

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR  
NORMA ANDERSON

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I occasionally use this forum to acknowledge the contributions my fellow Coloradans make on behalf of Colorado and our country. Today, I rise to commend the service of just such a person, my former colleague, State Senator Norma Anderson.

Last month, Senator Anderson announced her retirement from the Colorado State Senate after nearly 20 years of uninterrupted service as a legislator. Both Democrats and Republicans lauded her record, and I wanted to lend my name to her long list of unabashed admirers. While we have served in different political parties and held separate offices in the public arena, I have always admired Norma Anderson's direct and honest approach to public service. She is the kind of person who speaks her mind, knows the rules, respects the needs of her constituents and above all, she is the kind of leader who is not afraid to let the chips fall after making a decision. Norma has never suffered fools and she is not one to be intimidated. In my brief service in the Colorado General Assembly I came to deeply respect her judgment; I appreciated her way of dealing with colleagues, and I still consider her a friend.

A respected Denver Post columnist, Diane Carman, has called her "an old-fashioned Republican with a sharp tongue, impeccable taste and a stubborn independent streak." I don't believe I can improve on this description of Norma except to add that she has always struck me as a formidable and principled woman, and her record of accomplishment and service to Colorado has few equals.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 4, 1906]

SENATOR WIELDED GRACE, INDEPENDENCE  
(By Diane Carman)

She's an old-fashioned Republican with a sharp tongue, impeccable taste and a stubborn independent streak.

In a lot of ways, that explains it all.

Norma Anderson retired Tuesday after 19 years in the Colorado legislature, saying only, "It's the right thing for me at this time."

She's not sick, the vibrant 73-year-old said. She's not angry or frustrated or bored. She's simply finished.

The fact that a successor to her Senate seat will be appointed under a Republican governor and will have the edge of incumbency in the next election surely must have crossed her mind, though, as well as the inescapable reality that with the Republicans in the minority again this session, she wouldn't be wielding any gavels in the last months of her term-limited legislative career.

Still, she exited gracefully with a subtle nod to partisan interests, a private party for her supporters and a firm commitment to personal priorities.

No news conferences with TV cameras trained on her face. No razzmatazz.

It was pure Norma, her ego in check.

Many times over the years, she has been on the short lists to run for the U.S. Congress, for governor or for other statewide offices. She never caught the fever.

"At one time I was thinking about secretary of state. I sat down with Donetta Davidson: We talked a little bit, and I just said, 'You do it, Donetta.'"

Being a state legislator was enough, she said, "I never had any desire to do anything else."

Not that it's been all bill-signing galas and warm accolades.

Anderson is known for her ability to irritate her fellow lawmakers, maybe especially those in her own party.

In the 1990s, when Colorado Republicans started leaning decidedly far to the right, Anderson remained a moderate—and a sometimes exasperating one at that.

In one memorable stand against the party juggernaut, she voted against a bill to outlaw same-sex marriage. In another, she opposed a bill to require students to say the Pledge of Allegiance in schools.

She wasn't being obstinate, she said, she just didn't believe the government should be messing around in people's personal lives or requiring people to repeat pledges. She'd done her homework, she said, and it didn't seem right.

She accepts credit for marshaling support for dozens of bills over the years, for establishing the state departments of transportation and human services, and for breaking untold barriers that kept women out of legislative leadership positions for decades.

There are a few episodes she doesn't recall fondly, however, and one of them was the infamous midnight gerrymander.

Anderson played a crucial role in slamming through the Republican redistricting scheme in the last three days of the 2003 legislative session, though she was clearly ambivalent about it.

Sure, her expertise with Senate rules and circumventing them was critical to passage of the last minute bills, and she presided over most of the chaotic sessions. But she was not happy about it.

In the midst of the nasty political uproar, she even declined to return a call from Bush adviser Karl Rove, who was either the mastermind of the ham-handed strategy or simply an interested observer, depending on whose spin you believe.

That may have been her proudest moment in the whole mess.

"It was pretty common knowledge that I had concerns," Anderson told me back then, "but I was elected to lead my caucus, and that's what I did."

Months later, when the state Supreme Court threw out the redistricting plan and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the Republicans' appeal, she didn't join the party bigs in fulminating about judicial overreach and legislating from the bench. She kept quiet.

She respected the process. She believed in the democratic system. And if some folks think that's being stubbornly independent, she's OK with that.

In a lot of ways, that explains it all.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
EFFORTS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to mark the 77th anniversary of his birth on January 15, 1929.

History is indeed made up of significant events which shape our future and outstanding leaders who influence our destiny. Martin Luther King, Jr. has had numerous historic moments in the struggle for civil rights that have been used to identify him—prime mover of the Montgomery bus boycott, keynote speaker at the March on Washington, youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

But in retrospect, Mr. Speaker the single events are less important than the fact that King, and his policy of nonviolent protest, was the dominant force in the civil rights movement during its decade of greatest achievement, from 1957 to 1968.

Born on January 15, 1929, a son was born to the Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King in an upstairs bedroom of 501 Auburn Avenue, in Atlanta, GA. The couple named their first son after Rev. King, but he was simply called "M.L." by the family.

Mr. Speaker, during the next 12 years, this fine two story Victorian home is where M.L. would live with his parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and their boarders. It was in these surroundings of home, church and neighborhood that M.L. experienced his childhood. Here, M.L. learned about family and Christian love, segregation in the days of "Jim Crow" laws, diligence and tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was undoubtedly a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this Nation and around the world.

Dr. King's concept of "somebodiness," which symbolized the celebration of human worth and the conquest of subjugation, gave African-Americans and all people hope and a sense of dignity.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example—the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, let there be no misunderstanding that the King holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society, but who also led a movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality.

It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. No other day of the year brings so many peoples from different cultural backgrounds together in such a vibrant spirit of brother and sisterhood. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you are Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King, Jr. had for America. This is not just an African-American holiday; it is a peoples' holiday. And it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the keys to the fulfillment of his dream.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge all Americans by making your personal commitment to serve humanity with the vibrant spirit of unconditional love that was his greatest strength, and which empowered all of the great victories of his leadership.

May we who follow Martin now pledge to serve humanity, promote his teachings and carry forward his legacy into the 21st century.

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. because he showed us the way to mend those broken fences and to move on in building this land rather than destroying it. He led campaign after campaign in the streets of America and on to the governor's mansion—even to the White House—in an effort to secure change.

Mr. Speaker, today African-Americans have Federal legislation which provides access and legal protection in the areas of public accommodations, housing, voting rights, schools, and transportation. Thank you Dr. King for being the drum major who was able and ready to lead our Nation to greater heights through love and peace.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. SAMUELS

##### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert J. Samuels, this year's recipient of the Minority Health Leadership Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Minority Health.

Following his own battle with cancer, Bob dedicated his life to helping others in the fight against prostate cancer. He quickly became a passionate and dedicated advocate for men's health not only in Florida, but nationwide, and his visionary leadership has produced significant advances in beating back prostate cancer.

Bob is the founding chairman of the Florida Prostate Cancer Network (FPCN) and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, as well as an advisor on a host of other national committees and task forces that are working to promote cancer research and treatment. In Congress and the Florida Legislature Bob has been a strong voice for increased funds for cancer research. He played a critical role in the passage of the Florida Prostate Cancer Aware-

ness Act and in the effort to secure a \$1 million federal grant to establish a prostate cancer training and research institute at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Numerous organizations, including the Florida Legislature, Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa and The Prostate Net, have honored Bob for his tireless efforts. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank Bob for his commitment to helping those struggling with cancer and thank the Department of Health and Human Services for recognizing Bob's work.

#### HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN M. RAINONE UPON HER RETIREMENT

##### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Susan Rainone upon her retirement, and wish to thank her for her service to our country. Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, MSgt Susan M. Rainone enlisted in the United States Air Force in January of 1986. After graduating from Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, she was sent to Chanute AFB, Illinois to attend the Airframe Repair Apprentice course.

In June 1986, A1C Rainone was assigned to the 6515th Field Maintenance Squadron at Edwards AFB, California. During her assignment at Edwards, she worked as an Airframe Repair Journeyman on a variety of airframes from the small A-37 to a much larger KC-135. In her second year in service, A1C Rainone competed and was selected for Senior Airmen Below the Zone, which allowed her to sew on the Senior Airman stripe six months early. In late 1988, she was promoted to the rank of Buck Sergeant and within the following six months she was notified of her selection to Staff Sergeant. In May, 1989 she completed the Training Systems Specialist course at Sheppard AFB, Texas and returned to Edwards AFB, to work in the Base Training office where she responsible for the training programs of the base. While at Edwards AFB, SSgt Rainone attended the Airman Leadership School and upon graduation was selected as a distinguished graduate, finishing in the top 10% of her class.

After being stationed at Edwards AFB for almost 9 years SSgt Rainone and was transferred to Osan Air Base in the Republic of South Korea. While at Osan, SSgt Rainone served as the Unit Training Manager for the 51st Transportation Squadron. During her tenure she nearly doubled the number of personnel enrolled in college courses. After her tour in Korea, SSgt Rainone was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona where she served as the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Scheduling Element. Here she was responsible for scheduling and updating training for over 3,500 aircraft maintenance personnel.

In September 1998 SSgt Rainone was promoted to Technical Sergeant. She applied and was selected for the position of Training Manager for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds." In April,

1999 TSgt Rainone relocated to Nellis AFB, Nevada where she was assigned as the Unit Safety Representative, a load team member responsible for 50,000 pounds of air show equipment. In October 1999, MSgt Rainone attended the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and again graduated as a distinguished graduate. TSgt was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in December 2002.

MSgt Rainone was reassigned to Vandenberg AFB, California April 2003. She was assigned to the 392nd Training Squadron as the Superintendent, Space and Missile Operations Training Development responsible for managing courses supporting the combat readiness of the nation's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile force. While at Vandenberg, MSgt Rainone completed the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy course by correspondence, earning the Academic Excellence Award by averaging 95% over five closed book exams. One year later, she was moved to Detachment 1, 345th Training Squadron, Naval Base Ventura County, where she is the Chief, Education and Training Programs and Course Manager for Vehicle and Equipment courses.

I wish to commend and thank MSgt Rainone for her leadership and dedication. She is truly a role model and deserves the many commendations and awards that she has received. I wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT "SONNY" SMITH

##### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Sonny" Smith who was recently inducted into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth Baseball was started as a "grass roots" movement in the small, rural communities of Colorado. The town of Las Animas is no exception, and like most towns, the Babe Ruth program has flourished because of the efforts and actions of volunteers like Sonny who stepped up to the plate to serve others.

Sonny's involvement with Babe Ruth began around 1982. He was the District 2 Commissioner for 10 years and then became the Assistant State Commissioner for the 15 year-old Babe Ruth program. He has held that position from 1992 to the present time.

Sonny has not just been active in Babe Ruth in his community, but in other endeavors as well. He was the Las Animas Ball Association Vice President from 1978-1980. He served as a Las Animas City Councilman from 1982-1986 and was the chairman for the Parks and Swimming Pool committees. Sonny was a member of the Las Animas School Board from 1996-2000. He has been a member of the Bent County Recreation Committee from 1978 to the present time. He served on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Council from 1988-1992, and he has served as a football, baseball, softball, and basketball official from 1978 to the present time.

One of Sonny's most notable achievements was his work on the Ad-Hoc Committee for building the new baseball field in Las Animas from 1998-2004. This field has hosted many

area tournaments, as well as the local Babe Ruth League games.

Where does this man get the energy to accomplish these feats? I believe it comes from a strong desire to see the young people in his community and around the state have an opportunity to participate and excel in the great game of baseball.

Sonny has been a very valuable member of the Colorado Babe Ruth League, Inc. management team. His good-natured attitude and "laid back" style have served him well when handling issues that come up at the various levels of tournament play. He has even worked on Babe Ruth Tournaments for the Midwest Region.

Because of Sonny's love for kids and his commitment to the Babe Ruth program, he has been welcomed into the Colorado Babe Ruth Hall of Fame, and I am proud to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert "Sonny" Smith for his outstanding contributions to his community.

CONGRATULATING KEN STROM,  
RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL  
AUDUBON SOCIETY'S GOLDEN  
EGRET AWARD

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ken Strom, who is this recipient of the National Audubon Society's Golden Egret Award.

Ken is the Director of Conservation and Public Policy for Audubon Colorado, a graduate of Cornell University, and a Viet Nam veteran.

Ken started his Audubon experience at Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina. For 11 years Ken managed Audubon's Rowe Wildlife Sanctuary, a critical habitat for Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River in Nebraska. Ken's efforts protected hundreds of thousands of these birds so that they could use the same feeding grounds as their predecessors.

Ken coordinated a series of international partnerships for over ten years in which he advised scientists and policy-makers in a number of countries including Russia and Pakistan, countries without a history of wildlife conservation. These unique partnerships allowed Ken to establish conservation strategies for water resources and wetland habitats. Due to his work with Mumtaz Malik in the Northwest Frontier of Pakistan, two protected areas for cranes today exist on branches of the Indus River. In Russia, he was part of team with Serge Smirenski, George Archibald and Noritaki Ishida that established the first private park on the Indus River.

In Colorado, Ken has helped to establish and monitor 53 Important Bird Areas (IBA). Given the state of wetlands in Colorado, this accomplishment stands out. Ken also directed Audubon's highly visible nationwide population and habitat program that engaged hundreds of leaders and 20,000 activists working on education and public advocacy. A result of this significant project, millions of Americans learned about the effects between human population growth and the environment.

Ken served as an instructor and director of Audubon's Ecology Camp in the Rockies, educating teachers, instructors and citizens. He inspired hundreds of people each year to become voices on behalf of conservation.

Ken is also an accomplished writer with a keen sense for describing nature. He is the co-editor with his wife, Pat Waak, of the book, "Sharing the Earth: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Population, Wildlife and the Environment." He is also the author of "Population and Habit in the New Millennium."

Ken Strom is effectively working to fight the good fight to protect and win important victories for wilderness, wetlands and other critical habitat areas. As Audubon honors Ken Strom with its highest award, I believe it is fitting for my colleagues to join me in acknowledging a lifetime of achievement in conservation.

TRIBUTE TO THE 376TH ENGINEER  
BATTALION OF HAMMOND, INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I take this opportunity to welcome home members of the 376th Engineer Battalion of Hammond, Indiana, and to honor them for their patriotism, their dedication, and their willingness to defend their country. These brave soldiers, known as the Men of Steel, recently returned to Northwest Indiana after completing several missions in Mosul, Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 376th honorably provided security during the recent Iraqi elections, took part in reconstruction efforts within Iraqi cities, provided humanitarian support to the people of Iraq, and courageously disposed of improvised explosive devices. The members of the 376th Engineer Battalion will be recognized at a homecoming ball in their honor, which will take place on January 21, 2006, at the Dynasty Banquet Hall in Hammond, Indiana.

The people of this entire nation, as well as the citizens of Iraq, can be proud of the sacrifice and courage of these fine individuals: CPT Sean Begley, PV2 Alexander Baker, SPC Christopher Bennett, PV1 Adam Branson, SPC David Croyle, PV1 Joseph Gibbs, SPC Jaime Hoch, SPC Muain Issa, SPC Tobey Johnson, SGT Nicholas Kowalczyk, SPC Ashley Sharp, SPC Terry Specyal, SGT Jose Tovalin, SPC Aaron Vance, SPC Michael Vician, SGT Travis Wheatley, SFC William Johnson, SPC Luke Abbott, SPC Daniel Wiley, SPC Joseph Veyette, SPC Enrique Uribe, SSG Mark Tegtman, SPC William Sideris, SPC Aaron Santonelli, SPC Carlos Reyes, SPC Brian Panzik, SGT Donald Mull, PFC William Mills, SPC Angel Lozano, SPC Timothy Bishop, PFC Christopher Boger, SPC Steven Bramer, PV2 David Kuzmar, SPC Jason Loebbaka, SPC Thomas Martinez, PFC Brandon McCormick, SGT David Moake, SSG Stephen Otten, SGT Gershom Parr, SFC Melvin Pennington, SPC Daniel Rubalcava, SPC Vincent Lenart, SPC Allen Hughes, SGT Robert Jaso, SPC Matthew Gabrano, SGT Ryan Bood, SPC Jonathan Bright, SPC Corrie Covelli, SPC Ryan Eder, SGT Michael Guz,

SGT Brian Brandenburg, SPC Joshua Buikema, SPC Jonathan Cuevas, SSG Thomas Kopanda, SPC Paul Gordon, SSG Matthew Hamater, PFC Michael Brunzman, and SPC Michael Coughlin.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the members of the 376th Engineer Battalion, the Men of Steel, for their dedication and courage in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will forever remain heroes in the eyes of their families, their communities, and their country. Let us welcome them home and thank them for their commitment to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

HONORING JAN BORMAN'S COMMITMENT TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the exemplary service that Jan Borman provided for the labor community of western New York.

Jan began her career in the labor force in 1966 as an operator at New York Telephone. She was active as a job steward and then chief steward as a frame tech at the Hertel Central office in Buffalo, NY.

In 1986 Jan was elected area vice president of the Communication Worker's of America, CWA, Local 1122 where she represented New York Telephone, Visiting Nursing Association and Jewish Family Services employees.

As CWA area vice president, Jan extended herself and her talents to several worthy community organizations including: The United Way, Citizens Action, AFL-CIO and the Monsignor Healy Foundation. In 1994 Jan was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Way and was also active on the boards of the Work Force Development Committee, and Independent Health of western New York.

Jan's involvement in organized labor flourished, and she served in several leadership capacities. In 2000, Jan was the first woman ever to be elected as executive vice president of CWA Local 1122. Jan demonstrated her commitment to labor and earned the trust of her fellow members and in 2003 Jan Borman became the first woman President of CWA Local 1122.

Most recently Jan was elected as recording secretary for the Buffalo Council AFL-CIO CLC where she demonstrated her commitment to the organized labor movement.

Jan will be remembered for her dedication and pursuit of just labor causes. Her service enriched the lives of so many men and women who live and work in the western New York area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have worked with Jan Borman. She served CWA Local 1122 proudly and with strong conviction. I would like to thank Jan for her service to our community and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to honor the dean of the House—a man who over the course of a half century has changed the face of this institution. Over the course of 25 Congresses, serving under 10 Presidents, JOHN DINGELL has embodied the best of public service—of honoring those who elect us to office and fulfilling our obligations to people. His is an ideal each of us, in our own way, hopes to achieve in our time as Members of this institution.

Like his father before him, JOHN DINGELL has made a mark on every Member with whom he has served. He is shrewd, he is tough, and he is as skilled as any public official I have ever known. Indeed, when I was elected to the Congress, one of my first orders of business was to meet with JOHN DINGELL—not to say anything, but to listen. And I will never forget what he told me that day: “Assist your colleagues when you can—but if they ask for something you can’t deliver, just be honest and tell them. Always maintain credibility with your colleagues.” For 15 years, that advice has stayed with me, helping me serve my constituents and the American people more effectively.

In whatever capacity he has served his country—from his 4 years as a page in this institution as a boy, to his time in the Army when he rose to the ranks of second lieutenant to his half-century in Congress—JOHN DINGELL has served with dignity, with distinction and with historic consequences.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ERIC MCGONIGLE

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Eric McGonigle of the United States Army. Specialist McGonigle was on active duty in Iraq for 3 years, serving in Kuwait, Camp Spearhead, and Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 to April 2004. Not only has Specialist McGonigle served his country abroad, he has protected his community serving as a firefighter for the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department for the past 5 years.

While serving in Iraq, Specialist McGonigle worked as a truck driver and ran convoys for the Army. He acknowledged the appreciation of the people of Iraq for our continued help. McGonigle continues to serve our country as a member of the Army Reserves in the E-4 332nd Engineering Company of Kittanning, PA.

Now back home in Duncansville, PA, Specialist McGonigle is dedicated to his family and his community. He has been a truck engineer for the Duncansville Fire Department for the past 2 years. His fellow firefighters regard him as a community-oriented man, helping the people around him as much as possible.

Prior to volunteering at the Duncansville Fire Department, Specialist McGonigle volunteered with the Cresson Fire Department. His current fire department chief, Dave Boland, remembers meeting him as a young member of the Cresson Fire Department and hearing what an asset he was to the department. Chief Boland was pleasantly surprised when he moved to Duncansville and began volunteering at the Duncansville Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist McGonigle has dedicated much of his life to serving his country and his community, and the citizens of Duncansville and I would like to thank him for his courage and devotion.

TRIBUTE TO ALI SAHABI

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ali Sahabi for his dedication and commitment to improving the community of Corona, California. The Corona Chamber of Commerce honored Ali by presenting him with its 2005 “Citizen of the Year” award on January 14, 2006.

Ali is currently the President of SE Corporation, a privately held, California-based land planning, entitlement, and development firm. For nearly 18 years, Ali Sahabi has been an active member of our community, devoting a tremendous amount of time and effort to causes greater than his own.

After spending much of his youth in a middle class family in the country of Iran, Ali was sent to Michigan to live with an uncle and aunt at the age of thirteen. After graduating high school, Ali and his brother drove to California, where they lived in a small apartment with their grandmother and another uncle.

In California, the two brothers worked at a variety of odd jobs and Ali, always the entrepreneur, began trying his hand at different kinds of small business opportunities including sales. He became a print broker and opened his own printing business in downtown Los Angeles. Ali finished his bachelor's degree in business management at Pepperdine University, which he had been working on in the evening, and sold the print shop. Later, Ali obtained his Master of Real Estate Development degree from the School of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Southern California.

Throughout his career, Ali has undertaken a number of development projects across Southern California including industrial, multi-family residential and commercial retail projects. He has been instrumental in implementing innovative planning solutions and environmentally sensitive development plans for the Dos Lagos mixed use development in southwest Riverside County, making it a true model for sustainable development.

Ali is an active and leading proponent of local and regional collaboration and the stewardship of natural resources, establishing and endowing the Blakeley Center for Suburban Sustainable Development at UC Riverside. Through his vision and tireless efforts the Center has contributed to forming alliances across jurisdictional lines bringing individuals, local governments and communities together

to address major issues that represent significant challenges for entire regions and communities.

Locally, Ali somehow finds time to play a significant role in a number of non-profit and community-based organizations. He serves notably on the Board of Directors of the Children's Spine Foundation and the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation, Governor's Mentoring Program, and is active with the American Cancer Society, YMCA, At Risk Children's Angels, Boy Scouts, and ICUC among others.

I want to express my appreciation for Ali's tireless efforts on behalf of our entire community and congratulate him on receiving this award.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EMPLOYEES FOR WORK IN CLEANING UP ROCKY FLATS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise the extraordinary efforts of so many Department of Energy, DOE, employees in the successful cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility in Colorado.

Last year, the DOE began the process of certifying the completion of Kaiser-Hill Corporation's cleanup of the Rocky Flats facility. This certification marks the end of an era in our Nation's history. The story of Rocky Flats includes two different chapters that describe human achievement and technological prowess—not only the buildup of our nuclear arsenal during the tense days of the Cold War but also the completion of a remarkably complicated environmental restoration program that is a model for the world.

I believe that the men and women who worked to write both of these chapters in the Rocky Flats story deserve our admiration and appreciation. All involved deserve recognition as heroes of the Cold War era and also heroes in the new era of environmental protection. That includes Federal officials and employees of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and DOE, as well as officials and employees of Colorado's Department of Health and Environmental Protection and the private-sector employees of DOE's contractors.

In December 2005, Kaiser-Hill rightly sponsored a community event that celebrated these achievements. Invitations went to employees of DOE as well as others, but the DOE Office of General Counsel insisted that DOE employees be charged more than other Federal employees to attend this celebration. I objected to this decision because it did not apply to high-ranking DOE officials who had speaking roles at the event, and struck me as an unduly restrictive interpretation of Federal ethical guidelines that sounded a sour note in an otherwise happy occasion. I felt so strongly about it that I decided against attending the event as a message of solidarity with DOE employees.

In part to reinforce my admiration and respect for the hard work of so many DOE employees at Rocky Flats, and to ensure that this

body fully acknowledges their contributions to our national security and our environment, I will place in the RECORD the names of DOE employees who deserve our thanks and an acknowledgement of the service they gave in turning Rocky Flats into a success story:

Jeff Allison, Charlie Anderson, Mariane Anderson, Tod Anderson, Robert Birk, Robert Bistline, Ron Bostic, Gerald Boyd, Ken Brakken, Lisa Bressler, Patti Bubar, Roger Butler, George Cannode, Kathleen Carlson, William Casey, Norma Castaneda, Jack Craig, Hank Dalton, Charlie Dan, Gina Dan, Ann Davis, Paul Detwiler, Glenn Doyle, Patrick Etchart, Jim Fiore, Cliff Franklin, Mark Frei, David Garman, Christine Gelles, Dave George, Fred Gerdeman, Mark Gilbertson, Paul Golan, Robert Goldsmith, Dave Grosek, Kent Grover, Tom Grumbley, James Hartman, Art Haugh, Larry Helmerick, Dave Hicks, Richard Hopf, Rod Hoffman, Gary Huffman, Carolyn Huntoon, Brent Johansen, Elizabeth Jordan, Jeremy Karpatkin, Keith Klein, Joe Legare, Gary Lietz, Ellen Livingston, Frazer Lockhart, Paul Longworth, Tom Lukow, Karen Lutz, Mary Lynch, Larry Maghrak, Barbara Male, Barbara Mazurowski, Matt McCormick, Steve McCracken, Deanna McCranie, Anna Martinez-Barnish, Greg Moore, Gary Morgan, John Mullarkey, Theresa Nash, Robert Nelson, Ricky Newton, Dennis Oba, Shirley Olinger, Mike Owen, Jim Owendoff, Jeff Parkin, Ray Plienness, Lloyd Piper, Jane Powell, Barbara Powers-Hargreaves, Michael Hargreaves, Richard B. Provencher, William Prymak, Don Rack, John Rampe, William C. Rask, Brad Ring, Jessie Roberson, Mell Roy, Norm Sandlin, Dero Sargent, Rich Schassburger, Roy Schepens, Lance Schlag, Gene Schmitt, John Schneider, Gary Schuetz, Clay Sell, Beth Sellers, Warren Seyfert, Frank Sheppard, Mark Silverman, Dave Simonson, Steve Sohinki, Joe Springer, Jim Steward, John Stover, Scott Surovchak, Maryanne Tinney, Ines Triay, Reginald Tyler, Phil VanLoan, David Vaughn, Patty Wagner, Bruce Wallin, Bob Warther, Kerry Watson, Mike Weis, Ed Westbrook, Dotti Whitt, Elizabeth Wilson and Lam Xuan.

TRIBUTE TO SSG KEITH A.  
BENNETT

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to SSG Keith A. Bennett who faithfully served his country by fighting the war on terror.

He joined the National Guard in February 1997. He was a loyal soldier determined to serve our great Nation. During his time with the Guard, Sergeant Bennett traveled to Saudi Arabia. There, he was a military escort for less than a year.

Bennett, a member of the Second Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, was killed by a suicide bomber. While standing guard at a checkpoint which protects a facility where United States Marines train Iraqis to be police officers, an insurgent detonated the explosives leading to Bennett's death.

Sergeant Bennett is survived by his father, Harry E. Bennett of Aberdeen, MD, his mother

and stepfather, Carolyn Hasson and Thomas Miller of Holtwood, PA, his sister, Tina Daley, and his stepbrother, Tommy Miller, Jr. His family remembers him as a devoted soldier, son, and brother with a flare for adventure and loving to spend time riding his motorcycle and cruising in his 2003 black Mustang Cobra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor SSG Keith A. Bennett for the dedication he has shown to his family, his friends, and the American people.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD B. "SKIP"  
GARCIA

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Bernard B. "Skip" Garcia, a legend in Tampa's political circles, an asset to any Tampa politician who ran for office and a staple in the Tampa community.

Skippy helped good people win elections the right way—by knocking on doors, talking to friends and shaking hands. Skippy's energy was boundless. He knew just about everyone in Tampa and they all knew how much he cared for his community. So when Skippy would call, people would listen. For someone who is trying to reach out to voters, that kind of help was essential.

When Skippy wasn't helping win elections, he was always at work for our community. He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II and went on to work as a Hillsborough sheriff's deputy and deputy state fire marshal. Skippy supported the West Tampa Little League, the Boys and Girls Clubs, St. Joseph's Catholic School and Church and the Salesian Sisters, and he was an active Shriner, member of the Scottish Rite and a 32nd degree Mason.

Tampa won't be the same without Skippy. On behalf of the entire Tampa community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

HONORING BOB BASON UPON HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Bob Bason on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years as fundraiser and capital campaign consultant to charities and nonprofits throughout the United States. He is truly an asset to our local community and his work has touched the hearts of people worldwide.

Mr. Bason has spent his life ministering to those in need in a variety of ways. Born in Wisconsin, Bob earned a bachelors and masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena and was ordained in the Methodist Church. In 1967, Mr. Bason left the active ministry to become executive director of an organization working with the church in South and East Africa.

In 1969, Bob, his wife Carol, and their two daughters moved to Santa Barbara—a move

they consider to be the best decision of their lives. Here, Bob's ministry in the philanthropic community began. He became assistant Director of Development at Westmont College in 1969, Director of Development at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1972, and Director of Development at the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute in 1974. Also in 1974, Mr. Bason established Charitable Funding Services, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in capital campaigns. In the middle of his consulting career, Mr. Bason joined UCSB as assistant Chancellor for University Relations from 1980 to 1985 and served as the Senior Vice President for Development and Marketing at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in New York City from 1993 to 1995.

Mr. Bason has conducted more than 130 capital campaigns, raising nearly \$1 billion, an accomplishment he attributes to the volunteers with whom he worked. His clients have included universities, colleges, hospitals and medical research institutions, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, churches, private schools and countless social service agencies. Highlights of his consulting career include one of the first national campaigns to end child abuse and a \$50 million campaign for the first Africa food crisis.

Bob has volunteered with numerous charities in California and throughout the U.S. With a life-long passion for the work of Planned Parenthood, he is particularly proud of his years as a Planned Parenthood volunteer where he conducted fundraising seminars and trainings for more than 100 Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country and his 15 years as a board member for the local Planned Parenthood and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

I commend Mr. Bason's gift of talent, passion, and devotion to charitable organizations helping our most needy citizens. His work has been instrumental in making dreams come true and miracles happen. I feel deeply honored to share this community with Bob Bason and I have seen first hand the difference his work has made in the lives of so many. I wish him much happiness and much deserved relaxation in retirement.

HONORING MR. SCOTT DOYLE

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional public servant, Mr. Scott Doyle of Fort Collins, Colorado. Throughout his tenure as Larimer County's Clerk and Recorder, Mr. Doyle has distinguished himself as an innovator and a natural leader.

Mr. Doyle was recently named the 2005 Public Official of the Year by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks. This award honors an individual who has made exceptional contributions to both his profession and community.

Two of Mr. Doyle's initiatives as County Clerk and Recorder have received particular recognition. In an effort to provide Larimer County residents more convenient access to county services, Mr. Doyle created the Citizen Information Center. The Citizen Information

Center is located on the first floor of the county courthouse and provides a one-stop-shop for many county services. Furthermore, Mr. Doyle spearheaded the development and implementation of Larimer County's innovative Vote Center concept. This concept has earned national recognition as a cost effective way of implementing the goals and requirements of the Help America Vote Act.

During Mr. Doyle's remarkable career, his commitment to public service has been unmistakable. While serving our country in the Navy, Mr. Doyle worked on nuclear submarines and for Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC. He has also served as a Wyoming State Patrol officer, Public Information Officer for the Wyoming Air and Water Quality Division, and Hazardous Waste Manager for the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Larimer County Clerk and Recorder Scott Doyle's dedication to his community and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Doyle's unrivaled commitment to public service.

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#### TRIBUTE TO TINA ARAPKILES

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a dear friend and a good citizen, Ms. Tina Arapkiles. Tina recently "retired" from the Rocky Mountain Regional office of Sierra Club to spend more time with her family and other pursuits. I have known Tina for many years and have the highest regard for her work on behalf of conservation and the environment.

Tina's reputation for gentle, but persuasive, advocacy is well known in Colorado and I think it is fair to say that she has admirers from across the broad spectrum of public opinion, and not just from within the environmental community. Certainly, her reputation with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation (past and present) from both parties has been above reproach.

Advocacy in the public arena is all too often characterized by angry debate and an unhealthy appetite for making villains out of those with whom one disagrees. This has never been Tina's way, and it is much to her credit that she leaves her service at the Sierra Club with a well-deserved reputation for thoughtfulness and respect for others. Her example of quiet, but determined and passionate advocacy, is one I greatly admire.

For the last 20 years, she has been a consistent advocate for protecting the West's land, air, water, and wildlife. She began her work on these matters with a lobbying trip to Washington to help pass the Superfund law in 1985. In 1989 and 1990, she worked with Congress to revise the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. She has worked to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge since the inception of the campaign and has been a staunch supporter of Utah wilderness.

She also helped pass the California Desert Protection Act and the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. In fact, Tina, some say, single-handedly gained protections for the Wheeler Peak area. She also worked to designate Colorado's first Wild and Scenic River—the

Cache la Poudre along Colorado's northern Front Range just north and east of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Because of her work on environmental issues and her reputation for thoughtful advocacy, Tina was invited to be a member of the Denver Post's Community Roundtable in 1995 to discuss international trade issues. She was also appointed in 1992 to the Board of Editorial Contributors for the Rocky Mountain News to offer regular perspectives on environmental policy.

In January of 2000, Tina directed the Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project, a coalition of groups and individuals that played a strong role in the Colorado Wolf Working Group, which pushed the State to allow wolves to roam freely throughout the State. Her essay on wolves and camping with her family appears in the recently published collection *Comeback Wolves*.

She highlights working with Sierra Club volunteers as one of the best memories of her job, as well as attending the signing of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 in Colorado by President Clinton.

In addition to her work in the public arena, Tina has perhaps the more important distinction of successfully raising two children. For anyone who knows Tina, it is clear that her passion for the natural world is directly related to her interest in humanity. She cares deeply about Mother Earth, not because trees are more important than people, but because people need trees and all the other wonders of the natural world in order to be fully human.

Although she is leaving a distinguished career of service on behalf of the environment, and will be missed at the Colorado State capitol and in the halls of Congress, I know she will continue to be active in all the causes that she believes in, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her the very best in her future endeavors.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES REYOME

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Mr. James Reyome on his retirement as Public Works Director for the Town of Griffith. James has spent over 40 years of his life dedicated to the interests of the residents of Griffith, Indiana. His career in public service has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

James has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He started his career with the Griffith Police Department in 1962, where he worked until 1983, spending the last 7 years as Chief of Police. James also worked security at LTV Steel. He then became Lake County Police Chief under then Sheriff Bob Stiglich. In 1997, he was named Town of Griffith Public Works Director, a position his father held for 20 years. However, shortly before assuming the position of Public Works Director, James had a major stroke, followed by 2 milder strokes in 2002 and August 2005, which caused him to speed up his retirement plans.

James's family and friends should be proud of his efforts, as his leadership has served as

a beacon of hope throughout the community. His longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizens in Griffith, Indiana is truly inspirational and should be commended. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service, uncompromising dedication, and loyalty displayed by Mr. Reyome.

While James has dedicated a considerable amount of time and energy to his community, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest: his family. James and his wife, Anna, have 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. James Reyome for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish, lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

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#### HONORING MARY UBER FOR HER SUCCESSSES

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Uber for her success in overcoming disabilities to become a high quality worker. Please insert the following article from the Jamestown Post Journal of December 18, 2005 into the RECORD.

STATE AGENCY NAMES JAMESTOWN WOMAN  
"OUTSTANDING PERFORMER"

Mary Uber of Jamestown recently was honored by the state as an "Outstanding Performer" for her success in overcoming disabilities to become a high-quality worker.

Ms. Uber was recognized by New York State Industries for the Disabled as part of its annual program to acknowledge exceptional job performance and personal success by people with disabilities employed on NYSID contracts. She has a job through The Resource Center's Environmental Services division, which employs people with disabilities in janitorial jobs throughout Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. Some of its cleaning contracts come to The Resource Center through NYSID.

Ms. Uber has overcome disabilities and a history of short-term job experiences to become a successful member of the Environmental Services team. While lacking in self-assurance at first, Ms. Uber, who now is in her fifth year as a custodian, proved that she had a desire to work and was willing to try any job assigned to her. She has grown tremendously in terms of personal maturity and her ability on the job.

Due to hard work and personal growth, Ms. Uber was promoted to the position of leader of a three-person crew that cleans the Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office in Little Valley. As the lead member of the crew, she is responsible for seeing that all cleaning tasks are completed and supplies are on hand. She must also communicate with the customer as well as her supervisor, who says of Ms. Uber, "She takes charge, thinks on her feet and can lead others."

With the Resource Center's assistance, Ms. Uber has obtained her driver's license, so she now can transport her crew members and cleaning supplies to Little Valley, and she

also is able to work extra cleaning jobs at some of Environmental Services' other contract sites.

The Resource Center honored Ms. Uber as part of its observance of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Ms. Uber has overcome many odds to set herself apart and achieve great things, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

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THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF  
2005

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, pension plans are today underfunded in this country by \$450 billion—up over 1,000 percent since 2000—and the agency that insures these pension plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, is \$23 billion in debt, facing billions more in possible claims from companies such as Delta Airlines, Delphi, and Northwest Airlines.

Why? Well, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle give the same excuse every time: September 11. We are at war. Times are tough. But during that same time, corporate profits have risen an astonishing 50 percent and CEO compensation has grown even faster. Indeed, USA Today reports that 300 executives responsible for more than three-quarters of a trillion dollars in corporate losses since 2000 were rewarded with salary, bonuses and stock options totaling a staggering \$12 billion—\$8 million per year.

Times are not so tough for them—and little wonder. As a confidential letter sent to the SEC shows, CEO compensation at many publicly traded companies bears no relation to company performance. But as we all know, pensions do.

And when we talk about pensions and why reform is so badly needed, we should remember who it is that depend on them most—we are talking about people who have worked all their lives and are looking to enjoy their later years with some measure of financial security. Most of the 34 million Americans who are covered by a traditional pension that provides a guaranteed monthly benefit in retirement are not young adults starting out, with their whole careers in front of them—people who can change course at a moment's notice. These are very often seniors, people who have raised families; again, people who have worked their entire lives and paid not only their taxes but their dues to society with the expectation that what they have invested will be returned to them. The least we can do as their elected representatives is tell them that we will ensure that the Government does its part to guarantee that their employers will honor their end of this bargain.

That should be the bedrock principle on which this legislation is predicated, but it is not. H.R. 2830 fails to protect older and longer-service workers that are involved in cash balance pension plan conversions. It does not prevent employers from giving the same conflicted financial advice to their workers that gave us Enron and WorldCom. And perhaps most disturbingly, it fails to stop companies from dumping billions of dollars of unfunded pension obligations onto the PBGC by

declaring bankruptcy at the expense of taxpayers and employees.

And let's be clear, that is very much by design. The goal of this Republican majority from the beginning with pension reform these last few years has been the same—relieving companies from their obligations to employees, providing an out to the point where we would have no choice but to switch from a strong pension system to one that leaves retirees in a much more tentative, less secure financial state. And with Republicans in charge these last 4 years, we have almost reached that point—but not quite yet.

But this is not the direction we want to take as a country. And so, I urge my colleagues to make a statement with this vote that says companies do have obligations their workers—that says reforming our pension system is possible but only if we ask employees and employers alike to share in the benefits and the sacrifice. We can do better than this bill and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

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TRIBUTE TO CPT MICHAEL  
GONSMAN

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Michael Gonsman of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Captain Gonsman of Altoona, PA, served in Beiji, Iraq for 11 months. In addition to serving our country on the streets of Iraq, Captain Gonsman serves his home community as a member of the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department.

Captain Gonsman has dedicated 19 years to the fire department, serving as a truck foreman and a line officer. His fellow firefighters were like family to him, and while it was difficult for him to leave them and his wife and three children, he courageously moved forward to serve his country.

His fellow firefighters have said that he has always been dedicated to serving his country, and he has done just that. Captain Gonsman, who served as company commander, bravely led his soldiers to help the people of Iraq. He loved serving, and felt that the local people appreciated their presence.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Gonsman's fire department chief regarded him as a person who worked to better himself while helping others, and was willing to do anything he can for people in need. Through his service in Iraq and on the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department, he has proven that he is still that way today. The citizens of Duncansville and I would like to thank Captain Gonsman for his service and dedication to his country and community.

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TRIBUTE TO RADM MICHAEL G.  
MATHIS

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Michael G.

Mathis, United States Navy, for his more than 30 years of active duty service to our country. Admiral Mathis most recently served as the deputy commander for Test and Evaluation at the Naval Sea Systems Command and he retired on January 26, 2006.

For over two decades, Admiral Mathis shaped the Navy's strategic planning of surface ship combat systems, from electronic warfare and tactical data systems to advanced radars and several generations of surface-to-air missiles. He is the rare combination of leadership at sea, exceptional engineering and scientific accomplishments, and success as a program executive and program manager. Serving tirelessly as a Navy and Joint leader, including as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Chief Engineer, Admiral Mathis kept the spotlight on the RDT&E required to meet the Department of Defense's current and future needs.

In his many years as the leader of the Surface Navy's acquisition professionals, as well as the Navy's senior expert in advanced and future weapons systems, Admiral Mathis instilled pride in generations of naval officers and civilian engineers. A strong proponent of technical proficiency in naval officers, he promoted the Navy's advanced science and engineering degree programs for junior officers.

Admiral Mathis's inspirational leadership and management of the 22,000 men and women of the Naval Surface Warfare Systems Command during wartime has directly contributed to the tremendous record of success in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the fielding of thermobaric weapons and innovative Force Protection advances developed in his warfare center laboratories. He put the weapons and tools in the hands of the warfighters when they were needed. Most recently, his talents and dedication to our warfighters were further put to use by our country as he served in the Joint Staff as Deputy Director, J-8 for Force Protection.

Throughout his career, the Navy's leadership selected Admiral Mathis for a series of key positions to mold the technical direction of the Navy's Theatre Missile Defense program. His foresight, vision, and management decisions led to the development and continuing success of missile defense programs vital to our Nation's defense. Key among his assignments was as the Director, Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization, where he was responsible to the Chairman and Secretary of Defense for evaluating systems and emerging technologies to determine the optimum mix of surveillance, fire control systems, and the associated battle management system to counter aircraft, cruise missile and ballistic missile threats to our Nation.

More than just a leader providing the technical punch for the global war on terror, Admiral Mathis has focused on maintaining our Nation's technological edge in future weapons systems. He is the senior advocate and leader for the RDT&E in laser and directed energy weapons, inspiring industry and government engineers to solve engineering challenges and ensuring our next generation of warfighters has the weapons needed to win. He has championed the need for battle force, joint, and coalition interoperability and warfighting capabilities, serving as the Single Integrated Air Picture System Engineer for

the Chairman, JCS, and Commander, Joint Forces Command. He also led the development of the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense roadmap, and to identify joint solutions to surveillance and command and control challenges.

As the Joint Staff lead for Interagency Homeland Air Security issues, Admiral Mathis most recently worked in close cooperation with USNORTHCOM, NORAD, the Services, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Homeland Security.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to express my appreciation for his dedicated service and I wish him well in his retirement from the Navy.

#### TRIBUTE TO RON NEELY

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ronald Neely. Ron passed away in January. He was a passionate and effective leader of historic preservation and community betterment in Georgetown, Colorado, an historic mining town nestled in the Clear Creek Valley along Interstate 70 just east of the Continental Divide.

Ron established a distinguished career in Georgetown on a number of projects, and was known throughout the state as a champion of preserving local history. His accomplishments were recently acknowledged through his selection as the recipient of three simultaneous awards in Colorado: the Stephen H. Hart Award from the Colorado Historical Society, the Dana Crawford Award for Excellence from Colorado Preservation, Inc., and the President's Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. No one has ever received all three awards before, which underscores his influence for enhancing community quality of life and historic appreciation, not only in Georgetown, but throughout Colorado and the nation.

Much can be said of Ron and how he affected the lives of many people. Perhaps the best synopsis comes from The Denver Post columnist Joanne Ditmer. In a column appearing in The Denver Post in late November, she wrote:

Counting our Thanksgiving blessings usually is a litany of material things, as well as family and friends who enrich our lives. But this year I'm giving thanks for the people who have vision, commitment and practical know-how to make our communities the best possible places to live.

A sterling example is Ron Neely of Georgetown, who for 35 years has had one goal: to keep that splendid old Victorian mining town as a wonderful place to live and visit. He's a historic preservationist, not just for saving beautiful old buildings, but for preserving and nurturing the unique man-built qualities that make his town one of the most attractive and healthy in the state.

I can think of no other individual who has made such an impact on the looks and spirit of this historic community. He is a visionary, hard-headed and practical, with financial savvy. All over Colorado, those with similar interests see Georgetown as the example of how to get it right, despite some really tough battles along the way.

I agree with these reflections on Ron and his work.

In 1966, Georgetown was named a National Historic Landmark District, among the first designated by Congress. Shortly thereafter, Ron founded and became executive director of Historic Georgetown Inc. (HGI) in 1970. The next year, HGI bought the 1867 Hammil House and converted it into a museum, which showcases how wealthy mine owners and others lived in the harsh environment of the west at the turn of the century. From there, Ron and others went on to purchase and protect a number of historic structures throughout the town.

In addition, Ron helped lead an effort to stop the building of a condominium complex on a mountain above the town. Following that success in 1982, Ron and HGI helped to buy the land on which the development would have occurred in order to keep it as open space. Presently, HGI has secured 2,000 acres of open space on the mountainsides towering above the town. This will not only preserve the historic feel of the area, but it also will protect some of the old mining artifacts and workings on these open spaces.

In 1995, Ron worked with HGI to purchase an old filling station right of the interstate. His vision was to turn this into a Gateway Visitors Center to create an inviting first impression for visitors to Georgetown. Together with HGI and the Colorado Department of Transportation, Ron's vision became a reality when this facility was opened in 2003. Now, the Center sees 300,000 visitors annually.

I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Ron. He continued to work steadfastly on projects and efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the Georgetown community. The town will reap the benefits of his work for years to come. I also had the chance to thank him personally at the ceremony early this year where he received the three awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievement of Ron Neely. His legacy will live on in Georgetown and in others who work to preserve our past and make our communities vibrant places to live, work, raise a family, and appreciate. I have also included a story from the Rocky Mountain News regarding his death and life's work.

[From Rocky Mountain News, Jan. 14, 2006]

#### NEELY HELPED CREATE HISTORIC GEORGETOWN

(By Mary Voelz Chandler)

Ronald J. Neely's passion for preservation led to the founding of Historic Georgetown, new life for numerous buildings and stature as a wellspring of information for others who battle to save historic sites.

Even a diagnosis in June of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the progressive neuromuscular disease also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, didn't temper his love of talking about preservation battles past or present—or future.

But complications from the disease ended his life Friday morning at Lutheran Medical Center. He died at age 66 of respiratory failure.

"Ron is the epitome of a leader who takes on a community with pride and passion and takes it light-years ahead," said Dana Crawford, a preservationist and developer, as well as president of Urban Neighborhoods. "He did so much for that community and for others."

Mr. Neely moved out of Denver to work at Loveland Ski Area in the late 1960s, tired of

the city and eyeing a life on skis. Soon after, he settled in Georgetown and, with friends, in 1970 founded the preservation group that is credited with being the oldest in Colorado.

"A town like this kind of grabs you in a hurry," Mr. Neely said last year in an interview with the Rocky Mountain News.

A few weeks before, he had been honored by three preservation groups with the Colorado Historical Society's Stephen H. Hart Award, Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Dana Crawford Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award.

During the emotional program at the Oxford Hotel, Crawford looked out at the crowd and said, "I feel we all went to college together—at Ron Neely University."

The line brought laughter then; on Friday it brought agreement.

"He was one of the early preservation pioneers in the state and set the standard for the rest of us to follow in how you do it, in what grass-roots preservation is all about," said Barbara Pahl, head of the Mountains/Plains Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "He was one of the best and one of our state's treasures."

Mr. Neely and Historic Georgetown worked to preserve several buildings in that city and were in discussions about buying and restoring the town's 1874 school building.

His wife, Cynthia Neely, said Friday that effort will continue. When she told the school's owner of Mr. Neely's death, "He said, 'This will be a different place without him.' And he's right. This will be a different place without him."

Passion and determination are words that come up often in conversations about Mr. Neely.

"The loss of Ron is a tremendous loss on so many levels," said Mark Wolfe, director of the State Historical Fund. "He symbolized the determination preservation needs to be successful with sensitivity and generosity. I think that is a unique combination. He sincerely cared, not just about preservation, but the way it affected people."

Survivors include his mother, Fran Phipps, of Arvada; wife, Cynthia, of Georgetown; son, Ronald J. (Burr) Neely Jr., of Fairbanks, Alaska; sister, Cherie DeAngelis, of Arvada; stepson, Ted Wadsworth, of Boston; close friend, Christine Bradley, of Georgetown; and several nieces and nephews.

A tribute will be next week at the Hamill House in Georgetown, though the date has not been set, said Dana K. Abrahamson, executive director of Historic Georgetown Inc.

#### RECOGNITION OF MS. CHRISTINE TOLBERT'S EXTRAORDINARY WORK AS AN EDUCATOR

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to recognize the efforts of a truly significant person in the education field. Not only is it a privilege to represent her in the Second Congressional District of Maryland, but also to call Ms. Christine Tolbert a friend.

Ms. Tolbert breathed her passion for educating youth into the Hosanna School, known for being the first African-American school in Harford County. As years have past, the school has been adopted by the National Registry of Historic Places, serving as a museum

and as grounds for living history. Ms. Tolbert has been the Executive Director of this project since nineteen hundred eighty.

She took particular interest in this school because her ancestors have lived in Harford County as early as the 1700s. During her years as a student, schools, libraries, theatres, and restaurants were segregated. Here she is able to share with students of all ages the African American history unique to Harford County. Spectators are able to tour the one-room schoolhouse while learning what our fellow Americans have overcome.

This generation's students may be surprised that furthering her education seemed a mere fantasy. However, a friend, Mr. Stephen P. Moore, Jr. showed her family it was not only a reality, but an undeniable opportunity. She attended Maryland State Teachers' College in Bowie, Maryland. Upon graduation, she began work in Harford County Public School where she taught every grade level in elementary school except kindergarten and third grade. Not feeling satisfied there, her thirst for knowledge continued. She went on to obtain a Master's degree from Loyola College in guidance and counseling.

Next, she served as a guidance counselor at Aberdeen High School where she developed Harford School's first Black Heritage Club. She didn't stop there; she also worked with others to form Black Youth in Action. Despite the demands of her current job, Ms. Tolbert sought more for herself. Her quest for reaching students still did not seem complete. Back to school again, this time earning the requirements needed to qualify for an administration position. She served as Supervisor of Elementary and Secondary schools until she retired from the Harford County Public School system.

Retirement didn't last long; she accepted a position as a Career Counselor at Open Doors Career Center. Shortly thereafter, she spread her branches into the college world as she joined the Harford Community College team as an adjunct professor.

Ms. Tolbert has dedicated her life to educating the future leaders of our country. She has received awards from the Maryland Retired Teachers' Association, the National Retired Teachers' Association, and she's received an award for Excellence from Colin Powell's group America's Promise. She's also received Harford County's coveted historic preservation award for her book *A Journey Through Berkley Maryland* which she co-authored with Constance Beims. She's an inductee of Harford County's Educator's Hall of Fame, and she's received recognition by Governor Hughes for the time she and her husband spent as foster parents.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this incredible list of accomplishments Ms. Christine Tolbert is truly an asset to the educational field. Her heart has always been devoted to bettering our nation's youth. She is an advocate for kids of all ages. I have often heard her say that if you guide children in the right direction and educate them, they will be successful. I ask that you join with me today to applaud the tremendous work she has done for this community.

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH C. DELL

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ralph C. Dell, a prominent, greatly respected attorney whose passing is a tremendous loss to the Tampa Bay community.

Raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, Ralph graduated from the University of Florida and earned his law degree at University of Florida Law School. Ralph settled down in Tampa and soon cofounded his law practice, Allen Dell, representing clients such as Tampa General Hospital and the Atlantic Coast Line railroad.

Ralph gave all his work his very best, earning acclaim not only from his loyal clients, but also from his colleagues. In 1987, he was selected by the Hillsborough Bar Association to receive the prestigious Herbert Goldberg Award. He also served as a member of the board of governors of the Florida Bar and as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

But Ralph will also be remembered for his involvement in his community through a number of local organizations. An active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Tampa, Ralph served as an elder and clerk of session and he taught Sunday school for nearly 60 years.

Ralph's tremendous integrity, vivacious spirit, his dedication to the legal profession and the quality of his work will always be remembered. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I extend my deepest sympathies to Ralph's family.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF WARREN M. DORN OF MORRO BAY

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Warren M. Dorn, a longtime resident of Morro Bay, California in my District, who died on January 10, 2006.

A graduate and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of University of California, Santa Barbara, Warren served as Mayor of Pasadena, on the Los Angeles Board of Supervisor from 1956–72, and later, as Mayor of Morro Bay. He chaired the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District for eight years during his board tenure where he managed to have a profound impact on more than 160 laws improving our air quality. He also played key roles in the creation of the Los Angeles County Music Center and in developing airports, museums, sports areas and medical centers. He was passionate about water conservation and was instrumental in building the California Aqueduct. Throughout his time in public life, Warren Dorn was known for bipartisan efforts with all that he undertook.

This distinguished public servant also had another area of devotion: to his wife of 63 years, Phyllis, and to his three children and their families. Warren and Phyllis co-founded Morro Bay Beautiful in 1980, spending two

decades dedicated to keeping area beaches clean.

The city of Morro Bay and the state of California are forever enriched by the contributions of Warren Dorn. His friendships were many, from the famous to the not so famous. Indeed, by his life's work he was a friend to us all.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN TWEEDY OF LANDLOCKED FILMS

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Tweedy on the success of his documentary film-making company, Landlocked Films. His work is deserving of recognition for its superb quality, emotional realism, and the depth and diversity of its subject matter. John Tweedy's Boulder-based independent documentary video company is co-owned and run in collaboration with his wife, Ms. Beret Strong.

Tweedy's films have won both national and local awards and have been screened at film festivals both in the U.S. and abroad, as well as being broadcast on over 100 Public Broadcasting System affiliates in the U.S. and Canada. Before moving to Boulder, Tweedy received his law degree from Stanford University Law School and an M.A. in Sociology from Brown University. In addition to practicing law and making films, he has worked for the court system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Saipan. His films are as broad-ranging as his background and are inspiring and evocative.

"Lieweila: A Micronesia Story," is an apt example of Tweedy's ability to render a compelling history through his art. Using historical footage, old photographs, and the voice of a Refalawasch narrator, Tweedy helps an indigenous people give their history and describe their struggles with colonialism and modernization, creating an educational and inspirational film experience.

His films on the education of children include "Song of Our Children," "The Dance of Conversation: Strategies for Encouraging Children's Language Development," and "Training 3, from C to B: Age Transitions for Kids with Special Needs." John actively participates in local education, serving on the boards of Sojourner Charter School, Horizons Alternative School, and Kids Connections.

In another film, "Streams of Gold," Tweedy makes himself a subject of his own filmmaking. Traveling to southern Ecuador, Tweedy uncovers a piece of his own history by documenting the story of an Andean gold mining town in which his grandparents lived and worked for nearly 30 years. The result is a personal and informational film that has much to say about economics and the modern world.

Landlocked Films also produces videos profiling non-profit organizations, schools, and companies in a way that projects more heart than glitz. Each of the promotional videos is designed and produced as a mini-documentary, allowing the viewer to experience the organization from the inside out. Among recent promotional efforts are "Mothers Acting Up," showing this organization's actions to redefine

the priorities of our national government, and "Teaching from the Heart: Celebrating Ten Years of Horizons Alternative," a film that guides the viewer from the school's founding with archival footage through the present with student interviews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to John Tweedy for making films that speak to our community socially, culturally, and artistically. We thank him for his film achievements and look forward to appreciating his films for many years to come. I wish him, his wife Beret, and his children, Paige and Marcus, good health and happiness in their future.

CELEBRATING THE RAWLINGS MUSEUM AND THE MAN WHOSE LEGACY MADE IT POSSIBLE

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rawlings Museum in Las Animas, Colorado, and to pay tribute to the man whose legacy made this dream possible.

The Pioneer Historical Museum, which celebrates the history of Bent County, will be housed in the newly restored 106-year-old Odello Lodge building. The project is being spearheaded by the local Pioneer Historical Society and the Bent County Development Foundation, and is funded by a generous gift from Robert Hoag Rawlings, publisher of the Pueblo Chieftain. The gift was given in honor of Mr. Rawlings' late father and civic leader, John W. Rawlings.

Mr. John W. Rawlings served in the Army during World War I and was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant shortly thereafter. While in the service, he met Dorothy Hoag who he married in April 1920. After Mr. Rawlings and his wife were discharged in 1919, they took residence in Monte Vista, Colorado and had three children: John William Jr., Robert Hoag, and Dorothy Louise.

In 1941, Mr. Rawlings became president of First National Bank in Las Animas and later became chairman of the board. He was active in the community and sought to promote progress in southeastern Colorado. Mr. Rawlings served as president of the Las Animas Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, Mr. Rawlings was an influential member of the Agriculture Committee of the Colorado Bankers Association and served as the president of the local Lions Club.

As the Rawlings Museum progresses and exhibits begin to open, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. John W. Rawlings and honoring his lifetime of contributions to the Las Animas community.

TRIBUTE TO CORETTA SCOTT KING

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to remember the late

Coretta Scott King. Our nation has lost one of its great leaders, but her memory will live on forever. Her legacy will live on so that future generations will continue to know and fight for the compassion and equality that she treasured so dearly.

With the passing of Coretta Scott King, our country has lost a leader; a leader who dedicated her life to doing what was right and what was just. In order to carry out her legacy—and that of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—we must each individually dedicate ourselves to the causes they so passionately believed in.

Equality, justice, and opportunity drive the human spirit forward, and by working on behalf of these principles, Coretta Scott King advanced the causes of mankind. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family. Our nation will miss her greatly.

As we reflect on Coretta Scott King's legacy, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Her life reminds us that we must continually fight to secure and protect our freedoms. In her courage to act, her willingness to meet challenges, and her ability to achieve, she embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

After she married Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as a young pastor he began his civil rights work in Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. King worked closely with him. She organized marches and sit-ins at segregated restaurants while balancing an equally daunting task: raising their four children. She held the family together as it endured the tragic events surrounding Dr. King. Even after her family home was bombed in Montgomery, she persevered—at a time when most would have given up. Those children, Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine are as much a part of her legacy as her dynamic civil rights work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise in honor of the legacy and life of Coretta Scott King. Her determination and dedication has made our world a better place to live, and I am proud to honor her legacy.

HONORING TONI AND DAVID "GOOGIE" WILLIS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Toni and David "Googie" Willis of Dunkirk, New York for their leadership in raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

This amazing pair of dedicated people have been the organizers for the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association for many years.

Their countless hours of volunteer work should never go unnoticed. These unsung heroes give their all in the effort to raise funds so that others may have a better life.

Through the years Toni and Googie have helped raise \$65,000 for the cause. Without their devotion and passion this would never be possible.

Toni and Googie have given their all for a wonderful cause without stopping to think of themselves, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

THE "NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM ACT OF 2005"

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that prior to the end of the 1st Session of the 109th Congress, Subcommittee Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Chairman DON YOUNG, Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR, and I introduced H.R. 4650, the "National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005."

We have seen in the Gulf Region what can happen when hurricane and flood protection infrastructure is inadequate or fails to perform.

The National Inventory of Dams shows that 45 percent of all Federal dams are at least 50 years old; and that 80 percent of them are at least 30 years old.

We know less about the status and capabilities of our levees. We do not know how many levees there are in the United States, we do not know how old they are, and in many cases we do not know who constructed them or who is responsible for their operation and maintenance. There has never been a national inventory of levees.

Over the decades, levees have been built by different entities, at different times, and to different standards. They have been linked together to provide a protective system for a city, but with such a mixture of conditions, the true level of protection may be in doubt.

Every day the Nation's engineers and scientists learn more about the reliability and limitations of dams and levees. New techniques and materials are discovered in the laboratories. Without investments in infrastructure, we cannot benefit from what we have learned.

What is the condition of our hurricane and flood protection infrastructure? What should it be? Do we need to make policy changes to be sure that we are making the best investments of taxpayer dollars? Before we make a massive investment of taxpayer dollars, we need to do an inventory of levees across the United States.

That is why today we are introducing the "National Levee Safety Program Act", to get an inventory of levees in the United States and work with the States to encourage them to develop their own levee safety programs.

We have worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle and the various groups to advance the goal of improving the infrastructure in the most cost effective manner. We have received favorable feedback from diverse parties. The National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005 embraces innovative solutions for these parties and I urge members to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO IRVIN "MIKE" FAULKNER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin "Mike" Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. Mr. Faulkner passed away on December 12, 2005, and is survived by his wife

Eleanor, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Mike was born in 1919 in Blackwell, Oklahoma. Growing up during the Great Depression, he faced many hardships, but with great determination and a strong work ethic he strived to achieve a better life.

At the onset of World War II, Mike Faulkner answered his country's call. Serving in the Third Army, Mike was involved in many major battles throughout Europe. He stormed the beach at Normandy, survived the Battle of the Bulge and participated in the liberation of Dachau. It was at Dachau that Mike saw the cruelty of the Nazi regime. Mike later shared his story in a documentary on the concentration camps to remind generations to come of some of our world's darkest history.

Upon returning home, he moved to California where he attended Fresno College, known today as California State University—Fresno. He obtained a degree in Biology and a teaching credential. In 1955, he became a teacher with the Madera Unified School District. Many will remember Mr. Faulkner as their favorite biology teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

In 1960, the science teacher married his beloved Eleanor and together they raised 3 daughters, Glenda, Shirley and Joyce Ann as well as 2 foster children, John and Carolyn Sue Vogel.

One of the crowning achievements of Mr. Faulkner's career in education was as Principal at John Adams Elementary School in Madera, California. As Principal, he was known as a strict taskmaster who was quick to punish you when you did wrong but equally quick to recognize and reward a job well done.

Retirement couldn't keep Mike Faulkner out of the classroom. He continued to lend his years of experience to troubled youth at the Juvenile Hall and the Sugar Pine Continuation School. He served as a substitute teacher at Madera High School and when he wasn't substitute teaching, he spent time baking, sharing stories with friends, and caring for his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin "Mike" Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Irvin "Mike" Faulkner and to express the condolences of a grateful Nation to the Faulkner family.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN TESSIERI ON  
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT  
FROM THE U.S. HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Democratic Members and staff of the House Science Committee to recognize a long-time member of the Committee staff—Vivian Tessieri.

Vivian will be leaving the Science Committee early next month after nearly 30 years of devoted service. She is one of the longest serving staff members in the history of the Committee and she will be greatly missed.

Vivian was hired by the Committee on Science in 1977, shortly after legislation

passed to significantly expand committee staffs. At that time, the Science Committee had 7 subcommittees and the minority staff (then Republican) grew from 4 to its present size.

I'm told that the rapidly growing staff needed someone to bring order to the chaos, and Vivian—then a young staff assistant with a number of years experience at the General Accounting Office—fit the bill.

Vivian's job has not been easy. Her first assignment was on an extremely busy subcommittee. Vivian jumped right in and brought unprecedented discipline to the operation.

Staff who worked with her assured me that Vivian's years on the Energy Subcommittee were some of its most productive—laying the foundation of energy policy still adhered to today. Vivian excelled at her job and was quickly promoted. When the Full Committee's legislative clerk retired in the early 1980s, Vivian was the obvious choice for that position.

She brought her enthusiasm for organization, common sense to ask questions, and savvy communications ability to the position and it has never been the same.

Generations of members and staff assume that Committee events automatically run smoothly and flawlessly, but the fact is that Vivian has been the force behind the Committee's administrative success.

Even in the midst of her daily workload—endless archiving, copying and maintenance of Committee records—Vivian has always found time to take a personal interest in staff members' legislative issues and keep them informed of related topics moving forward outside of the Science Committee's jurisdiction. She has a keen eye and depth of historical Committee knowledge that is unparalleled.

Only one other Committee employee has worked for the Republicans, then the Democrats, then the Republicans once again. This is a testament to Vivian's unparalleled professionalism and devotion to her job.

Those who have worked alongside Vivian through the years say that to describe Vivian is to combine a high level of competence with an unfailingly helpful, professional and friendly manner. She has been a delight to work with, always dependable and conscientious in her work, while maintaining her serenity and good cheer under pressure.

Vivian loves this institution. Her commitment to her work is a testament to her genuine desire to see members, Committees and staffs succeed for the constituents they serve.

People like Vivian do not come along very often and many times we don't realize their true value until they have gone. Regrettably that time has come. Vivian, we wish you nothing but success and happiness as you take your immense talents to the private sector.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD CUPIT

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief Richard Cupit for 43 years of service to the Mundy Township Fire Department and community.

Over the past 43 years, Chief Cupit has saved lives, homes, and businesses. His ac-

tions have directly impacted the quality of life in Genesee County. His courageous actions saving a life in 1988 and the Chief's assistance during the Clara Barton Nursing Home disaster are just two of many acts that have been singled out by the State of Michigan and Genesee County.

The Mundy Township community has changed since Chief Cupit first started working as a fire fighter for the township in 1963. As he moved up through the ranks the community grew and the nature of firefighting changed. His work with the 800MHz Committee, the Hazmat Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Genesee County, Michigan and International Fire Chiefs associations, reflect his strong commitment to serving the people of this community. As the director of county fire department coordination he exhibited the ability to work with a diverse group of peers with competing priorities and often under stressful and life threatening circumstances.

I ask the Congress to rise with me today and congratulate Chief Richard Cupit on a long and illustrious career as a fire fighter and a Fire Chief and extend our best wishes to him as he enters a new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR WWII U.S.  
ARMY CHAPLAINS

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism and courageous act of self-sacrifice of four U.S. Army Chaplains. On a chilly February day in 1943 during the perilous times of World War II, these four soldiers selflessly gave their life jackets to their fellow comrades as the USS *Dorchester* sunk to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. The chaplains may have perished on that fateful day but their memory of sacrifice lives on forever.

The chaplains included: LT George L. Fox, LT Alexander D. Goode, LT Johnny P. Washington, and LT Clark V. Poling. The four honorable men represented differing religious faiths ranging from Catholic to Jewish to Protestant. Not only did each chaplain teach of their respective religion, but with their humble act exercised their faiths inherent principles of goodwill and charity toward others.

I would like to commend the American Legion Argonne Post No. 71 in Brewster, New York, who on Monday, February 6, 2006, will remember the four Army chaplains in ceremony. Honoring the requests of the Argonne Legion post I gratefully join them in remembering February 5th as Four Chaplain's Sunday. As a Nation, it's imperative that we follow the lead of the American Legion and join in honoring these four brave and courageous soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM LEPSCH

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Lepsch on the occasion

of his retirement and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Lepsch has made a lifetime commitment to his community and Nation. As a young man, he served our Nation in the army during the Vietnam War. He has spent over 30 years as a member of the Attica Fire Department, serving as Chief, Rescue Squad Captain, EMT, and representing the department on various county and regional boards. He has served the residents of the Village of Attica as a Village Trustee for 10 years, most recently as Deputy Mayor. Mr. Lepsch has also been active in his parish church, serving as a parish board member and parish school volunteer accountant.

Colleagues, friends, and family alike hail Mr. Lepsch as someone who has exemplified genuine concern and dedication to his family and his neighbors and constituents.

It is with a great pride and gratitude that I rise to thank and honor Mr. Lepsch for his many years of commitment and loyalty to the citizens of Attica and Wyoming County.

HONORING GEORGETTE "TOOTSIE"  
LASKE ON THE OCCASION OF  
HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Branford community and a dear friend of mine, Georgette "Tootsie" Laske. After twenty-seven years of dedicated service to the Town of Branford, Tootsie has retired from municipal service. Though she will no longer be at Town Hall, I have no doubt that Tootsie will continue to be a fixture in the Branford community.

A life-long resident of Branford, Tootsie graduated from Branford High School where she was an active and skilled athlete. Playing basketball, field hockey, volleyball, and gymnastics, Tootsie was recognized in 1999 for her accomplishments with induction into the Branford Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, Tootsie began working for Security Insurance Company and Nationwide Insurance. However, in 1978, Tootsie was hired by then Town Clerk Peter Abondi as Branford's Assistant Town Clerk—a position which she held until her election as Town Clerk in 1992. In her many years of service at Town Hall, Tootsie has made residents and non-residents alike feel welcome with her complimentary Tootsie Roll candies. Her kind heart and special way with people made her a popular figure at Town Hall and there is no doubt that her presence will be missed.

Tootsie's dedication to her community extended far beyond her work at Town Hall. Our communities would not be the same without those individuals who so willingly volunteer their time and energy on behalf of others. Throughout her lifetime, Tootsie has been this kind of community member—always willing to help in any way that she could. Whether it was as a volunteer for the Special Olympics World Games Connecticut in 1995, as a long-time member of the Italian-American Women's

Auxiliary of Branford, or her work with a multitude of local civic organizations, Tootsie's unwavering efforts have touched the lives of many. I have no doubt that, though she will be enjoying her retirement, Tootsie will continue to find ways in which she can enrich the community as well as the lives of others.

I am also glad to have this opportunity to extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Tootsie for her many years of support and friendship. Tootsie is an extraordinary woman and I consider myself privileged to call her my friend.

For her countless hours of service, both professionally and personally, to the Town of Branford, I am proud to rise today to join her husband, James; her four children, Kathleen, Nancy, Thomas, and James; her eight grandchildren, Jenna, Bridget, Kelly, Scott, Mikayla, Patrick, Allison, and Kirsten; family, friends, colleagues, and community members in extending my sincere congratulations to Georgette "Tootsie" Laske as she celebrates her retirement. Her generosity, compassion, and good heart have left an indelible mark on the Branford community and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SAN JOSE'S REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Catholic Charities of San Jose's 25th anniversary of its refugee resettlement programs.

Less than 1 percent of the refugees in camps are accepted by Western countries for resettlement. Refugees who have already suffered unthinkable crimes and injustices are often forced to wait in camps for as long as 10 years before being interviewed for consideration. The very lucky few who are accepted for immigration to the United States often arrive with little to no money, few, if any, family and only the hope and dream of a better life.

To ease this very difficult transition, Catholic Charities meets these refugees at the airport and begins the resettlement process immediately. They and their team of committed volunteers provide financial support for housing, food, clothing and other necessities, medical care, case management and independent living skills training such as budgeting skills, housing assistance and food preparation.

In their 25 years of dedication and hard work, over 20,000 refugees have been assisted in their quest to build a better life for themselves and their future generations. Catholic Charities of San Jose provides these valuable services at no cost to the immigrant.

This program is one of many that Catholic Charities provides in its overall vision of transforming lives. This wonderful organization strives to empower meaningful, quality living through economic, familial and emotional stability. Catholic Charities serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages and serves a diverse population from various eth-

nic backgrounds and provides services in 17 languages.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to have a warm, welcoming and nurturing organization in my district that appreciates and honors the diversity that makes America, and specifically San Jose, California, a desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

TRIBUTE TO THE GARY  
FRONTIERS SERVICE CLUB

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death remind us that we must continually fight to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Monday, January 16, 2006, at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, founded in 1952, sponsors this annual memorial breakfast.

This year the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to five local individuals who, for decades, have unselfishly contributed to improving the human condition of others in the City of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Reverend Norman L. Hariston Sr., who is retired and a member of St. John Baptist Church; Dr. Alfonso D. Holliday II, a semi-retired physician who served Gary residents and is now a consultant; Roosevelt Haywood Jr., activist and former Gary City Councilman; Willie Kuykendall, a 1960's voting activist; and Cherrie B. White, a retired activist, will receive the 2006 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award.

The late Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks will become the only person to receive a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honorary Drum Major Award for her single courageous act of dignified defiance on December 1, 1955, which set in motion the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set laudable goals, and they worked hard to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club:

President Floyd Donaldson, Breakfast Chairman Oliver Gilliam, Breakfast Co-Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Master of Ceremonies Alfred Hammond, Melvin Ward, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to making Northwest Indiana a better place for all who live and work there.

SALUTING THE TENNESSEE ARMY  
NATIONAL GUARD'S 168TH MILITARY  
POLICE BATTALION

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an outstanding group of men and women—the Tennessee Army National Guard's 168th Military Police Battalion of Lebanon, TN. On Sunday, February 5, the 168th will receive the Valorous Unit Award at a special presentation at the Armory in Lebanon.

The Valorous Unit Award is one of the Nation's most prestigious military awards. It is presented to units of the Armed Forces of the United States for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force. To receive this award, a unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission so as to set it apart from, and above, other units participating in the same conflict. Its equivalent in individual awards is the Silver Star.

I know all Tennesseans, and all Americans, join with me in thanking the 168th for their bravery, their commitment and their selfless service while in Iraq.

The 168th received its award for performance of duties from May 20, 2003 through January 31, 2004. While they performed many duties, some of their key accomplishments during their service were to establish law and order operations in all of east Baghdad, establish Iraqi police stations, train Iraqi police officers and establish an Iraqi police academy. The battalion coordinated numerous offensive operations and patrols within its area of operations under very austere conditions. They were responsible for confiscating numerous weapons caches, counterfeit money, and ammunition. And they frequently provided escort and security service to convoys in the region.

During their service, the 168th Battalion and its subordinate units receive numerous Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts, and Army Commendation Medals for Valor. Their service was one that required heroism and courage on a daily basis.

I am honored to serve as the Congressman for Lebanon and privileged to represent these men and women in Washington. We are all blessed to live in the greatest country in the history of the world. And we are particularly blessed that men and women, like the members of Tennessee's 168th Military Police Battalion, willingly put their lives on the line every day so that we may continue to enjoy freedom here at home.

Words cannot adequately thank the members of the 168th for their exceptional service. But I want to take this moment, and this occa-

sion of their Valorous Unit Award presentation, to salute them on behalf of all Americans for their heroic service to our country and to freedom around the world.

HONORING ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor as a community St. Xavier University and to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. St. Xavier is located in Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood.

When founded in 1846 by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier was a Catholic institution grounded in the tradition of the liberal arts. As one of 18 colleges and universities sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier has evolved into an institution that seeks to provide its students with the meaning of scholarship, the support of the community, and the spirit of moral and ethical sensibility.

Although a Catholic university of approximately 5,700 students, St. Xavier welcomes students of all faiths and religious backgrounds. Because of its rich traditions and commitment to excellence St. Xavier has become one of Chicago's premier collegiate institutions for students studying nursing, business, as well as education.

It is my honor to recognize this school and its many achievements both academically and athletically. In addition, I commend St. Xavier University for fostering the intellectual and cultural growth of the administration, faculty and students who all play a vital role in the success of the university's existence in today's society.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF GUADALUPE,  
ARIZONA ON THE 31ST  
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the Town of Guadalupe, Arizona, a community in my district which I proudly represent, on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of its incorporation. Named after the patron saint of Mexico, the Virgin of Guadalupe, this culturally-rich community is home to about 5,500 residents.

Guadalupe was founded by Yaqui Indians around the turn of the century when they fled their traditional homeland along the Yaqui River in Sonora, Mexico to avoid persecution and enslavement by the Mexican government under Porfirio Diaz. When the Yaqui people fled as refugees, many were able to find a home in the Salt River Valley's agricultural economy. One of the villages was in south Tempe, just north of the present Guadalupe site. A missionary Franciscan Friar, Lucius Zittier, petitioned President Woodrow Wilson for 40 acres of land so the Yaqui could permanently settle. The site, undesirable as

uncultivable, is located in the center of the present community, known as "La Cuarenta," or "The 40," as some still call it today.

Guadalupe also became home to many Hispanic families over the years, and it has become a stopping point for Mexican immigrant workers. As the community has grown, it has demonstrated its resilience in the face of difficult economic times, poverty, and racism.

Many young men of Mexican and Yaqui descent answered the call for military service and defended our country. Dozens of Guadalupe veterans' names are on the rolls of those who served, and many paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In the early 1960s, Guadalupe Organization, Inc., was formed and it began to identify and address the community's needs. Many services taken for granted in other communities were not provided in Guadalupe and residents began to get organized. A new voting precinct in Guadalupe was formed, and U.S. Sen. Carl Hayden was instrumental in securing home mail delivery for residents. As the Guadalupe Organization advocated for community betterment and educated residents about civil awareness, many small victories were achieved for the community. The organization prevented a freeway from being built through the center of Guadalupe, opened a dental clinic with volunteer dentists, fought discrimination against Guadalupe students, and most notably, led the charge for incorporation.

Neighboring cities had mostly rebuffed Guadalupe and its residents until property values soared. To stop annexation attempts and preserve their community's rich culture, the Guadalupe Organization began incorporation efforts and the Citizens Committee to Incorporate Guadalupe was formed. It was led by Mr. Andres "Andy" Jimenez, who served as president of the group. Election results of Feb. 4, 1975, which showed an 83 percent voter turnout, approved the plan of incorporation, and the Town of Guadalupe was born.

Since then, the Town of Guadalupe has been a leader in demonstrating concern for its residents and passing progressive policies. The Town Council was the first in Arizona to ban smoking in public places. It declared a paid Cesar Chavez Holiday for Guadalupe town employees. The town has also donated land for construction of educational and recreational entities.

Maricopa County Community Colleges also have established a branch of South Mountain Community College in Guadalupe with its rental fee subsidized for many years by the Guadalupe Organization. Guadalupe had one college graduate in 1960 and one in 1967. Now graduates at all levels, from high school to Ph.D., call Guadalupe their home.

As you can see, Guadalupe is a community rich with the traditions of three cultures, deeply devoted to the welfare of its residents, and the prosperity of its community. As the former director of the Guadalupe Organization, I feel a special bond to this community and take great pride in its progress. This bond is felt by many, as children follow in their parents' footsteps, opting to make a home in Guadalupe as they begin to make a life of their own. Ironically, the current Mayor of Guadalupe is Ms. Bernadette Jimenez, daughter of Andy Jimenez, who led the Citizens Committee to Incorporate Guadalupe.

In honor of the success of this community and its residents, I ask my colleagues to

please stand and join me today in paying tribute to the Town of Guadalupe, Arizona, on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of its Incorporation.

SUPPORT FOR JOHANNA'S LAW

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to a disease affecting women throughout the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, ovarian cancer accounts for 3 percent of all cancers among women and over 22,220 new cases are expected to be diagnosed this year in the U.S. Unfortunately, the death rate for this disease has remained steady in the last 50 years.

I am a proud cosponsor of Johanna's Law which would create a national public education campaign to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers, including ovarian cancer. The legislation will also provide grants to local and national organizations to increase such awareness among women and health professionals. Johanna's Law is named after Johanna Silver Gordon who died of ovarian cancer in 2000.

It is essential that ovarian cancer, like all gynecologic cancers, be detected in the earliest stages of the disease because it is more easily treatable at that time. Unfortunately, as the cancer progresses, it becomes more difficult to treat and is generally fatal in later stages. Johanna's Law would help women to recognize their symptoms and encourage regular check-ups, thereby preventing many of these cancers from becoming terminal. The best hope of survival is early detection.

I would like to highlight language in the FY2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, which addresses key goals of Johanna's Law. Specifically, this report language directs \$100,000 for a national education campaign concerning gynecologic cancer, with an emphasis on early detection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services', HHS, Office of Women's Health will work together to coordinate these education and outreach efforts.

As a member of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee, I am proud of this important first step in helping to educate women and health care professionals about gynecologic cancer. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue our public education efforts and pass Johanna's Law in the 109th Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE HILDA  
R. GAGE

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the extraordinary career and accomplishments of the Honorable Hilda R. Gage as she retires this year. I am honored to recognize her service to Michigan and Oakland County as Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Oakland County Circuit Court.

Judge Gage has long been an influential woman in both Oakland County and Michigan. Elected to the Oakland County Circuit Court in November of 1978, she presided there for three terms before she was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor Engler. She is retiring this year after a combined total of 37 years of service in Michigan courts.

While presiding, Judge Gage has been honored by many associations for her exemplary service. She is widely regarded as a very influential woman not only in the State of Michigan but nationally as well. In March 2002 she was recognized by Corp! Magazine as one of "Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women" and has been honored by the Women's Bar Association in December, 2000 for her contributions to the practice of law, improving the legal system, and her dedication to the community. Additionally, she was given the Roberts P. Hudson Award in October 1991, by the State Bar of Michigan for Outstanding Contributions to the Bar. This is the highest honor bestowed by the State Bar.

Judge Gage is also credited with many "firsts" throughout her judicial career. She was the first female chairperson of the National Conference of State Trial Judges in 1986 and holds the same distinction for the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission in 1991. She also chaired and helped to originate the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Conference, holding the chair of that conference from its inception in 1982 through 1984. This conference was the first organized body in which the circuit, probate, and district judicial associations meet on a regular basis. Finally, she was the first recipient of the Award of Judicial Excellence, given by the National Conference of State Trial Judges and American Bar Association in August of 1994.

Judge Hilda Gage has served Oakland County and the State of Michigan with honor and pride for the duration of her career and I am honored to thank her for her commitment to justice and integrity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE BOARD OF  
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SER-  
VICES, BOCES, MONROE COUNTY,  
NY

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, BOCES' 50th anniversary. Enacted in 1948, New York State Legislature and the New York State Education Department sought a way to offer districts an even stronger cooperative network. In 1955, school board members from several eastside Monroe County school districts petitioned the State Education Department for a BOCES to serve their area. On January 5, 1956, Monroe BOCES was established.

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, or BOCES, are public education collaborative that function as extensions of local school districts. A BOCES helps school districts provide quality programs and services that are more economical to offer coopera-

tively, sharing costs with other districts. The function of a BOCES is to provide shared services to the component school districts, providing efficiency, effectiveness and equity for students.

Monroe BOCES provides support for thousands of individuals, from newborns to adult students, to help them achieve success and improve the quality of their lives. BOCES coordinated more than 86 programs and services that helped students of diverse backgrounds and abilities discover their learning potential in an environment that benefited all students. More than 5,500 students from the 10 suburban school districts in eastern Monroe County attended BOCES programs. BOCES also served school districts by helping their students meet the State learning standards in specialized areas.

BOCES programs and services provide valuable hands-on learning opportunities for students that they might not experience otherwise, opportunities such as career and technical training, workplace preparation and internships, as well as a network of services for transitioning to the workforce.

An organization such as Monroe BOCES will sustain itself and continue to coordinate innovative educational enrichment programs, from the arts to technology, to help students reach beyond classroom walls.

It is my honor to recognize and congratulate Monroe County BOCES on its continued success and 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MATTHEW  
GONDOLA

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an outstanding individual whom I feel fortunate to call my friend, Mr. Joseph Matthew Gondola. He was recognized on Sunday, January 15, 2006, on the occasion of his retirement after 42 years of service to the United States Postal Service, USPS.

Joseph Gondola is the youngest of seven children, having five sisters and one brother. Over the course of his childhood, he overcame frequent hospitalization, where he received treatments for medical ailments ranging from septic poisoning to the dreaded disease, polio. Through it all, Joseph persevered and he did not allow his health problems to prevent him from accomplishing his goals.

Joseph attended Central High School in Paterson, where he began his academic growth. This experience was translated effectively to Montclair State College where he received his bachelor of science and master of arts degrees, both cum laude. From that point, he continued his pursuit in higher learning at Seton Hall University.

At age 31, Joseph was appointed Clifton postmaster by Representative Charles Joelson, NJ-8th, making him the youngest postmaster for that size postal district. Over the course of his term, he served the USPS as officer in charge in Jamestown, PA, and Newark, NJ. He has hosted and chaired many safety committee meetings in his Clifton office, and served on several review boards. He is

very proud that several of his employees have also become postmasters under his guidance.

Joseph has remained active in NAPUS, previously serving as president of the New Jersey Chapter, area vice-president, national legislative chairman, and postmaster representative. In 1981, he was elected to a 2-year term as the national president of NAPUS, a position that he currently holds. He also serves as president of the NAPUS Federal Credit Union. He has served, on numerous committees for the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, and Saint Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton, NJ.

Joseph's tenure at both the USPS and NAPUS is a testament of his character and a remarkable story of one person's belief in the power of public service. It is only fitting that Joseph Matthew Gondola be honored for his commitment to improving the quality of life in Clifton, and on a national level through the postal service, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Joseph remains happily married to Dorothy, his wife of 46 years, with whom he has three children, Mark, Kristen, and Jennifer, and eight adored grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of devoted public servants like Mr. Joseph Matthew Gondola. I ask that you join the city of Clifton, the employees of the USPS, Mr. Gondola's family and friends and me, in recognizing Joseph Matthew Gondola for his years of outstanding service to the citizens of our great Nation.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
CORETTA SCOTT KING

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the passing of a tremendous voice in the struggle for equality, Coretta Scott King.

Mrs. King was best known as the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but she was a key advocate for civil rights in her own right.

Mrs. King was with Dr. King when he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and marched by his side in the Selma march.

Following Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King championed her husband's work, leading the effort to establish a national holiday in her husband's honor, and founding the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, a center dedicated to learning and activism.

She worked to keep Dr. King's dream alive by keeping his ideology of equality and social change at the top of our Nation's agenda. She became a symbol of her husband's struggle for peace and brotherhood, but developed a voice separate from that of her late husband. She branched out from issues of race and was outspoken on a number of international human rights concerns.

Mrs. King continued her husband's mission with a keen sense of devotion. She has kept his work alive and evolved his mission of equality to confront new times and new challenges. We must now work to renew our community's commitment to the ideals that Mr.

and Mrs. King embraced, and ensure that generations to come never forget the groundbreaking contributions of these two legends.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE  
GERTRUDE BAKER

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Florence Gertrude Baker of Collingswood, New Jersey. A dedicated kindergarten teacher for 46 years, Ms. Baker has served my community well throughout her lifetime.

During World War II, Ms. Baker organized and served as Co-Chair of the Collingswood Veterans' Service Council. As Chair, she organized military wives in Collingswood and helped to provide them with many beneficial programs. During that time, she began a life-long commitment to service through the Red Cross. Ms. Baker served as a Red Cross Gray Lady and spent numerous hours at Fort Dix and Walston Army Hospital. Additionally, she was a Red Cross Canteen worker and over the years has chaired many successful Red Cross Blood Drives. These are just a few of the many charitable works to which she has devoted her time and energy.

I stand here today to commend Ms. Baker, as so many other groups have before. She has educated our children, cared for our wounded, and been a shining example of civic responsibility and dedication. Happy Birthday, Ms. Baker, and thank you for your decades of generosity and service.

ELMONT MEMORIAL JUNIOR-SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVING  
THE DISPELLING THE MYTH  
AWARD

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on November 3, 2005, Elmont Memorial Junior-Senior High School, which is in my district, was honored with the Dispelling the Myth Award at the Education Trust National Conference.

Elmont Memorial is one of five schools recognized for "dispelling the myth" that poor and minority children cannot learn to high levels. At Elmont, 75 percent of the students are African American, 12 percent Latino, and 24 percent are low income. Most ninth-graders become seniors and almost every senior graduates, with a majority going on to attend 4-year colleges. In 2004, Elmont had the Nation's highest number of African-American students who received college credit on the Advanced Placement World History exam.

The success at Elmont Memorial is due in no small part to its staff. Former principal, Al Harper, who is now the superintendent of the Elmont Union Free School District, has said "Because a child is poor doesn't mean he can't learn." With the high standards set at

Elmont, Principal John Capozzi takes pains to ensure teachers are carefully selected, and teachers are forewarned about the intense expectation at the school. Teachers at Elmont Memorial are considered to be part of a larger enterprise with a lot of support and encouragement, not punishment. Elmont Memorial's staff takes a coherent approach to both instruction and the building of personal relationships among adults and students which has led to high achievement.

In addition to former Principal Harper, and Principal Capozzi, Elmont Memorial boasts many other superb staff members including: Alicia Calabrese, English chairperson; Karen Dunkley, social studies teacher; Russell Marino, math teacher; Baytoram Ramharack, social studies chairperson; Wendy Tague, English teacher; Chris Yee, art and technology chairperson. Elmont also has a hardworking, driven and determined student body. Many students are in the school building long after classes end, as part of clubs, sports, or getting help from teachers.

Elmont Memorial's success can be attributed to school system unity, a supportive school board and superintendent, teachers, administrative staff and the students themselves. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my congratulations to Elmont Memorial.

TRIBUTE TO CORETTA SCOTT  
KING

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation."—Coretta Scott King

Coretta Scott King not only spoke those words, she lived them. Today, America mourns her passing at age 78, and we celebrate her remarkable life.

So many images of Mrs. King's life are etched on the American canvas, and we recall them on this day.

Her exuberance as she marched alongside Dr. King, JOHN LEWIS, Ralph Abernathy, and Andrew Young through the 1950's and 1960's South, blazing new paths of hope for the disenfranchised.

Her joy as she called upon her New England Conservatory of Music training to organize Freedom Concerts across the country raising money for the movement.

Her grace in the depths of sorrow as she comforted her four young children at Dr. King's funeral in 1968.

Her steadfast commitment to justice as she opened the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta in 1969 and continued to speak out against injustice everywhere.

And her beaming smile as she watched President Reagan sign into law the 1983 bill establishing the third Monday in January as a Federal holiday honoring her husband.

What would have shattered many others instead became a source of strength for Mrs. King. Throughout the nearly 4 decades that followed Dr. King's assassination, this daughter of the segregated South continued to carry the mantle of nonviolent social change, addressing students and activists, writing books,

and inspiring new generations to continue the struggle. America is a better place because of Coretta Scott King's life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marty, Dexter, Yolanda, and Bernice, who following in the steps of their legendary parents, have dedicated their lives to achieving equality through peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUSH  
ENGINEERED MATERIALS INC.

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Brush Engineered Materials Inc., a company that has been a pillar of the Cleveland business community and which, I hope, will continue to be an important part of our city and our regional economy for years to come. The company's predecessor was incorporated on January 9, 1931, to develop innovative applications for beryllium. These applications play a significant role in many aspects of our lives, from early diagnosis and treatment of disease to critical areas of homeland security and national defense.

It is well known that for more than a hundred years the City of Cleveland has been a major center of this country's industrial might, providing the essential goods and services needed by fellow citizens throughout the United States and, indeed, by people throughout the world. In addition to its economic contributions, Cleveland has been a world-class center of learning, of the arts and music, and of medical research and health care. It is a city with a proud and productive tradition.

In recent years, like many other cities in the Midwest, Cleveland has been buffeted by a national economic downturn, exacerbated by competition overseas. A number of our Cleveland companies have been forced to close down, others cut their payrolls, still others relocated.

Brush Engineered Materials has never wavered in its commitment to the City of Cleveland. Headquartered for all of its 75 years within the city, it provides quality employment and payroll tax revenues, business opportunities for suppliers and vendors, property taxes, and a measure of hope for its Collinwood-Nottingham neighborhood.

This Cleveland company played a major role in defending freedom and providing support for our armed forces in World War II, in lowering the Iron Curtain, in developing the Nation's space program, in increasing the efficiency of oil exploration, improving the mileage of our automobiles, saving lives through mammography X-ray and other medical imaging equipment, and saving lives on the road through air bags and improved automotive braking systems. It also provides essential parts for the computers and cell phones that keep us connected every day.

In today's military, it helps save the lives of our brave men and women in uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing infrared and optical sensors for radar and navigation systems

and unmanned aerial vehicles. And in homeland security, materials from Brush are used in air traffic control radar, airport X-ray inspection, wireless communications, global positioning systems and other applications.

Brush Engineered Materials of Cleveland has provided 75 years of innovation in beryllium and non-beryllium materials that have benefited our Nation in many fields. It has also established a tradition of public service and commitment to the community in which we can all take pride. I congratulate the people of Brush Engineered Materials for their many achievements and wish them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DIANA L. GOLDBERG

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Diana Goldberg, one of my closest friends. Diana is stepping down as Chairman of the Board, a post that she has held since 2002, for the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, one of the finest pediatric institutions in the Nation.

The leadership, work and generosity of Diana and her husband, Stephen, have helped to make our Nation's Capital a stronger, healthier community. Diana has been heavily involved with Children's Hospital for the past 20 years. She has served on the Child Health Center Board, of which she was president from 1994 to 1996, and the boards of Children's Hospital Foundation, of which she was chairman from 1999 to 2001, Children's Hospital, and, eventually, Children's National Medical Center. However, her dedication to the health of children in the Washington Metropolitan region extends far beyond her leadership positions. Diana has taken a hands-on approach to volunteering and given countless hours of her time to ensuring that the patients receive the care that they need, while Diana herself has continued to be personally involved with many of the organization's operations.

Furthermore, Diana has truly been a philanthropic leader in Washington, DC, especially for Children's where Children's School Services, a child health data lab, and Jazzmatazz, which is a major benefit to raise money for Children's, are among the programs and fundraising events that she has generously supported. However, Mr. Speaker, most laudatory are Diana's efforts to set up health centers across the city. In 2001, Diana and Stephen donated an astounding \$25 million to Children's National Medical Center for the Diana L. and Stephen A. Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health. This significant gift allows the Center to maintain community-based health centers in Shaw, Adams Morgan, and Anacostia and three mobile vans. The Center provides immediate healthcare needs, with special attention given to primary care, HIV and AIDS, asthma, sickle cell disease, child abuse, childhood injuries, lead poisoning, and violence prevention. The Goldberg Center is also focused on the greater neighborhood by sponsoring programs like the Adolescent Em-

ployment Readiness Center, which prepares disabled adolescents and young adults to enter the workforce.

The Goldbergs' benevolence also includes work with the Edmund Burke School, the Black Student Fund, the Washington AIDS Partnership, a scholarship for the Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation of the National Capital Area, Arena Stage, and numerous other worthy causes and organizations. Notably, when the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, was forced to cut its funding for important HIV prevention programs in the District, Diana stepped in and made a sizeable financial gift to make up for the shortfall. Diana Goldberg is a shining model for the good that can be accomplished through the power of giving and a passionate dedication to public service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of children that Diana has helped over the years as a member of the greater Washington community, I would like to congratulate and thank Diana Goldberg for her leadership as the Chairman of the Board of Children's National Medical Center and for all her projects. I look forward to seeing what exciting new challenges Diana will undertake next. Undoubtedly, she will continue to give back to the community and help make Washington, DC a better place for all its citizens.

STATEMENT HONORING THE LIFE  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER CORETTA  
SCOTT KING

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an American icon, Mrs. Coretta Scott King. After living a remarkably accomplished life that spanned 78 years, Coretta Scott King passed away on Monday, January 30, 2006.

As the matriarch of the civil rights movement, Coretta Scott King displayed dignity and strength in time of great tragedy and injustice. After Dr. King's assassination, she continued his legacy promoting racial and economic justice for all Americans. Mrs. King was determined to make his dream a reality. As Americans, and as human beings, we are blessed to have known her compassion and dedication.

Coretta Scott King and I traveled to South Africa in 1994 for Nelson Mandela's inauguration. I am proud to say that she was a friend and confidant as well as one of my greatest mentors. I regard Mrs. King as one of the finest individuals I have known. I will continue to hold her spirit and strength close to my heart.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. Coretta Scott King's work has forever shaped the way we treat each other as human beings. Though her passing marks the end of an era, it is up to all of us to continue the compassion that her husband preached and she so graciously followed.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMELIA  
EARHART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Amelia Earhart Elementary School, in Alameda, California, on being named a 2005–2006 National Blue Ribbon School.

Amelia Earhart Elementary School has been serving students in the Bay Farm Island community of Alameda, California, since 1979. The mission of the school is to inspire academic excellence, a passion for learning and respect for self and community.

Amelia Earhart Elementary school was named a California Distinguished School in 2004 by the California Department of Education and a National “No Child Left Behind” Blue Ribbon School in 2005.

The teachers, staff, administration, parents and community members work together to create a culture at the school that promotes a dynamic school-wide vision of academic success for all students.

Amelia Earhart teachers, staff and administrators collaborate to use student data to drive informed decisions about instruction and provide a quality educational setting where all children can learn and excel.

Amelia Earhart Elementary School is a national model of excellence and an outstanding example of the ideal that all students should have an equal educational opportunity in a supportive environment and that none should be forgotten.

I join in congratulating Amelia Earhart Elementary School for its commitment to excellence, which has earned the school the well-deserved, nationally recognized, Blue Ribbon School honor.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
OF SUSTAINED FILIPINO IMMIGRATION  
TO THE UNITED STATES

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Con. Res. 218 and join my colleagues and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in recognizing the upcoming centennial celebration of sustained Filipino immigration to the United States. For over a century now, Filipino Americans have been a vibrant part of the American story, adding to our great diversity and contributing to the success of our country.

Since the first small group of Filipino immigrants arrived in 1906 to work in the sugar plantations of Hawaii, Filipino Americans have been an important part of our country's history. Indeed, their story of struggle and success is the story of America, whether as migrant laborers working in the fields of California, or as soldiers fighting for freedom and democracy in every major conflict of the past century. One hundred years later, the Filipino American community is now over 2 million strong and the second largest Asian Pacific Islander American community in our country.

In addition, this centennial also celebrates the strong bond and friendship that the United States and the Philippines have shared for over 100 years. From the period of American governance starting in 1898 and independence in 1946, the Philippines have proven to be one of our most enduring and important allies. Today, that bond has been strengthened through sustained immigration where the exchange of ideas and cultural experiences has added to our diverse landscape.

I cannot stress enough the enormous contributions of Filipino Americans, especially all those who have served with great distinction in our Armed Services. That is why, as we celebrate this centennial, it is so important to recognize and honor the service of those Filipino veterans who served honorably during World War II. The United States made a promise to these veterans and I will continue to fight to fully restore their benefits that are 6 decades overdue.

Filipino Americans are the second most populous Asian American community in my district of San Francisco, and I am proud to represent this vibrant and active community in Congress. I look forward to commemorating the contributions of Filipino Americans and advancing the issues of the community throughout the upcoming centennial year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
ROBERT SANDERS

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Robert Sanders, a generous man who dedicated his life to keeping our children safe. Dr. Sanders passed away earlier this month.

Dr. Sanders wore many hats in my hometown of Murfreesboro, where he resided. He was a husband, father, farmer and pediatrician. He served as Director of the Rutherford County Health Department from 1969 to 1991 and served as the county's medical examiner from 1983 to 1999.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Sanders cared for thousands of Murfreesboro's children. As an advocate for child safety restraints in vehicles, he saved the lives of countless more. Because of Dr. Sanders' tireless efforts, Tennessee became the first State in the Nation to pass a law requiring children in vehicles to be restrained in safety seats. Every other State in the country eventually followed Tennessee's lead.

Even after the passage of that law in 1977, Dr. Sanders kept working to keep children safe while riding in vehicles. His efforts led to a state seat belt law and loaner programs to help low-income families acquire child-restraint seats.

The Tennessee Medical Association, Tennessee Public Health Association and Tennessee Pediatric Society all have honored Dr. Sanders for his great service.

Although Dr. Sander's dedication to a noble cause will benefit children for generations to come, I know he will be deeply missed by his family, his friends and countless Middle Tennesseans like me.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF K.  
LARRY STORRS ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM CONGRESSIONAL  
RESEARCH SERVICE

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to a dedicated public servant at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. Dr. K. Larry Storrs is retiring from CRS after more than 30 years of service to Congress and the Nation. This length of public service is not only a credit to Dr. Storrs, but also a demonstration of the dedication that he and many others at the Congressional Research Service bring to support our work in Congress.

Hailing from the small farm town of American Fork, Utah, Dr. Storrs first became interested in politics and public policy through his participation in debate and student government in high school and college. For 2½ years he was a missionary in Brazil, beginning his life-long involvement with Latin America. After returning from Brazil, he completed his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University majoring in political science and won a fellowship funded by the National Defense Education Act to support his doctoral studies in government and Latin American studies at Cornell University. Newly married, he returned to Brazil in the mid-1960s to research his dissertation on Brazil's foreign policy. Before joining the Library of Congress, Dr. Storrs taught for 8 years at Vassar College and the George Washington University, focusing on Latin American politics and U.S.-Latin American relations. His love of teaching ensured that he would continue teaching part-time during his public service career, including at George Washington University, American University, the Foreign Service Institute, and National Defense University. He has continued to teach me and many other Members of Congress about Latin America.

Dr. Storrs began work with CRS in 1975 as analyst in Latin American affairs and was later promoted to specialist. During his career, he has written almost 400 memoranda and reports for Members of Congress and congressional committees, organized numerous seminars, and provided thousands of briefings to congressional staff on Latin American policy issues. Until the late 1970s, Dr. Storrs worked primarily on issues in U.S. relations with Chile and Panama. On Chile, he helped support the hearings on the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in foreign policy. He also provided extensive support to the Senate during the Panama Canal Treaties debate and to both houses during consideration of the legislation creating the Panama Canal Commission that operated the Canal until the end of 1999. In the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Storrs wrote extensively on several controversial issues related to Central America and the Caribbean: congressional conditions on military aid to El Salvador and Guatemala; congressional prohibitions on covert assistance to the contras in Nicaragua; the recommendations of the bipartisan Kissinger Commission on Central America; and enactment of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Dr. Storrs's research focused more on Brazil and Mexico within the context of U.S. initiatives to promote free trade in Latin America. On Mexico, he dealt with issues relating to congressional passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, congressional concerns with political stability and a guerrilla insurgency in 1994, and a large financial assistance package for Mexico in 1995. He also worked extensively on congressional initiatives to strengthen regional and bilateral drug control programs with Mexico. For well over a decade Larry has provided extensive support to the annual U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group meetings, and he has accompanied the U.S. delegation for the past 7 years.

Larry Storrs is a fine example of those many dedicated staff of the Congressional Research Service who help inform Congress as it deliberates important public policy issues. His gracious demeanor and considerable expertise on Latin America made him an invaluable asset to Congress for many years. On behalf of my colleagues, I extend our deep appreciation to Larry for his service, and wish him the very best in future endeavors. I doubt he will really retire from teaching. Good teachers never do. There will always be someone lucky enough to learn from Dr. Storrs. We wish you the best, Larry!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

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

December 17, 2005:

Rollcall vote 663, on Agreeing to H. Res. 623—Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 664, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2520—the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act, I would have voted aye.

December 19, 2005:

Rollcall vote 665, on Agreeing to the Conference Report H.R. 1815—the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2006, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 666, on Agreeing to H. Res. 639—Waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2863, FY 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 667, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended to H. Con. Res. 284—Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections in Egypt, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 668, on the Motion to Recommit with instructions H.R. 2863—Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, I would have voted nay.

Rollcall vote 669, on Agreeing to the Conference Report H.R. 2863—Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 670, on Agreeing to the Conference Report S. 1932—the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2006, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 671, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the education curriculum of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would have voted aye.

### U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to my Colleagues' attention to a very important event, the first annual International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust, which took place last Friday, January 27, 2006, at the U.N. in New York.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of my two good friends, Secretary General Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Jan Eliasson, the U.N. established this annual remembrance, and in doing so, has taken a critical step to begin to undo a dark legacy of bias and hatred directed against Jews and the Democratic State of Israel that has long plagued the U.N. The idea for an annual U.N. Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust, which was instituted by Resolution 60/7 on November 1, 2005, grew out of an event that took place one year ago in New York, an historic Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Death Camps on January 25, 2005. Last year's U.N. Special Session was convened with the support of the vast majority of U.N. member State's at the urging of Secretary General Annan.

The relevance of and the need for this International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust could not be more clear. Mr. Speaker, in the months following the establishment of the International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust by Resolution 60/7, the current President of Iran, Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has publicly stated that he believes that Holocaust is a "myth" and that Israel "should be wiped off the map."

Mr. Speaker, I draw my colleagues' attention to the courageous remarks U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan delivered on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust last Friday, January 27th. The Secretary General stated, "Remembering is a necessary rebuke to those who say the Holocaust never happened or has been exaggerated. Holocaust denial is the work of bigots. We must reject their false claims whenever, wherever and by whomever they are made."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the Secretary General's important address be placed in the RECORD. I also ask that the entire text of remarks delivered at that same event by General Assembly President Jan Eliasson of Sweden and Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nation's, Amba-

sador Dan Gillerman be included in the RECORD.

MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST BY SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN

Today, for the first time, the United Nations marks what will, from now on be an annual observance: the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

There can be no reversing the unique tragedy of the Holocaust. It must be remembered, with shame and horror, for as long as human memory continues.

Only by remembering can we pay fitting tribute to the victims. Millions of innocent Jews and members of other minorities were murdered in the most barbarous ways imaginable. We must never forget those men, women and children, or their agony.

Remembering is a necessary rebuke to those who say the Holocaust never happened or has been exaggerated. Holocaust denial is the work of bigots. We must reject their false claims whenever, wherever and by whomever they are made.

Remembering is also a safeguard for the future. The abyss reached in the Nazi death camps started with hatred, prejudice and anti-Semitism. Recalling these origins can remind us to be ever on the lookout for warning signs.

As the Holocaust recedes in time, and as the number of survivors dwindles, it falls to us—the current generation—to carry the torch of remembrance and uphold the cause of human dignity.

The United Nations was founded as a reaction to the horrors of the Second World War. Even so, the international community has too often failed to stand up to mass atrocities.

In recent years we have taken important steps to improve on that record, such as establishing the International Criminal Court and agreeing on the collective responsibility to protect.

On this International Day of Commemoration, the theme of our observance is "remembrance and beyond". In that spirit, let us pledge ourselves to even greater efforts to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity.

MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Today we observe for the first time the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. This event will take place every year on 27 January. This follows the adoption without a vote of General Assembly resolution 60/7 on "Holocaust remembrance", on 1 November, 2005.

This year's commemoration is of special significance. It takes place only one year after the General Assembly's Special Session on 24 January 2005, which marked the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.

The liberation of the Nazi death camps revealed to the world one of the most horrendous crimes against humanity. Auschwitz-Birkenau, Dachau, Sobibor, and Treblinka are among the sites where the lives of millions of people were extinguished on political, religious or ethnic grounds.

Remembering this low point in human history is a solemn duty for all of us. We must continue to exorcise the evil of the past. In resolution 60/7, the General Assembly unequivocally "rejects any denial of the Holocaust as an historic event, either in full or in part."

We must also commit ourselves to preventing the reoccurrence of genocide in the future, whenever and wherever it might occur. We must remain vigilant. The forces of hatred, bigotry and racism are still at work in the world.

It is a tragedy that the international community has not been able to stop new horrors in the years since the Holocaust. This makes it all the more important that we remember the lessons of the Holocaust. It must be a unifying cause around which we all can rally.

On this International Day of Commemoration let us pay tribute to all the victims of the Holocaust. Let us also honour the survivors. And in looking back at this sombre page of history and other atrocities and crimes of genocide following it, let us join forces and recommit ourselves to building mutual respect and dignity for all. Holocaust remembrance will strengthen us in this resolve.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST, STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DAN GILLERMAN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

I, Danny Gillerman, born in Israel to parents who fled the Nazis, but whose grandparents and family perished, stand before you today, as an Israeli, a Jew, and a citizen of the world—moved and filled with pride as the world embarks on a journey beyond remembrance.

I stand here as a representative of the Jewish State that arose out of the ashes of the Holocaust. A Jewish State whose cabinet yesterday convened a Special Session at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem. A Jewish State that has become, against all odds, a beacon of beauty, excellence, creativity, and justice for the whole world.

And today, on this solemn occasion, I urge you to imagine. Indeed many of you in this hall don't need to imagine because you were there, but I urge the rest of the world to imagine—imagine the shattering of skulls, the burning of flesh, the cries of anguish. Look at one child, and multiply it by a million and a half. Look at one member of your family and multiply him by six million. Imagine!

But imagine too what a world this would be if they, and their children, were still with us. How much more beauty, more excellence, more art and culture, more cures and innovations there would be. Imagine. Imagine how much better the world would be.

So today, as we look to the past, embrace the present, and look to the future, we must all pray. We must remember, salute, sound an alarm, and vow. We remember the sacrifice of the victims, we salute the courage of the survivors, many of them in this hall, whose numbers dwindle as the Holocaust turns from being memory to becoming history. And we sound an alarm, a call to arms, and a wake up call to the world.

A world in which a Member State of this organization calls for wiping Israel off the face of the map. A world in which an extreme and evil regime denies the Holocaust while preparing the next one.

A world that stood still 65 years ago and has since witnessed Cambodia and Rwanda.

A world that must act today to atone for yesterday and preserve our tomorrow.

On this day, I want to also express to you in this hall and around the world, my deep regret. I deeply, very deeply regret, and I believe the rest of the world should too, that the State of Israel did not exist in 1938 or 1943. Because if it did, this horrible event would never have happened.

And today, from this podium, in this hall, on this solemn day, I vow to you. I vow to you that as long as there is an Israel, no Jew will again be made to wear a yellow star or be tattooed with a number. And I vow to you that there will forever be an Israel, so these horrors will never be witnessed again—Never Again!

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we gather here today, night is descending on Jerusalem, and the Jewish Sabbath is enfolding Israel. So it is from here, from this world stage, that I say this Eve of Shabbat prayer:

“May God Give His People Strength. May God Bless His People With Peace.”  
Shabbat Shalom.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLYDE P. SELIG

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clyde P. Selig, president and CEO of Commercial Metals Steel Group, CMSG. CMSG ships around 2.4 million tons of steel a year, employs over 6,700 people and grosses close to \$1.3 billion a year in sales.

Mr. Speaker, Clyde Selig attended Clarkson College of Technology and graduated from the University of Maryland. He also served in the U.S. Army in various command and staff positions in Europe.

Mr. Selig has served in many capacities with SMI-Texas including manager of maintenance and engineering, manager of steelmaking, works manager, vice president of operations and general manager before becoming executive vice president of CMC Steel Group Mills. He was appointed President and COO in February of 1997 and CEO in May of 2002.

A strong believer in community support and involvement, Mr. Selig was one of the founders of the Seguin Boys' Club, and is a former president of the Seguin Chamber of Commerce. He also served as vice president of the City/County Hospital Board, including the Citizens Advisory Juvenile Board. Currently, he serves with the Rotarians.

Mr. Speaker, the 28th district of Texas is proud to have such an outstanding civic leader living in San Antonio.

#### CONGRATULATING MS. CHRISTIANE E. BUUCK

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Christiane E. Buuck of Bedford, TX, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in France during the 2005–2006 academic year. Ms. Buuck was honored with this award for her studies in creative writing at the University of Arizona.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct

research in an international exchange program.

Christiane was selected on the basis of academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in her field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Christiane Buuck on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her community and country.

CONGRATULATING NATALIE SOLFANELLI AS SHE IS HONORED BY THE LACKAWANNA RIVER CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Natalie Solfanelli, executive director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in Lackawanna County, PA. Mrs. Solfanelli has been honored by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association for her exceptional performance in creating partnerships to preserve and develop the Lackawanna Valley's historic, cultural, natural and economic resources through preservation, education and promotion of the regional heritage.

The Lackawanna River Corridor Association is a nonprofit community organization created in 1987 to promote the restoration and protection of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources. A major goal of the LRCA is to foster the development of a 40-mile long network of parks and trails along the Lackawanna River.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association have been collaborating to get the 40-mile trail and greenway system built. Known as the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, several sections were developed in the past few years. Other sections are in final engineering phases and will be under construction soon.

Mrs. Solfanelli's leadership and vision have contributed to making the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project a strategic link in the work of the authority and its partners to promote the economic and environmental revitalization of communities along the river.

After being named LHVA executive director, Mrs. Solfanelli began to enhance the scope of the Downtown Riverfront Trail Project and position the trail as an economic development generator. She is leading a riverfront partnership effort to look ahead at the next steps that will enable private developers and local public agencies to further develop the riverfront area as a complement to the revitalization of downtown Scranton.

Mrs. Solfanelli has an impressive background in financial services, having served with Alpha Benefits Group, Consulting Group, Inc. and Omni Health Plan. She is an NASD licensed registered representative with MidSouth Capital, Inc. and has been president of Harbor Group, Inc., an insurance and investment planning firm since 1989. Mrs. Solfanelli is also a certified life underwriter and a long term care professional.

Mrs. Solfanelli serves on the board of Scranton Tomorrow, the Jewish Federation of

Northeastern Pennsylvania, the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Temple Hessed, Presidents Advisory Council of Keystone College and the Economic Development Council of Lackawanna County.

Married to Attorney Joseph R. Solfanelli, the couple has three adult children.

On a personal note, let me express my appreciation to Natalie for welcoming me into the Greater Scranton community. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm are infectious; everyone who deals with Natalie is inspired to work even harder to make Lackawanna County a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Natalie Solfanelli on the occasion of this honor. Mrs. Solfanelli epitomizes the finest level of selfless community service and the quality of life in the greater Scranton area is better because of her efforts.

TRIBUTE TO CENTENARIAN DORA KAUFFMAN OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dora Kauffman of Hernando County, Florida. Dora has done something that all of us strive for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born January 19, 1906 in New York, DORA says that some of her fondest memories of her childhood were times spent playing games. She remembers seeing a dog for the first time as one of the happiest events in her life. She says she loved playing with the dog everyday.

Dora married and was blessed with two children, four grandchildren and several great grandchildren. She says she is happy with her life and would not change a thing if she had her life to live over.

Today, Dora gets the most pleasure from visiting with her resident friends and sitting down to a good hot meal. The one thing she likes most about Hernando County is the people, in addition to the good weather. Her favorite flower is the rose and her favorite color is blue. Her advice to the young people is to, "work hard and be good and kind to people."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Dora Kauffman for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE GOVERNOR JOHN ANDERSON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, joined today by my Kansas colleagues Todd Tiaht, Jim Ryun and Jerry Moran, I am introducing legislation that would designate the United States post office located at 110 North Chest-

nut Street in Olathe as the "Governor John Anderson, Jr. Post Office Building."

Governor Anderson was born near Olathe in 1917 and educated at Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, where he received a law degree in 1944. After serving on the staff of U.S. District Court Judge Walter Huxman for two years, John Anderson won election as Johnson County Attorney in 1947, where he served for six years. He was a member of the Kansas State Senate from 1953–1956, and was appointed Kansas Attorney General, serving from 1956–1961. Elected Governor of Kansas in 1960 and 1962, he defeated incumbent Governor George Docking, served as Governor during Kansas' centennial celebration, and appointed James B. Pearson to the United States Senate upon the death of Senator Andrew Schoeppe.

John Anderson's tenure as Kansas Governor was marked by numerous achievements, including:

Revision of the state's pardon and parole systems;

Creation of a combined state medical and psychiatric hospital;

Restructuring of the state's public school system into unified districts;

Increasing of the state's per-pupil expenditure allowance;

Addition of the University of Wichita to the state board of regents system;

Sanctioning of fair employment practices standards;

Approval of an advanced public employee retirement system;

Advancements in highway construction;

Expansion of vocational-technical schools;

Authorization of a state library consultant;

Improvements in the public welfare system; and

Reorganization of state agencies, commissions and boards.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation honoring an important Kansas leader is long overdue, and I know that my delegation colleagues look forward with me to its speedy enactment.

IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS L. BRANNIGAN, FIRE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION EDUCATOR WITH A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AS A GROUNDBREAKING LEADER IN PROVIDING FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of Francis L. Brannigan, who over the years has helped firefighters be more astute to the importance of knowing building construction to promote firefighter safety. As a groundbreaking leader in providing for firefighter safety, Frank was one of the first to realize that the biggest threat to firefighters were the buildings they were working in. Throughout his career, Frank provided constant focus on the issues associated with building construction and the fire environment. The safety of firefighters was always the focus of his message and as a result, generations of firefighters will be safer

because of his message. The knowledge that he possessed, and generously shared, was second to none.

Frank Brannigan devoted more than half of his 63-year career to the safety of firefighters in building fires. He was well known as the author of "Building Construction for the Fire Service," and for his lectures and videotapes. The first edition of his "Building Construction for the Fire Service" was an instant success in 1971. Since then, it has sold more than 130,000 copies in three editions, the most recent of which was published in 1992. Designated by Fire Chief as one of the 20 people who most influenced the fire service in the 20th century, Frank Brannigan was truly one of the giants of the fire service.

Frank Brannigan was not a fire chief or an engineer, but he became one of the most important influences in the fire service in the last quarter of the 20th century. I am proud to say I knew Frank Brannigan.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Service has lost an exceptional leader and guardian of firefighters everywhere. I wish Frank Brannigan's wife Maurine and family my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work. Frank Brannigan exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. As long as firefighters fight fires, the fire service will be the beneficiary of Frank's writing, scholarship, zeal and life-saving message.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA DE LOS ANGELES OBREGON

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Maria de los Angeles Obregon Peña who was born on the 23rd of December, 1905, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Maria de los Angeles Obregon Peña moved to Laredo, TX in 1910 with her two brothers and widowed mother. Her father, Gumaro Obregon, was the youngest brother of President Alvaro Obregon and was assassinated for political reasons. While in Laredo, Maria has memories of sitting on the rooftops in Laredo and listening to gun fire just across the border in Nuevo Laredo during the 1910 Revolution.

Maria attended public school until the eighth grade when she was forced to leave to help the family make enough money to sustain itself. Later, on July 10th, 1933, she married Ramiro Santos Peña in Laredo. Together, they had three children, Pauline P. Baclesse of Mexico, MO, Ramiro A. Peña of Holland, TX, and Carlos D. Peña of Clear Lake, TX.

Maria and Ramiro were both active members of the Primera Iglesia Bautista where their children were baptized. Maria credits her outlook on life and her faith in God for her longevity. Laredo is proud to have Maria as a citizen, and is pleased to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance to honor a fine citizen of Texas.

CONGRATULATING DR. TIMOTHY  
LYNN JACKSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Timothy Lynn Jackson of Highland Village, TX, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to teach abroad in South Korea during the 2005–2006 academic year. Dr. Jackson was honored with this award for his talents in the field of music at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Timothy was selected on the basis of his professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in his field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Timothy Lynn Jackson on receiving this award and praise his dedication and desire to help his community and country.

CONGRATULATING JOHN COSGROVE AS HE IS HONORED BY THE LACKAWANNA RIVER CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to John Cosgrove, former executive director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Cosgrove has been honored by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association for his leadership in creating partnerships to preserve and develop the Lackawanna Valley's historic, cultural, natural and economic resources through preservation, education and promotion of the regional heritage.

The Lackawanna River Corridor Association is a non-profit community organization created in 1987 to promote the restoration and protection of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources. A major goal of the LRCA is to foster the development of a 40 mile long network of parks and trails along the Lackawanna River.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association have been collaborating to get the 40 mile trail and greenway system built. Known as the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, several sections were developed in the past few years. Other sections are in final engineering phases and will be under construction soon.

Begun under Mr. Cosgrove's tenure, the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project is a strategic link in the work of the authority and its partners to promote the economic and environmental revitalization of communities along the river.

Mr. Cosgrove was named to be the first executive director of the newly formed Association of National Heritage Areas in 2004. Prior to his 6 years with the LHVA, he served as executive director of Neighborhood Housing of Scranton and held several positions in the administration of the late Governor Robert P. Casey. He also chaired several initiatives for Scranton Tomorrow including City Pride and First Night Scranton.

Mr. Cosgrove resides in Scranton with his wife, the former Eileen Egan Cosgrove and their three daughters.

On a personal note, I wanted to mention how much I enjoy working with John and look forward to continuing to work with him on his expanded portfolio serving heritage areas around the country. John is yet another example of a talented Northeastern Pennsylvanian who is now sharing his skills to serve the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John Cosgrove on the occasion of this honor. Mr. Cosgrove's leadership, dedication and commitment has enhanced the quality of life in the Greater Scranton region and all its citizens are better because of it.

TRIBUTE TO CENTENARIAN ANNA PORIZO OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Porizo of Hernando County, Florida. Anna has done something that all of us strives for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born September 20, 1905 in Jersey City, New Jersey, Anna attended school through the 10th grade and then went to work at the Box Company. She has fond memories of cooking with her mother during her childhood years.

Anna married John Porizo and was blessed with a child, a grandchild and 2 great grandchildren. The happiest moment in her life was the birth of her daughter. Anna says that the proudest and most meaningful moments in her life were watching her daughter and grandson grow up.

Anna moved to Hernando County with her daughter and says the weather is what she likes most about the county. Today, she gets the most pleasure from relaxing and enjoying a bowl of cold ice cream. Her favorite flower is the rose and her favorite color is pink. Her advice for the young people is to, "spend more time with family and do more family things."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Anna Porizo for reaching her 100th birthday. I Hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

TRIBUTE TO MAX FALKENSTIEN

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Max Falkenstien, the "Voice of the Kansas Jayhawks", who will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2005–2006 men's basketball season at the University of Kansas.

The conclusion of the current season will mark Max Falkenstien's 60th season of broadcasting Kansas University sporting events. At age 81, he has been inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame, the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, and the KU Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the first inductee of the Lawrence High School Hall of Honor. Additionally, he has been awarded an honorary "K" by the Kansas Lettermen's Club. The Sporting News in 2001 named Falkenstien "the best college radio personality in the country" and ESPN's Dick Vitale included KU's Bob Davis and Falkenstien in his "Sweet 16" of the best announcer teams in the United States.

A true legend, Max Falkenstien has been synonymous with KU athletics for 6 decades. As KU basketball coach Bill Self recently said in the Lawrence Journal-World, "Max has performed at the highest level over an extended period of time like very few in his profession." Falkenstien broadcast his first basketball game—an NCAA tournament game in Kansas City between KU and Oklahoma A&M—on March 18, 1946. His next broadcast was KU versus TCU in football on September 21, 1946. He was play-by-play voice of the Jayhawks for 39 years and then switched to a commentator's role in September 1984 when Bob Davis assumed play-by-play duties. Falkenstien provided play-by-play for the Big Eight Conference basketball game of the week between 1968 and 1971, and for more than 3 decades hosted football and basketball coaches' TV programs, including those for Don Fambrough, Pepper Rogers, Mike Gottfried, Ted Owens, Larry Brown and Roy Williams.

Mr. Speaker, I include with this statement a recent article from the Lawrence Journal-World summarizing Max Falkenstien's outstanding career and I join with all KU fans in wishing him well in his long overdue, richly deserved retirement as "Voice of the Kansas Jayhawks."

HONORING JOSEPH J. MANERCHIA UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF THE MARCUS HOOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chief Joseph J. Manerchia upon his retirement as Fire Chief of the Marcus Hook Fire Department after more than 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Department.

Joseph J. Manerchia joined the Marcus Hook Fire Company No. 1 at the age of 15 in

1975. In the years that followed, he held every administrative and Fire Line office within the company. In 1995, he became company chief and is credited with initiating many positive changes in the operation of the company, especially in areas of firefighter/fire officer training, firefighter safety, development of fire officer qualifications and training programs for apparatus drivers. He also wrote the first Standard Operating Guideline Manual adopted by the fire company and developed a "Fire Department/Police Department Interface Program" to promote better cooperation between the two agencies. Chief Manerchia led his company to 4 consecutive Pennsylvania State Championships as the "Best Appearing Marching Unit" in the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention Parade.

In 1999, Joe rose to the rank of Borough Fire Chief, a position he would hold through 2005 which made him the longest serving Borough Fire Chief in the history of the department. At that time, the Marcus Hook Fire Department was comprised of the Marcus Hook Fire Company No. 1 and the Viscose Fire Company No. 2. As Borough Fire Chief he provided the leadership that would eventually consolidate the two local fire companies into one organization. In the year 2000, he was instrumental in developing a plan that led to the replacement of the fire department's aging aerial ladder truck with a new 75 Foot Quint. Again under his chairmanship, the State spotlight was cast on Marcus Hook as the Fire Department hosted the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention in September 2003, a first for the fire department and the borough.

The Chief has attended local, State and nationally accredited fire, hazardous materials and command training classes. He is the graduate of several National Fire Academy on campus programs as well as programs at the University of Texas A&M and the University of Nevada at Reno. Joe holds Pro-Board Certification as a Fire Instructor and as an Industrial Firefighter and is a Pennsylvania certified Emergency Medical Technician and Vehicle Rescue Technician. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Service Instructors and is on the board of directors of the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Currently Chief Manerchia is working on a degree in Emergency Management and accreditation as a "Chief Fire Officer Designate" through the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He continues to lecture locally and regionally on fire company consolidations and chairs a committee charged with consolidating three fire companies in two municipalities. Joe is still active with the Marcus Hook Fire Department and is a member of the Emergency Management Committee of the Borough of Marcus Hook.

On January 21, 2006, Chief Joseph M. Manerchia was recognized for his 7 years as Borough Fire Chief as well as his 30 years of service to the community and the Fire Department at a banquet held in his honor hosted by the Marcus Hook Fire Department and the Borough of Marcus Hook. During his 30 years of service, he certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding his leadership in both his Department and community. While his service will not soon be forgotten and his boots will not soon be filled, the high standards he has set for his department will

strengthen fire service for many years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROY STURGES

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roy Alonzo Sturges, a deputy in La Salle County which is in the 28th district of Texas, who served bravely in Southern Texas as a Chief Jailor

Mr. Speaker, La Salle County commissioners voted unanimously in November to support the naming of the county detention center in Cotulla, Texas, the Roy Alonzo Sturges Law Enforcement Center, for his efforts to foil an attempted escape by a prisoner.

On April 27, 1973, Mr. Sturges thwarted the attempt by a county prisoner but was injured in the process. Records indicate that Mr. Sturges was struck by the inmate with a wooden board, but the jailor was still able to get a door locked to stop the escape. After Mr. Sturges and his wife, who came to his aid after hearing the scuffle, secured the jail, they drove to the local sheriff's office. On the way, he reportedly suffered a fatal heart attack.

Roy Alonzo Sturges was memorialized in Texas in 1994 as a fallen law enforcement officer. La Salle County is honored to have had such an outstanding gentleman serve the people of the 28th district.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Roy Alonzo Sturges.

#### IN MEMORY OF LEO C. STUVER

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Mr. Leo C. Stuver from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to his fellow citizens.

Born in Maricopa County, Arizona on July 8, 1917, Mr. Stuver attended Mexia High School and later spent 2 years at Westminster College in Tehuacana and later attended Sam Houston State University on a football scholarship where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Mr. Stuver started his 41-year career in education in the Dodge School District serving as superintendent. He served several school districts as a principal, and was a superintendent and Teague and Hillsboro school districts before settling down in the Lewisville Independent School District, LISD, in July 1969.

Mr. Stuver was a critical aide in the expansion of the LISD. Not only did he serve his community through basic administrative duties, but he also predicted the needs of the district and was proactive in finding solutions to issues facing the school district. His leadership is admired, and the local auditorium was named in his honor as a small token of appreciation compared to his contributions.

It was my honor to know Mr. Leo Stuver. I extend my sympathies to his family and

friends. I hope the dedication and success of this man may serve as inspiration to all who seek their dreams to serve their communities and fellow man.

CONGRATULATING PITTSTON  
MAYOR MICHAEL LOMBARDO ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS TESTI-  
MONIAL DINNER AND ROAST

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Michael Lombardo, mayor of the city of Pittston, in Luzerne County, PA, and senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry as he is honored by his friends and colleagues at a testimonial dinner.

Mayor Lombardo is widely respected for epitomizing what an elected official should be: committed, decisive, dedicated, and visionary.

Under Mayor Lombardo's leadership, the city of Pittston has been improved in many ways to enhance the quality of life for its residents and visitors alike.

As a senior member of the management team at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Mayor Lombardo has been able to apply the skills learned as a mayor of a single city in ways that touch the lives of citizens from many towns in a positive manner.

Mayor Lombardo is a former educator in the Pittston Area School District. In that capacity he encouraged many young men and women to aspire to great things and to always search for ways to contribute to the greater community.

Mayor Lombardo has been actively involved in the community for many years. He is a board member at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Pittston YMCA and at College Misericordia's Insalaco Center. He is a member of the Council of Delegates at the NEPA Alliance, the Pennsylvania League of Cities Policy Council, the Knights of Columbus and the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition Steering Committee for the Riverfest Project.

He is co-chairperson of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in the Pittston area and the Pittston Tomato Festival. He is also vice president of the Pittston City Festival Association.

Mayor Lombardo has received awards for his community service from the Pennsylvania Library Association and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Community Partnership. He was named Greater Pittston Person of the Year in 2000.

On a personal note, I would like to say that I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with Mike over the years. Whenever I helped him obtain Federal money for the city of Pittston, I knew that it would be spent wisely and for the long-term benefit of the people of Pittston. I look forward to continuing to work with him as he serves in his new capacity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Michael Lombardo for setting a fine example for others to emulate.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY SGT. DENNIS J. FLANAGAN OF INVERNESS, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and sacrifice of Army SGT Dennis J. Flanagan of Inverness, Florida. Sergeant Flanagan was killed by terrorist insurgents while on patrol in Hawijah, Iraq. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sergeant Flanagan was a true American hero.

A 2001 graduate of Lecanto High School, Sergeant Flanagan was an active member of the Junior ROTC, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant his junior year. Within a week following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sergeant Flanagan enlisted in the U.S. Army. Serving with the 101st Airborne Division, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Sergeant Flanagan was part of the air assault infantry that invaded Iraq in 2003.

Following his first tour of duty, Sergeant Flanagan re-enlisted this past September for a second tour in Iraq. He was killed January 20th, along with three other U.S. soldiers when an improvised explosive device blew up his Humvee. Only the driver of the Humvee survived the blast.

Sergeant Flanagan was a soldier who firmly believed in the mission in Iraq and in advancing the cause of freedom. As a young boy, Sergeant Flanagan knew that he wanted to be a soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces. A soldier who felt we must defend America and fight for freedom, Sergeant Flanagan received glowing recommendations from his superior officers and fellow soldiers. One of the principle reasons that he re-enlisted was to act as a mentor to the newly enlisted soldiers and to help train the Iraqi army recruits.

Speaking of his future as a soldier and a patriot, Sergeant Flanagan once wrote a poem that included the words, "And now, my son, I pray to thee. Never ever forget me; that I died a soldier's death, to keep you free with my last breath." The speaker then passes a torch and says, "Keep it high for liberty." These prophetic words show that Sergeant Flanagan knew the risks associated with serving as a soldier and that he was willing to accept that risk fighting for America and for liberty and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sergeant Flanagan's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not return home. I can offer this pledge, however; that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sergeant Flanagan made serving his country.

TRIBUTE TO RAUL RODRIGUEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Raul Rodriguez

who served as Managing Director of the North American Development Bank (NADBank) since October of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the NADBank, a U.S.-Mexico international institution created under NAFTA and headquartered in San Antonio, works to finance and develop needed environmental infrastructure projects in the border region such as water and wastewater treatment plants.

Under the leadership of Mr. Rodriguez, the North American Development Bank has seen dramatic growth in its portfolio, and in its ability to help communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region improve their quality of life.

Since Mr. Rodriguez took the reigns in 2000, the NADBank has increased the diversity of its programs in order to reach more communities, not only financing water and wastewater projects, but also developing projects in other environmental areas such as water conservation.

Mr. Rodriguez has been instrumental in facilitating a higher level of coordination between the U.S. and Mexico on environmental issues of mutual concern. He is a true friend to the United States and a true advocate of the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Mr. Speaker, San Antonio is proud to have dedicated service from Raul Rodriguez.

CONGRATULATING DR. ERIKA MARTINA NELSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Erika M. Nelson of Providence Village, Texas for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Austria during the 2005-2006 academic year. Dr. Nelson was honored with this award for her talents in teaching Language and Literature at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Erika was selected on the basis of professional and academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in her field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Erika Martina Nelson on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her school, community and country.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW J. BENYO JR. UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR IN HAZLE TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to An-

drew J. Benyo Jr., a supervisor in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who has retired after completing 18 years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Benyo was educated at St. Gabriel's Elementary and High School in the city of Hazleton, Pennsylvania and at St. Bernard's College in Cullman, Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and English.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having served during the Vietnam War at DaNang Air Base in the field of combat support.

During his years of service as an elected official in Hazle Township, Mr. Benyo held fast to a campaign promise to avoid raising property taxes. He was successful in accomplishing numerous construction projects, including Humboldt Fire Station No. 2, Community Park Soccer Fields, Babe Ruth Field, North Park Road and the Municipal Office Complex and Commons Building.

An environmental activist, Mr. Benyo also served on the Council of Governments.

Well known for his compassion and responsiveness to his constituents, he was a driving force in securing a resolution to water problems in the Beaver Brook area of the township.

He was also instrumental in bringing about the connector road between Route 93 and Route 309 in the area of 28th Street in the township.

Mr. Benyo never failed to make himself available, especially during winter months, and, in particular, during the severe winter storms of 1993, 1996 and the ice storm of 2005.

Mr. Benyo enjoys spending time with his wife, Judy, and their children, Karin and Sgt. Andrew J. Benyo 3d, who is serving with the U. S. Army Rangers, and his wife, Christine. He also intends to make time for salmon and deep sea fishing and his other hobbies that include boating, woodworking and cooking.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Benyo for 18 years of devoted service and commitment to his community.

Because of individuals like Mr. Benyo, the quality of life in communities like West Hazleton is enhanced. And, for that, we can all be grateful.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD "TONY" LYONS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward "Tony" Lyons of Citrus County, Florida. Tony was recently named the 2005 Florida Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Born in Nicaragua, Tony moved to Floral City, Florida at the age of two. He currently lives with his aunt, who is also his adopted mother, serves in the Florida Army National Guard and works construction in Citrus Hills to help support his family.

As an outstanding student athlete at Citrus High School, Tony led the cross country team, finishing sixth at the state meet and earning multiple awards for his athletic prowess.

Tony signed up as a member of the Florida Army National Guard in late 2004, and immediately dedicated himself to the rigors of training. Assigned to the Hernando County-based 856th Quartermaster Battalion, Tony earned the Soldier of the Year award by finishing first among the Army Guard soldiers who completed a rigorous testing regimen conducted at Camp Blanding in North Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Tony's recognition shows that hard work and dedication in pursuit of a goal can indeed bring success. I congratulate him on being named the 2005 Florida Army National Guard Soldier of the Year, and wish him good luck in the upcoming first Army Southern Region National Guard Soldier of the Year competition.

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TRIBUTE TO TUX AND BOOTS  
BALL

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**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Atascosa County, which is a county in the 28th district of Texas and was founded in 1856. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Atascosa's beginnings and we will kick off a year long celebration at the annual Tux and Boots Ball on Saturday, January 28th in Pleasanton, TX.

Mr. Speaker, Atascosa County is south of San Antonio on the Rio Grande Plain region of south central Texas. The first census taken in Atascosa County was in 1860 and counted 1,578 people. Today, Atascosa County's population is at more than 43,000 residents.

The earliest schools in Atascosa County were organized around the time of the Civil War. By 1914, there were thirty-seven schools in the county. By the 1940s the school districts had begun to consolidate. The total number of persons over the age of twenty-five who had completed four years of high school rose from 1,300 in 1950 to 2,083 in 1960. In addition, the number of residents with some college rose from 395 in 1950 to 473 in 1960. By the year 2000, when the census counted 38,628 people living in Atascosa County, over 65 percent of residents age twenty-five and older had four years of high school. Agriculture, government services, and some light manufacturing are key elements of the area's economy. The largest communities in the County are Jourdanton, the county seat, and Pleasanton the county's largest town. Other communities include Poteet, Lytle, Charlotte, Christine, Leming, McCoy, and Peggy. Some of the County's wonderful attractions include the Poteet Strawberry Festival, the Jourdanton Days Celebration, and the Cowboy Homecoming and Rodeo in Pleasanton. As we look back on the last 150 years with pride, we also look forward to a promising future for Atascosa.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Atascosa County on their 150th anniversary and all of their accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING MR. ERIC R.  
JONES

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Eric R. Jones of Denton, Texas for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Bolivia during the 2005–2006 academic year. Mr. Jones was honored with this award for his studies in Ethnomusicology at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Eric was selected on the basis of academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in his field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Eric Jones on receiving this award and commend his dedication and desire to help his school, community and country.

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ON REMOVAL OF NAME AS CO-  
SPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLU-  
TIONS 635, 636, AND 637

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, during the December recess I was surprised to read in a newspaper article that I was listed as a cosponsor of House Resolutions 635, 636 and 637 since I had not cosponsored any of these measures. I discovered that due to administrative errors, my name was mistakenly added to these bills by the Judiciary Committee staff. I never was a cosponsor of any of them but the only way to correct the committee's error under the rules of the House is to ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor even though I never asked to be added to these pieces of legislation. I could not correct these errors until the House reconvened, which is why I am taking this action today.

I have been involved in two impeachment proceedings against American Presidents. The first was in 1974, during the impeachment inquiry related to President Nixon when I served on the staff of a member of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Don Edwards. The second was in 1998, as a Member of the Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of President Clinton.

Impeachment of a President is provided for in the Constitution only in cases of bribery, treason or "high crimes and misdemeanors." The latter phrase had a very specific meaning to the drafters of our Constitution and was meant to include misbehavior by a President that threatened the very nature of our government. President Nixon resigned before the Congress could vote on his impeachment, but

the impeachment articles adopted by a bipartisan majority of the Judiciary Committee included behavior that was so lawless that it could threaten the very nature of the American government.

The partisan 1998 impeachment was based on personal misbehavior by the President and was, in my judgment, a misuse of the impeachment provisions in the Constitution. Use of impeachment for any reason that does not meet the standard set in the Constitution must be avoided by the Congress.

Serious questions have been raised about President Bush's actions in approving warrantless wiretaps by the NSA, as well as questions about both the Vice President's and the President's information that was provided to the Congress as the basis for the decision to initiate war in Iraq. These important questions need to be answered, and Congress should then consider the answers in a careful, deliberate and thoughtful manner. It is important that this process be done in a dispassionate way that avoids partisanship. This thorough analysis should, in my judgment, be undertaken before anything such as these resolutions are considered.

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TRIBUTE TO FALLBROOK PEOPLE  
TO PEOPLE SERVICES

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**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Fallbrook People to People Services on the occasion of 24 years of outstanding services to the North County San Diego community.

On January 29, 2006, Fallbrook People to People Services celebrated 24 years of providing nonprofit, volunteer run, free employment and counseling resources to underserved members of North San Diego County. The volunteers have served the community by matching citizens with needs with individuals whom can assist. As a result, over 11,300 jobs have been identified and filled.

Mr. Speaker, with the dedication of Fallbrook People to People Service volunteers, many elderly or incapacitated clients are able to find affordable home health care, housekeeping, and home maintenance assistance that they would otherwise be unable to locate. Many local businesses also take advantage of this resource to staff sales, service, office and maintenance positions. Young mothers, first time workers, and middle-aged women are given assistance to support their families and find meaningful employment in order to become self-sufficient citizens.

On the occasion of Fallbrook People to People Service's 24th anniversary, I would like to personally recognize the work of those who have served as volunteers, staff and board members of this exceptional, nonprofit organization.

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TRIBUTE TO CHRIS JONES

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**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Chris Jones, a

Texas State University senior who was recently sworn in as the newest member of the San Marcos, Texas City Council.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Jones is the first student to be elected to the San Marcos City Council in 33 years. He won the election because of his values, determination and hard work.

Chris Jones was raised in the small West Texas town of Seminole between Lubbock and Midland. He is a graduate of Seminole High School and has completed undergraduate studies in Public Administration at Texas State University.

Councilman Jones ran his campaign on the idea of a better future for San Marcos, one that includes bringing jobs into the city. His service to his community is extensive considering his age. He served as Student Body Vice President at Texas State and currently serves on the Chancellor's Advisory Board. He is an ambassador to the President of the University from the Student Foundation. He also served as President of Black Student Alliance and currently chairs the Student Chapter of the Texas State Alumni Association. On top of all of this, he has interned for Texas Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff and State Representative Patrick Rose. These achievements represent only a portion of his service, contributions that earned him an honor by the Dunbar Heritage Association in 2004 for his service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Jones is a valuable asset to San Marcos and I am proud to have him in the 28th district of Texas.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RAWLINGS

### HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Rawlings on his induction into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

Bob Rawlings was born in Pueblo in 1924 and bravely defended his country during the Second World War, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. With a degree from Colorado College, Bob then began a career as a reporter for the Pueblo Chieftain in 1947. His enthusiasm and passion for journalism propelled him to the position of Editor and then to President of Star-Journal Publishing Corporation in 1984.

His achievements in the field of Journalism prompted the University of Colorado to induct Bob as a "Living Legend" in 1997. The Colorado Press Association named him "Colorado Newspaper Person of the Year" in 1989 and the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce gave him the title of "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" in 1993.

While Bob is today being honored as a remarkable businessman, his name is equally synonymous with service. Always devoted to his hometown of Pueblo, over the years he has contributed generously of himself to the Colorado State University at Pueblo, and was honored in 2004 as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Even with all of this public activity, Bob is still a family man first and foremost. He and his wife Sandy have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Bob's story is the story of the American spirit. A spirit and life defined by a will to succeed and a desire to give back. It is also a life of service and generosity, of drive and achievement. Bob's persistence, patriotism, and devotion to business and community should serve as an example for us all.

I am honored to be a part of the induction of this great man into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

#### CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I join the Chinese community in ushering in the Lunar New Year and celebrating the Year of the Dog.

Since the earliest days of this country, people from all cultures have journeyed to our Nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and the American dream. As an integral part of our society, Chinese Americans are leaders in public service, government, science, law, education, athletics, and the arts. As business entrepreneurs, Chinese Americans are helping to strengthen our economy and our communities through their hard work and ingenuity. As patriots, Chinese Americans continue to risk their lives defending liberty.

I am pleased to help celebrate the Year of the Dog and commend those organizing events in its honor. These events promote greater understanding of the Chinese culture and society and honor not only the historical contributions of Chinese traditions, but also encourage greater awareness of the modern contributions of Chinese Americans.

As a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander American Caucus, I am proud to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent I represent in California's 32nd Congressional District. Residents of Rosemead, Monterey Park, Covina, West Covina, and other cities throughout my district know first hand the economic and cultural contributions of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Gung Hay Fat Choy. Xin Nien Kuai Le.

#### IN MEMORY OF DR. CHARLES HANSON SAUNDERS

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Dr. Charles Hanson Saunders, a wonderful man and a friend to the community of Denton, Texas. Dr. Saunders passed away peacefully on Monday, December 26th, 2005 at his home at the age of 90.

Dr. Saunders was born on March 17, 1915 to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Frances Saunders. Born and raised in Denton, he spent his life serving our country and committing his life to continuing education and working vigorously. He became involved in the Boy Scouts of America at an early age and eventually

earned his Eagle award. He is responsible for starting the first Cub Scout den in Denton and continued to support the Boy Scouts of America throughout his lifetime.

His formal education began at North Texas State Teachers College where he earned a Bachelor of Science in 1935. Later, Dr. Saunders attended Baylor University College of Dentistry and went on to receive his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Michigan College of Dentistry in 1938.

After graduation, Dr. Charles Saunders returned to Denton and established his dental practice alongside his father. Later, he volunteered and entered the Army Air Force Dental Corps where he served his country while stationed in England during World War II with the 39200 Bomber Group. He returned and married Ms. Mabel Pearson, and they celebrated their 60th Anniversary in early 2005.

Dr. Saunders returned to his dental practice in Denton and then specialized in the practice of periodontics until his retirement in 1986.

A lifetime member of the Denton Kiwanis Club, Dr. Saunders served on the board of directors as well as on the board of directors for the Children's Clinic Trust. He received the Hixon Award from Kiwanis International for his outstanding service to the club. Additionally, he was extremely involved in the First Presbyterian Church of Denton. Over his lifetime membership, he served as a deacon and an elder. He was also a cofounder, board member and vice president of the Clear Creek Watershed Authority in Denton County. Dr. Saunders also served in leadership positions for the Flow Memorial Hospital for 10 years.

Dr. Saunders was a wonderful contributor to many local activities. His leadership and support created many opportunities for the members of his community. Today, I would like to recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Charles H. Saunders. He was intelligent, giving and a true American. Charles leaves behind his lovely wife, Mrs. Mabel Pearson Saunders; his two children Charles P. Saunders and Gail P. Saunders; three grandchildren, Rachel Pryor, Kierstin Rusk and Nicholas Burgess; eight great-grandchildren; and two nieces, Carolyn Thayer and Lois Hudman.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FUEL SECURITY AND CONSUMER CHOICE ACT

### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to change fundamentally the relationship of the United States to energy in a way that helps the consumer, reduces pollution, reduces greenhouse gases, and reduces the need to use military force to protect oil fields in countries thousands of miles from our shores. Nearly 70 percent of all the oil we use is consumed by the transportation sector, so we must look for alternatives to imported oil for fueling our cars and trucks. Today, advances in the production of ethanol—the refining of starch, sugar and cellulose into auto fuel—have reached the point where we have an opportunity to make a huge difference in opening up the market for alternatives to gasoline. Now is the time to be bold.

The powerful promise of ethanol to dramatically reduce foreign oil imports has just been demonstrated by Brazil. As a result of its ethanol production and technological development, Brazil has cut its dependence on foreign oil from about 80 percent in the 1970's to nearly zero today—despite being the 10th largest energy consumer in the world. Ethanol now accounts for 20 percent of Brazil's transportation fuel—we should be able to do that here.

The ethanol that the U.S. currently produces—3.4 billion gallons in 2004, or the equivalent of 250,000 barrels of oil a day—is made from corn. Producing ethanol from corn has been tremendously successful in the Midwest and now we must look to replicate that success all across the country, even in places where corn doesn't grow. There is great potential in ethanol refined from sources of cellulose, which are abundant and widely available in every corner of America. Experts tell us that biomass as diverse as switchgrass, sawgrass, tree bark, or wastes such as sawdust, paper pulp or sugar cane waste could now be turned into ethanol. Cellulosic ethanol holds incredible potential—by many estimates, the ability to replace 1–2 million barrels of oil a day or nearly the amount of oil that we consume from the Middle East.

But cellulosic ethanol can be derived not just from new crops grown in the farm belt, but also the waste streams of every city and village in urban and suburban America. Right now this surplus cellulose is being trucked to a landfill at great cost. But this so-called “waste stream” is actually the potential backbone of an alternative auto fuel. Turning cellulosic waste into ethanol would also have the virtue of helping to relieve the immense pressure in urban areas on landfills while also producing a protein rich animal food.

We need to make ethanol a national program here as Brazil has done. Right now ethanol is a boutique fuel for the Midwest that is not widely used in the urban areas or our coasts because the costs of transporting it there make it uneconomic. We need to give every region of our country an ability to produce and use ethanol. We need to give every sector of industry a stake in developing ethanol from the byproducts produced at plants in urban areas.

Right now, there are nearly five million vehicles already on the road in the U.S. that are capable of running on E85, a fuel mix that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Recently, automakers such as Ford and GM have announced plans to ramp up production of flexfuel vehicles, planning to produce a combined 650,000 such vehicles in 2006. Making vehicles that are capable of running on 85 percent ethanol is also not significantly more expensive than making cars that run on gas only. Right now, vehicles that have flexfuel models retail for the same prices as their gas-only counterparts.

Today, I am introducing the “Fuel Security and Consumer Choice Act”—legislation mandating that within 10 years all cars, trucks and SUV's sold in the United States be flex-fuel vehicles, capable of running on gasoline, ethanol or a combination of both. This legislation would also gradually phase out the so-called “dual fuels loophole” over a 4 year period—expiring roughly around the year 2010, when the credit is currently set to expire under the Energy Bill passed last year. This phase out

will ensure that as we move forward as a Nation towards using these new fuels, we do not inadvertently move backwards in overall fuel economy standards for our Nation's fleet of cars, trucks and SUVs.

Mandating that U.S. cars be capable of running on ethanol will spur the development of these new cellulosic ethanols and improve technology for producing ethanol from corn. We are a technological giant and we must develop fuels for the future for our transportation sector if we ever want to replace our dependence on oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide relief to American consumers from high gas and energy prices.

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TRIBUTE TO CLEAN OCEAN  
ACTION

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**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the volunteers for Clean Ocean Action, an organization that has made tremendous efforts to clean up the Jersey Shore over the past 22 years.

Clean Ocean Action, COA, was established in 1984 by individuals with a deep-rooted concern for the environment and a strong desire to help clean up our oceans and beaches. Today we can say with certainty that the waters of the New York/New Jersey Bight have benefited greatly from the efforts of COA, its volunteers, and the many citizens who have participated in COA activities.

In the late 1980s, medical waste and other trash washing up on the Jersey Shore closed our beaches for an entire summer. Off our coast, eight separate ocean dumpsites collected all kinds of foul waste. COA and its volunteers helped lead the charge, in conjunction with Federal and State efforts, to keep trash off our beaches and close the dumpsites, and we can see the results every day.

More than 30,000 Clean Ocean Action volunteers gather for biannual beach cleanups that have removed millions of pieces of trash and debris that typically wash up on our shores. COA compiles statistics on the trash collected during their sweeps, providing a very valuable tool to determine the leading source of debris pollution on our beaches and in our coastal waters.

Having spent much of my career in elected office working on policies to protect our oceans and our coastline, I am keenly aware of the contributions that this organization have made to the Jersey Shore. The efforts of groups like the COA, and their unpaid volunteers often pass with little notice, but we all benefit from their work and we should support their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Clean Ocean Action is holding a brunch to thank its volunteers for their hard work. I urge my colleagues to join me in also thanking these volunteers as well as the hard-working staff that has done so much to clean up the Jersey Shore and protect the New York/New Jersey Bight.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES S. WARREN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 8

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Charles S. Warren on the occasion of his retirement as chairman of New York, City's Community Board 8. A tireless and dedicated community activist and civic volunteer, Charles Warren is a consummate New Yorker who has distinguished himself throughout a remarkable career in the public and private sectors.

A highly regarded attorney in private practice, Charles S. Warren has also distinguished himself through his public and community service. After earning a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Florida, an L.L.B. from Columbia University Law School, and an advanced L.L.M. degree from the New York University School of Law, Mr. Warren launched a remarkable career in public service. He became the chief legislative assistant to the senior United States Senator from New York, the late Jacob K. Javits, serving as the top advisor to that eminent statesman. In this capacity, Charles Warren was the principal drafter of the 1973 War Powers Resolution and developed extensive expertise on issues ranging from housing and urban development to environmental protection and conservation.

Because of Mr. Warren's outstanding reputation, President Jimmy Carter reached across party lines to tap him to serve as director of the Office of Legislation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. He was subsequently promoted to the position of EPA administrator for Region II with jurisdiction over New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As Region II administrator, Charles S. Warren supervised implementation and enforcement of critical environmental laws and oversaw the awarding of grants and contracts valued at more than \$500 million for various environmental protection and related programs to states, communities, and other recipients.

Mr. Warren then went on to distinguish himself in the not-for-profit and private sectors. He served as the senior vice president for the Public Broadcasting Service's flagship public television station, WNET/Channel 13. He went on to be named a partner at the Manhattan law firm of Berle, Kass & Case. Since 1994, he has been a Partner at the highly regarded firm of Bryan Cave LLP, where he currently serves as the deputy director of the Environmental Client Group. Mr. Warren's practice includes regulatory, administrative, environmental review, permitting, and enforcement matters, and his clients have included banks, railroads, industrial and commercial corporations and local and regional authorities.

It is for his volunteer service as a member and chairman of Community Board 8 for which Mr. Warren is being honored by his fellow Board members and community residents on the evening of January 30, 2006. Community Board 8, which encompasses Manhattan's Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island, serves as the representative town meeting of the historic and nationally prominent neighborhoods

that lie within its boundaries. It thus provides a voice to community residents and their concerns running the gamut of issues from land use to traffic to sanitation and beyond. After joining the Board in 1985, Mr. Warren became a dedicated and energetic representative for his fellow citizens. His leadership abilities were recognized when he was elected chairman of Manhattan's Community Board 8 in January of 2003. He has just concluded 3 years as chairman. Community Board 8 residents are fortunate that Charles S. Warren will continue to serve their interests as a member of Community Board, where he currently serves as the co-chairman of its Transportation Committee. Throughout a career of professional and voluntary activity, Charles S. Warren has fought for and secured immeasurable improvements to the quality of life of his fellow New York County residents.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous contributions to civic and public life, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Charles S. Warren, a great New Yorker and a great American. Charles Warren's dedication to public and community serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce as they plan to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

The Prince William Regional Chamber's mission is to sustain the strong business climate and high quality of life that has made Prince William one of the best places to live in the Nation. It is an organization comprised of more than 1,000 businesses and community groups that work together to strengthen the community and promote the region's business development.

Prince William's business community has grown and diversified tremendously over the Chamber's 50 years of existence. In order to effectively represent the range of member industries, the chamber is comprised of various business councils to ensure all industry perspectives are represented as policies and programs are developed and implemented.

The Regional Chamber is integral to promoting businesses' profitability and effectiveness, but also serves as an important resource for startup and existing businesses. They provide valuable information for area businesses and hold informative seminars on everything from developing successful business plans to creating effective marketing strategies. In addition, the Chamber is active in enhancing the community's quality of life by providing scholarships for area high school students, promoting the efforts of area not-for-profit organizations and community help organizations, and each year honoring area regional public safety professionals who have preformed beyond the call of duty.

We have had the privilege to meet and work with the members of the Chamber on various occasions to discuss the issues that affect the Prince William community and the Nation. The Regional Chamber has maintained a relationship with policy makers at the Federal, State and local level, and they have worked tirelessly to ensure that area businesses grow and succeed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we call upon our colleagues to join us in congratulating the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of success and wishing the Chamber success in the years to come.

ARTICLE ON FOOD SAFETY

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article on food safety, which I submit for the RECORD, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. Mr. Gilmore's article addresses the issue of food safety. While I may not agree with all of Mr. Gilmore's proposals, I recommend this article to every citizen interested in the integrity of the food supply chain and the safety of the food we consume every day.

[From Barron's Online, Nov. 7, 2005]

GET READY FOR HEALTH WARS

(By Rick Gilmore)

It's not easy to fight a war when the weapons could be candy bars or milk, and if the battlegrounds are in Halloween candy baskets or dairy farms. And if we ever do master these theaters of warfare, we'll have to prepare for other modes of transmission for pathogens, such as fruit and vegetable juices, canned foods, pastas and other grain-based foods, chicken and fish.

As bad as the chances of a pandemic disease may be, the possibilities for a deliberate attack on our food chain are endless. And worse: They are likely because the weapons are immediately accessible, require minimal training, are cheap to produce and offer high kill ratios of innocent citizenry.

Even before 9/11, our government had been thinking about these ugly scenarios. Multiple scientific studies model and quantify the human impact of the deliberate release of a toxin at a dairy farm or a pathogen in a major city. A theoretical study on milk said a terrorist needs to add only 10 grams of botulism toxin to a truck-full of milk to get 400,000 casualties. An aerosol-generated attack of anthrax sprayed with the prevailing wind could affect as much as 35% of the nearby population within three days, with a case fatality rate as high as 70%.

Governments and the private sector most certainly are attempting to build their own territorial defenses, sometimes more effectively than in others. The Australian method of dealing with candy bars allegedly contaminated with a pesticide was to recall all the affected Mars and Snickers bars, crush them, and dispose of them with a deep burial. The U.K. government detected a carcinogenic food coloring in a Worcestershire sauce ingredient, and it notified consumers and withdrew the product from the shelves. Unfortunately, it did not promptly notify other states in the European Union, violating Eu-

rope's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

Such accidents are probably impossible to stop. We also cannot eradicate avian flu if it threatens us, but our combat strategy has many weaknesses. President Bush outlined a new plan to spend \$7.1 billion to stockpile medications like Tamiflu and Relenza to combat an outbreak. The country expects to have four million doses on hand by Jan. 1, but the World Health Organization recommends stockpiling doses for at least 25% of the population—73 million Americans.

Whatever our country's plans, problems abound. Roche has made it clear that it is already back-ordered more than a year on Tamiflu, and researchers are concerned that there won't be enough antiviral medicine available to blunt the global onslaught of a possible pandemic. A pandemic triggered by a mutated H5N1 virus, moreover, may not be affected by antiviral drugs or any of the vaccines currently in development. Bush belatedly supported efforts to develop cell-based vaccines that can be produced much faster than today's vaccines, but discoveries don't come on timetables.

The BioShield Act of 2004 was passed to address just the kind of threat we face with avian flu. It sets out to accomplish three goals: speed the Food and Drug Administration's approval of drugs and vaccines to counter a bioterror attack; create incentives for companies to develop new products through government-guaranteed purchases of pharmaceuticals and biologics; and secure long-term stockpiles of such products in case of an outbreak. Despite the fanfare of the program, progress has been slow, primarily because of underfunding and uncertainties regarding liability insurance and intellectual property protection.

When it comes to our defense system against bioterrorism, the whole nation is still held hostage. Each leg of the stool—preparedness, surveillance and protection—is wobbly at the moment.

We're planning for an attack within our borders and have placed minimal attention on what occurs outside them, despite the internationalization of our food system. Food ingredients are imported from around the world and exported to consumers and corporate affiliates worldwide. Kansas and the Punjab are part of the same food chain.

Staple food items now travel a minimum of 1,400 miles from farm to table. And yet, we have a system in place under the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that focuses on U.S. registrations, port notifications and reporting for American-based food companies. Although we seek information on foreign food companies selling and distributing to U.S. companies, the data do not go back to the point of origin. Even here at home we exclude farms, including aquaculture, from any reporting requirements, though on-farm crops are the most likely targets to serve as carriers for the best-known pathogens—stem rust for cereals, Southern corn-leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight and citrus canker. The European Union takes a more thorough approach to traceability, including every link in the food chain from farm to table.

By adhering to a territorial defense strategy, we are leaving ourselves and our trading partners vulnerable when it comes to exports. Right now, a contaminated food item from the U.S. could be exported to another country without our knowledge and without warning to the foreign buyer. European export certification is compulsory unless specifically exempted by the importing country.

Another vulnerability: The pathogen itself. Studying likely pathogens that might be used in an attack is somewhat like finding a needle in a haystack. USDA is now funding

research centers to deal with plant diseases and zoonoses, which are pathogens transmitted from animals to humans. Still, the focus is on the usual suspects, and not enough on new pathogens, many of which can be developed cheaply by slightly altering the original virus strain.

We have learned the hard way that one terrorist cell can inflict more human and economic damage than we can protect at a given time. Congress and the Bush administration are addressing the issue, but haven't created a safer food environment. The system in place is a labyrinth of bureaucratic federal regulations that reflect yesterday's assumptions, not future possibilities. Federal funding for state activities has fallen short of their target, and state enforcement capabilities are not uniformly satisfactory. For industry, duplication of regulatory-agency requirements is costly and confounding, particularly for small and medium-size companies. Despite two years' worth of warnings of an avian-flu pandemic, drug companies still lack liability protection to launch and distribute new vaccines.

Closing the loopholes is not a matter of fine tuning because the holes are too wide to close. At home, we need to look to new genomic research that will determine how to develop crops that are resistant to a full range of pathogens. Internationally, there is an urgent need for greater coordination of research and information. No system can be failsafe when it comes to bioterrorism, but we can reshape the one we have today to be more effective.

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#### NEW REPORT SHOWS INDIA ENGULFED BY CORRUPTION

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about a new report written by Indian writer M.S. Rahi, PhD, entitled "Corruption and Its Effect on Social Life." As you know, we have recently been having some problems with corruption here in Washington as well, so the paper particularly caught my eye at this time.

In it, Dr. Rahi exposes the massive corruption that has engulfed Indian government at all levels. Lately it has even begun to run through the judiciary, which had been the single semi-autonomous branch of government there and the single one that had shown even minimal concern for human rights. This is tragic for the people of India, as Dr. Rahi shows. He notes that India has been plagued with one corruption scandal after another, highlighting the Mundra, Bofors, Security Scam, Kargil Coffin Scam, Tehelka, and Recruitment Scam scandals by name. He notes that many of the lawyers practicing in Indian courts are the family members of the judges before whom they are practicing. He notes how Indian politics have been rigged to ensure dynastic succession, as the sons and daughters of Members of Parliament and of the Legislative Assemblies succeeded them.

He does not discuss one of the major Indian corruption scandals of recent times, the selling of government jobs in Punjab by the Badal government (labeled "fee for service"), nor does he discuss the massive human-rights violations in India, except to make the very good and valid point that this kind of endemic

corruption inevitably leads to human-rights violations. If the corruption can be cleaned, perhaps the human-rights violations will be reduced, something that we all desire.

The latest scandal is that Sikhs who bought land in the new state of Uttaranchal Pradesh have had their farms taken away and they have been expelled. Sikhs are not permitted to buy property in Rajasthan or in Himachal Pradesh. Yet anyone can buy land in Punjab, the predominantly Sikh state.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered in India. In addition, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians elsewhere in the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables," Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities have been killed. Recently, the Bodos have threatened to end their truce with the Indian government.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a good first step by apologizing for the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984, but he has made no move to compensate the families of the victims nor to apologize for any of the Indian government's other atrocities and compensate those victims.

Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, along with tens of thousands of other minorities. The first step India must take is to release all political prisoners. And it must adopt stricter anti-corruption laws to ensure that corruption will be held to a minimum and when it does occur, it will be punished. As Dr. Rahi reminds us, the impunity of corrupt officials and the impunity of the officials who commit these atrocities go hand in hand. Until basic human rights, including the right to buy property, live free of the threat of violence, and be safe from government corruption, are allowed to be enjoyed by all Indians, we must cut off our aid and trade. And we must put Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite on the subject of independence in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, in Kashmir (as promised to the United Nations in 1948), and wherever people are seeking their freedom. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination and the people of these troubled regions will only escape the corruption and brutality when they are allowed to live in freedom.

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#### RECOGNIZING GRANT D. ASHLEY

#### HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the efforts of one outstanding law enforcement official who dedicated much of his life to fighting crime. After serving most three decades in law enforcement, Grant D. Ashley will retire from the FBI today, January 31, 2006. Grant Ashley began his service with the FBI in 1976 in his hometown of Los Angeles, California. After being appointed as a Special Agent and following a period of training at Quantico, Virginia, Mr. Ashley investigated White Collar and Violent Crimes in the Los Angeles Division and served on the Los Angeles Division SWAT team.

Grant Ashley would later serve as a supervisor of Drug Investigation in the Criminal In-

vestigative Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He would then supervise the Violent Crimes Task Force and a special squad on Organized Crime and Narcotics in Chicago. In the mid-1990s, Mr. Ashley gained responsibility over national security matters in the San Diego division of the FBI, and was then appointed Associate Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Division. In February 1999, Grant Ashley moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to serve as designated Special Agent in Charge. Three years later he was appointed Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division.

In 2004, FBI Director Robert Mueller appointed Grant Ashley to serve as Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services, where he had oversight over the FBI's broad efforts to support State and local law enforcement. When Director Mueller appointed Mr. Ashley he said, "Support for our partners in law enforcement is a priority for the FBI and is absolutely vital to our success in fighting terrorism and crime. Grant's background and experience as an investigator and manager make him ideally suited to oversee these efforts. He will bring to bear the same drive and innovation that he brought to criminal investigations to our efforts to improve the FBI's law enforcement services."

And indeed he did. Mr. Ashley served admirably as he worked to coordinate the efforts of the FBI, such as the laboratory division, forty-seven legal attaché offices, the Investigative Technologies Division, and the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, with the dedicated efforts of our State and local law enforcement. He understood the challenges facing our Nation's law enforcement officials, especially now in the 21st century as we fight terrorism at home and abroad. His dedication to improving law enforcement coordination across-the-board will continue to serve as a model for our Nation.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with Grant Ashley and to have had the great honor to call him, friend. Today, I also call him a patriot. As he retires from close to three decades of service with the FBI, I would like to thank Grant Ashley for his outstanding service to law enforcement and to his Nation. Grant Ashley's commitment and dedication to fighting crime and law enforcement has made our country safer, and for that we should all thank him and congratulate him on an exceptional career with the FBI.

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE CORNER HEALTH CARE CENTER ON ITS 25TH ANNI- VERSARY

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Corner Health Center on its 25th anniversary. Located in Ypsilanti, MI, The Corner Health Center offers medical care, health education, as well as support services for low income youth between the ages of 12 to 21. This vital assistance provides the necessary support to help these young people make healthy choices now and in the future.

As Michigan's first teen health center, The Corner Health Center educates at-risk teens

on the long-range implications of their health behaviors. In addition, The Corner Health Center also encourages these youths to develop responsible behaviors and take responsibility for their own health, using such innovative programs as: a theatre troupe, individualized baby booklets, as well as drug, alcohol and pregnancy prevention counseling.

Mr. Speaker, organizations such as The Corner Health Center serve our communities in invaluable ways. They provide key services supporting both the health of individuals as well as the health of their communities in which they live. I am proud to have The Corner Health Center in Michigan's 15th Congressional District and I would like to congratulate The Center on its 25th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE JOHN F. GILLESPIE

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Detective John F. Gillespie of the Boston Police Department. Upon his recent retirement, I wish to praise John for his thirty-five years of devoted service to the city of Boston.

John joined the Boston Police Department on October 7, 1970 and was first assigned to District Two in Roxbury. After more than two years of exemplary service, he was assigned to the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF), which patrolled the various neighborhoods of Boston.

John's next assignment was to District Eleven in Dorchester, where he received several letters of commendation during his tenure. One in particular was awarded to John for his courageous apprehension of a man wielding a shotgun.

In 1985, he moved to the position of Information Officer, which worked directly with the Boston Police Commissioners Office. After three years of service John was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Intelligence Unit, which is designated to dignitary protection. In this position he coordinated with Federal and State agencies in order to protect various heads of state as well as United States presidents.

John Gillespie is a remarkable gentleman with a long and illustrious career with the Boston Police Department. John's personal integrity, hard work and determination illustrate the best characteristics of those who work to protect and serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with John's family, friends, and fellow officers on the Boston Police Department to thank him for his service. Additionally, I think we all would like to congratulate him on his much deserved retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating John Gillespie's distinguished career and thank him for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. SCANLON

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James D. Scanlon for a distinguished professional career that has spanned more than 39 years. As Jim prepares for his retirement as president of BAE Systems Platform Solutions, I would like to recognize and thank him for his tremendous leadership of one of our region's biggest and most stable employers, as well as his leadership in the Greater Binghamton business community.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a nuclear weapons officer, Jim began his career in the private sector with General Electric's Engineering Career Development Program, developing design and management systems for military aircraft. In 1992, he was named General Manager of GE's Control Systems business, retaining that position when the business was acquired by Martin Marietta and then merged with Lockheed. In 1995, as president of Lockheed Martin Control Systems, Jim led the acquisition of GE Aircraft Engines' engine control manufacturing operation. When Lockheed Martin Control Systems was combined with BAE Systems in 2000, Jim was named president of BAE Systems Controls. During the course of his career, he has overseen the development and production of mission-critical control systems used on all U.S. military aircraft and most of the global military aircraft, as well as every regional and large commercial aircraft worldwide.

In addition to his broad engineering and management experience, Jim has been an invaluable resource for our community, ensuring that BAE Systems and the previous owners of the Johnson City, New York, plant were involved and committed partners in the redevelopment of the Greater Binghamton region's economy. He has matched his professional commitment to our communities with a personal one, serving on the directorial boards of several local organizations, including the United Way and the SUNY Binghamton School of Management. He has justly received the many honors bestowed upon him by community organizations.

In addition to these numerous professional credentials, it must be noted that I, like so many others in Broome County, regard Jim as a friend. He inspires great loyalty in his employees and affection from the countless others with who he has worked over the years, in the defense industry, in the government, and in his home community of Vestal. He will be sorely missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Jim Scanlon and his family on his retirement. I offer my very best wishes to him and his wife Dolores as they begin this new chapter in their lives, along with my deep appreciation for his innovation, dedication and hard work for the past 39 years.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIR ORR, CHAIRMAN AND FOURTH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clair Orr, a fellow Coloradan who has served with distinction on the State Board of Education. Since 1994, Clair has endeavored to provide students around the state with greater opportunity in life by obtaining high quality educations in our state's public schools. On this eight-member Board, Clair served as its Chairman and represented the 35,000-square-mile Fourth Congressional District.

Over the course of his tenure, Clair was instrumental in advancing initiatives because of his heart for service, dedication to helping students, and his ability to make tough stands for policies he knew would make a real difference.

It has been said that Clair measures his success by upholding the Colorado Revised Statutes, the U.S. Constitution, and the legal authority given to the Board. For these reasons, it is no wonder that Mr. Orr received the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of States Board Educators (NASBE) after being nominated by his colleagues in his second term.

Shortly after beginning his service on the Board, Clair Orr successfully challenged Colorado Governor Roy Romer, standing up to his proposed constitutional amendment to change the Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board. Later, in 2000, he was appointed to this Trust by Governor Bill Owens.

Because of his leadership on the Board, however, Governor Romer appointed Clair to the Principle and Administrators Standards Board as well as the Colorado Achievement Task Force.

In the wake of the devastating Columbine shooting that shook our nation, Clair Orr organized an emergency Board meeting and led the bipartisan group to take unanimous action.

Among his other notable contributions over his 11 year term were the design and implementation of the Colorado Student Assessment Program, which is now the longest-standing standards-based assessment in the country. While serving on the Board, Clair oversaw the creation of an accreditation system where the state accredits local school districts using an 11 point system, which in-turn accredit local schools.

Clair Orr helped implement the School Accountability Reports program, which was considered the largest administrative task undertaken by the Colorado Department of Education. Additionally, he played a critical role in reviewing Colorado's plan to implement President Bush's No Child Left Behind.

In addition, Clair served on the Colorado Civics Task and helped secure a multi-million dollar grant for its projects. He was also selected by other Board members to serve for four years on the Nominations Committee for the NASBE.

Throughout Colorado, Clair Orr is revered by the education community and he has received high remarks from those who he has

served alongside. Here are some of the comments of his peers:

"Mr. Orr brought both grace and wisdom to his work for the children of Colorado. His experience, integrity and faith informed his positions and gave meaning to his comments. On behalf of my constituents, I thank him for his efforts to better the education of every child. On behalf of myself and my family, I thank him for being a stellar example of a true public servant."—Rico Munn, 1st Congressional District, Colorado State Board of Education.

"Clair Orr is a kind and gentle man, one of great integrity and conviction. I will remember him most for these things: his insistence on abiding by the words of the Constitution, his deep-felt admiration for the soldiers who gave their lives for our country, his joy in reciting the Gettysburg Address, his stories about raising his three daughters, and his wonderful sense of humor. What I appreciated most about working with him was that even when he had a strong opinion about something, he was willing to listen to others' points of view, give them serious consideration, and compromise."—Ernie Hudak, 2nd Congressional District, Colorado State Board of Education.

"During Clair's tenure on the Colorado State Board of Education he never wavered in his oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States, he also referred to the Constitution quite frequently, keeping us on track. Always the Gentleman, he demonstrated quality leadership with strong convictions. His devotion and dedication to the academic achievement for all of Colorado's Children was without a doubt exemplary. The Citizens of Colorado are truly indebted to Clair for his service on our Colorado State Board of Education. I personally want to thank Clair for his mentorship, leadership and most of all friendship!"—Pamela Jo Suckla, Chairman 3rd Congressional District Colorado State Board of Education.

"Clair Orr is a unique education leader. His special attention to rural schools has opened doors of academic opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Colorado youngsters. Clair's commonsense approach to pressing issues and sweeping changes in public education has made him a true statesman among education leaders. Clair's example of hard work, boundless dedication and compassion will long be the template for how the State Board of Education operates in the future."—Bob Schaffer, State Board of Education and Former U.S. Congressman, 4th Congressional District.

"CLAIR stands for: Concern for all children, not just a few; Leadership by moving boldly forward; A passion for service in his unwavering commitment to make Colorado schools move towards excellence; Integrity drove every decision he made during his eleven years on the board; Righteousness exudes from his very presence. There was never any question of Clair's motives."—Peg Littleton, State Board of Education, 5th Congressional District

"I am honored to have served my first year on the Colorado State Board of Education

with my colleague Clair Orr. As the newest member of the board, I found that his perspective, his respect for history and his vision for the State Board of Education was critical to our success as an elected board and a cohesive working group. Without his sense of history and where we had come, we would have—and now will—lacked a critical viewpoint in our deliberations. Clair Orr will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his next endeavors."—Karen Middleton, State Board of Education, 7th Congressional District.

"Clair Orr has volunteered for the state of Colorado and its schoolchildren for eleven years on the State Board of Education. He has served as Chairman, and was also recently acknowledged by the National Association of State Boards of Education for his many years of distinguished service. The example that Mr. Orr has set raises the bar for all of us and serves to encourage others to give back to this great Democratic Republic. When I was first elected to the board, Mr. Orr helped get me caught up on the many issues we faced and always had time to help me out with questions. The state of Colorado owes Mr. Orr a debt of gratitude for his time and efforts."—Jared Polis, Member-At-Large, Colorado State Board of Education.

For Clair, though, it is not about appointments, awards or public recognition, it was about keeping students front and center. For this reason, he often traveled the hundreds of miles needed in order to speak at town hall meetings, meet with parents, hear from school boards, and visit with educators around Northern and Southeastern Colorado. Mr. Orr utilized the media to get his message out. He had regularly scheduled radio appearances and frequently wrote editorials for the many small town papers throughout the district.

Clair Orr is also a dedicated family man and a successful business man. He has been married over 30 years to his wife Deb and has three grown daughters. Clair is a native Colorado resident and a fourth generation farmer. Mr. Orr is founder and is Chief Executive Officer of Agtown Technologies, which specializes in water accounting programs and web development for agro-businesses. One of his top clients is the renowned Western Stock Show. He also is a real estate broker who specializes in water rights sales as well as farms and ranches.

In 2004, Clair was nominated by the Northern Colorado Business Report as an Emerging Entrepreneur. In 2003, he was named Businessman of the Year by the National Republican Committee. In 2002, he was appointed to the Presidential Business Commission.

As a former member of the Board of Education in Morgan County, Colorado, I have seen Clair Orr work firsthand, and I have witnessed his drive to improve the quality of teaching in Colorado's classrooms. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this legislative body recognize

the talents and successes of Mr. Clair Orr and join me in congratulating him on two successful and challenging terms as a State Education Board member.

SAGO, ALMA NO. 1 MINE  
TRAGEDIES

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 2006 has not been kind to West Virginia's coal mining communities. First, we lost 12 miners in Sago. Then, just 17 days later, a fire broke out at the Alma No. 1 mine in Melville, trapping two men, untraceable beneath the Earth's surface. I was with the families of Ellery "Elvis" Hatfield and Don Bragg while we waited for news of the two men. We clung tightly to the hope that those men, dust-covered and weary, would emerge from the Alma mine to the hugs of grateful families. In the end, our worst fears were realized, and West Virginia lost two more brave souls.

These tragic events must be investigated by the appropriate officials. Meanwhile, with the Governor advancing new laws at the State level, I and the entire West Virginia Congressional delegation led by Senator BYRD, have already begun to respond by crafting legislative proposals at the federal level to make our mines safer places to work. The nation owes it to our coal miners to advance and enforce new and improved safety measures, and I am wholly dedicated to that endeavor.

I and the rest of the West Virginia Delegation, recently met with White House and other federal officials regarding our concern for mine safety laws and future improvements. I have also called on Congress to convene hearings on the Sago and Melville mine tragedies.

Too often in recent years, miners have expressed fears that the agency's safety mission has been diluted by concerns about costs and that the agency is, in fact, rolling back safety and health gains made since its creation. West Virginia miners toil every day to keep our Nation strong and so we are compelled to do all that we can to ensure their safety and well-being. No stone should be left unturned in the efforts to learn the causes of these tragedies. The Sago and Melville communities—and miners across the nation—deserve a full, fair and expeditious look into these critically important issues.

God bless the families who lost their loved ones in these tragedies, and God bless all who toil in our mines every day.