest Generation.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ATUL B.  
CHOKSHI

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a member of the Brooklyn community and distinguished member of the healthcare profession, Dr. Atul B. Chokshi. It is an honor to represent Dr. Chokshi in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader in American Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, on Dr. Atul B. Chokshi's resume he states that his life's goals are to "be as complete a cardiologist as possible" and "to be as nice and loving a human being as possible." To the thousands of people of the Interfaith Medical Center community who have been touched by Dr. Chokshi's gentleness and caring nature, he has already met his life's goals.

Born and trained in India, with an 18-month stint in England, Dr. Chokshi has been with Interfaith Medical Center for nearly his entire medical career. Joining one of Interfaith Medical Center's predecessor hospitals, Jewish Hospital and Medical Center of Brooklyn, or "Brooklyn Jewish" in the summer of 1978 as an Intern in Internal Medicine. Dr. Chokshi has served in a variety of positions leading up to his being named the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

As head of Interfaith Medical Center's Cardiac Cath Lab since 1993, Dr. Chokshi has pioneered thoughtful and gentle cardiac care. In November 2004, Dr. Chokshi launched the City's first Walk-in-Walk-out transradial cardiac catheterization program. Virtually painless and allowing the patient to go home to resume normal activity within an hour, Interfaith Medical Center's Walk-in-Walk-out service involves inserting the catheter into the radial artery at the wrist for complete cardiac evaluation and even a peripheral angiogram can be done at the same time without the use of the femoral artery.

In addition to being a brilliant physician, Dr. Chokshi is an ardent student of the Bhagawad Gita, which inspired him to combine his devotion to the teachings of Lord Krishna with his cardiology expertise to help establish The Krishna Heart Institute in Ahmedabad, India. Since its opening in 2000, The Krishna Heart Institute has performed more than 4,000 open heart surgeries and 25,000 other life-saving procedures.

Dr. Chokshi is married to Dr. Vandana Chokshi, a radiologist with a subspecialty in Nuclear Medicine and Chief of both Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at Interfaith Medical Center. Drs. Atul and Vandana Chokshi have a daughter, Krishna.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments and selfless service of Dr. Chokshi as he offers his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Chokshi has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication

that makes this kind gentleman and master scientist most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING BUTCH HICKS FOR  
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Westminster City Councilman Butch Hicks. Butch's efforts have greatly helped Adams County Coloradans and he deserves recognition for the many contributions he has made to public service.

Butch and Julia Hicks have been activist citizens. They exemplify what it means for people to participate in democracy, and although they are active Democrats, it is not Butch's partisan work that causes me to acknowledge him, but rather, his boundless enthusiasm for community service.

I am proud to know Butch and have counted him as a friend and advisor on many issues. His official duties as a member of the Westminster City Council have included many projects that we care about, including improving watersheds, parks and recreational opportunities in Colorado's Second Congressional District.

Butch was appointed to the Westminster City Council in 1999 and was elected to serve a 2-year term. He was then re-elected in November 2001 to serve a 4-year term. In addition to the City Council, Butch also serves in the Adams County Democrats as treasurer and on the Permanent Organization Committee, the Colorado State Democrats and the State Outreach Committee. Civil rights is a very important issue to Butch and drives him to monitor civil rights problems in Colorado and Westminster. He is a member of the NAACP and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Butch's career in home improvement retail allowed him to travel across the United States and finally settle in Colorado. Once in Westminster, Butch became the department manager for Home Depot and now works for the Regional Transportation District. In his spare time Butch promotes youth awareness and volunteers for battered women shelters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in acknowledging Mr. Butch Hicks for touching the community in far-reaching ways. In a time when public faith in our political system is faltering, we should recognize that there are people like Butch who have an innate devotion to furthering the progress of their communities. I'm proud to offer warm congratulations to Butch, to honor his achievements, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors. He stands out as a symbol of hope, optimism and generosity in public service.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL  
DANIEL MCVICKER

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Daniel McVicker,

a constituent from my district who died on October 6th when the humvee he was driving was hit by a roadside bomb. Daniel joined the Marines in 2003 and was serving in Iraq by providing security for convoys.

Daniel was a graduate of West Branch High School where he was active in chorale and many of the school's plays. The community fondly remembers him as always smiling and as having the ability to brighten everyone's day.

He showed true courage and the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in the pursuit for freedom and security. He is a hero and through his memory, continues to brighten the lives of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his parents and all of his family and friends who are mourning the loss of his life.

I pray for the safe return of all of our servicemen and women and thank them for the sacrifice they make every day defending our country.

HONORING CITIGROUP

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citigroup and commend them on their leadership in aiding Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts during the recovery and rebuilding of the affected area.

Citigroup and Citigroup Foundation donated \$2 million to Habitat for Humanity International in support of "Operation Home Delivery." In addition to a \$1 million immediate donation, the Citigroup Foundation is matching eligible Citigroup employee donations dollar for dollar to the American Red Cross up to \$3 million, for a potential total of \$7 million.

Hundreds of Citigroup volunteers are building and helping to organize the Habitat for Humanity build in Humanity Plaza where NBC News' "Today" show hosted the construction of Habitat homes as part of Make a Difference Today. In addition, to help the Red Cross in its nationwide telethon on September 9th, calls were routed to Citigroup call centers in St. Louis, Dallas and Jacksonville. Over 900 Citigroup employees answered more than 8,500 calls and helped to raise over \$900,000.

Citigroup is committed to working with affected customers to alleviate the temporary financial impact of this disaster. They are implementing business-specific initiatives for customers in FEMA designated Individual Assistance Areas including deferred and eliminated interest and payments, elimination of interest and fees on current and delinquent accounts, suspension of collection calls and negative credit bureau reporting, implementation of disaster credit line increases, no foreclosures on mortgages, and other solutions as appropriate.

At the Citi Cards site in Boise, Idaho, where I recently visited, employees donated more than \$139,000 to the United Way of Treasure Valley during their 2006 pacesetter campaign in July. Site President Tod Wingfield said, "The strength of an organization comes from the people within it. The same holds true for the health of a community. We are so proud to have employees who demonstrate their

passion and generosity for others by contributing to programs that benefit so many people in our valley. This sense of community and sincere desire to help others is part of what makes Citi a great place to work." Citi Cards presented a check to United Way and recognized employees at the United Way Community Campaign Kick-off event in August.

I want to thank and congratulate Citigroup and employees for their commitment to building strong communities.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, over \$1.6 trillion is spent on health care annually in the U.S., which is over 13% of the GDP. According to the National Coalition on Health Care, U.S. health care spending increased to \$1.7 trillion in 2003 and was projected to reach \$1.8 trillion in 2004. Furthermore, our country spent 15.3% of the GDP on health care in 2003 and a projected increase of 18.7% is expected within the next 10 years.

Even though the U.S. spends more on health care than any other industrialized nation, and those countries provide universal health coverage to all of their citizens, approximately 45 million Americans are uninsured. Nevertheless, the U.S. remains the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee health care for all of its citizens.

Clearly, universal health care is needed for all American citizens and a universal health care plan is certainly in the best economic interest of our country.

When one considers that health care spending accounted for only 9.7% of the GDP in our sister nation Canada, it becomes apparent that we are not best managing our resources and serving the interest of our Nation as a whole.

As members of Congress we are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting and advancing the Nation's health. It is a given that health care costs are rising for all American citizens. Let us not deceive ourselves. We are all interconnected as human beings and the health status of one impacts the health status of all regardless of one's ability to pay for health services or not.

Disease, especially communicable and infectious, has no boundaries. The current health disparities and unnecessary suffering experienced by vulnerable populations such as the poor, elderly, uninsured, women and children and racial and ethnic minorities is outright immoral. It is a national disgrace and international embarrassment that America, a country with astounding wealth and means, chooses not to provide universal health care to her citizens while her sister country Canada does so for her citizens, as does the country of Cuba whose wealth is not even comparable to that of the U.S. and other industrialized nations.

I urge Congress today to fully assume its responsibility as the defender of our Nation's health, and exercise its political will and sincerely work towards the implementation of a universal health care system and guarantee universal health care as a right for all American citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SOLAR DECATHLON TEAM

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a talented group of students from the University of Colorado who designed and built the winning entry at the Department of Energy's Second Solar Decathlon. CU's win is all the more notable because it is their second, after also winning the first Solar Decathlon competition in 2002. I am submitting for the RECORD a recent article from the Daily Camera describing the team's achievement.

The Solar Decathlon is a competition organized by the Department of Energy that gives college students an opportunity to demonstrate practical uses of solar power. This October, 18 university teams from around the country and the world competed in the second Solar Decathlon to build the most energy-efficient, solar-powered house. Each team was required to use solar energy to power the entire house, and was judged on how well its house was able to produce energy for heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, appliances, computers, and charging an electric car. The houses were also critiqued on their overall aesthetic design.

As a "zero energy home," CU's house combines advanced solar energy systems and energy efficient appliances and thus produces more energy than it consumes over the course of a year. In addition, as CU's official Decathlon handout stated, "The CU home is one that you can truly "sink your teeth into. Materials used in the home's construction and furnishings read like a health food menu," including such natural "ingredients" as soy, corn, sunflower, canola, coconut, wheat, citrus oil, and even chocolate. Using these natural materials was one of the team's five design goals, along with modularity, accessibility, innovation, and energy efficiency.

Colorado's core team consists of about 20 engineering and architecture students, among them Jeff Lyng, Frank Burkholder, Kristin Field, Mark Cruz, Drew Bailey, Jacob Uhl, Jon Previtali, Bryce Colwell, Jimmy Chambers, James Dixon, Ryan Drumm, Kathy Clegg, Geoffrey Berlin, Koki Hashimoto, Isaac Oaks, Greg Shoukas, Adam Courtney, Seth Kassels, Abby Watrous, Tim Guiterman, and Scott Horowitz. Many more students contributed in other ways. The students were assisted by faculty advisers Julee Herdt, Mike Brandemuehl, and Rick Sommerfeld.

CU's team had a challenge—to take advanced architectural and engineering concepts, put them together in a design, and build a house that could be a model of our energy future. These students met that challenge—and met it better than any of the other teams. I'm proud of these students and I'm proud that the University of Colorado produced such a talented team. Most of all, I am proud to represent these young people who are working so hard to make our way of life a sustainable one.

[From the Daily Camera, Oct. 15, 2005.]

CU TEAM CLINCHES SECOND SOLAR WIN

(By Todd Neff)

The University of Colorado repeated as international Solar Decathlon champ on Friday, thanks to a combination of stubborn cloud cover in Washington, DC, and a bold decision when the outlook was particularly gray.

The CU team's 800-square-foot, solar-powered BioS(h)IP mobile home won over entries by teams from 17 universities in the United States and Puerto Rico, Canada and Spain.

"I'm shocked," winning project manager Jeff Lyng, a master's student in CU's civil engineering school, said by cell phone. "The weather held, and it was really just dumb luck that our strategy worked."

The team made its own luck. The second-ever Solar Decathlon—CU won the first title in 2002—was dogged by clouds. The CU team's energy-saving house, capable of socking away 36 kilowatt hours a day in the Colorado sunshine, could manage only about 5 kilowatt hours a day on the shadowed National Mall.

That was less than CU's and other teams needed to boil water, launder towels, refrigerate food and fuel the electric car, among other things.

The competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, was fierce.

"There are some spectacular houses here," said Michael Brandemuehl, who with architecture professor Julee Herdt served as CU faculty advisers in both competitions. "No disrespect to the 2002 competitors, but the architectural quality is head and shoulders above what we had in 2002."

As of Tuesday morning, CU stood in eighth place. The team decided on a risky strategy: participate in a variety of competitions—where small numbers of points can be won for doing such things as boiling water and cooking meals—and run down the house's batteries.

Battery level mattered because the last of the Solar Decathlon's 10 competitions offered 100 points—of a total of 1,100 possible points—to those who generated as much energy as they used. Had the sun begun to shine, more conservative teams could have refueled and leapt past CU in the standings.

CU team ended up with 853 points, followed by Cornell University's 826 and California State Polytechnic University's 809 points.

CU won three categories: documentation, communication and "getting around," which involved team members Scott Horowitz and Isaac Oaks driving the team's electric car up to eight hours a day. They racked up 319 miles in five days at a speed of about 15 miles per hour.

"It was totally grueling," said project manager Lyng.

CU's documentation effort was bolstered by three-dimensional computer renderings showing the operation of the CU house's removable roof, done by undergraduate architecture student Mark Cruz.

The home is bio-friendly to its core, built with a raft of natural materials including everything from corn to coconut. Its defining innovation were Bio-SIPs, for which CU has applied for a patent. These structurally insulated panels are made of soybean-oil-based polyurethane, sandwiched between hard sheets of recycled paper.

Frank Burkholder, one of 20 core team members and among the dozen who made the trip to the nation's capital, said the Bio-SIPs held heat so well that the house lost just four degrees overnight.

"It saved us a lot of energy," he said.

Team faculty adviser Herdt said the home's strong "branding" as a bastion of bio-based materials probably helped in the

eyes of judges. But it was a strong student squad that made the difference, she said.

"I always ask them if they are athletes," she said. "You have to be a long-distance runner. You have to be consistent in your work and conserve energy. That's what helped this time—strategizing and staying strong all the way through."

The team's efforts got attention in high places. Lyng said Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman quipped, "I could see myself living here," when walking through the CU home.

The Department of Energy is increasing support to individual teams from \$5,000 this year to \$100,000 for the 2007 competition.

The CU solar home will host tours through Sunday on the National Mall. Its doors also will be open for tours on the CU campus following a 2,500 mile, biodiesel-fueled trek back to the Front Range. Its final destination is Prospect New Town in Longmont.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL  
CARL L. RAINES

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero from my congressional district who recently gave his life in defense of freedom.

Lance Corporal Carl L. Raines II, age 20, of Enterprise, Alabama, died October 6 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces near Al Qaim, Iraq.

He was assigned to Combat Service Support Detachment 21, 2nd Force Service Support Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Cherry Point, North Carolina. As part of Operation Iraqi Freedom he was attached to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

I am very sorry to hear about the loss of Lance Corporal Raines and I pass along my condolences to his family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Raines of Enterprise.

Lance Corporal Raines' courage and selfless service will be an inspiration, to all who treasure freedom. May our grateful Nation always honor the memory of his brave service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE P. DELOS  
SANTOS GONZALEZ

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American patriot: Irene De Los Santos from Brownsville, Texas. On October 22, 2005, Ms. De Los Santos will be 99 years young. She has seen the greater part of the 20th century and has been at the forefront of numerous historical events while serving as an outstanding example for her community.

Since she had a profound understanding of what the early 20th Century was like, before women were finally given citizenship in this great Nation, and allowed to vote. As. De Los Santos cherishes this precious right and never lets an election pass her by.

She has voted in every Brownsville election since 1929 and remembers her \$1.75 poll tax vividly. What is most amazing and admirable is the fact that Ms. De Los Santos is still an active member of the community and encourages everyone to participate fully in our democracy by both voting and working at the polls. Her daughter remembers riding along in the back of the car as they went from house to house encouraging members of the community to vote when she was only 8 years old.

Ms. De Los Santos is a powerhouse of politics in the South Texas community, and her support for various candidates is sought and cherished. I am so proud that she has been one of my strongest supporters throughout my 23 years in Congress.

Irene has lived a long and rewarding life, and watched our most important national events unfold: the passage of the 19th Amendment, the rise and fall of dictators around the world, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and countless other memorable events in our Nation's history. Through it all, Ms. De Los Santos says she has enjoyed her life and would not change anything.

Her extended family includes three sons and two daughters, 16 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, and 10 great-great-great grandchildren. Everyone, that totals to 71 potential votes, and we all know that elections have been won or lost by fewer votes. Even now, Ms. De Los Santos encourages her entire family to vote and continues to look on as her fellow voters come in and out of the polls.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this extraordinary woman for her contributions to her community and our Nation, and for her active participation our Nation's history. May the next century be as wonderful for her as the past 99 years.

**PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN  
FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 554) to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, an trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity, with Mrs. MILLER of Michigan in the chair.

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Chairman, encouraging personal responsibility is something we all support in this institution—particularly with respect to rising rates of obesity. With two-thirds of premature deaths in the U.S. due to poor nutrition, physical inactivity and tobacco use, Americans do need to be more mindful of what they put in their bodies.

But with only 12 percent of Americans eating a healthy diet and diabetes rates having risen 61 percent in the last decade alone, it is becoming increasingly clear that Congress is abdicating a responsibility of its own—we are failing to fashion policies that support Americans' efforts to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Instead of shielding companies from litigation, we should be giving people the information they need to make the informed choices that exercise that personal responsibility. Today, Americans are eating out more frequently, spending about half of their food dollars at restaurants—a figure that has doubled since 1970. And everyone knows how much harder it is to eat healthily when they eat out. Little wonder children eat almost twice as many calories when they eat at a restaurant as they do when they eat at home—studies have shown that even trained nutritionists cannot estimate the calorie and fat content in a meal they do not prepare themselves.

We need to be creative. For instance, I will be reintroducing legislation shortly, The Meal Education and Labeling Act, that would extend the kind of nutrition labeling you find on packaged foods at the store to include foods at fast food and other chain restaurants. It would require these chain restaurants to list calories, saturated plus trans fat and sodium on printed menus and calories on menu boards, giving consumers the necessary nutritional information to make healthy choices for themselves.

That is the kind of balanced, innovative approach this body should be considering today to address obesity—that would be a real step toward helping encourage personal responsibility in food consumption while protecting industry and our Mom n' Pop restaurants. Instead, as we have seen countless times before, this majority has again chosen to use a very important public health issue to pursue a narrow and completely unrelated political agenda.

Madam Chairman, we should do something about obesity in this country by empowering people to make informed decisions for themselves. But this bill is not the way to go about it.

**HONORING LIEUTENANT MICHAEL  
P. MURPHY**

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise with the New York Congressional Delegation to recognize an American hero. Today I am introducing legislation to name a post office in my district—in Patchogue, New York—in honor of Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy.

Lieutenant Murphy, U.S. Navy, was killed in Afghanistan when he and three other SEALs were ambushed by Taliban insurgents. Many of you may recall the reports during the week of June 27 about the heroic rescue attempt of Lt. Murphy's unit, when an Army MH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down by a rifle-propelled grenade in the Kunar province with 16 special operations troops aboard.

Lt. Murphy was only 29 years old when he died. Already having achieved his dreams of attending Penn State University and becoming a Navy SEAL, he had deferred another dream of attending law school until his tour had ended. He was also engaged to be married upon his return in November.

Lt. Murphy was universally admired and loved. His parents, teachers, and commanding officers all praise his intelligence, dedication

and kindness. Perhaps the commanding officer of the Navy's SEAL Recruiting program who mentored Lt. Murphy and prepared him for SEAL training best summed up this young hero's essence when he said:

He achieved something most of us don't have the courage to attempt . . . He was a very focused young man with a terrific attitude, quiet intensity and determination.

After learning of his tragic loss, Lt. Murphy's father reflected on what the memory of his son left behind:

We were just honored to have him as a son for 29 years. He's our herd, and I think he is everybody else's hero . . . He squeezed more life in 29 years than I will ever see."

This past summer, my district lost a beloved friend and our nation lost one of its bravest sons to the War on Terror.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Americans, I thank the House for honoring St. Murphy's service, valor and ultimate sacrifice for this Nation by renaming the post office located at 170 East Main Street in Patchogue, New York as the "Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office."

**HOT JAZZ SATURDAY NIGHT**

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, over 25 years, jazz enthusiasts in the Washington region have tuned to one program for their weekly jazz entertainment. Musicians such as Duke Ellington, Ina Ray Hutton, and the Boswell Sisters fill the radio waves every Saturday evening thanks to Rob Bamberger, creator, producer, and host of Hot Jazz Saturday Night.

Rob Bamberger began as a volunteer for WAMU in 1978, where he presented the first of several features on jazz performers during the news show, Morning Line. Two years later, in 1980, he created his own show, Hot Jazz Saturday Night, which he has hosted ever since. Rob's passion and dedication goes on display every Saturday night for three hours as he shares his love for jazz, swing, and big band music with WAMU listeners.

Rob's interest in vintage jazz and swing came at an early age. While at an elementary school book fair in 1963, he purchased, for a dime, a two-record set featuring broadcast performances by the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. This seminal moment in young Rob's life sparked a consuming and scholarly fascination with American music from the '20s, '30s, and '40s and became the cornerstone of a record collection which fills the basement of his Arlington, Virginia home.

By day, Rob Bamberger serves Congress as a senior policy analyst with the Congressional Research Service. While Rob takes great pride in his work with CRS, his true love becomes evident to listeners both locally and abroad through broadcasts on WAMU, NPR, and the Armed Forces Network.

Over the years, Rob's passion for music has led him to give talks before audiences at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, and the Cosmos, Maryland and University Clubs. When discussing topics ranging from, the history of repertory jazz, to the meeting of jazz

and third stream of Hoagy Carmichael and Bix Beiderbecke, he clearly demonstrates not only his mastery of jazz history, but also his deep passion for this uniquely American art form.

I would like to thank Rob for his efforts to keep jazz alive in the hearts of enthusiasts and casual listeners alike who find too few options today when they turn on the radio. As Rob states, and I quote, "There are virtually no places left on radio where someone like me is given three hours weekly to program music free of focus-group driven playlists and to present it as I hope works best for listeners and artists who might otherwise be totally forgotten."

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Rob for spending these past 25 years sharing his passion with us through the radio. Hot Jazz Saturday Night is the highlight of the week for many local and international jazz aficionados. With a large and loyal listener ship, I am confident that we will continue to hear Hot Jazz Saturday Night for many years to come.

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
HANDLEY-MEADOWBROOK LIONS  
CLUB

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding civic organization in Fort Worth, Texas on its 60th anniversary, the Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club.

The Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club was chartered on November 8, 1945 by Marlow C. Fisher. The club had 44 charter members. Since its founding, the Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club has been associated with Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization.

Over the last 60 years, the Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club has been a vital part of the Fort Worth and Tarrant County community. Club members have been involved continually in humanitarian efforts and public service projects that not only have improved the community but also the lives of an untold number of people.

The work of the Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club has resulted in direct financial contributions to such outstanding programs as the Texas Lions Camp for Handicapped and Diabetic Children, the Texas Lions Foundation and the Lions Club International Foundations. These foundations provide humanitarian and disaster aid in Texas and worldwide. In addition the club's work supports the Texas Eye-glass Recycling Center, the Leader Dog for the Blind and the Lions World Services for the Blind programs that provide blind persons with a guide dog, the Lions Organ and Eye Bank, the Lions Drug Awareness Council and the Julian C. Hyder Youth Camp for youth.

Members of the Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Clubs today continue to be committed to involvement in the community through a wide array of activities that make Fort Worth and Tarrant County a great place to live and work.

Fort Worth and Tarrant County have been fortunate to have the Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Clubs in its midst for the last six decades.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club on its 60th Anniversary and to offer appreciation for the excellent work it has rendered to Fort Worth, Texas, the United States and around the globe.

MOURNING LOSS OF LIFE CAUSED  
BY EARTHQUAKE THAT OC-  
CURRED ON OCTOBER 8, 2005, IN  
PAKISTAN AND INDIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be here to vote on this important measure. Sadly, I was attending the funeral of one of my constituents, a young Marine named Sergio Escobar, who died October 7 while serving our Nation in Iraq. But I want to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in expressing my condolences to all of those who have been affected by the massive earthquake that struck Southeast Asia on October 8, 2005.

The effects of this 7.6 magnitude earthquake have been devastating. At least 38,000 lives have been lost, with the death toll continuing to rise. Nearly 3 million people have been left homeless and are living in tents or on open ground in freezing temperatures. In some areas, entire villages have been buried in rubble. The Pakistani government estimates \$5 billion in damages to its infrastructure.

The areas worst hit by the earthquake, Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the NorthWest Frontier province, are in remote, mountainous regions. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the terrain presents a logistical challenge unprecedented for any humanitarian operation. There is an urgent need for additional helicopters to deliver supplies and evacuate victims. Meanwhile, thousands of people are awaiting rescue, food, and medical attention.

The United States has rushed food and medical supplies to the region, and has committed \$50 million in initial aid for the relief and reconstruction effort. Nations around the globe have sent rescue workers, search and rescue dogs, tents, and equipment. Private aid organizations are also dispatching volunteers and assistance. Together, I know that we can make a difference and help people rebuild their lives.

Tragedies such as this earthquake and last year's horrific tsunami remind us that we must help one another—both before tragedies strike and also once rebuilding has begun. Nations were very generous in offering help for victims of Hurricane Katrina and I pledge to work with thy colleagues in Congress to ensure that our friends in India and Pakistan have what they need to recover from this tragic event.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the victims and their families.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIUS PERR

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a giant of the engineering community last month. On Sunday, September 25, Dr. Julius Perr passed away in his home country of Hungary where he revolted against a Soviet-led communist regime before coming to the United States as a refugee of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Julius Perr and his wife Elizabeth, made Columbus, Indiana their home and found peace from the unrest in Eastern Europe. It was also in Columbus where Julius began a 41-year career as a mechanical engineer for Cummins Engine Company. In this time, he distinguished himself by submitting more than 300 patents on engine technology improvements, 80 of which are still in use today.

Cummins recognized Julius's extraordinary accomplishments by establishing an award in his honor. Each year, Cummins presents the Dr. Julius P. Perr Innovation Award to acknowledge innovative contributions of Cummins personnel.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Indiana, I extend heartfelt sympathies to the family of Dr. Julius Perr, specifically his wife Elizabeth; his sons Andrew and Victor Perr; his daughters Maria Garrison, Elisabeth Perr-McColm and Karolina Perr; and his eight beloved grandchildren.

Julius Perr was commended by the U.S. Patent Office for setting an example for future generations of inventors. But it is his love of culture and allegiance to his community that will be most missed by those who know him the best. The State of Indiana was fortunate to call him one of its own.

WHATEVER IT TAKES TO REBUILD  
ACT, PART II

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives CHARLIE MELANCON, WILLIAM JEFFERSON and I are introducing the Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act, Part II.

On September 15, 2005, President Bush addressed the nation from Jackson Square in New Orleans, LA and offered the following pledge on behalf of the American people:

Tonight I also offer this pledge of the American people: Throughout the area hit by the hurricane, we will do what it takes, we will stay as long as it takes, to help citizens rebuild their communities and their lives.—President Bush, September 15, 2005, New Orleans, LA.

Just three weeks later, on October 7, 2005, Congress and the President broke this pledge by adding a clause to Public Law 109-88, the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005, that requires Gulf Coast Communities who receive assistance from the federal government for lost tax revenues (to assist in the payment for police officers, firefighters, school teachers and other essential services) to pay back the

aid with interest. Never before has Congress or the President required the repayment of this aid. That is why we are introducing the "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act, Part II."

The "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act, Part II" would repeal the provision in Public Law 109-88 that requires Gulf Coast Communities to repay the assistance they receive under the Community Disaster Loan Program. This legislation would permanently repeal the \$5 million cap on these loans, would make states eligible for this assistance, repeal the cap that limits loans to 25 percent of a municipalities operating expenses, and would provide this assistance as grants when a disaster has been declared an "Incident of National Significance" under the National Response plan (Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were both declared "Incidents of National Significance").

This legislation is similar to H.R. 1795, the "Whatever it Takes to Rebuild Act", which would provide federal assistance for lost tax revenues to New York following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Following 9/11, President Bush also promised New York and the country that we will do whatever it takes to rebuild.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation to provide real relief to the Gulf Coast and let's do what it takes to rebuild.

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TRIBUTE TO MARY BOURDETTE

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Mary Bourdette, a great champion for America's children and families took a leave from her job advocating for parents, and it is important that we take the time to mark her extraordinary career. In her 30 year career, Mary has been an ever-present voice and an unyielding force, reminding everyone around her that we must do much more for children—especially for the most disadvantaged children in our country.

I first met Mary back in California when she was working on improving education in the state. My wife Cynthia and I have long valued Mary for her friendship as well as for her passion for her work. Mary and I worked closely together when I chaired the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families in the 1980's. She is a skilled lobbyist and negotiator and her vision and persistence were critical to my efforts on child welfare policy in addition to numerous other issues.

One of the reasons Mary is so effective in fighting for children is that she is an idealistic pragmatist. She would always fight to the end for what she knew was right. But she was just as committed to getting the different sides together and fostering communication—particularly when the situation was at its most polarized.

Mary advocated for children and families in many capacities here in Washington, DC over the past 30 years. She first fought for the Legal Services Corp. to help ensure that our poorest citizens have access to the legal system that our Constitution promises. She later

worked tirelessly at the Children Defense Fund on the first major expansion of the Earned Income Credit and the original enactment of Child Care and Development Block Grant—programs that have made an enormous difference for America's poorest families. Her work with the Child Welfare League of America as Director of Public Policy also proved vital for the well-being of America's children and families. And her 8 years with the Clinton Administration allowed Mary to play a central and critical role in the many federal policies that affect children.

So I commend Mary for her impressive career and thank her both for the assistance she has provided to me over the years and on behalf of the millions of children who have benefited from her intelligence and passion.

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TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LARRY W. PANKEY

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Larry W. Pankey of Morrison, Colorado. Sergeant Pankey died October 3 at Walter Reed Army Medical center here in the Washington, D.C. area, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Pankey was assigned to the 467th U.S. Army Reserve Engineer Battalion, Greenwood, Mississippi. He is survived by his wife and daughter in Morrison, Colorado, and his mother in Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, we owe Sergeant Pankey a great debt of gratitude for his service to America. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to friends and family of Sergeant Pankey.

He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

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FORMER TAIWANESE PRESIDENT LEE'S VISIT TO D.C.

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would join all Americans in welcoming President Lee, during his historic visit to our Nation's capital from Taiwan.

I am pleased to know he will have the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress.

Taiwan is a beacon of democracy and freedom in the Pacific.

It is my hope Taiwan will continue to shine despite the continued threats across the Strait from China.

I hope in the near future all restrictions on high-level visits from Taiwan would be lifted, so that Members of Congress will be able to welcome the current president of Taiwan to DC as well.

It is important these visits take place so that a balanced understanding of both sides of the Taiwan Strait will be directly available to Congress, the Administration, and the American public.

Congress and the American people remain unequivocally committed in their support for the people of Taiwan.

The Taiwanese should be praised for their continued commitment to freedom, human rights and democracy.

Through the tireless efforts of President Lee, Taiwan will continue to shine as a beacon of democracy and freedom.

Again, we welcome President Lee to Washington, DC during this historic visit.

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INTRODUCING THE IMPROVE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Improve Interoperable Communications for First Responders Act of 2005. This act provides Federal assistance to local first responders for developing an interoperable means of communications. Ensuring first responders at the local, state, and Federal level have the ability to effectively communicate with each other should be one of the Federal Government's top priorities. The ability of first responders to effectively communicate with each other, and with their counterparts at different levels of governments, is key to their ability to save lives in the crucial time immediately after a natural disaster or a terrorist attack.

My bill helps first responders by establishing a Director of Interoperability and Compatibility to help develop a national strategy and architecture for an interoperable system, as well as to bring together Federal, State, local, and tribal officials to work on a coordinated effort to develop and coordinate efforts to implement an interoperable communications system. The bill also provides a grant program so state and local governments can receive Federal assistance for planning and designing an interoperable system, as well as in training first responders how to use the system.

Rather than simply further burdening taxpayers, or increasing the already skyrocketing national debt, my legislation is financed through cuts in corporate welfare and foreign aid programs, which subsidize large corporations and even American businesses' overseas competitors such as the Export-Import Bank use of taxpayer money to underwrite trade with countries such as Communist China. It is time for the Federal Government to begin prioritizing spending by cutting unnecessary programs that benefit powerful special interests in order to meet our constitutional responsibilities to ensure America's first responders can effectively respond to terrorists' attacks.

Mr. Speaker, reducing spending on corporate welfare and foreign aid to strengthen first responders' interoperable capability is a win-win for the American people. I hope my colleagues will help strengthen America's first responders' ability to help the American people in times of terrorists attacks and natural disasters by cosponsoring the Improve Interoperable Communications for First Responders Act.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDMOND YUNIS

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to pay tribute to Dr. Edmond Yunis, a professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, who was recently named the 2005 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year by the Museum of Science and Industry, MOSI, in Tampa, FL.

Dr. Yunis is well-deserving of this prestigious national award as he has made significant contributions in scientific and medical research. This research includes the genetic mapping of human major histocompatibility complex, MHC, genes and their role in immune responses, aging, and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Yunis' laboratory work identifying genes also has been especially important for matching donors and recipients for organ and stem cell transplants.

Dr. Yunis was born in Sincelejo, Colombia, and he received his M.D. from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 1954. Dr. Yunis received his postdoctoral training in pathology at the University of Kansas, the University of Minnesota, and the Children's Hospital in Boston. He joined Harvard Medical School in 1976 as Professor of Pathology, and he became Chief of the Division of Immunogenetics of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute that same year. Along with being a professor of pathology at Harvard, Dr. Yunis currently is a member of the Department of Cancer, Immunology and AIDS at Dana Faber. Dr. Yunis has received numerous medical awards throughout his career for this outstanding work, and he and his wife, Borghild, have four children.

The National Hispanic Scientist of the Year award was established 5 years ago to recognize an outstanding national Hispanic scientist who promotes a greater public understanding of science and who also encourages increased interest in science education by Hispanic youth.

I'm also pleased to know the proceeds from MOSI's National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award Gala on October 22, 2005, go toward scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in MOSI's Youth Enriched by Science program, known as the "YES! Team." Established in 1991, the YES! Team program is designed to help at-risk youth develop self esteem and to encourage them to study science and consider science-related careers.

In conjunction with the weekend gala celebration, MOSI also is hosting a "Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day" where approximately 1,000 Hispanic students from the Tampa Bay area will get a chance to hear a presentation by this year's award winner and to get access to MOSI's hands-on science exhibits. Again, I want to congratulate Dr. Yunis for receiving the 2005 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year award. He serves as an outstanding role model for students in the Tampa Bay area and his visit will help motivate them to stay in school and to realize their dreams.

H.R. 4093, THE "FEDERAL JUDGESHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005"

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act of 2005." I urge the House to pass the legislation expeditiously.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the President with the necessary authority to appoint needed circuit and district court judges and to increase the number of authorized bankruptcy judgeships.

A further purpose is to make changes in the structure of the court of appeals system, which are required to modernize, streamline, and improve the administration of justice for nearly one in five Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the last comprehensive judgeship bill that was passed by Congress was enacted in 1990. Since that time, the volume of cases handled by the judiciary has increased substantially.

The Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act authorizes the creation of 68 new judgeships—12 at the circuit court level and 56 at the district courts. In addition, the bill contains authority to create 24 new permanent or temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

These new judgeships will benefit districts across America. When confirmed, these new judges will be in a position to help address a growing backlog of cases that threatens to clog our courts and imposes substantial human and economic costs on our citizens.

A judiciary that fails in its basic obligation to dispense justice in a timely, fair, and dispassionate manner compromises its own credibility. A court that is too far removed from those whose disputes it is responsible for adjudicating impose severe costs on those who must appear before it. The bill before us speaks to these concerns by providing for the realignment of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the establishment of a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Ninth has become so big—in geographic size, in workload, in number of active and senior judges—that it can no longer appropriately discharge its civic functions on behalf of the American people.

Consider: The Ninth has 47 judges, a figure that approaches twice the number of total judges of the next largest circuit. The Ninth represents 56 million people, or roughly one-fifth of our Nation's population. This is 25 million more people than the second largest circuit. The Ninth encompasses nearly 40 percent of the geographic area of the United States.

The Ninth Circuit also has the most number of appeals filed and the highest percentage increase in appeals filed over the past 4 years. It is the circuit-wide leader in the number of appeals still pending and ranks a close second in the longest median time until disposition.

Given these and other problems created by the mammoth breadth and size of the Ninth, I believe the responsible action is to modernize and streamline the structure of the Courts of Appeals.

Briefly, H.R. 4093 creates a new Ninth that will feature California, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The new Twelfth will consist of the States of Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Importantly in this regard, H.R. 4093 authorizes the President to appoint five new judges to permanent Ninth Circuit seats along with two other judges who will fill temporary seats. My bill provides that the official duty station for these newly authorized judges will be in California.

These additions are consistent with requests made by the Judicial Conference and will ensure that future caseload demands on the new Ninth will more closely mirror its judgeship resources. California is not being singled out or punished by this legislation. Quite the contrary, the district and circuit courts that affect the rights of the citizens of California are being provided with their proportionate share of resources and being liberated to become more productive.

Mr. Speaker, bigger does not always mean better. The constant expansion of the size of a court without also adopting commensurate reforms will, most assuredly, not result in improving the performance of the judiciary.

The allocation of judicial resources must be made with an eye toward achieving structural coherence within each circuit.

H.R. 4093 accomplishes that purpose and I urge its adoption.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
SHAWN BARRINGTON SILVERA**HON. MARK R. KENNEDY**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and service of Officer Shawn Barrington Silver of the Lino Lakes Police Department.

Officer Silvera was killed in the line of duty on September 6th, 2005, when he was struck by a stolen car driven by a convicted felon attempting to evade arrest.

Officer Silvera was a Minnesota family man in the truest sense of the words. He married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, to whom he sent flowers every month to mark their anniversary, even after five years of marriage.

Together, Shawn and Jennifer had two children, eighteen-month-old Jordan and five-month-old Madelynn.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Silvera loved giving back to his community and to society as a whole.

He joined the Lino Lakes Police Department in 1997, but took a leave of absence to work for two years with the Peace Corps in Honduras, where he helped build a community library.

Outside of police work, Officer Silvera worked with the Explorers program, to get teenagers interested in careers in law enforcement. He also served in the D.A.R.E. drug awareness program, and worked as a counselor at the local Safety Camp.

Even after all this volunteer work, Officer Silvera would often join the kids he worked with for lunch or a game of football or basketball.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Silvrá knew the dangers of his profession, but he also knew of its importance. He genuinely loved helping people, and he touched countless lives before his tragic death.

Officer Silvera was a true American hero, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family for their loss.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE AASU TENNIS TEAM

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I come forth today with the honor of recognizing Georgia's Armstrong Atlantic State University women's NCAA National Champion tennis team. The Armstrong Atlantic women's tennis team did an outstanding job capturing the school's third NCAA Division II National Championship in 2005, defeating BYU—Hawaii by a score of 5–3 to win the title.

The No. 2-ranked Lady Pirates ended BYU—Hawaii's NCAA record of 130-match winning streak with the victory and finished a hard undefeated season of their own at 30–0.

One of only 10 teams across every sport and division of the NCAA put together an undefeated campaign.

AASU, who's other National Championships came in 1995 and 1996, accomplished the feat with unprecedented team depth as all six starters on the squad earned All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

Junior Luisa Cowper (Sutton Coldfield, England) finished the year as the No. 3-ranked singles player in the Nation and was named the Peach Belt Conference's Player of the Year.

Sophomore Dziyana Nazaruk (Minsk, Belarus) was the No. 8-ranked singles player and was named the ITA's "Player to Watch" in 2005.

Freshman Johanna Dahlback (Hasselby, Sweden) won the clinching match in the national championship victory and was the No. 9-ranked singles player in the Nation.

Juniors Caroline Grage (Hamburg, Germany) and Manuela Emmrich (Magdeburg, Germany) teamed together to make up the No. 8-ranked doubles team in the Nation, while senior Laura Peaty (Loughborough, England) teamed with Cowper to make up the No. 3-ranked doubles team in the Nation.

The man who provided guidance for the women's success is Head coach Simon Earnshaw. He was named the Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year for his efforts in earning his first National Championship.

I am very proud of this team for displaying such hard work and sportsmanship throughout the season and can only hope that they might bring the National Championship title back to Georgia in 2006.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE MARSHALL PETER BRIERTY IS A TRUE NATIONAL FORESTRY HERO

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor San Bernardino County Fire Marshall Peter Brierty, who has been recognized this month as a National Forestry Hero. I know from personal experience that this award is justly deserved, for Peter Brierty is widely regarded among my constituents as one of the heroes who saved thousands of people and their homes from the terrible fires of 2003 in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Many of my colleagues have heard me speak on the urgent need to get rid of millions of trees killed by a drought and insect attacks in and around the San Bernardino National Forest in my district. The fire danger from these trees jeopardizes the lives and homes of tens of thousands of people and homes that make this one of the most urbanized forests in the Nation.

One of the first people to understand the potential danger from this situation was Peter Brierty. More importantly, Peter Brierty realized the need to act quickly and bring the whole community together to reduce the danger and be ready to evacuate if fires struck. For most of the past three years, Fire Marshall Brierty has worked tirelessly, pushing his staff and other public officials to develop these plans. He has become a well-known figure at countless meetings with residents, convincing them of the need to cooperate to save lives and property.

Under Fire Marshall Brierty's direction, San Bernardino County launched an ambitious effort to eliminate dead and dying trees on private and public lands outside of the national forest. The operation he created has been highly praised by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which has funded the effort, as extremely cost-efficient and effective.

But the danger was too great in 2003, and the "Old Fire" struck before we could even begin to cut enough trees to stop it. Nearly 70,000 people were in danger, but the plan devised by Fire Marshall Brierty and other county, state and federal officials safely evacuated all of them. Not one life was lost in the fire, even though 350 structures and more than 800,000 acres were ravaged by the blaze.

Mr. Speaker, many people have devoted countless hours and unlimited energy to reducing the fire danger and restoring the forest in the San Bernardino Mountains. The task is far from finished, but we have seen two fire seasons now in which no major blaze has threatened homes to the extent of the Old Fire.

In recognition of the role he played in confronting this threat to whole communities, Fire Marshall Peter Brierty was presented the 2005 National Forestry Heroism Award by the STIHL Incorporated this month. I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for this recognition, and thanking him for his unswerving devotion to public service.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER PAUL PILLEN

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pilleen. He was killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Paul's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Paul, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pilleen lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pilleen. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS SCHELLING'S NOBEL PRIZE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I often talk with great pride about the University of Maryland, both as an outstanding academic institution and as my alma mater. Today is no different. While this latest achievement revolves around the concept of games, it is not Gary Williams or Ralph Friedgen who are bringing home the hardware. Instead, it's Thomas Schelling, a University of Maryland professor and 50-year expert in the concept known as "game theory," who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences last week.

The Fifth Congressional District congratulates Professor Schelling, whose contributions to economics will influence generations of policy-makers, diplomats, and strategic thinkers. Schelling is best known for his book, "The Strategy of Conflict," a groundbreaking effort to deter the use of nuclear weapons. Schelling used his "game theory" to explain how the Cold War could effectively be prevented from turning into a nuclear holocaust. As Michael Kinsley recently noted in the Washington Post, Schelling's theory was born to deal with interdependence. "The other side had to be confident that it could survive and retaliate if you went first," he said. "Otherwise, in a crisis, it would be sorely tempted to go first."

Fortunately, the world averted disaster in the case of the Cold War, but many modern day security threats remain. With nuclear terrorism the most glaring and preventable

homeland security challenge of our time, world leaders would be wise to consider Professor Schelling's theory wherever possible.

Professor Schelling has spent the majority of his adult life championing the most patriotic of causes: applying behavioral and economic sciences for the promotion of peace. The Nobel Academy rightly recognized his distinguished career, and the Nation should be proud of his accomplishments. As a native of Maryland and an alumnus of the place Schelling calls home, I take special pride in saluting his success.

CONGRATULATING CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP ON THEIR RECEIPT OF THE 2005 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Citizens Financial Group, recently chosen as a recipient of the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award recognizes employers that were nominated by their employees who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. This is the highest national award a company can receive for its support of the National Guard and Reserve.

Citizens is the first Rhode Island employer to win the highest national award for their outstanding support of colleagues serving in the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Citizens is one of only 15 employers in the United States to receive this prestigious award from among 1,492 nominees.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award reflects the exceptional support, leadership, and devotion provided by employers to our brave men and women of the Reserve Forces. The importance of employers who are supportive of our enlisted men and women should never be underestimated, and Rhode Island is proud to have employers like Citizens Financial Group hard at work in our community. On behalf of my home state, I would like to thank Citizens Financial Group for their dedication, and I wish them much success in the future.

ENCOURAGE INITIATIVE AND SELF-ESTEEM

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a bill I have just introduced, H.R. 4095, the Encourage Initiative and Promote Self-Esteem Act of 2005.

There are many people in our country who receive Social Security Disability benefits (SSD) because they have a "waxing and waning" disease—Behcet's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Parkinson's, Cancer, AIDS and

Arthritis are examples of "waxing and waning" diseases. Eric Peterson, who lives in my Congressional District, has taught me a great deal about these diseases and the need for a better way for people to seek and keep SSD.

This process of seeking SSD and keeping it is often times an adversarial one. The climate of suspicion that applicants and recipients say they feel leaves many to view the Social Security Administration, SSA, with a jaundiced eye. Everyone who actually gains disability benefits remembers the hoops of fire they had to jump through during the application process. As a result, many people often do not consider a try at working, fearing that the SSA will use that against them to deny future benefits. With concerns over fraudulent claims, I can understand how this environment came to be. But that doesn't make it right.

For people with "waxing and waning" diseases and conditions, they know that they will have good days and bad. They know that, barring a cure, they will always be sick, but that does not diminish their spirit. There needs to be a program that encourage people in this situation to secure temporary employment when they feel they can work without placing their SSD at risk for the times they cannot work.

Currently, if a person makes more than \$810 a month, disability benefits will stop. If one makes \$810 but then has less money than his SSD, there is no incentive to work. H.R. 4095 would install a system based on a sliding scale. The more money one earns, the fewer benefits he or she receives. But there will be a built-in incentive to stay the course because the total monthly income when working will be more than either the work income or SSD.

In addition, if a person makes \$300 or more a month, their review is put aside. This incentive will further encourage people to push themselves to continue working if at all possible.

Imagine a situation where those on SSD who have diseases that "wax and wane" could work, without fear, when able. That would be a lot of money put back into the Treasury in payroll withholdings and taxes—and more money put into the economy in increased purchasing, not to mention the contribution to society and elevated self-esteem of the workers. Think about the faith these people would have in a system of government that treats its people with dignity and respect instead of suspicion and contempt.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4095 improve the lives of thousands of Americans.

HONORING SHELDON LATZ

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheldon Latz who was named the 2004 Urban County Engineer of the Year award from the National Association of County Engineers during its annual conference. Sheldon was recently named Urban Engineer of the Year by the Illinois Association of County Engineers. That nomination put him in the running for the national award.

Sheldon has been employed by Will County since June 11, 1961 and has been the County

Engineer since 1996. When Sheldon first started working for the County, Interstate 55 was new and Interstate 80 did not even exist. A lot of the local roads were graveled and less than two lanes wide. Today, those same roads are paved and are four or five lanes wide. Will County has gone from a quiet rural area to one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. According to Sheldon, he is most proud of the CenterPoint development in Elwood which is located on the former Joliet Arsenal property. Bringing roads into the development has been a highlight of his career.

Sheldon's dream as a child was to be an engineer. He has a passion for road work that has never left his system. His love for the profession has prompted Sheldon to become a Joliet Junior College Adjunct Professor in 1974 where he has taught several courses in architecture, engineering and construction. Sheldon served in the United States Army as an Army medic and a Preventive Medicine Specialist teaching sewage and water treatment process and prevention of water borne diseases.

Not content to stay on the sidelines, Sheldon also serves on several local boards which includes Howell Shooting Club and the Howell Youth Shooting Camp. The camp gives girls and boys an opportunity to come together under a formal program to experience and grow in their appreciation of shooting sports. Sheldon and his wife Janice have four children and seven grandchildren.

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

HONORING PROFESSOR RICHARD P. BERG

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Professor Richard P. Berg for 31 years of teaching, scholarship and service to the Santa Clara University School of Law.

Professor Berg has served as a Professor of Law at the Santa Clara University School of Law for 31 years. Throughout his tenure, Professor Berg has dedicated himself to serving the public and working for social justice. He was chair of the Santa Clara University School of Law Public Interest and Social Justice Endowment, which funds financial assistance programs for volunteers and attorneys working in public interest and social justice fields. Last year alone, the Endowment provided \$66,750 in summer grants for 23 students working as volunteers with public interest and social justice programs, and \$17,000 in Income Supplement Grants for attorneys working with similar organizations.

Professor Berg also has served on the board of directors of several public interest organizations, and has been active in international issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. He has been the director of the Singapore-Bangkok summer law program since 1984 and is active in dispute resolution organizations such as the American Arbitration Association and Asia Pacific Organization for Mediation.

Prior to coming to Santa Clara University School of Law, Professor Berg earned his B.A. in Economics from the University of Michigan in 1965, and received his J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law in 1968. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from law school, was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served on the Editorial Board of the Michigan Law Review.

After earning his J.D., Professor Berg was an Associate in Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow in Poverty Law, and Staff Counsel and Economic Development Specialist, at the National Housing and Economic Development Law Center in Berkeley, California. He also published an article in the San Diego Law Review on a major class action case, *Zahn v. International Paper* in 1974, and a short article on Prisoners' Rights and Jail Conditions in the *et al Magazine* in 1970.

On a personal level, I played a key role in helping Richard to marry his wonderful wife of many years, Mare, and we meet every year at the SCCS graduation to enjoy the past and plot the future of our wonderful law school as well as our wonderful country.

As an alumna of the Law School, it is an honor to recognize Professor Berg's contributions to the legal community and the Santa Clara University School of Law. Professor Berg instilled in thousands of students an awareness of social justice, and inspired countless attorneys to dedicate their careers to making "Equal Justice Under Law" a reality.

#### INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY CENTERS ESTABLISHMENT ACT

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act. Many of us share the belief that the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina was disorganized and inadequate. FEMA was far too slow to arrive, and evacuees were left stranded in massive shelters with egregious standard of living violations. Victims of the storm are now spread all over the country, costing the government \$11 million per day just to house only a portion of evacuees in hotels. Tens of thousands are still living in inadequate shelters and even tents—months after the storm—with little assurances for their safety and security.

These two problems—increasing the availability of temporary housing in times of national emergencies and improving training and preparedness for national emergencies—must be resolved to ensure that the humanitarian catastrophe that occurred in the gulf coast and continues to happen today will never occur again.

I come to the floor today to introduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act. My bill establishes no fewer than six National Emergency Centers spread throughout the United States. The Centers would be used, first and foremost, to provide temporary housing, medical and humanitarian assistance, including education, for individuals and families displaced due to an emergency. The Cen-

ters would also serve as a centralized location for the training and coordination of first responders in the instance of an emergency. In turn, the Centers will improve the coordination of preparedness, response and recovery efforts between government, private, not-for-profit entities and faith-based organizations.

The National Emergency Centers would be located on military bases, with a preference wherever possible for those installations closed during the most recent BRAC round. I am proposing these sites because the necessary infrastructure to house, feed, educate and care for evacuees over an extended period of time is already in place, thus limiting the cost and time needed to construct these facilities.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation was not prepared for the disastrous hurricanes that struck the gulf coast last month. The establishment of National Emergency Centers will go a long way to ensuring that our response to national emergencies are not as disastrous as the disasters that created the emergencies in the first place.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSETTA JAMES

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize one North Alabama's most compassionate citizens, Mrs. Rosetta James. Mrs. James, who is celebrating her 80th birthday in Huntsville, Alabama has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

Mrs. James was born in Akron, Alabama. After 27 years in the State of New York, she returned to her home State in 1973, and has spent the last 32 years serving in various community, church, and civic roles.

Among her many accomplishments, Mrs. James has served her community and her State as the Alabama Democratic Conference Chairperson from 1992 to 1996. Additionally, she was appointed by Governor Fob James as the first volunteer Deputy Registrar in Madison County, has served on the Huntsville City Schools Advisory Council, the Family Service Center Board, and has volunteered with the Madison County Board of Volunteers and Corrections, the NAACP, and many more.

Furthermore Mr. Speaker, Mrs. James continues her extraordinary work throughout the community today. Currently, she volunteers at two community schools to help children learn to read. Mrs. James also continues to inspire others to take an active role in the community. In addition, she works to organize voter registration drives and absentee ballots for people who cannot go to the polls.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. James has had a tremendous positive impact on our community in Huntsville. On October 21st, Mrs. James' family and friends are gathering to celebrate her 80th birthday with a surprise party. I rise, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama to thank her for everything she has done for the area and to wish her a happy and healthy 80th year.

#### THE 9/11 COMMISSION FINAL REPORT ONE YEAR LATER

### HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mrs. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter the following into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

#### THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT ONE YEAR LATER

A CITIZENS' RESPONSE: DID THE COMMISSION  
GET IT RIGHT?

*A Congressional Briefing Convened on the First  
Anniversary of the Release of the 9/11 Commission Report, Friday, July 22, 2005*

EXCERPTS FROM THE TESTIMONY

#### *Opening Remarks*

Rep. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Last year, we got the final report, an extensive, prosaically impressive report, but as some of us sat down to read it, the errors and omissions immediately jumped out at us. How was it that it took over an hour after the first transponder went off before planes were scrambled to meet the threat, all of them too late? What happened to those reports that surfaced within months of September 11th stating that seven or more of the alleged hijackers had come forward and claimed they were victims of stolen identities and were alive and well, living in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Tunisia? Why did the Commission choose not even to address this? What about Osama bin Laden and his role in the Mujahedin backed by the CIA in the 1980s to fight the Soviets? The Commission didn't go there . . . We cannot afford to shy away from inconvenient truths. Many of you may find what you hear today to be inconvenient information. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but times of challenge and controversy. I encourage you to engage with the issues that are raised. If you don't agree or don't like what you hear, challenge it. I believe that we should take in what every reasonable person has to say, to inform our decisions, because that is the best way to find the truth. In our pursuit of the truth, I encourage you to emulate the courage and the determination of the September 11th families in their struggle to know what really happened.

#### *9/11 Families Report*

Ms. LORIE VAN AUKEN: A thorough and definitive investigation by the Commission . . . would have subpoenaed for the information it required and examined the plethora of information that other citizens and groups responsibly provided. . . it would have reported all of its findings with its redactions blacked out and submitted to the American people. In essence, the Commission could have produced a final product where the resulting conclusions and recommendations could be trusted. Instead, at the end of the day, what we got were some statements that truly insulted the intelligence of the American people, violated our loved ones' memories, and might end up hurting us one day soon.

One such statement was that 9/11 was a failure of imagination: a failure of whose imagination? What exactly does that mean? When you have a CIA Director with his hair on fire, a system blinking red, 52 FAA warnings, an August 6, 2001 PDB entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in the United States," leads on several 9/11 hijackers . . . warnings from many foreign governments, a

Phoenix memo, warning of Islamic extremists taking flying lessons, the arrest of would be terrorists Zacarias Moussaoui, facts imparted to one agent, Agent Frasca, at the RFU of the FBI, 9/11 was truly a failure, all right, but I would certainly not call it a failure of imagination. Another outrageous statement made at the time of the release of the 9/11 final report that got a fair amount of media coverage was the one "Everyone's to blame, therefore, no one's to blame." The problem with that assumption is that it creates a no fault Government, and a no fault Government does nothing to ensure that things will be different or better in the future. When you hold people accountable, it serves as a deterrent for those that would repeat that same behavior in the future. For the record, I would like to see that assumption restated to read "Everyone's to blame, therefore, everyone's to blame." In fact, the fact that there has been no accountability for the failures that led to the deaths of almost 3,000 people is truly unconscionable and irresponsible on the part of all of our nation's leaders. The tools of democracy available to the citizens of America to address these issues are incredibly limited. We asked for an independent commission to investigate 9/11 because that was the only tool that we, as American citizens, had access to, and hoped that our leaders, the members of Congress and the American public, would ensure its validity and that its ensuing recommendations would make us all safer, as safe as we could reasonably expect to be in the event of another attack. Sadly, as Americans, we have all been let down.

*Behind the 9/11 Commission: Flaws in the Process*

Mr. JOHN JUDGE: This Commission's report is not a rush to judgment. It's rather a rush to exoneration. It fails to really hold people to accountability . . . By approaching the whole matter as an intelligence failure in the report, it obscured the evidence that what was normally a standard operating procedure in the period prior to 9/11 fell apart, apparently, in the months around and on that day. It led to them pursuing leads and suspects, basically accepting earlier reports without doing further follow up, blaming certain suspects, even though the evidence is we don't yet clearly know who the suspects were that got onto the plane, and that's because several people have come forward saying that their identity was stolen, basically, by these people. We are left with a story that comes from people that we can't get to, and we are left with a story that perhaps is giving us the wrong direction in terms of how we are looking. Until we open up the report and until we can look at the actual evidence and compare it, and begin to actually investigate further on many of the areas that the Commission ignored, then we have a report that doesn't eventually serve the mandate that this Commission was required to take care of, looking at the truth of terrorist acts upon the United States.

Mr. MELVIN GOODMAN: The most important individual to me, other than a commissioner, was the staff director, Philip Zelikow. His conflicts of interest were so great that you do have to wonder why this individual was appointed to head this important staff of over 80 people. He had very strong ties to the George Herbert Walker Bush Administration. Very strong personal and political and policy ties to Condoleezza Rice. More importantly, Philip Zelikow was running the case study program at Harvard which took millions of dollars from the Central Intelligence Agency over a ten year period to write case studies on the CIA, to establish a record that was essentially untrue with the facts about the work of the CIA. Of

course, the classic case study that Philip Zelikow chaired, along with Ernest May, who was his patron at the Harvard Kennedy School, was the case on the Soviet Union, how the CIA got it right. You know, the politics of getting it right. Of course, as we all know, one of the greatest disasters of politicization of intelligence that occurred even before the Iraq war was over the politicization of intelligence on the Soviet Union. Who did Philip Zelikow bring into the staff structure as a team leader on his staff? None other than Douglas MacEachin, who was serving a tour up at the Harvard Kennedy School. Who was Douglas MacEachin? Douglas MacEachin was the head of the Soviet analysis job during the 1980s . . . responsible for most of the politicization of intelligence. Here you have Philip Zelikow from Harvard and the case study program, and Douglas MacEachin, as a team leader on Zelikow's staff, making serious decisions about the need for change within the intelligence community.

*Omissions and Errors in the Commission's Final Report*

Mr. PAUL THOMPSON: The 9/11 Commission claims it wasn't until 9:20 when Indianapolis communicated with the FAA command center and notified them that Flight 77 was missing, and then the information started to get out to other command centers, but still, NORAD wasn't notified. We are talking over half an hour later, the plane has been missing, still no one notifies NORAD, until finally 9:34, three minutes before the plane crashes, and then it was only mentioned inadvertently in passing when talked about with something else.

In order for this to be true, the 9/11 Commission is making the claim essentially that the Indianapolis flight control center and the local FAA center that they contacted were in complete lack of contact with the outside world during this time, that they were unaware, unlike the tens of millions of people who had been watching CNN, that there was an ongoing crisis, that planes had crashed into the World Trade Center, two planes. They are saying that all the way until 9:20, there has been over half an hour now where this has been the breaking news, that nobody in this entire Indianapolis flight control center or the FAA center had any idea that any of this had been happening.

We know that just isn't true. In fact, there was one news report saying that other centers such as theirs had been notified of the crisis long before the first plane even crashed into the World Trade Center. What we see is an account coming from the 9/11 Commission that in my opinion is just frankly impossible.

Mr. JOHN NEWMAN: An FBI team working with cell phone numbers provided by Indian intelligence uncovered a new smoking gun. They learned that the chief of the ISI, Mahmood Ahmed, had ordered Saeed Sheikh to send \$100,000 of the kidnapping ransom to Mohamed Atta a month before the 9/11 attacks. This ugly detail emerged when the FBI team ran traces on Saeed Sheikh's cell phone number beginning in July; the ISI chiefs number was among the regular people that Saeed Sheikh communicated with. On October 7th, President Musharraf sacked Ahmed for this notorious act. This story was widely covered in the press around the world, not covered here in the United States . . . It's hard to imagine a revelation more damaging than the fact that Pakistan's intelligence service and most powerful Army commanders were behind the 9/11 attacks and the paymaster, a known terrorist who had been able to carry out his mission because the U.S. and U.K. had set aside justice for his crimes . . . that a sovereign govern-

ment and supposed ally was so directly involved in the 9/11 atrocity must have stunned and deeply embarrassed the American Administration . . . The story of Saeed Sheikh and the generals are only lightly covered in western media, and only one American newspaper, the Wall Street Journal, carried it on October 10th.

The 9/11 Commission report which carries Mustafa al-Hawsawi as the paymaster and Sheikh Saeed as the al-Qaeda CFO, has dodged the issue, and does not say if the two are the same or not. Thus, technically, even if the Commission staff knew the truth, they have not told a bald lie. The Administration officials speak on terms of anonymity and were told that the Justice Department had pressed the National Security Council to have Saeed Sheikh extradited. One might be justified in asking the question why would the National Security Council have to be pressed to extradite a murderer of U.S. citizens? By late February [2002], the issue was moot. Pearl was murdered, and Musharraf swore he would personally hang him [for Pearl's murder] before turning him over to the Americans, unlike Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, whom he did turn over. Of course, they had not been western penetrators of al-Qaeda . . . We can no longer say we are protecting sources and methods about a story known to the rest of this planet. We are now mocked for our ignorance about this story, and even members of Britain's Parliament poke fun at us. It is long past time to come clean about Saeed Sheikh.

*9/11 in Historical Perspective: Flawed Assumptions*

Ms. LORETTA NAPOLIONE: . . . we need to implement a forward looking anti-terrorist policy, one which predicts the enemy's next move. . . . a forward looking anti-terrorist financing policy should look at the situation in Congo, isolated as a potential area where terrorist financing could take place. In order to prevent that, it should dismantle this business of smuggling gold . . . Of course, a forward looking approach in the fight against terrorism will require the full participation of the private sector, and a multilateral policy. One country alone, not even if it is the United States, can actually fight this war on terror alone. Among other things, this policy, if implemented, will then cut the link between crime and terror. Terror will not any longer be a very profitable partner for crime. Breaking the link between crime and terror would already be a step forward, which you have not yet made.

Ms. ANNE NORTON: Neoconservative foreign policy centers on a fear of world government and the international institutions that might lead to it, most notably, the United Nations, a rejection of multilateralism, and as they say, above all, the ability to distinguish friends from enemies. . . . Europeans regard neoconservatism with special skepticism, and they do so, as you might have already realized, because they know its progenitors all too well, the desire for the combination of traditional values, the desire for an expansion of executive power, the ambition to create a new world order, and the identification of a providential enemy are all parts of a very familiar past, the shadows of German national socialism and 19th Century European empires fall very heavily on the neo conservative project. As the Administration responded to 9/11, this influence became increasingly evident.

Mr. PETER DALE SCOTT: The 9/11 report describes Ali Mohamed as "a former Egyptian Army officer who had moved to the United States in the mid 1980s, enlisted in the U.S. Army, and became an instructor at Ft. Bragg, as well as helping to plan the

bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya." In fact, Ali Mohamed was a very important al Qaeda agent who, as the 9/11 Commission was told, "trained most of the al Qaeda's top leadership, including persons who would later carry out the 1993 World Trade Center bombing." Ali Mohamed clearly enjoyed U.S. protection. In 1993, he was detained by the RCMP in Canada, and a single phone call to the United States secured his release. This enabled him to play a role in the same year in planning the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya in 1998. Eventually, he was allowed to plea bargain and receive a secret sentence. We don't know what the sentence is . . . The amazing thing, although he was named as a conspirator in that bombing, he was not an indicted conspirator, which itself is evidence of something going on behind the scene. Congress should determine the true relationship of the U.S. Government to Ali Mohamed, who was close to Bin Laden and above all, al Zawahiri, who has been called the main player in 9/11. This is very important, I think, whereas the report focuses almost uniquely on Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Ramzi bin Al Shibh. Many other sources independently say the main figure and the top brains in al Qaeda was al Zawahiri, who Ali Mohamed was clearly close to.

Mr. NAFEEZ AHMED: In April 1991, according to a classified U.S. intelligence report, then head of Saudi Intelligence Services, Prince Turki al Faisal, struck a secret deal with Bin Laden, despite his being under house arrest for his opposition to the presence of U.S. soldiers. Under this deal, although the regime would publicly disown him, Bin Laden was permitted to leave Saudi Arabia with his funding and supporters. Moreover, the regime would continue to fund his activities on the condition that he does not target the Saudi kingdom himself. Posner's accounts of a secret agreement between Bin Laden and Saudi intelligence is significant because he argues this was known to U.S. intelligence, this wasn't something that we didn't know. Levivier also interviewed a CIA analyst about the role of the Mujahedin. This CIA agent said "The policy of guiding the evolution of Islam and of helping them against our adversaries worked marvelously well in Afghanistan against the Red army. The same doctrines can still be used to destabilize what remains of Russian power, and especially to counter the Chinese influence in Central Asia." When I read this, I was quite surprised. Could this really be possible?

Suffice it to say in conclusion, this is a phenomenon I have discovered to be paraded throughout many regions in the Middle East and Central Asia. It is a very worrying phenomenon. It fundamentally challenges the whole paradigm of the war on terror. If we are allying ourselves in some manner with al Qaeda in this rather direct way, how can we fight a war and win? It just doesn't make any sense.

*Foreign Policy: Immediate Response and Recommendations*

Mr. WAYNE SMITH: The 9/11 Commission report says that the United States should engage its friends to develop a common coalition approach toward the detention and humane treatment of captured terrorists. New principles might draw upon Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions on the law of armed conflict. That article was specifically designed for those cases in which the usual laws of war did not apply. In other words, these cases in which our Government tells us the Geneva Conventions don't apply. The minimum standards are generally accepted throughout the world as customary international law. What does Article 3 call for? Well, among other things, it prohibits out-

rages . . . upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment. All these practices of stripping the prisoners naked, putting women's underwear or perhaps even men's underwear on their heads, is degrading treatment. It is prohibited by international law. . . . I'm not ageless, but I have lived a long time, and I don't remember ever having been ashamed of what we were doing to foreign prisoners. In World War II, we treated prisoners well, let's say soldiers. Even German spies arrested in the United States were not treated in a degrading manner . . . This is not an intelligent way to proceed in our struggle against terrorism. We ought to get back to full respect for international law, and fully humane treatment of all prisoners, without any exception.

Mr. ROBERT MCILVAINE: I had an unbelievable opportunity to go to Bogota. I haven't flown since 9/11. Not that I'm necessarily afraid, but I just won't fly. I've learned too much about the shoe bomber. I'm just not going to leave the country. Bogota, they have an international conference on violence and terrorism, and they called me to speak down there. I decided to do it. There were probably about 2,000 people in the auditorium, the first two rows were all victims. 13 year olds with legs missing. Burn victims. I had dinner with one burn victim, 75 percent of her body, an African/Columbian. She lost her three children and her husband. I said, I feel sorry for myself sometimes. That woman could sit there and laugh with me, because you have a bond with people who have suffered. That is what we have to think about. It's the civilians, the 25,000 civilians in Iraq that have died, and 500,000 people in Iraq that have died in the 1990s. What is this foreign policy that we have? We talk about Pax Americana. In Latin, does that not mean American peace? Have we perpetrated peace in this world? Have we, since 1945? I think not.

*Domestic Policy: Immediate Response and Recommendations*

Ms. ELAINE CASSEL: Four years since September 11th, almost four years, and one year since the 9/11 Commission's report, critical infrastructures and resources are unprotected, and protections are unplanned, as far as I know. Co-Chair of the panel, Lee Hamilton, mentioned that this morning in a press briefing. He was very frustrated by that, and he mentioned these are difficult tasks to take on. Yes . . . it's hard to try to assess the risk to our critical infrastructure and to intervene and prevention . . . It's easy to open a file on demonstrators against the Administration's policies and conduct surveillance on the ACLU and Greenpeace, as the Washington Post reported last week. I seriously doubt that the ACLU and Greenpeace are terrorist organizations. In fact, if they were, the Government would have shut them down. Why are we paying the FBI's counterterrorism unit to amass thousands of files on these organizations and individuals?

Mr. C. WILLIAM MICHAELS: I still do not think the case has been made that civil liberties of any sort must be compromised so we can get to the bottom of what terrorist conspiracies may or may not be operating within the United States. All of this plus the scope and approach of the 9/11 Commission recommendations, which deal with everything from the FBI, passports, driver's licenses, airline passengers, brings me to the final points. And that is the effect we may be seeing as these varied parallel developments, including, of course, the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the situation in military commissions in Camp Delta, Guantanamo Bay, which continue to unfold as we dispense with the legal preliminaries, and U.S. citizens

held as enemy combatants, come to a single point, which should be considered as we continue with this national debate as what might be on the horizon at that point. Here they are, 12 common characteristics of a national security state:

1. Visible increase in uniformed security personnel.
2. Lack of civil accountability for the actions of law enforcement and security personnel.
3. Reduced role of the judiciary and executive treatment of suspects.
4. Secrecy of ruling authority and momentum of the threat.
5. Media in the service of the state.
6. Public and national resources called to service against security threat.
7. Patriotism moving to nationalism.
8. Lack of critical response by religious denominations.
9. War time mentality and permanent war economy.
10. Targeted individuals or groups.
11. Direct attack against dissent.
12. Increased surveillance of citizenry.

*Intelligence Reform: Immediate Response and Recommendations*

Mr. DAVID MACMICHAEL: the quote I want to give you is from a book written by a very interesting man, now deceased, Arthur Macy Cox, who was George Kennan's principal assistant when George Kennan, post World War II, was head of the State Department's Planning Office . . . His book is called *The Myths of National Security, the Peril of Secret Government* . . . published by Beacon Press in 1975:

"The drafters of the Constitution provided us with an ingenious system of Government based on machinery to check and balance the use of power, but they did not anticipate the problem of secret Government, nor has that problem been dealt with in subsequent constitutional amendments. Despite a lack of safeguards, a large consensus of the American public since World War II, has granted to succeeding presidents extraordinary secret powers to protect the security of the nation. The people felt that in matters of national survival, the President should be given total trust. He should be allowed to make decisions in secret to protect our national security, but democracy and secrecy are incompatible and it has now become clear that secret powers should never have been delegated without guarantees of accountability to the people's representatives in the Congress."

Mr. JOHN NUTTER: As I listened to David, I was struck by the various documents that I've read in my scholarship, documents like the Tower Commission report on Iran Contra, the Church Committee, the Pike Committee, and its recommendations, the Taylor Committee, which some of you may recognize as the postmortem on the Bay of Pigs . . . One could very easily take the recommendations from any of those reports, cut and paste them into the 9/11 Commission, and you wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

*Closing Remarks*

Rep. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I would just like to say after we have heard all of the testimony that has been presented to us today, there is one thing that is very clear, and that is that we must know what our Government is doing in our name. The American people have to inform themselves, despite the failure of the corporate press, to investigate the information in the public domain that provides answers to our questions. Today is a very special day because we have brought truth to Capitol Hill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes on October 19, 2005. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 529, on agreeing to Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 530, on agreeing to Filner of California amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 531 on agreeing to Scott of Virginia amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 532, on agreeing to Waxman of California amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 533, on passage of H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “yes.”

**THE ERITREA-ETHIOPIA BORDER  
DISPUTE NEEDS AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP**

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Ethiopia have a long diplomatic history. It is a place that many Americans are familiar with.

Next door to Ethiopia spreading out along the strategic Red Sea coastline is Eritrea, a relatively new country, and a place that few Americans seem to fully understand.

The United States wants to have a good relationship with both Ethiopia and Eritrea. However, bilateral ties with both are weak and deteriorating.

This situation can be corrected, but it will take more interest and involvement by senior leaders in the U.S. government.

Congress is doing its part.

Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Representative DON PAYNE of the Africa subcommittee have held hearings on the border dispute earlier this year and have recently traveled to the region.

Last year Congress passed Senate-originated legislation, which became law, restricting assistance to Ethiopia or Eritrea for non-compliance to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission findings. Unfortunately, in January 2005, the executive branch waived this provision on national security grounds. I say “unfortunately” because it is because of our national security interest that the provision should have been kept in place. Uncertainty on the border issue creates uncertainty in the region.

Members have written letters to Secretary Rice and President Bush. We have urged

them to clarify our policy and to become engaged in this increasingly volatile part of the world. The responses from the State Department have been unhelpful and lead us to believe that either there is no policy, or the policy is to apply political pressure on Eritrea until there is war—and then blame Eritrea for not compromising with Ethiopia—or continuously pressure Eritrea until they agree to renegotiate the final and binding decision of the EEBC.

From Eritrea’s perspective, everything depends on full implementation of the EEBC decisions. The U.S. supposedly supports the EEBC decisions, but if it does, then its support appears to be very weak.

The U.S. policy, whatever it is, has one clear result: the status quo remains in place.

Unfortunately, the status quo is untenable and will ultimately result in a renewal of hostilities. The current stalemate is clearly driving the region towards war.

The border demarcation crisis is an existential threat to the security of Eritrea. The dialogue and discussion now being requested by Ethiopia has already occurred and is articulated by the EEBC. This fact underlies Eritrea’s unwillingness to dialogue further with Ethiopia or with U.N. Special Envoy Lloyd Axworthy on border demarcation. The failure to resolve the border impacts all aspects of thinking in Eritrea. Eritrea believes that protecting the security and sovereignty of the nation is the first responsibility of the government.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear: Ethiopian troops are occupying sovereign Eritrean territory today and have done so for years.

Because Eritrea is a small developing country the current situation puts into effect enormous internal pressures. But Eritrea will not compromise its national sovereignty, and will instead invoke the right to self-defense as articulated in Article 51 of the U.N. Charter and move to secure its territory by force as the international community fails to implement and enforce the rule of law and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

I am confident that if President Bush knew the details of this situation personally, that he would be very disappointed in the officials responsible for this weak policy. It does not reflect the President’s love for freedom and justice. Our policy leads nowhere but to war. That is unacceptable.

Someone has this problem figured out wrong. Today’s approach mirrors the thinking of the Clinton Administration. One wonders where the Republican appointees are in the policy-making process concerning this part of the world.

There is active discussion among Members about potential solutions. One common aspect of all potential courses of action is that more U.S. leadership is needed.

U.S. leadership makes a difference. Clear policy statements by President Bush and other senior officials preceded Charles Taylor leaving Liberia, Syrian troops leaving Lebanon, Israeli settlements leaving Gaza, Viktor Yushenko’s election as President in Ukraine and so many other recent developments.

China is paying attention to this region. Sudan has thousands of PRC advisors working in the oil and gas business as well as military advisors. China is rapidly expanding its relationship with Ethiopia and Eritrea. These relationships with China will falter over time, but right now Beijing seems to be paying at-

tention to the Horn of Africa and we appear to be asleep at the switch. Someone at the State Department needs to wake up before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress is calling on the Administration to make a clear statement of our policy on the Eritrea-Ethiopia border demarcation issue. A clear statement urging Ethiopia to unconditionally and swiftly implement the EEBC’s final and binding decision will set in motion positive forces that enable success. Further, such clarity would go a long way to starting a process that would very likely resolve this knotty border matter through a peaceful and diplomatic process rather than by more bloodshed.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY  
PRICE DISCIPLINE ACT OF 2005**

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the “Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005.” This timely and important piece of legislation will ensure that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has the tools to investigate and strongly prosecute price gouging across the nation by those refining, selling, or shipping crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, or petroleum distillates.

Today, Americans are paying more than ever before for the fuel they need to run their cars and heat their homes. Even before the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, consumers were paying almost a dollar more than they were a year ago for a gallon of gas. And in the days following this disaster, average gas price rose an additional 45 cents per gallon—with reported prices of nearly \$6.00 at some stations in the affected areas.

And, as the days get shorter and the air gets colder, more and more people are worrying about how they are going to be able to heat their homes this winter. According to figures released last week by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, households heating their homes with natural gas can expect to spend about 48 percent more, or an additional \$350, on fuel this winter. Those with heating oil can expect a 32 percent increase, or on average about \$378 more.

But as Americans look deeper into their wallets to put gas in their cars to get to work or to heat their homes, both oil companies and U.S. refineries are on track for record profits. I believe that consumers across the country should have the right to know that the prices they are struggling to pay are legitimate and that no one is profiting unjustly at their expense.

For this reason, I am introducing the “Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005.” This bill will give the FTC broad discretion to investigate and, if necessary, strongly prosecute whoever—whether it is a gas station owner, a petroleum company, or a refiner—is guilty of manipulating the price of crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, or petroleum distillates.

The “Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005” recognizes that in today’s global economy consumers in states far removed from a tragedy like Hurricane Katrina may see the results of it in their energy prices—often for legitimate

reasons, but sadly also as a result of price gouging. In my home State of New Jersey, residents voiced concerns over fair and honest treatment when purchasing gasoline for weeks before a federal emergency declaration was declared and state price gouging statutes were triggered.

For these reasons, the bill does not require a federal emergency declaration to be issued before the FTC could begin an investigation. Instead, the bill sets out specific factors for the FTC to use to determine whether the commodity is being sold at an unjust or unreasonable price. If the FTC makes the determination that price gouging exists, the bill ensures that the violator, whether an individual or a corporation, is subject to strong civil and criminal penalties.

Americans in every corner of the country are today being faced with unprecedented energy costs. We owe it to our constituents to ensure that no one is profiting unjustly at their expense. I urge my colleagues to speak for them and to support the "Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005."

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and pay special tribute to the extraordinary contributions of Hispanics towards our great nation. Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15th, commemorates the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile both declared their independence in the month of September. This anniversary celebrates the day these countries declared their independence from Spanish colonial rule, and continues to represent the shared heritage of all Hispanics in our hemisphere.

This month-long commemoration allows us to celebrate the diversity within the Hispanic community in the United States. America's cultural diversity has always been one of our nation's greatest strengths. Although Hispanics share a common language, their history is rooted throughout the Americas and the Iberian Peninsula. Hispanics represent a mixture of several ethnic backgrounds, including European, American Indian, and African.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have contributed to the greatness of America. From the earliest settlers in the New World to the most recent arrivals seeking greater opportunities and freedoms, Hispanics continue to add to America's unique culture.

According to the Census Bureau, in 2002, there were 37.4 million Hispanics residing in the U.S., representing 13.3 percent of the total population. More than 2.7 million Hispanics reside in my home State of Florida, and comprise almost 17 percent of the population. As a relatively young and rapidly growing population, Hispanics are poised to make their mark on our nation for generations to come. Through their hard work, commitment to faith and close-knit families, Hispanics have the potential to have a significant impact on society.

Furthermore, beyond this data, the reality is that Hispanics are an integral part of America's social fabric. More than one in eight people in the U.S. are of Hispanic origin. During this month-long celebration, we recognize the millions of Hispanic Americans who value a strong commitment to family, hard work, and community. In various aspects of society, from the world of sports, music, and literature and to the entrepreneurial sector, Hispanics continue to live and pursue the American dream. As legislators, we must continue to work for the advancement of initiatives that support and provide opportunity for all.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, I urge all of my colleagues to join with our fellow citizens in celebrating this rich and diverse culture, and I encourage all Americans to recognize the significant role Hispanics play in creating and building this great country.

### HONORING CERRITOS COLLEGE

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, Cerritos College celebrates its 50 years of dedication, tradition, and influence in the 39th Congressional District and southeast Los Angeles County. It stands as an honored institution within the surrounding communities and continues to provide excellent education and training to thousands of students year after year.

A community's dream to extend the educational opportunities of local youth resulted in the birth of Cerritos College. Established in 1955, Cerritos College began with a humble 195 students, 10 teachers, and 15 subjects. Today, the College enrolls more than 22,000 students and offers over 180 areas of study.

Cerritos College's dedication to quality education has made the College an asset to both career-oriented students as well as life-long learners. From political science to business, culinary arts to computers, Cerritos College's programs are invaluable in providing the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today's dynamic world.

Cerritos College has embraced and utilized technology in providing quality education and services to its students and faculty. The College boasts an open-access lab of 600 high-speed computers dedicated to student use, a modern teleconferencing center, online courses, and "wiring" of the entire campus. As a result, Cerritos College has been dubbed "the most technologically advanced community college" in California for teaching and learning.

Perhaps Cerritos College's greatest asset is its diversity. It is the fourth largest Latino serving community college in the nation and is home to more than 300 international students. Cerritos College's commitment to serving the community's needs has empowered local students and given them a chance to pursue their dreams and become engaged with the rest of the world.

I proudly celebrate with Cerritos College its fiftieth anniversary and look forward to working with the College and its students for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF LIFE OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR ROBERT D. GOODILL

#### HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and remembrance of the life of Reverend Monsignor Robert D. Goodill, who tragically died on April 1, 2005 from injuries sustained in a car accident while in Mexico. For nearly seven decades, Reverend Monsignor Goodill selflessly served the citizens of northwestern Pennsylvania, acting as both a community leader and spiritual counselor for countless individuals. He was a man deeply devoted to his church and his community, dedicating the entirety of his life to the betterment of both.

Reverend Monsignor Robert D. Goodill was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on October 23, 1912. He attended St. Patrick grade school and later attended Cathedral Preparatory School. In 1935, Reverend Monsignor graduated from Catholic University of America with an M.A. in Philosophy. Following his ordainment as a priest at Our Lady of Humility Church in Rome, Goodill was assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Brigid Parish in Meadville, PA. Rev. Monsignor Goodill entered military service in 1943. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy during World War II and again from 1952 to 1954 during the Korean Conflict, being named Naval Chaplain of the year in 1953. In 1954, Goodill was appointed as the founding pastor of Erie, Pennsylvania's St. Luke Church, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. In 1994, after five decades of loyal service to the church, Pope John Paul II named him a prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor.

The dedication Reverend Monsignor continually demonstrated for his church, community, and nation warrant this body's recognition. As a community leader, spiritual counselor, and war veteran, Reverend Monsignor Goodill's life embodied the American ideals of service, commitment, and sacrifice. With his unfortunate passing, the people of my district, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the nation have lost a truly exceptional and beloved man.

### RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL CHERRY FITCH

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize Cherry Fitch, Florida's High School Principal of the Year. For over 30 years Mrs. Fitch has served Gulf Breeze High School, improving students' lives working as both a teacher and an administrator.

She began her career at Gulf Breeze High School in 1970 as an English teacher and 27 years of dedication later she became the principal. She is an excellent principal, concerned not only with the academic wellbeing of her students but their social success as well. Although Mrs. Fitch left the classroom, she remained deeply involved in her students' lives.

There is no doubt that Cherry Fitch has positively influenced thousands of students during her time at Gulf Breeze High School. Her love of community and school has been apparent throughout her career. It is fitting that in her last year at Gulf Breeze High School that Mrs. Fitch is recognized with this great honor for all her dedication. Under her leadership, Gulf Breeze High School has been the recipient of numerous accolades including being named an A+ school for the past 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to an educator who could serve as a role model to us all. Over three decades of service to education is something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for her commitment to Gulf Breeze High School.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent due to illness during rollcall votes 521 and 522.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 521 and 522.

#### RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS OF COLONEL JAMES DOTY AS COMMANDER OF FORT HUNTER LIGGETT AND PARKS RESERVE FORCES TRAINING AREA

### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel James Doty for exceptional service to the military and to our community in forming the U.S. Army Combat Support Training Center in northern California.

Between June 2003 and October 2005, Colonel Doty led an ambitious, successful effort to create a free-standing installation that supports training for both Active and Reserve Components.

Colonel Doty unified four individual sites under one command in creating the Training Center, a truly remarkable feat. At the Parks Training Area, he managed a historic Army Real Property Exchange to permit replacement of aging structures decades beyond their useful life with over \$200 million worth of critical support facilities. He prepared Fort Hunter Liggett for implementation of Defense Secretary recommendations to make it the Training Support Headquarters for the 91st Division. Furthermore, he overcame significant obstacles to preside over the development of more than 300 housing units at the Parks site and at Moffett Federal Airfield across the San Francisco Bay in Sunnyvale.

No less remarkably, Colonel Doty accomplished these achievements in a characteristically affable, engaging, and sincere manner. His intelligence, tireless energy, and commitment to success are enhanced by his personal

integrity and genuine regard for those in his command and in the larger community affected by his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I wish much satisfaction and success to Colonel Doty in his well-earned, exciting new assignment. He, his wife Charlotte, and their family have endeared themselves to everyone who knows them in the Tri-Valley region. They will be remembered fondly and sorely missed.

#### UNDERAGE DRINKING

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to highlight the issue of underage drinking.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the first use of alcohol typically begins at age 12. Additionally, research tells us that the majority of kids are accessing the alcohol they drink from family and friends. According to Teenage Research Unlimited, 51 percent of 13–15 year olds say they will be faced with making a decision regarding alcohol in the next three months.

The good news is that parents are the leading influence on kids' decision not to drink alcohol. It is critical that parents and other trusted adults initiate conversations with kids about underage drinking well in advance of the first time they are faced with a decision regarding alcohol.

Yesterday, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus teamed up with The Century Council and Nickelodeon to launch Pregunte, Escuche, Aprende: ¡Los niños y el alcohol no mezclan! The program was developed in collaboration with LULAC, Aspira Association, the National Latino Children's Institute, National Hispanic Medical Association and MANA, among others and is an adaptation of the English program, Ask, Listen, Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix.

The program is designed to reduce underage drinking, particularly among children ages 9–13. The information is useful for parents, other trusted adults and kids and includes strategies to help facilitate conversations about the dangers of underage drinking.

I commend The Century Council and Nickelodeon for giving Latino parents and children across the Nation such a valuable communications tool to initiate those critically important discussions regarding alcohol.

#### EULOGY OF THE COMMON SOLDIER

### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem "Eulogy of the Common Soldier" for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The poem was written by U.S. Army First Lieutenant Aaron Seesan when he was in his senior year at Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio. Aaron was killed in Iraq on May 22, 2005 while serving his country.

All mortal beings, which God brought forth,  
die the same, man is not exempt.

All will inevitably end as the dust from  
whence we came, it matters not of age.

Do not mourn me if I should fall in a foreign  
land, think this of my passing.

In a far off field a finer soil mixed with the  
foreign sand, a dust that is American.

A dust that laughed, cried, and loved as an  
American, on this plot there shall be.

A little piece of America, a patch for the free  
man, which no oppressor can take.

From this soil grows grass shimmering a lit-  
tle greener, brilliant emerald ramparts.

A Breeze whispering White Poppies with a  
scent a little sweeter, flowers towards  
Heaven.

Mourn not my terrible death but celebrate  
my cause in life, viewed noble or not.

I would have sacrificed and gave all that I  
had to give, not to make man good, but  
only to let the good man live.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF ANTHONY A. LEON GUERRERO

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of Mr. Anthony A. Leon Guerrero who passed away on October 10, 2005. He was born on Guam on June 19, 1952 Throughout his life, Mr. Leon Guerrero made numerous contributions to the island of Guam, most notably serving as the president, the chief executive officer, CEO, and chairman of the Bank of Guam. He attended the London School of Economics at the University of London, majoring in Monetary Economics in 1976. He earned his masters of Business Administration at Stanford University's Sloan Program in 1985. At the Bank of Guam, which was founded by his father, the late Jesus S. Leon Guerrero, Tony served with a professionalism that sets a standard for senior executives on our island. Mr. Leon Guerrero served in various positions at the Bank of Guam, rising from commercial loan officer in 1974 to chairman of the board, president and CEO in 2002. Under his stewardship, the Bank of Guam and its 14 branches strengthened its position as the leading financial institution in the Western Pacific region. He was a true visionary in Guam's business community, launching online banking services for the island. Through his leadership, the Bank of Guam became the first local company to go public when its stock was offered for trading on the Pacific Exchange in August of 2000.

Mr. Leon Guerrero's public service includes tenures as chairman of the Guam Economic Development Authority and the Guam Council on the Humanities. He served on various government boards and commissions including the University of Guam Board of Regents, the Guam Political Status Commission, the Guam Waterworks Authority, the Hagatna Restoration and Redevelopment Authority, the Pacific Islands Development Bank Board of Governors and the Micronesian Regional Tourism Council. He served on civic boards and organizations including the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Bankers' Association, the Catholic Education Council Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society, Goodwill

Industries, the Agana Restoration and Redevelopment Corporation, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Pacific Islanders in Communication, the Young Presidents' Organization and the Financial Services and Information Technology Committee, Saipan.

Tony Leon Guerrero was truly a leader in the business community. Although he was an innovator and consummate entrepreneur, the island spirit in him never changed. Despite his many accomplishments, he was still just "Tony" to those who knew him best. The respect that people felt for him in his professional life was equaled only by the love they felt for him in his personal life. He was dedicated to the island in which he lived and worked. The Bank of Guam is often referred to as "The People's Bank," and Tony was a leader in the business community and a conscience for social activism. He understood that with great talent comes great expectations, and he exceeded the expectations of his father and his business associates as the Bank of Guam grew and prospered under his watch. Tony was an advocate in the community for the revival of pride in the Chamorro culture and the cultures of the indigenous peoples throughout Micronesia. His bank invested in indigenous arts and crafts and the bank's branches are themselves centers for the display of Pacific cultures. As chairman of the board and CEO, Tony ensured that the Bank of Guam lived up to its commitment to our island's development and steered the bank through the difficult years of an economic recession. The bank's solid performance and success is a testament to his business acumen and his vision. The sense of loss in our island and throughout our Pacific region is a testament to a great humanitarian and community leader.

I am deeply saddened by this loss and know that the many people on Guam and throughout the Pacific are mourning as well. My thoughts and prayers are with his mother Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero, his wife Mari Flor Herrero, and his three children, Maria Eugenia, Alexandra and Jesus. My condolences also go to his brother Jesse A. Leon Guerrero and his wife Deirdre, his sister Senator Lou Leon Guerrero and her husband Jeff Cook, their families, and the entire Leon Guerrero extended family. Although he will be missed by his family, friends and business associates throughout the Pacific, his legacy of service will live on in our community.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MRS.  
CHRISTINE KENNEDY

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christine Kennedy, the Administrator and Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Mrs. Kennedy has served the House of Representatives with distinction since 1972. Unfortunately, Mrs. Kennedy will be retiring at the end of this year and will be starting a new and I am sure equally rewarding private life. I know that she is looking forward to spending more time with her daughter, Lauren.

I have known Chris since I came to Congress. Chris started her career with the Federal Government in 1972 as a clerk at NASA. She joined the staff of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in 1974 becoming the Administrator and Chief Clerk in 1995 of the Committee on Resources which was the successor Committee to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

When I moved from the Chairmanship of the Committee on Resources to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I asked Chris to take the position of Administrator and Chief Clerk of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Thank goodness, she agreed to do so.

Chris is one of those people who often is unheralded and unseen but who is essential to the workings of this institution. She is one of the most organized and efficient people I know. You know that if Chris is on the job, the job will get done and will be done well. She is thorough and has a detailed knowledge of the procedures and processes that keep the Committee operating.

In addition, she is loyal and generous to her colleagues, her friends, and to myself and my wife, Lu. We have relied on her in so many ways over the years to insure that our work with Committee, including the many codels and field hearings conducted by the Committee have been done in full accordance with the Rules.

I want to express to her my deep appreciation for her hard work and for her support of my efforts as Chairman of two Committees. Without her efforts, our Committees would not have a record of accomplishment that is unmatched by any Committee.

I know that I speak for my wife, Lu and for the Members and Staff of the Committee and for the many friends that she has made as a member of this Congressional family in wishing her all the best and many years of happiness in her new life.

She will be missed in so many ways, but we expect that she will continue to be a member of our Congressional family in the years to come. Best wishes to a good friend and an outstanding staff member.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75 YEARS OF  
SERVICE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS PROVIDED

**HON. JIM GIBBONS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commemorate the 75 years of service the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided to the servicemen and women of this great Nation.

May we never forget, and continue to honor, those who made a commitment to protecting the security of our Nation by joining the Armed Forces. We owe our veterans a tremendous debt of gratitude for this commitment, and commend the VA for their pledge to ensure that they continue to receive support and assistance.

The men and women of the VA are dedicated each and every day to meeting the needs of the millions of veterans who have defended our Nation's freedom.

Nearly a quarter of a million veterans reside in our great State; a number that continues to grow. The VA ensures that these men and women, who were dedicated to defending our Nation, receive the services they rightly deserve. As a nation, we owe these great Americans a debt of gratitude for their sacrifice for our Nation's freedom and security.

With an ever growing population of veterans, may we always be reminded of Abraham Lincoln's philosophy and principles that guide the Department of Veterans Affairs: "To care for him shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

I join in thanking the Department of Veterans Affairs for their continued work and service for 75 years to our Nation's heroes.

May God bless Nevada, America, and our veterans.

RECOGNIZING THREE FALLEN  
SOLDIERS SERVING IN IRAQ

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three fallen American soldiers who sacrificed their lives while serving our country.

On October 14, 2005, while conducting convoy operations in the Al Taji area in Iraq, three Maryland Army National Guardsmen, 20-year-old Specialist Samuel M. Boswell, 23-year-old Specialist Bernard L. Ceo, and 36-year-old Sergeant Brian R. Connor, were tragically killed when their Humvee was accidentally hit and caught fire.

Assigned to the 243rd Engineer Company based in my district of West Baltimore, these remarkable young men had only been stationed in Iraq since mid-August. They were the first Maryland National Guardsman to be killed while serving their country overseas since World War II.

Words cannot express the sense of loss felt by the Maryland community when not one, but three of our own is taken from us in an instant. I offer my deepest condolences to the Boswell, Ceo, and Connor families during their difficult time.

Although each of these brave soldiers took different paths to arrive in the Army, they all shared great intellect, vigor, and a true commitment to serve their country. These attributes coupled with their youth makes it even more difficult to accept each soldier's fate. We all must now face the burden of uncertainty—never knowing what the future would have held for them.

Specialist Samuel Boswell of Elkridge, graduated from the technology magnet program at River Hill High School in Clarksville, Md. in 2003. He was a computer whiz with aspirations of receiving his college degree. However, as the violence in Iraq escalated, Spc. Boswell was compelled to volunteer his service and join the Army shortly after his high school graduation. On the day of his death, Spc. Boswell was on his way to meet his brother Michael, who was a civilian contract worker based in Baghdad. That reunion never took place.

Specialist Bernard Ceo of Baltimore was raised in a military family. His ambition was to

become a teacher. In fact, before joining the Army, he worked one-on-one with special needs students at the Kennedy Krieger High School Career and Technology Center in Baltimore. One of his colleagues at the school said that Spc. Ceo was a thoughtful, introspective young man who was an excellent employee, and would have made an outstanding teacher. Spc. Ceo joined the Army to help pay for college and alleviate financial strain on his family.

Along with his professional goals, Spc. Ceo was also making plans to marry his longtime girlfriend, Dajae Overton. The two had been together for years, and Spc. Ceo even took on the responsibility of caring for her two children as if they were his own. This selfless act demonstrated that Spc. Ceo was a man of integrity and honor.

Sergeant Brian Conner of Gwynn Oak was a single father of three daughters. Before joining the Army, he worked as a fireman for the Baltimore City Fire Department for 12 years. His sense of humor and clever banter were admired by all who knew him. His older brother, Paul said he was good at everything he did and that joining the Army was Sergeant Conner's mission.

These tragic deaths and these mourning families are a personal reality that we, as a people, must have the humanity to confront. These deaths remind us that sacrifice is never truly "shared."

There is nothing that any of us can say that will return these brave young men to their families.

We can only reach out to them—and to all who have lost loved ones in Iraq.

We can only stand with these neighbors in their darkest hours—and offer whatever comfort and support that we can.

As the families and loved ones of Samuel Boswell, Bernard Ceo and Brian Conner attempt to endure losses and suffering that no family should have to confront, we must all recommit ourselves to finding a way out of this conflict in Iraq.

We must find a way to bring our troops home on a timetable that is consistent with our nation's commitments to the Iraqi people.

By the end of this year, the Iraqis should have their constitution and government in operation.

That is not the reason that we went to war—but, nevertheless, it would give some meaning to our soldiers' sacrifice.

Equally important, the deaths that we mourn this week remind us that it is time for a clear and reasoned strategy to begin bringing our brave young people home.

Then, perhaps, all of the families who have sacrificed so much because of the war in Iraq can begin to heal the wounds that they have been forced to endure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PENN  
KEMBLE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, friends of freedom today are mourning the death of Penn

Kemble, who was one of its most ardent, eloquent, and effective defenders. Although he died at the relatively young age of 64, after a year-long struggle with brain cancer, Penn was an activist on behalf of social causes for more than 40 years. Whether arguing on behalf of civil rights, supporting organized labor, which he considered the "balance wheel of democracy," or advocating on behalf of democratic movements around the world, Penn brought an unparalleled passion combined with a hardheaded realism to every cause he adopted.

Penn through his close affiliation with Senators Henry Jackson and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, worked to move the Democratic Party in the direction of strong and "muscular" internationalism in its foreign policy. As Deputy Director—and later Acting Director—of the United States Information Agency under President Clinton, he played a strong role in the creation of an international network on civic education and in the establishment of the Community of Democracies. Even as the end of his life drew near, he was busy working to develop a transatlantic democracy network, collaborating with colleagues at the National Endowment for Democracy and Freedom House, where he served as a senior scholar after leaving government service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place in the RECORD a Washington Post obituary that chronicles the life of this remarkable American. Let me take this opportunity to express my condolences to Penn's wife Mal and the other members of his family.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 19, 2005]

POLITICAL ACTIVIST PENN KEMBLE DIES AT 64

(By Joe Holley)

Penn Kemble, 64, a political activist who considered himself a "muscular Democrat" and who kept himself in intellectual fighting trim by engaging in policy tilts with adversaries on both the left and the right, died Oct. 16 of brain cancer at his home in Washington. A former acting director of the U.S. Information Agency, he was in recent years senior scholar at Freedom House, a non-partisan, pro-democracy think tank.

Mr. Kemble believed in a robust internationalism in the tradition of former senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash.). He also had an affinity for organized labor, which was, in his words, "the balance wheel of democracy."

During his career, he helped found or lead a number of advocacy groups, including the Coalition for a Democratic Majority.

A friend and former colleague, Joshua Muravchik, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, noted that Mr. Kemble's political and intellectual journey traversed a path from democratic socialist to social democrat. It was a journey similar in its rightward arc to that of many prominent neoconservatives. Although he occasionally took such positions, Mr. Kemble stopped short of leaving the Democratic Party and never considered himself a neoconservative.

He believed, for example, in building a democratic Iraq but sharply criticized the Bush administration's approach on the country. "The distinction between liberation and democratization, which requires a strategy and instruments, was an idea never understood by the administration," he told the New Republic last year.

Richard Penn Kemble was born in Worcester, Mass., and grew up in Lancaster, Pa.,

where he was a small but feisty football player in high school. His political activism began at the University of Colorado, where he helped establish the Colorado chapter of the Young People's Socialist League.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in 1962, he moved to New York and took a job as a copy boy at the New York Times. His journalism career ended shortly afterward, when the typesetters went out on strike and he refused to cross the picket line.

He stayed in New York and immersed himself in socialist politics, seeking to resurrect the youth section of the Socialist Party, famously led earlier in the century by Eugene V. Debs and Norman Thomas.

Muravchik, who also was part of the movement, recalled that Mr. Kemble stood out as a "good-looking, neatly dressed WASP" in what was otherwise "a scruffy-looking crowd" made up primarily of young Jewish intellectuals.

He was one of the few whites among the leadership of the East River chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, once staging a sit-in that blocked the eastbound lanes of the Triborough Bridge during rush hour. The aim was to force commuters to ponder the plight of Harlem residents before arriving back at their comfortable homes in the suburbs.

In 1967, he founded Negotiation Now!, which demanded an end to the bombing of North Vietnam and a negotiated end to the war.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Kemble moved to the District and plunged into Democratic Party politics. After the party's 1972 presidential debacle, he helped found the Coalition for a Democratic Majority. Associated primarily with Sens. Jackson and Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), the group sought to move the party back toward the center and refocus its reliance on a traditional blue-collar base.

Mr. Kemble served as executive director of the group from 1972 to 1976, when he joined the New York senatorial campaign of Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He was Moynihan's special assistant and speechwriter until 1979.

During the Reagan administration, he founded a group called PRODEMCA, or the Committee for Democracy in Central America. He caused consternation among many fellow Democrats by advocating support for the anti-communist contra rebels in Nicaragua. He sought a democratic middle way between communist Sandinistas and former supporters of rightist dictator Anastasio Somoza.

He worked in the Clinton presidential campaign in 1992 and was appointed deputy director of the USIA in 1993. He became USIA's acting director in 1999.

In recent years, Mr. Kemble sought to maintain a network of American social democrats. From his sickbed, he conceived and helped organize a conference dedicated to the thought of philosopher Sydney Hook, an intellectual model for Mr. Kemble of the politically engaged social democrat. The event took place October 1.

His marriage to Charlotte Rowe ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife of 22 years, Marie-Louise "Mal" Caravatti of Washington; two sisters, Sara Kemble of Columbia and Eugenia Kemble of Washington; and a brother, Grover Kemble of Morristown, N.J.

Mr. Kemble was in many ways still a socialist, his wife said. "He believed in the public sector as a civilizing force," she added. "He believed in a role for government."

REDUCING THE POTENTIAL FOR  
CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AF-  
RICA

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, five years ago a border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia that killed approximately 100,000 people seemed to have ended. Hope for peace emerged as both countries agreed to resolve their dispute through international arbitration. After two years of debate and discussion, the Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Commission, EEBC, issued its final and binding decision in 2002 to resolve the long-standing border dispute.

Ethiopia did not agree with the EEBC's decision, which was meant to be final and binding on both countries. For the past three years since arbitration ended, Ethiopia has refused to implement the EEBC decision, and the border between the two countries has not been demarcated.

Both countries should abide by the decision. I believe our new Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr. Jendayi Frazer, can assist Ethiopia and Eritrea in working together toward implementing the EEBC decision.

The time to address this issue is now, and not after hostilities begin again. The EEBC decision needs to be fully implemented without any precondition. Eritrea is ready to implement it, and Ethiopia must be urged to do so.

As a Member of the Armed Services Committee and the International Relations Committee, I see this issue as the kind of challenge that America can no longer afford to ignore. The Horn of Africa is a strategic location with strong implications to our success in the Global War on Terrorism. Another border war in the Horn of Africa would undermine the hope for peace in Sudan and weaken American influence with other border disputes in Africa.

American leadership should not pressure both sides to renegotiate the final and binding decision. Eritrea is unwilling to renegotiate the EEBC findings, while Ethiopia is calling for "dialogue." The EEBC articulated the demarcation process and directives needed to determine the exact locations on the ground for border markers. Eritrea supports full implementation of the EEBC decision and demarcation directives and is therefore ready to work out these technical issues of exact placement of border markers as stipulated in the EEBC decision. Ethiopia's calls for more dialogue are superfluous. The claim that the EEBC used a map that was too great a scale to permit clarity of intent is unfounded.

Eritrea is a society almost evenly divided between Muslims and Christians. Eritrea has long been a target of al Qaeda and renewed fighting in the Horn would produce opportunities for it to further undermine America's interests.

Many of the fundamental political decisions made by the United States on resolving the border matter were a product of the previous Administration. It is time for our diplomats who agree with President Bush when he says that the spread of democracy, respecting the rule of law and freedom are key to future security, to focus on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully urge the Administration to convince the Ethiopian government to abide by the EEBC's final decision on the border to be mutually beneficial for Eritrea and Ethiopia.

EXTENDING THROUGH DECEMBER  
31, 2007, AUTHORITY OF THE SEC-  
RETARY OF THE ARMY TO AC-  
CEPT AND EXPEND FUNDS CON-  
TRIBUTED BY NON-FEDERAL  
PUBLIC ENTITIES TO EXPEDITE  
THE PROCESSING OF PERMITS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRIAN BAIRD**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for expediting the passage of H.R. 3765, a commonsense bill that will save jobs and continue to promote economic growth.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Senator MURRAY and Senator CANTWELL for their efforts in reaching a compromise with their colleagues and ensuring swift passage by the Senate. Although I was hoping for a longer extension of section 214, I was pleased that both Chambers were able to pass a temporary fix before the delay caused irreparable economic damage to the Pacific Northwest.

I have been a strong proponent of the section 214 provision since its enactment in WRDA 2000. This provision permits non-federal public entities to contribute funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to help expedite the processing of corps permits. In the Pacific Northwest, we have seen the backlog of permits grow to over 1,000 in past years and seen the residual effect that this has on our region's economy. This provision has allowed municipalities and ports to move forward with vital infrastructure projects. By funding additional staff to work on specific, time-intensive permits, existing corps' staff is freed up to work on the backlog. It is important to emphasize that these entities providing funding are given no partiality by the corps in their review of the project.

This provision was extended in 2003 in the FY04 Energy and Water appropriations bill, and expired on September 30. The temporary extension passed today, will allow the Army Corps to continue section 214 projects until this bill expires on March 31, 2006. It is my hope that we can permanently extend this provision by passing WRDA this year, a bill that is long overdue for reauthorization.

Additionally, some of my colleagues have expressed interest in a thorough study of the use of section 214, and I would urge these efforts to be expedited. It is my view that a report by the GAO to study the effectiveness of this program in the Pacific Northwest would only yield valuable information that can be used to improve and, perhaps, expand the program.

I am proud to be the primary sponsor of this bill and have the endorsement of the entire Washington State delegation. I thank my colleagues for their vote to pass this bill today and promptly send it to the President for enactment.

HONORING THE SENIOR COM-  
PANION PROGRAM OF MONT-  
GOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYL-  
VANIA

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Senior Companion Program, SCP, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The SCP of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania provides an innovative service for senior citizens in need of additional home care, but who are not yet ready to enter a nursing home. The Montgomery County SCP is the sixth of its kind in Pennsylvania and the 250th SCP in the United States.

The SCP of Montgomery County has been in existence since September 2003. Since that time, the SCP of Montgomery County has worked diligently to help senior citizens remain independent at home as long as possible by having their volunteers, or "Companions," make visits to the seniors' homes and provide care and companionship.

The Companions of the SCP are usually low-income senior citizens, committing 20 to 40 hours a week to help other seniors who are frail and in need of additional help. The Companions receive a small, tax-free stipend for their time spent volunteering. During the visits, the Companions engage in all sorts of daily activities from helping seniors with correspondence, monitoring medications, playing games, exercising, helping with errands and appointments, and sharing meals. These activities help seniors continue to lead a regular, active life. The Companions of SCP can also provide much-needed relief for the caregiver in the seniors' home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Senior Companion Program of Montgomery County. The SCP Companions play a significant role in the Montgomery County community by giving back to its citizens in very important ways. They have worked to improve the overall quality of life for over 200 senior citizens by giving them the extra help they need in order to remain self-sufficient in their homes.