

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DON DAVIDSON

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to introduce Reverend Don Davidson, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, joining us to deliver this morning's prayer. Reverend Davidson is a remarkable man and Christian witness whose vocation has touched the hearts and moved the spirits of countless men and women throughout his three decades of pastoral service.

Born in Suffolk, Virginia, Reverend Davidson earned degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University and Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina. His Christian mission has brought him and his equally gifted wife Audrey to pastorates in Farmville, Virginia; Henderson, North Carolina; Orlando, Florida; and Danville, Virginia before being called to the First Baptist Church of Alexandria this past September.

The First Baptist Church has been a place of worship for numerous Members of Congress and their staff throughout its 200-year history. In fact, Reverend Davidson first came to my attention through Darla Tomes, a former member of my staff, who works for the Department of Defense.

Thank you, Reverend Davidson, for being here today to invoke God's divine guidance as we start this Second Session of the 109th Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming you to the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING MR. CHRISTOPHER D. SAPP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Christopher D. Sapp of McKinney, Texas, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Austria during the 2005–2006 academic year. Mr. Sapp was honored with this award for his studies in Germanic languages and literature at Indiana University.

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.

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

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

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. ARMY MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH J. ANDRES, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Army Master Sergeant Joseph J. Andres, Jr., who bravely and selflessly heeded the call of duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Family, friends and concern for others lined the journey of Sergeant Andres' life. He gained personal strength and faith from his family and friends, especially his mother and father, Sandra and Joseph J., Sr.; his sisters, Deborah, Pamela, Christine, Maureen and Sharon; his brothers-in-law, David, Edward and William; his grandparents, Walter and Winifred Haders; and, his nieces and nephews, Claire, Brielle, Collin, Ryan, Evan and Brandon.

Sergeant Andres' limitless joy for living, dynamic spirit and expansive heart reflected consistently throughout his life, from childhood on. He was a 1989 graduate of Padua Franciscan High School and studied engineering at the University of Cincinnati before enlisting in the Army. Sergeant Andres' seemingly endless reserve of energy, joy for living and strong foundation of personal faith, equaled his steadfast sense of duty to others and to our country.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Master Sergeant Joseph J. Andres, Jr. I extend my deepest condolences to his family members and many friends, especially his parents and sisters. The ultimate sacrifice, significant service and true heart that illuminated the life of Sergeant Andres will shine forever in the hearts and memories of all those who knew him best and loved him most—his family and close friends. Sergeant Andres' legacy of service and courage will be honored and remembered by the Cleveland community and by our entire Nation, today, and for all time.

HONORING DR. CHARLES GILBERT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Charles Gilbert upon his retirement from Western Illinois University. Dr. Gilbert retired January 26 after most recently serving as Director of Institutional Research and Planning.

Since receiving his Ph.D. in Education from Southern Illinois University in 1972, Dr. Gilbert has served as a faculty member at Western Illinois University. He has served as an associate professor, but outside the classroom, his work has focused on research and planning.

Aside from the title which he recently retired, he has held the titles of Associate Director and Assistant Director for Institutional Research and Planning and Project Director, Board of Governors Common Software Project.

Dr. Gilbert has also served as Chairman of the Western Illinois University Council on Planning. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association for Institutional Research and the Mid-Illinois Computer Consortium.

I appreciate Dr. Gilbert's dedication to higher education throughout his career. I join the faculty at Western Illinois University in thanking Dr. Gilbert for his service and congratulate him on a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STEVE WALTER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual in Southeastern North Carolina, Mr. Steve Walter. Mr. Walter passed away on December 21, 2005, just before Christmas, during one of his daily jogs and bicycle rides. However, his spirit and contributions will live on in the hearts and minds of many for generations to come.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Steve went on to serve his country with distinction, dedication and determination. As a graduate of Pennsylvania Military College, Steve served in the military for 28 years, including two tours in Vietnam. He received several honors and awards during his time of service, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Secretary of Defense and Army Staff Identification Badges, Bronze Star with cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with clusters, Joint Service and Army Commendation Medals, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Steve finished his years of service as a strategic planner with the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon and retired as a colonel in 1988.

After Steve retired from military service, he enjoyed a successful real estate career in Maryland and moved to Topsail Island, North Carolina in 1993, where he and his beloved wife of more than 42 years, Patti, have lived ever since. Steve has been an active member of the Topsail Island community. Since moving there, he has been a member of various organizations, including the Sea Turtle Hospital, the Missiles and More Museum, Topsail Island Kiwanis, Topsail Island Realtors, Topsail Beach Shore Protection Committee, and the

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

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

North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association. Steve and Patti also are the proud parents of three wonderful children—Kimberly, Lisa, and Stephen.

Samuel Logan Brengle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Steve. He said, “the final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart.” Indeed, Steve Walter has reflected these words through his sacrifice and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of Steve’s life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment for many years to come. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the honored life and legacy of Steve Walter.

CONGRATULATING MR. MICHAEL
P. HATLEY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael P. Hatley of Aubrey, Texas, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Germany during the 2005–2006 academic year. Mr. Hatley was honored with this award for his studies in comparative politics at St. Louis University.

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.

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

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Michael P. Hatley on receiving this award and praise his dedication and desire to help his school, community and country.

CONCERN ABOUT BECOMING
ADDICTED TO OIL

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo the concern of the President, who recently told this body and the American people that he is afraid our Nation is becoming “addicted to oil.” Not only is America dependent on foreign sources of this increasingly politicized resource, but supplies of that resource are dwindling and increasingly expensive. In order to assure the national security and economic prosperity of our Nation, we must find alternative sources of energy.

America’s farmers have found it already—in the rows and rows of corn and soybeans I drive past each time I go home to Missouri.

Alternative sources of energy must be part of the solution to our dependence on foreign oil. We cannot ask Americans to drive to the grocery store or doctor’s office less, we cannot ask our manufacturers to ship fewer goods, we will not all pick up and move from rural America to the city so we can ride the subway. The Americans who suffer most from high fuel prices live in places like Southern Missouri, where goods are shipped in from far away and our agriculture and manufacturing products are shipped out even greater distances to far-off markets. We drive farther in a day than most urban Americans drive in a week. We use tractors, semi-trailers, and heavy-duty trucks on our farms and at our factories. Energy is the lifeblood of our rural economy, and high energy costs are a crushing burden on families, farms and businesses. Rural America, in particular, depends on our freedom to travel. And in that same rural America, there is fuel growing in the fields.

Those same farmers are growing crops that could power all their vehicles. When I am out on the highway in Southern Missouri, I see literally fields of fuel—corn and soybeans that can be converted into Ethanol and bio-diesel. In Southern Missouri, we are starting to build Ethanol and bio-diesel refineries. The first few E85 stations are opening for business, selling fuel for cars designed to run on 85 percent Ethanol and only 15 percent petroleum. America is leading the way in these technologies, just as we lead the way on our farms producing the world’s safest, most secure food supply. It is in the very best interests of our country to support these efforts in every possible way. Oil is the most politicized natural resource in the world, it is limited, and its use will eventually become archaic. But there are fields of renewable fuel, Mr. Speaker, everywhere.

HONORING DR. CHARLES PAPPAS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a dear friend, Dr. Charles Pappas. Mott Community College in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, will host a luncheon on February 13th in his honor. In appreciation of his contributions to the school, Mott Community College will name a building in tribute to him.

Charles Pappas has had an enviable career as an educator. After working in the public school arena, he took a position with the Cuyahoga Community College in 1965 as Dean of Business Administration. He went on to become the founding president of the Metropolitan Campus, and then in 1970, he accepted the post of president of Genesee Community College. It was later renamed to Charles Stewart Mott Community College. Thus began a fruitful association with the Flint area. Dr. Pappas served as president until 1981 and was elected to the Board of Trustees and served in that capacity for 6 years after he left the presidency.

Under his leadership the school partnered with the Michigan School for the Deaf and started offering classes to the hearing impaired. He initiated the Weekend College con-

cept at Mott Community College allowing adults greater opportunities to attend classes and he initiated a program to allow senior citizens to attend classes for free. This implementation of the lifelong learning concept put Mott Community College on the cutting edge of innovative education for adult students.

In recognition of Dr. Pappas’s vision the UAW has bestowed the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award on him. For developing a labor studies program at Mott Community College he was named to the Labor Hall of Fame at Wayne State University. Ohio State University conferred the Vocational-Technical Education Distinguished Service Award on Dr. Pappas and the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce previously named him the Charles Stewart Mott Citizen of the Year. He has served as the president of the Council of North Central Community and Junior Colleges, president of the Michigan Community College Association, and president of the Michigan Vocational Business Education Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Charles Pappas as he is honored by the Flint area community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF MRS. MAE CRUZ TENORIO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that I rise today to honor the life and public service of Mrs. Mae Cruz Tenorio. Mae managed my District Office in Guam with humor, courtesy and professionalism for 3 years, which marked a continuation of almost 8 years of service as the Special Assistant and Special Projects Director for my predecessor, Representative Robert Underwood. Mae possessed the qualities of commitment to good government, selfless service to her community, and integrity that are valued so highly by our congressional community.

Mae’s commitment to her community, to the United States and to public service began in 1971, at the Tulare County Credit Bureau in Visalia, California, where she worked as a part-time secretary and credit reporter. Mae returned to Guam in June 1978, to work for the Office of the Governor. She remained in public service to Guam for 35 years.

Mae’s work as a dedicated public servant and community leader has many highlights. Three themes throughout it are prominent: the advancement and empowerment of women; the strengthening of the family; and the improvement of our island. Her leadership on these issues spanned her work with the Government of Guam Office of the Comptroller, the Commission on Self-Determination, Office of the Governor of Guam, the Office of Congressman Robert Underwood, and in my office.

Her reputation for thoroughness and high quality staff work, earned as a result of her tenure on the Commission on Self-Determination beginning in 1984, is of particular note. She provided the staff support for the Commission’s initial public hearings under then

Governor Ricky Bordallo. Governor Joseph Ada's decision to retain Mae's services when he became the Commission's Chairman is a testament to her dedicated service and unique abilities. Mae served as the Commission's senior Professional Staff Member until 1992.

Equally notable was her work with the Office of the Governor promoting awareness of women and family issues on Guam from 1992 to 1995. Mae continued her work to promote women and family issues as a leader of important community organizations on Guam. She was a founding member of the Guam Single Parents Network, established in 1977. Additionally, Mae became the first female president of the Pacific Jaycees in 1987, ably representing the Jaycees and Guam throughout the Pacific region and the world promoting community service and volunteerism.

Mae's commitment to improving Guam and promoting the issues important to our island and its people continued when she joined the Office of Congressman Robert Underwood in 1995. As a respected and active member of that office she helped attract funding for The War in the Pacific National Historical Park Asan Bay Overlook Memorial Wall Project, while compiling the list of names for the memorial at the park, educating on and off-island Chamorro groups about the project, and helping to plan the official dedication of the wall. Mae's other contributions included providing timely and responsive constituent services and providing staff support to Congressman Underwood's War Restitution, Philippine Visa Waiver, and Economic Task Forces. Mae also organized Guam's Centennial Exhibit in Washington, DC, a pictorial review of Guam's history aimed to educate visitors to our Nation's Capital about our island and the issues that are important to us.

Mae will be remembered not only for the excellent work she did on behalf of her beloved island and the United States of America, but for her grace, humanity, and humility. Her good humor, mentorship, and friendship were appreciated by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Her efforts touched the lives of countless members of our island's community and Guam's friends in the United States and around the world. The influence of her work will remain strong for years to come.

But Mae was not a woman that can be defined solely by her work; she was so much more to so many.

Mae, a caring mother to Christina, Nick and Andrew, a loving wife to Joseph Tenorio, a trusted friend for many, a daughter of Guam, and a faithful servant to her island and her country, was called her home by her Heavenly Father on January 10, 2006. The call home relieved her from her suffering. But it left a definite void in my life and in the lives of those who knew and loved her. Mae's full and rewarding life and our memories of her gentle demeanor will serve as inspiration for us all for years to come. Mae was a kind soul. She will be dearly missed.

TRIBUTE TO ANN EPPARD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on Christmas Eve, Ann Eppard, long-time chief of staff to

Congressman Bud Shuster, passed away from complications from Barrett's disease. The following tribute to her by Bud Shuster, M.C., ret., appeared in several papers throughout Pennsylvania:

A TRIBUTE TO ANN EPPARD

(By Congressman Bud Shuster, Ret.)

Once upon a shining time there was a team that had a 35-year winning streak. I was the coach and Ann Eppard was the captain of the team. Over the years we had all-star teammates who became lifelong friends.

It all began when I instructed a manager at Dattel Corp. to find me an executive assistant. After I nixed several who didn't quite fit, he said he located an outstanding gal at Computer Sciences Corporation who although only 26, was managing 28 people. "She's smart, personable, energetic, knows computers and she's good-looking. I said I preferred a man, and the last thing we needed was a good-looking babe to distract the salesmen. Just interview her, he pleaded. Reluctantly, I agreed, and she was impressive. When I asked her to take a test she asked if I had taken it. When I said "no" she smiled, "Then I'll take it after you do."

"You've got spunk. You'll do," I laughed. "But I'd like to talk to your boss at Computer Sciences." After he confirmed her capabilities I asked if she had any weaknesses. "Oh yes," he said, "Overload her with work or she'll pester you." So I did. For nearly 35 years!

When I announced for Congress, Ann volunteered along with some Sigma Chi brothers. She moved into an old converted smokehouse at the farm with my daughter, Peggy, and our team campaigned 24/7 for several months. My wife, Patty, and I went door-to-door with Ann, my daughter, Gia, and others advancing us. Ann's sister, Karen, and her mother did nightly polling to measure our progress. Ann helped design a superb computer system to mail thousands of personalized letters on the weekend before the election. Campaigning at the railroad shops, she wore a red miniskirt and white boots. The guys didn't pay any attention to me, and for years afterward when we went through the shops they would yell, "Hey, Annie, where's your white boots?" We surprised everyone by winning, and as they say, the rest is history.

Ann loved political combat. Once when she was deeply involved in reapportionment, she had a Democratic legislator make a last-minute change to the map, putting an opponent's residence a few yards outside the district. The opponent insisted that a Republican had changed the map, for no Democrat would do that. He was wrong! Another time, when an opponent's petitions were being circulated at a Democratic hangout, they suddenly disappeared. On election night, a Democratic leader proudly produced the purloined petitions but Ann whisked him across the room to the bar before I saw them.

Ann loved the people of the District. She had Pennelec relocate a light pole because an elderly lady couldn't sleep with the light shining in her window.

The story behind creating the Loysburg bypass exemplified her dedication. Still in the minority, I worked for months to get District projects in a transportation bill, through the House, the Senate Conference. On the last day of the Conference she whispered that we should put in a project to build a Loysburg bypass. I said it was impossible, the Conference was ending.

"But the people need that dangerous hairpin curve eliminated," she pleaded. "Get away," I ordered.

"What if I can get Chairman Howard and Senator Moynihan to agree?"

"Don't you breathe my name to them," I hissed.

"I won't." She went over and whispered to Howard and Moynihan. A few minutes later, Howard said, "If Senator Moynihan agrees, I'd like to add a project to replace a dangerous curve in Loysburg, Pennsylvania, with a bypass." Moynihan replied, "Absolutely! I agree!"

When I'm on the bypass I think, this is really the Ann Eppard bypass.

Ann may be the only person to ever hang-up on the President of the United States. One day she answered my private line and a voice said, "This is Ronald Reagan. Could I please speak to Bud?"

"Quit fooling around, Ralph," she slammed down the phone. It rang again and the White House operator said, "President Reagan was trying to call the Congressman but got disconnected. Could you please put him on?"

When I was going through several operations at Bethesda Naval Hospital to repair my broken neck, she practically took over the ward, making sure I got my pain medicine on time. When she discovered a lost sailor hobbling through the hall pushing his I-V, searching for the X-ray lab, she chewed out the attendants and got him help. "Harrisburg: Online" recently wrote, "She was the epitome of the self-made, tough-as-nails kid from Pennsylvania's hard coal region."

Ann loved coming to our farm, pestering me to let her work. One spring when we were going to move the cattle into the barnyard, she showed up in her designer jeans and red cowgirl boots. I explained to everyone that we had to walk slowly behind the cattle, arms outstretched, pushing them toward the barn. If one cow broke away, they all would and we would have to start over. Finally we got them in. Losing her balance in the mucky barnyard, she cried, "I fell in the mud!" My farm manager replied, "Miss Annie, that ain't mud."

Few knew of Ann's many charities. Father Paulko in Hollidaysburg called her when a deserving family needed financial help. She quietly responded.

When troubles came, as they sometimes do in her life, her grace under pressure epitomized class, as she ultimately prevailed.

When she retired, the accolades poured in. The entire Pennsylvania delegation published a letter praising her as "a straight shooter whose word was trusted and advice was much sought after . . . you also served as a pathfinder for the now increasing number of women assuming leadership positions on Capitol Hill. Your dedication . . . helped this delegation achieve legislative prodigies." A lecturer at the Library of Congress stated: "Ann Eppard was the most effective Chief of Staff on Capitol Hill."

Forming Ann Eppard Associates, she established a highly respected lobbying firm. Congressman Jim Oberstar publicly credited her efforts with helping pass the historic "Truth in Budgeting Act," to unlock the Highway Trust Fund.

But above all, she loved her family, especially her two darling granddaughters, Kelly and Shannon. They need to know that their "Annie" was a larger-than-life super-lady: dedicated, smart, energetic and compassionate. Ann was devout and there is little doubt that she is in God's arms. She's probably telling St. Peter how to better organize the place.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, she may have had the body of a tender woman, but she had the heart of a lion. And we might add, the soaring spirit of the indomitable American eagle.

TRIBUTE TO MARIJKE BYCK-
HOENSELAARS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor my friend, Marijke Byck-Hoenselaars, who died in a tragic accident on January 5, 2006. Marijke's death leaves a void in the Sonoma County community that will be a reminder of her compassion, grace, and generosity for years to come.

Born in Holland in 1933, Marijke met her husband Walter Byck in the cafeteria of the New York hospital where both worked, she as a nurse and he as a radiologist. Long-time lovers of the arts, the two decided to marry in 1961 while visiting the Kroller-Muller Museum in the Netherlands.

The couple moved to Santa Rosa in 1965 and purchased the Paradise Ranch in 1978. After raising grapes for many years, they opened Paradise Ridge Winery in 1994. Their five children were raised mostly on the 156-acre property and several worked in important positions at the winery where Marijke was chief executive.

Taking advantage of the beautiful site in the hills on the edge of Santa Rosa, Marijke and her family created a unique facility as well as producing outstanding wines. The grounds feature a sculpture garden which exhibits the work of local artists, and the large central building with its stunning views has been home to many unique events over the years.

But Marijke's legacy will be especially marked by her tireless efforts, frequently performed anonymously, on behalf of the less fortunate in Sonoma County. From delivering in old sweat pants food packages and holiday gifts for children to low-income families to serving as a Board Member, benefactor, and leader with local nonprofit groups, her helping hand and personal involvement were the hallmark of her style.

Marijke's compassion led to her participation in the Sonoma Task Force for the Homeless, the National Women's History Project, Catholic Charities, The Children's Village of Sonoma County, and other causes for which her winery served as the site for benefits and fundraisers. She also cared deeply about global peace issues, and her activism reflected these broad concerns as well.

According to one friend, her service went beyond compassion. She was hungry as a child in Holland during the war years and felt a deep empathy that was integrated seamlessly into her life. Whenever she went out to dinner, she boxed her leftovers and did not go home till she found a hungry person to give them to.

Commitment to her family played a key role in this seamless life. She is survived by her husband Walter, her five children, and many grandchildren whose presence gladdened her heart and enhanced her joy in life. Their loss will be deeply felt and shared by their many friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine life in Sonoma County without Marijke Byck-Hoenselaars' warm smile, her friendship, and her humanitarianism. I am confident that her spirit will live on in those of us she has inspired during her 40 years in the community.

CONGRATULATING JERRY
MOHELNITZKY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jerry Mohelnitzky on receiving the Longhorn Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award for this year.

Mr. Mohelnitzky has been involved in the Denton community for over 3 decades. He participates on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, Greater Denton Arts Council, Economic Development Partnership Board and the Dallas Ecological Foundation. He also serves as the Board Chairman for the economic Development Board.

The Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America serves more than 40,000 youths with scouting programs in Central and North Texas. More than 15,000 adults volunteer to help with the programs. This prestigious award is given to members of the community whose leadership focuses on volunteerism.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Jerry Mohelnitzky for receiving the Longhorn Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award. His contributions and service to the Denton community should inspire us all.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP ANTHONY M.
PILLA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my good friend Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, as we celebrate his twenty-fifth year as a spiritual teacher, leading nearly 800,000 Roman Catholic individuals within the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.

Bishop Pilla grew up in Cleveland, the son of Italian immigrants. His parents instilled within him a strong sense of family, faith and service to others. His spiritual vocation began in 1959, when he was ordained to the priesthood. Bishop Pilla served as pastor for a short time before accepting a teaching position at Borromeo Seminary High School in Wickliffe, where he was named President in 1972. Seven years later, he was named Auxiliary Bishop and on January 6, 1981, he was appointed as Diocesan Bishop of Cleveland.

Bishop Pilla's service and presence has been a focused instrument of faith and hope along the streets of Cleveland. Bishop Pilla's dedication to the well being of Cleveland's urban residents is evidenced within the historic churches throughout the city that remain open and viable sources of hope and faith for worshipers of all ages. Additionally, Bishop Pilla's outreach efforts and vision of cultural and interfaith unity has created unbreakable, vital partnerships among members and leaders of all faiths—partnerships that promote understanding and respect for differing views and bonds that celebrate our diversity.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of my dear friend, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, whose spiritual leadership, guidance and devotion to the people of

Cleveland reflects throughout the Cleveland Catholic Dioceses. It has been such a pleasure to work with Bishop Pilla over the years and I am grateful for our years of friendship. Bishop Pilla has been a great strength of hope and courage for me through the years. His guidance, passion, leadership and unwavering commitment has illuminated hope and faith for countless families and individuals of every faith, throughout our Cleveland community, and far beyond.

HONORING DORSEY, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorsey, Illinois upon her sesquicentennial. Settled in 1856, the citizens of Dorsey will celebrate the sesquicentennial on July 22 and 23, 2006.

An active railroad ran through Dorsey for over 100 years starting in 1854, two years before the community was officially settled by the Dorsey Family. Also, in 1854, Emmaus Lutheran Church was founded. After being settled in 1856, the first post office in Dorsey opened in 1857.

I congratulate the citizens of Dorsey on 150 years of history in the community. I thank you for the contributions to our great Nation. May God bless Dorsey and may He continue to bless America.

A TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
JERIAD PAUL JACOBS

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Jeriad Paul Jacobs of Clayton, North Carolina, for serving his country valiantly with the United States Marine Corps in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On January 7, 2006, Lance Corporal Jacobs sacrificed his life when he encountered enemy fire in Fallujah, Iraq. He was courageously serving his Nation, and our heartfelt thanks and our prayers go out to his family and friends in this time of grief.

Jacobs, a member of the Lumbee Tribe in the Seventh Congressional District, had a great love for family, country, and heritage. He was a fine young man who truly loved service and duty. As a young man growing up in rural Robeson County, Jeriad enjoyed sports, music, and poetry. After moving to Clayton, North Carolina, and graduating from Clayton High School, he fulfilled a lifelong dream and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

As a Marine, Lance Corporal Jacobs dedicated his career to defending the values this Nation holds dear. By risking his life to ensure the safety of others, Jeriad made the ultimate sacrifice. His valiant actions and steadfast service remind us of the gratitude we have to him and all the other servicemen and women who have given their lives serving as guardians of this great country. Jeriad was indeed a man of courage and integrity.

Jacobs leaves behind a wonderful family that includes his parents, Janet and Daryl Graybill, sisters, Brittany and Sierra, grandparents, Carolyn Sutton, Fannie Stoltzfus, and Lloyd and Mary Graybill, aunt Kristi Clark, and uncle, State Representative Ron Sutton of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, may the memory of Lance Corporal Jeriad Paul Jacobs live on in our hearts, and may God's strength and peace be with his family.

TRIBUTE TO 9 HEROES OF MISSOURI'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the heroism of nine individuals in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District whose quick thinking and brave actions saved the lives of a family of five.

In the early morning hours of December 14th, a billion-gallon flood from the Taum Sauk Reservoir swept through the Johnson Shut Ins State Park. Park Ranger Jerry Toops, his wife and their three children, ages 5, 3, and seven months, were awakened to a harrowing scene as the freezing cold floodwaters crashed through their home and carried them all away.

Their rescuers were immediately set into motion. Mr. Josh McCarty, Mr. Gary Maize, Mr. Tyler Wright, Mr. Robbie Jordan, Mr. Ryan Wadlow and Fire Chief Ben Meredith of the Lesterville Fire Department, Reynolds County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Fox knew the Toops family had been in the path of the flood and raced to the scene. Also on the scene was a good Samaritan—Mr. Greg Coleman—a truck driver who had been stranded on the roof of his semi truck and heard Jerry Toops calling for help from a tree. He called the local emergency dispatcher and, as soon as the icy water receded, met the fire department and set out to find the family. Mr. Butch Walker, a neighbor, used his truck to clear a path through the flood debris for the emergency responders. They found the five members of the Toops family alive, but in urgent need of medical care.

On the ensuing ambulance rides, the lives of the three children hung in the balance. Their parents, the county, the State and the Nation all prayed that they would survive. They did. But a moment later, a minute's delay, or a notch less of urgency and the outcome could have been grim for the Toops family, laying in their nightclothes on the cold, wet ground.

If not for these nine men with their training and determination, acting fast, in the dark, frozen moments after the flood, one, some, or all of these five lives would have been lost. It is this character, selflessness, and reliability for neighbors in need that make Southern Missouri a wonderful place to live. They are heroes of whom we are proud, though they would say they are just doing their jobs or doing what anyone would do in their position. Yet they responded without hesitation, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. I commend them today in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives and thank God for their great deeds.

CONGRATULATING BOB SHERMAN ON DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Bob Sherman of Denton, TX, on receiving the Longhorn Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award for this year.

Mr. Sherman returned to Denton with his wife after 30 years of a banking career in Chicago. Bob Sherman was president and chief executive officer of First Colonial Bankshares. He is on the board of directors for Northstar Bank of Texas and serves on the President's Council, College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board and the strategic planning committee for the University of North Texas. Today, he continues his life of service through his position on the board of Denton Christian School and is leading the capital campaign for Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home.

The Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America serves more than 40,000 youths with scouting programs in Central and North Texas. More than 15,000 adults volunteer to help with the programs. This prestigious award is given to members of the community whose leadership focuses on volunteerism.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Bob Sherman for receiving the Longhorn Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award. His contributions and service to the Denton community should inspire us all.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, 2006—YEAR OF THE DOG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2006—Year of the Dog. To celebrate this joyous event, the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., will gather at Bo Loong Chinese Restaurant to rejoice with family and friends and enjoy Vietnamese culture and performances.

The Tet celebration will include recognition of volunteer leaders, Vietnamese culinary offerings and dancing and entertainment by Vietnamese youth of Cleveland. Tet is the time of year to pay homage to ancestors, reconnect with friends and family, and celebrate the hope and possibility within the rising of a new year.

This year also marks the 31st anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc.—reflecting nearly three decades of this agency's superior commitment, service and community outreach to Americans of Vietnamese heritage. The Vietnamese community in Cleveland reflects a vibrant layer within the colorful fabric of our

culturally diverse city. And the Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland, Inc. plays a significant role in preserving and promoting the ancient cultural and historical traditions that spiral back throughout the centuries—connecting the old world to the new, extending from Vietnam to America.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., and all members, past and present, for their dedication and support of Americans of Vietnamese heritage within our Cleveland community. As we join in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, the Year of the Dog, may every American of Vietnamese heritage hold memories of their past forever in their hearts, and find happiness and peace with the dawning of each new day.

HONORING A.D. AND SHIRLEY MCGREGOR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating A.D. and Shirley McGregor as they are honored by the Saginaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau on February 17th in Saginaw, Michigan.

A.D. and Shirley McGregor are lifelong residents of the Saginaw area and have worked tirelessly to promote and enhance the life of the community. They exemplify true volunteer spirit. Since 1948 when they were still in school, the McGregors have worked tirelessly to make Saginaw a wonderful place to live. At that time they became volunteers for Healthsource Saginaw and began a lifelong commitment to service.

During the intervening years the couple has helped numerous organizations and worked at various events. For 28 years they have helped the Saginaw CROP Walk raise money to alleviate world hunger. For 30 years they have played Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for churches, schools, nursing facilities and non-profits. They have spent the last several years organizing Christmas caroling for shut-ins. The Castle Museum of Saginaw has benefited from their help for the past 28 years.

Fridays in the summer time can often find them working with the Friday Night Live concerts for Pride in Saginaw Incorporated. Many other organizations have benefited from their dedication. The Saginaw County Fair, Rescue Mission/Community Village, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Temple Theatre, Saginaw Depot Preservation, and Saginaw Valley State University have all reaped the rewards of A.D. and Shirley's generous giving.

Their guiding prayer is "Jesus First, Others Second, Yourself Last." Day after day the McGregors live this prayer in an openhanded, amiable way. The McGregors are excellent role models for our youth. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise and join me and the Saginaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau in thanking this wonderful couple for their compassion, charity and congeniality.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPC
KASPER ALAN CAMACHO
DUDKIEWICZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the solemn charge of paying tribute to SPC Kasper Alan Camacho Dudkiewicz, 22, U.S. Army, of Guam. SPC Dudkiewicz was killed in action on January 15, 2006, in Mosul, Iraq. The United States and the U.S. Army have lost a proud and able soldier, and Guam and a loving family have lost a son, brother, and husband.

SPC Dudkiewicz was assigned to the 511th Military Police Company, 91st Military Police Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York. He was dedicated to the mission in Iraq and he personified his unit's motto: "strike fear." SPC Dudkiewicz is one of three Dudkiewicz brothers to serve in Iraq, continuing Guam's strong commitment to service in the United States military. SPC Dudkiewicz was posthumously promoted from Private First Class to Specialist in recognition of his distinguished service.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Dudkiewicz and Camacho families during this time of loss. SPC Dudkiewicz is survived by his wife Katie, who is a soldier serving in Korea, and their sons, Alexander W. Parker and Zane Nicolas Blas Cruz. Additionally, SPC Dudkiewicz is survived by his parents, Kasper Dudkiewicz and Maria Margaret Crisostomo Camacho and his stepmother Connie Fergurgur Dudkiewicz. SPC Dudkiewicz' brothers and sisters, Kevin and Ty, Korey, Kollin, Kris, Kurt, Corina, Jereco, Elijah, and Regina and Jeremy also cherish his memory. My deepest sympathies are with them during this difficult time. I join them in mourning his loss.

SPC Dudkiewicz now joins the honored company of other fallen heroes who have put the ideals of duty, honor, and country before themselves and made the ultimate sacrifice. It is my hope that SPC Dudkiewicz' commitment to creating a bright future for his children, his devotion to his wife, and his dedication to his parents and siblings will remain strong and guiding influences from which his family, friends, and neighbors can draw strength for years to come.

The people of Guam take this time to extend to the Dudkiewicz and Camacho families their most heartfelt wishes of hope during this difficult time. We take this time to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the men and women like SPC Dudkiewicz who shoulder the responsibility of protecting our homeland, our families and the American way of life. The debt of gratitude we owe to these individuals, although un-payable, is worthy of our most sincere appreciation. God bless our men and women in uniform and God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM STOVER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of J.

William Stover, of Chambersburg, PA. Mr. Stover was a committed citizen to his community and his country. William spent the majority of his life serving the public—in the Army, as a member of the Town Council, as mayor of Chambersburg or as District Justice.

Mr. Stover is remembered as taking his responsibilities as a public servant with the utmost seriousness and always weighing heavily the consequences of his actions. Well respected and admired by those he worked for and with, William's work will have a lasting impact. He will be sorely missed.

J. William Stover, born April 27, 1925 to Andrew S. and Mary Cook Stover in Chambersburg, began his life of service in the Army Air Force during World War II as part of the Greatest Generation. Upon his return to civil life he began what would become a long and distinguished line of public service to Chambersburg residents. He started as a member of the Civil Service Commission, then moved on to become a member of the Town Council and was elected Mayor of Chambersburg in 1970. Ten years later William was appointed District Justice for the Borough of Chambersburg and Hamilton Township, a post which he held until 1994. In retirement he took on a substitute role as Senior District Justice. Truly a tremendous life dedicated to public service and the people of his community.

William Stover was also an active member and former deacon of the Zion Reformed Church of Chambersburg. Mr. Stover took great pride in his service and he will always be remembered for the great impact he left on the community of Chambersburg during his nearly half-century of service.

TRIBUTE TO GENE BENEDETTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community friend, Gene Benedetti, of Petaluma, CA, who died on January 13, 2006. Gene's larger than life personality, his generosity, civic pride, and business leadership will be greatly missed.

Gene was born in a small Sonoma County farmhouse in 1919. He was the youngest child of Italian immigrants, whose family labored in the ranching traditions of rural Northern California. A gifted student and talented athlete, Gene excelled in every subject while attending Petaluma High School, Santa Rosa Junior College, and the University of San Francisco. He was a legend on the football field throughout his college career, and later helped establish and coach the Petaluma Leghorns, a powerhouse semipro football team that dominated the Bay Area leagues that existed in the 1940s and 50s.

A true patriot of "the Greatest Generation," Gene was a World War II hero who landed on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion and was awarded the Silver Star for his bravery. His love for his country was persistently expressed, as he proudly led the singing of "God Bless America" at any social event he attended.

After returning from the war, Gene and his wife Evelyn, who passed away in March of 2004, raised their six children in a community

they would later help to build. The young war veteran was first offered a job as assistant manager of the California Cooperative Creamery in Petaluma, and then quickly rose to the ranks of manager. Later in his career, he and his business partners would purchase the Clover and Stornetta dairies and establish Clover-Stornetta Farms in 1977.

Gene's legacy, however, will be marked by his abiding commitment to the community he was such a part of. As a lifelong resident of Sonoma County, Gene devoted his time serving on numerous boards and commissions. As president of Clover-Stornetta Farms, he lent his company's resources to endorse countless organizations and sponsor many local events. His legacy will also survive in the generations of Sonoma County children who will grow up drinking Clover brand milk and savoring Clover ice cream. And of course, who can forget Gene's alter persona, cartoon character, television and billboard star, the beloved Clover Dairy mascot, Clo the Cow. Through Clo, Gene's lively spirit will live on, as he will be remembered as a real "moovover and shaker."

Gene was a loving husband, caring father and grandfather, and a patriarch of Sonoma County. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time to recognize the life of a wonderful man. The memory of Gene Benedetti will live forever in the heart of a community he helped to build.

CONGRATULATING MS. JENNIFER A. SADOFF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Jennifer A. Sadoff of Dallas, TX, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Austria during the 2005–2006 academic year. Ms. Sadoff was honored with this award for her studies in musicology 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.

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

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Sadoff on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her school, community and country.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF DR. MAHMOUD "MICHAEL" ORRA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Dr. Mahmoud "Michael" Orra—beloved husband, father, brother and friend to many, whose innovation in medicine and focus on healthcare for the poor will forever resound throughout our community.

Dr. Orra was born in Baka Valley, Lebanon. His dedication to his family and to our most vulnerable citizens remained unwavering throughout his life. Dr. Orra's vision and innovation led him to the practice of specialized medical treatments including holistic methods. He was the CEO of four clinics that infused holistic and traditional medical care. His medical expertise was surpassed only by his compassion for others. Dr. Orra's kind demeanor and quick smile easily drew others to him, and most significantly, he was a light of hope and well being for families, children and senior citizens who struggled daily against a tide of poverty and homelessness on Cleveland's West side.

Dr. Orra regularly provided free medical services to low-income individuals and families, free of charge. He offered respect and dedicated attention to every patient, regardless of the person's station in life. Dr. Orra's generosity and vision extended throughout Cleveland's Arab community. Throughout his volunteer tenure with AACCESS-Ohio Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services, Dr. Orra was instrumental in helping the organization expand its services, which now include programs assisting immigrant and low-income families.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Dr. Mahmoud "Michael" Orra, whose energetic spirit, boundless vision and expansive heart has served to uplift the lives of countless families and individuals throughout our community. I extend my deepest condolences to Dr. Orra's wife, Amne Youssef; to his children, Muna, Leana and Michael; and to his brother, Dr. Abdul Orra. Dr. Orra's legacy of faith, family and community will forever reflect within the hearts of his family and friends, and will continue on as a source of personal hope, healing and strength, where none existed before.

TRIBUTE TO BEN KININGHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a reporter in my home State of Illinois. While it may be unusual for a Member of Congress to praise a member of the media, I do so with pride and respect.

Ben Kiningham has covered politics and government longer than I have been involved. He is one of the few reporters who have indeed covered my entire career, covering my first unsuccessful race for Congress and subsequent successful ones.

Mr. Kiningham retired January 31, 2006, from the Illinois Radio Network after a 40 year radio news career. His first radio job was with WTAX in Springfield, Ill., in 1966. That station purchased what later became the Illinois Radio Network in 1974, and he became its State House bureau chief.

Mr. Kiningham has covered Illinois governors from Otto Kerner to Rod Blagojevich. He has reported on the good side of Illinois politics and the bad side.

Mr. Kiningham has been recognized with the lifetime achievement award from the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, as well as numerous other awards for his work.

Mr. Kiningham is respected by coworkers, former colleagues, and even those of us he has covered over the years. He may have tried to get a scoop or catch us in our own words, but he was always respectful and fair. What more can you say about a reporter?

Thank you, Ben, for your hard work in gathering the news for us Illinoisans.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BRYANT RAYNOR, JR.

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, January 29, Camp Ground United Methodist Church held a special celebration to honor the life and service of Senator Joseph Bryant Raynor, Jr. I rise today to join the pastor, staff, members, and friends of Camp Ground to pay tribute to this fine public servant for his 22 years of work as a State representative and senator. Senator Raynor's tremendous spirit, dedication and work as an elected official and member of the Fayetteville, NC, community has positively impacted citizens and communities and will live on in the hearts and minds of generations to come.

Born and raised in Fayetteville, Senator Raynor demonstrated his strong work ethic from a very early age. During high school, he worked as a bagger at Efrids Department Store. Following graduation, Joe went to work as a stockroom clerk at Hunter Brothers Appliance Store and then as a ticket agent with the Queen City Coach Company. In 1946, he joined his uncle's tire business where his hard work paid off. Just 6 years after joining the family business, Joe was able to buy his uncle's interest and assume ownership of the company. More than 60 years later, Raynor Supply Company continues to thrive.

Senator Raynor began his memorable career in public service in 1965 when he successfully ran for the North Carolina State Legislature. During his public career, Senator Raynor championed many important issues, including mental health, veterans and law enforcement. Senator Raynor was largely responsible for establishing a State-run veterans' assisted living facility in Fayetteville, the Cumberland County Mental Health Center, and a program to help families of police officers killed in the line of duty.

Throughout his career, Senator Raynor held numerous membership and leadership positions. He served on the Commission for the Study of Alcoholism and the Commission for the Study of Mental Retardation and Mental Health. He was the chairman of the North Carolina House and Senate Committee on Mental Health, the Senate Committee on Law Enforcement, and the Cumberland County Board of Elections. Additionally, he was appointed a Cumberland County special deputy sheriff under four administrations.

From his service as both a State representative and senator to local businessman to active member of Camp Ground United Methodist Church to devoted husband, father and friend, Joe Raynor has truly been a foundation on which Fayetteville and Cumberland County have continued to flourish. Service to others has been the embodiment of Senator Raynor's

life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we should all emulate.

As we approach President's Day, let each of us remember the words of a great President, Thomas Jefferson, who said, "To do our fellow man the most good, we must lead where we can, follow where we cannot, and still go with him always watching for that favorable moment to help him another step forward!"

We thank Senator Raynor, on behalf of the citizens of southeastern North Carolina, for always looking for that favorable moment and always helping his fellow citizens. May God's strength, joy and peace be with him always.

CONGRATULATING BETTE SHERMAN ON DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Bette Sherman of Denton, TX, on receiving the Longhorn Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award for this year.

Ms. Sherman served as chairwoman and chief executive officer of First Colonial Investment Services, and senior vice president of First Colonial Bankshares. After retirement, she moved back to Denton alongside her husband, and they established Sherman Enterprises.

Bette is on the board of the Denton Benefit League, Salvation Army and Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home. She cochairs the annual luncheon for the American Cancer Society and is a member of the Ariel Club, Denton Humane Society, the Arts Guild and National Society of Magna Charta Dames. She has been chairwoman of the Denton Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Denton Main Street Association and Greater Denton Arts Council.

The Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America serves more than 40,000 youths with scouting programs in central and north Texas. More than 15,000 adults volunteer to help with the programs. This prestigious award is given to members of the community whose leadership focuses on volunteerism.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Bette Sherman for receiving the Longhorn Boy Scout of America Distinguished Citizen Award. Her contributions and service to the Denton community should inspire us all.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MARY LEHMANN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mary Lehmann, whose joyous life was framed by family, community and giving to others. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, yet her good works, generous spirit and energy for life will never be forgotten.

Born to Italian and German immigrants, Ms. Lehmann's parents instilled within her the significance of family, faith and community. The

well being of her family and service to others framed her entire life. She taught her children by example, reflecting the vital gifts of family unity, reaching out to those in need, hard work and an endless joy for learning and living. Ms. Lehmann's intellectual level was reflected in her numerous and varied life interests. After her children were grown, she enrolled in college, earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average and an associate's degree. Her compassionate heart directed her onto pathways where she gave freely of her time and talent. Ms. Lehmann volunteered at Hillcrest Hospital, worked with special needs children at Millridge Elementary School, read to visually impaired children and volunteered in the gift shop at Cleveland Play House.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mary Lehmann. Her limitless spirit of giving and endless joy for life has had a profound impact upon the lives of her family, friends and the children and adults whom she so graciously served. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, David, Joan, John and Carol; to her daughters and sons-in-law, Kim, Roger, Melissa and Gil; to her grandchildren, Michael, Jennifer, Eric, Reid, Brittany, Ashley, Jonathon, Gilbert, Elena, Eva, Andrea, Lily and the memory of David; to her companion, Dr. Oscar Stadler; and to her many extended family members and friends. The kindness, energy, joy and love that defined Mary Lehmann's life will live forever in the hearts of her family and within every soul she touched during her journey here—and she will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EUGENE
JOSEPH MCCARTHY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy, a former member of this body, who passed away on December 10th. Senator McCarthy's home state of Minnesota mourns his passing as a resolute, dedicated public servant, and a national man of conscience.

Eugene McCarthy began his lifelong commitment to learning and teaching at various educational institutions in Minnesota. As a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, he served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District from 1949 until 1959, when he began serving the first of two terms in the U.S. Senate. By taking a principled stand against the Vietnam War as a presidential candidate in 1968, he reached out to a disenfranchised generation, inspiring the youth of America to take part in the political process. After failing to receive the Democratic Party's nomination for president, Senator McCarthy continued to serve in the U.S. Senate until 1971 as he continued his dedication to the people of Minnesota and the American public.

His connection to the people he represented was genuine. Senator McCarthy's family and the people of Minnesota can be proud of the legacy that he leaves behind. I am honored to continue to represent many of the same people he served in Congress.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to his daughter Ellen, who continues her father's legacy of public service as a staff person in the U.S. House, as well as his daughter Margaret, his son Michael, his brother Austin, his sister Marian and his six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Senator Eugene McCarthy.

COMMENDING PRC COMPASSION'S
EXTENSIVE CONTRIBUTIONS IN
THE WAKE OF HURRICANES
KATRINA AND RITA

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my unique privilege today to have the rare opportunity to recognize and honor a truly great organization, the Pastor's Resource Council (PRC), and the work of the PRC Compassion. Formed several years ago, the PRC comprises of a coalition of churches and pastors who united together in order to provide relief to the community whenever necessary. For the past several years, the PRC has been playing an indispensable role in serving communities affected by the ravages of natural disasters whether it was through providing shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, or offering spiritual comfort and guidance to those who needed it among a myriad of other services. True to its name, the PRC has always been there for the people of Louisiana to lend a compassionate, helping hand in the most difficult of times.

The tragedy inflicted upon us by the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was certainly no exception. As Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc and destruction over the peoples of the state of Louisiana, PRC once again answered the call of duty and courageous pastors, priests, and other ministers, united in the cause of humanity and service, promptly organized on September 1, 2005 as "PRC Compassion" to provide immediate response to the disasters through compassion and inspiring hope. According to its mission, PRC Compassion coordinates national, state, and local faith and community-based organizations to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people impacted by Hurricane Katrina. PRC Compassion has worked tirelessly and selflessly to assist those disaster stricken communities in a number of different capacities. The organization's accomplishments in the face of such adversity cannot be overstated: 1,801,200 people served; 253,260 volunteer hours logged; 17,220 tons of food, water and supplies distributed; 11,480 evacuees sheltered; 10,152 volunteers deployed; 4,500 medical encounters facilitated; 676 trained counselors and chaplains mobilized; 250 faith based organizations involved; 84 faith based shelters established; and 16 stress management teams deployed. The organization continues to assist the community today.

While words cannot adequately encapsulate the gratitude and debt the people of Louisiana and the rest of the country owe to this incredible organization, we can pay tribute to the heroic men and women of PRC Compassion by formally recognizing and acknowledging the caliber and breadth of their service to the people of Louisiana. It is for that reason I am

pleased to recognize and commend the heroic, timely, and selfless actions and prayers of the faith community, particularly the actions and prayers of PRC Compassion, in providing assistance and support to the citizens of Louisiana who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While each and every member of PRC Compassion deserves this commendation, I must also recognize the able leadership of the PRC Compassion's Board of Directors, namely Pastor Larry Stockstill of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, LA; Pastor Fred Luter of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA; Pastor Jacob Aranza of Our Savior's Church in Lafayette, LA; Pastor Steve Robinson of Church of the King in Mandeville, LA; Pastor Dennis Watson of Celebration Church in New Orleans, LA; Apostle Willie Wooten of Gideon Christian Fellowship in New Orleans, LA; Dr. Jere Melilli of Christian Life Fellowship in Baton Rouge, LA; and Pastor Dino Rizzo of Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be able to recognize and commend PRC Compassion, who went well above and beyond the call of duty in assisting the peoples of Louisiana during their hour of need.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND
HEALTH ACT OF 2006

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of January 19, a fire erupted on a conveyor belt at the Aracoma, Alma Number 1 coal mine, in Melville, West Virginia. Black smoke began rolling through that mine. Nineteen miners escaped. Two were missing. It was the beginning of another episode in our recurring nightmare.

West Virginians were still veiled in grief. Still trying to make sense of the loss of 12 miners, taken from us just 17 days before, at the Sago coal mine, in Upshur County. Then it started again.

Media had flooded into Sago. They had covered the waiting, the watching, the praying, and the mourning. Now they were streaming back into West Virginia. And with them, the world was drawn to another coal mining town, this time in Logan County, to witness yet another mine tragedy unfolding.

I stayed with the families, gathered at the Bright Star Freewill Baptist Church. We held hands. We prayed. We believed in the power of miracles. 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.

But, tragically, in the end, our worst fears were realized. Instead of a joyous reunion, our coal communities had lost two more souls. Fourteen men gone in a span of less than three weeks. Two fatal mine tragedies that might have been prevented. Two emergencies that went unreported for far too long. Two anguishing events where time stood still for hours on end, with rescue teams frustrated and idling, and helpless families waiting.

In this age of high-technology, when reporters at the mouth of a mine could beam reports around the Earth in an instant, it defies logic

that we could not communicate with those men just a few thousand feet underground. When electricity was running all types of comfort-giving and life-saving devices around the globe, it was unbelievable that men who toiled in danger to make that power possible were trapped in primitive conditions, untraceable, with just one precious hour of oxygen.

It was in 1969, spurred by another horrific West Virginia mine disaster, that one at Farmington, that the Congress passed the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act, broad, comprehensive legislation to improve the lot of the miner. In 1977, we reinforced that act, giving the labor Secretary immense powers to protect miners.

Since then, much progress has been made. Tragedies such as these have become less frequent. Yet, as technology enabled our Nation to mine much more coal in much less time with far fewer workers, advances that could improve the conditions for workers in the mines were tragically shoved aside. Mine safety funds were cut. Federal enforcement became lax. Indeed, less than three years ago I stood on this floor of the House of Representatives and offered an amendment to halt the Administration's attempt to allow a fourfold increase in the amount of respirable dust in underground coal mines. A regulation, I would note, that would have resulted in more coal miner deaths due to the crippling disease known as black lung.

Yet the miners kept kissing their families goodbye, whispering a prayer for their own safe return, and going into the mines, into the dark, under tons of rock and dirt, to earn an honest wage.

That so many tools available to the Secretary of labor under existing law have been left to just sit on the shelf while miners continue to die underground is inhumane and inexcusable.

It must stop now.

That is the aim of legislation being introduced by the West Virginia Delegation in the House and the Senate.

This legislation provides what apparently is a necessary roadmap to the Secretary of labor of available statutory authorities which can be implemented immediately to improve health and safety in our underground coal mines. A necessary roadmap, I would point out, in light of the numerous improvements, either already on the books or in the proposal stage, this Administration abandoned in recent years. Following my remarks, I would include in the RECORD an overview and explanation of our legislation, entitled, the "Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006."

Mr. Speaker, shamefully the coalfields of our Nation are littered with examples of how tragedy will always arise when the safety of miners is neglected.

Facing his final moments, trapped in the mine as oxygen waned, miner Powell Harmon wrote:

"Dear Wife and Children: My time has come. I trust in Jesus. He will save. It is now ten minutes to 10 o'clock, Monday morning, and we are almost smothered. May God bless you and the children, and may we all meet in Heaven. Good-bye till we meet to part no more."

That was in 1902, in Tennessee.

Less than a month ago, Martin Toler, Jr., trapped in the Sago mine in West Virginia, left

these words: "Tell all I'll see them on the other side. It wasn't that bad. Just went to sleep. I love you."

Indeed, today the battle cry of Mary 'Mother' Jones, that fiery advocate of coal miner justice during the early part of the last century, rings just as loudly in our ears: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

We can take some comfort in knowing that when those 14 West Virginia miners succumbed to the fire at Melville and the toxic gases of Sago, waiting to welcome them on the other side were generations of miners who know and understand their bravery and love.

But we should, as well, feel with unease the fact that the Mine Safety and Health Administration—vested and empowered by the Congress with necessary authorities—still has not done enough to prevent these tragedies, and in fact, has retreated from many advances in health and safety standards over the recent years.

I aim to ensure that the legacy of the Sago and Alma Miners will be the certainty that those laws are not left to idle on the shelf, but are, instead, enforced to the fullest extent. We owe them, their brothers and sisters still in the mines, and those yet to don a miner's cap, nothing less.

WEST VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 2006

The landmark Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, contains sufficient authority for the Secretary of Labor to update, and enhance, underground coal mine health and safety regulations. Instead, as the unfortunate incidents of last month at the Sago and Melville mines in West Virginia underscored, current Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations and policies are woefully inadequate on several fronts, such as their neglect of advances in technologies that could be deployed to increase the survival of coal miners involved in emergency situations. The "Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006" mandates action to end the status quo. The legislation would—

Sense of Congress

The legislation provides that the Mine Health and Safety Administration should strictly enforce health and safety standards as required under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

Enhanced Rescue Requirements

Require the Secretary of Labor, within 90 days of enactment, to implement the following:

(1) Better notification—Require underground coal mine operators to expeditiously provide notification of any accident where rescue work is necessary, and require that the Mine Health and Safety Administration implement a system to immediately receive these notifications.

(2) Rapid emergency response—Each operator would be required to maintain mine rescue teams whose members are employed by the operator and who are familiar with the workings of the coal mine to ensure "an immediate and rapid response to an emergency." This requirement would be in addition to existing practice, in which rescue teams from other mining operations are also used to respond to a given emergency. Operators would also be required to have a coordination and communications plan between mine rescue teams and local emergency re-

sponse personnel, who, under the legislation, would be eligible to receive appropriate training to be familiar with mine rescue work. In addition, the Secretary is directed to issue regulations to address the adequacy of rescue team training and member qualifications, the type of equipment used by the teams, the structure of teams including the number of each team's members and the use of contractor teams, as well as liability and insurance issues.

(3) Emergency air and communications—Each operator would be required to maintain emergency supplies of air and self-contained breathing equipment at strategic locations within the mine for persons awaiting rescue. These devices would be in addition to the rescuers worn by miners and would provide air to maintain life for a "sustained" period of time. Operators would also be required to maintain, at these locations, independent communications systems to the surface for persons awaiting rescue, including, secondary two-way telephone or equivalent communication devices to the surface.

(4) Emergency tracking—Each operator would be required to implement an electronic tracking device for rescue and recovery, and each person in an underground coal mine would be provided with a portable device calibrated to communicate with the surface and with mine rescue teams.

Penalties

Within 90 days of enactment, the legislation requires the Labor Secretary to prescribe minimum civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for a violation of the health and safety standards in instances where an operator displays "negligence or reckless disregard" of the standards. This penalty would be assessed in addition to the Act's existing penalty for failure to correct a violation. The Secretary is also directed to provide for a penalty of up to \$100,000 in instances where an operator fails to expeditiously provide notification of any accident where rescue work is necessary.

Prohibited Practices

The bill reaffirms the existing statute's prohibition on using entries which contain conveyor belts to ventilate work areas in underground coal mines. When mines are arranged this way, and a fire breaks out on a belt, the belt tunnel can carry flames and deadly gases directly to the miners' work area, or to vital evacuation routes. This long-standing prohibition was skirted by an April 2004 Mine Safety and Health Administration rulemaking.

Technological Advances

Under the bill, an Office of Science and Technology Transfer would be established within the Mine Health and Safety Administration to conduct research and development to advance new technologies for underground coal miner health and safety. A periodic review of existing health and safety standards would be required to enable more modern technologies to be incorporated as they become available.

Miner Ombudsman

Proposed to be established within the Labor Department's Office of Inspector General, the legislation would create the position of Miner Ombudsman to ensure that coal miners may confidentially report mine safety and health violations. The ombudsman would also be charged with the collection of safety information, providing information on violations to the Mine Safety and Health Administration for investigation and the overall improvement of coal miner safety.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER DENTISTS AND PHYSICIANS OF UTAH

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated dentists and physicians who volunteer in my home state of Utah to provide much needed care to low-income, uninsured residents in my district.

An estimated one-third of Utah County residents lack dental insurance. Hundreds of thousands of school hours and even more work hours are lost every year due to oral pain when families cannot afford to visit a dentist. In Utah, needy patients are linked with dental providers who are willing to see patients on a charity basis.

For example, a constituent of mine was a patient suffering from severe oral pain due to three abscesses. She had been working full-time; however, she did not have dental insurance through her employment. Even with her full-time wages, she made less than \$1,500 a month—which put her family of four more than 150 percent below the poverty level. Fortunately, through a system of volunteer dentists, this constituent was able to schedule an emergency appointment with one of the dentists in a local volunteer provider network. The dentist was able to see her in his office the next day.

This is just one of many success stories among patients who are treated by volunteer dentists and physicians, none of which would be possible without the dedicated professionals who volunteer to give back to their community. I commend the dentists in Utah who willingly donate their time, their resources, and their skill as dentists to help the less-fortunate members of their own community. Their service and commitment in helping the underserved is a testament to the strength of the local community, and I applaud their efforts.

H.R. 4314, THE “TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE REVISION ACT OF 2005”

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. Our Nation has had to respond to the attacks of September 11th in many different ways, including providing Federal support for our terrorism insurance market.

While I can understand support for an extension of TRIA, I have many concerns about the piece of legislation we will be voting on shortly. Let me highlight a few of them.

First, this bill greatly expands the TRIA program, going so far as to provide Federal assistance for individual lines of insurance, rather than just covering a company's losses in the event of a terrorist attack.

This bill even goes so far as to include a group life insurance component, a sector of the insurance marketplace that has shown no sign of failure.

Allowing this type of line-by-line coverage pushes the government into competitive, pri-

vate insurance markets where it does not belong. A system of this nature will inevitably expose taxpayers to more risk sooner in the process, while at the same time allowing insurance companies to obtain government assistance before it may be necessary.

Further, this bill continues to maintain a very low trigger for when the government would step in. While \$50 million is higher than the current trigger level—set shortly after September 11th—the Department of Treasury had requested a number closer to \$500 million. For a program that was designed to be triggered for catastrophic events only, this higher threshold is perfectly applicable.

While the bill before us is only a two-year extension, it allows for a third year without Congressional approval. I am hard pressed to believe that this will be the final extension proposed.

The Federal Government consists of thousands and thousands of Federal programs created by Congress. Many of these, I am convinced, were started with the intention that they would be temporary. To quote President Reagan, “No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth.”

At some point, after some reasonable transition, either the market demands terrorism reinsurance or it does not. Our opinion should not be the relevant one. The relevant opinion is that of the market.

If the market is not interested in terrorism reinsurance, Congress should not force the matter. If the market does demand this product, we should not assume that the Federal Government needs to be a permanent fixture.

Modifying or eliminating regulations, reducing corporate income tax rates, and preventing the abuse of our legal system are all important factors that, if addressed, would free up massive amounts of capital for insurers and reinsurers.

This additional capital would help to increase the supply of terrorism insurance, leading to a reduction in premium rates, and minimizing the need for a Federal backstop program or Federal involvement at all.

Unfortunately, until we rid the world of the terrorists who seek to destroy us, terrorism insurance will continue to be a fact of life for businesses in this country. Until then, I have faith in our markets and their ability to respond accordingly to the challenges posed by domestic and international events.

Regrettably, I cannot support this legislation but I plan to reluctantly support it.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY LYNNE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Shirley Lynne and reflect on her many wonderful contributions to our community. This is a time of great sadness, made even sadder by the suddenness of Shirley's passing. There was no time to say our good-byes. It is a time of great loss for our community because Shirley was always in the middle of so much that went on—especially in her

Wheaton community. She would always know exactly what was happening in Wheaton, whether it was the Wheaton Metro development, something happening at Wheaton Mall—Westfields that is—or any other happenings in the community. If you wanted to find out what was going on in Wheaton, Shirley was always in the know. These days many people live side-by-side without ever really getting to know their neighbors. Not Shirley. She knew so much that some of us suspected she had tapped into everybody's telephones.

In fact, Shirley got to know her neighbors the old fashioned way—by knocking on their doors and introducing herself. She got to know many of them in her capacity as the Democratic precinct captain. Shirley always had the courage of her convictions. While she was small in height, she had a huge heart and a feisty nature. She never shied away from a tough issue. She always stood up for the underdog and believed deeply in the values and principles of the Democratic Party. Her neighbors mostly followed her lead and she always delivered her precinct for Democratic candidates.

I will always be grateful to Shirley for her support in my Congressional election. She took me door-to-door throughout her precinct and introduced me to her friends and neighbors. She also charmed and cajoled many of them into putting up “Van Hollen” lawn signs. They might have said “no” to me, but no one dared say “no” to Shirley Lynne. Needless to say, we won her precinct. Thank you, Shirley.

Shirley was also deeply committed to helping individuals with mental illnesses. She spent countless hours helping out at the Thrift Shop on Rockville Pike to benefit the Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She never asked for anything in return for all that she did to help that important cause or for the other good works she did for our community.

The health of this great democracy of ours depends on people of good will joining together to build a better future for our community. That was what Shirley Lynne was all about. She did not sit out life on the sidelines. She made a difference through the many lives she touched and the legacy of a stronger and more caring community that she helped to nourish. We need many more Shirley Lynnes.

To Shirley's family, let me say that you are in our hearts and prayers. I especially want to say to Diane, what a wonderful daughter you have been to Shirley. You were best friends and inseparable. I know that you were—and you remain—her greatest joy. Please know that we all share your grief at this painful time, but that we also share your great pride in your mother's many accomplishments.

CHILDREN SHALL LEAD THEM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend a group of young people in Vermont who have done a wonderful thing, worth bringing to the attention of my colleagues in the Congress and the American people.

A group of students in the Sunday School of the United Church in Lincoln, Vermont, have raised over \$5,000 dollars for Heifer International. Lincoln is a beautiful community in

the Green Mountains of Vermont, but it is not a large community, so a fundraising effort of this magnitude, for the benefit of a rural village in an underdeveloped country is testimony to how much the youth of America care about the world.

This project began with conversations about world hunger. Students, as young as 3 and as old as 14, decided that raising money for Heifer International would be a good way to address, positively, the issue of world hunger.

Many people are trapped by poverty, underdevelopment, and the impossibility of finding the resources they need for self-improvement. Heifer International believes in self-help: if human beings are given the tools they need, they can improve their lives. So Heifer International provides livestock, education in agriculture, and small business counseling, so individuals and entire communities get a hand up instead of a handout.

Over the course of 18 months the kids of the United Church Sunday School made countless cow-shaped cookies and holiday ornaments and sold them for a dollar each. It took a lot of cookies and ornaments to reach the goal of \$5,000. They were helped by the school superintendent, Chris Bohjalian and a group of dedicated Sunday school teachers. But the real effort, the real credit, goes to the young people, for on this past Christmas Eve, their goal of \$5,000 was reached.

An "ark" of farm animals will be delivered to a village, most likely in Armenia, the gift of visionary and committed children from Lincoln, Vermont. According to Pastor David Wood, the ark will have everything "from fish to llamas to cows. And chickens and pigs, and also trees to provide ongoing food and medicinals."

Yes, we do live in a global village, and our children are showing us how it can be rich in generosity and neighborliness.

MOURNING THE VICTIMS OF THE KATOWICE DISASTER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest condolences to the people of Poland in their time of national mourning following the building collapse disaster in Katowice on Saturday, January 28, 2006.

I sympathize with those families who have lost loved ones as a result of this catastrophe and join the world in prayer for a swift recovery for those who were injured.

I would also like to offer my appreciation to the brave men and women who selflessly rushed in to the building to conduct the search and rescue operations in freezing temperatures and saved so many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the residents of the 5th district indeed all of Chicago in offering our thoughts and prayers to the Polish people.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARVIN BRAUDE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Mr. Marvin Braude. Marvin Braude was a long-time Los Angeles City Council Member, an outdoor enthusiast, and a pioneering environmentalist.

Braude served on the L.A. City Council from 1965 until 1997. His achievements on behalf of the people of Los Angeles significantly improved their day-to-day quality of life. Braude's work included building a coalition to stop an oil-drilling project off the coast of Pacific Palisades and fighting for the ban on smoking in restaurants, elevators, city offices, and markets. Perhaps Braude's most notable accomplishment was the creation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Braude's vision for the area, stretching from North Santa Monica to Venice Beach, provides residents and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors by foot, bike, and even rollerblade.

Marvin's late wife, Majorie, was a psychiatrist, a leader among women doctors, and a leader in the fight against domestic violence. Braude is survived by his two daughters, Ann and Liza Braude, and two grandchildren, Emma Braude Adler and Benjamin Braude Adler.

HONORING JENNY SILVER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jenny Silver for her efforts to brighten the holidays of those children in New Orleans who have been affected by the recent devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Silver's actions have served not only as a means of bringing holiday cheer to the children of the Crescent City, but also as an impetus for those of us not directly affected by Katrina to keep its victims in our thoughts.

Ms. Silver recently organized a community bowling event in my district, held on December 18, 2005. The event itself was free, provided that each participant raised at least \$8 in donations. One hundred percent of the proceeds from that event were used to buy teddy bears, which have since been sent to Children's Hospital in New Orleans. There, the hospital, in conjunction with a local nonprofit organization, distributed the bears as holiday gifts to disadvantaged children both at the hospital and elsewhere in the city.

Ms. Silver's generosity in devoting her time and energy to this cause exemplifies the selflessness and civic-mindedness that makes our country great. I commend Jenny Silver, and all those who took part in this event, for their embodiment of what it means to be good neighbors and good Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE NEOSHO DAILY NEWS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Neosho Daily News, which recently celebrated the One Hundredth Anniversary of the establishment of the newspaper.

The Neosho Daily News began publishing its first edition as the Daily Democrat on January 23, 1905. In 1952, Howard Bush purchased the newspaper from the Anderson family and began publishing the newspaper under its current name. Publishers have included Howard Bush, Kenneth Cope, Randy Cope, and Rick Rogers. The Neosho Daily News provides information to parts of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In two of the past three years, the Neosho Daily News has been awarded the Missouri Press Association General Excellence Award. The newspaper has consistently been an outstanding community leader, sponsoring such events as the Neosho Business and Industry Show, the Neosho Christmas Parade, and Share Your Christmas. The newspaper is currently part of the Liberty Publishing Group.

Throughout its one-hundred years of existence, the Neosho Daily News has made a positive impact to the four-state area that it serves.

TRIBUTE TO ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2005 FROM THE 11TH CON- GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government.

Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens, many of whom are veterans, who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. Nominations included 10 to the Naval Academy, 14 to the Military Academy, 4 to the Merchant Marine Academy and 7 to the Air Force Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31st, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan, Iraq, or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are

both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2005

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY:

Air Force Academy—David J. Dobrosky, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Oliver J. Kotelnicki, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.; Benjamin K. Joelson, Far Hills, Morristown-Beard School; Brian J. Monga, Rockaway, Morris Knolls H.S.; Scott N. Pierson, Parsippany, Parsippany Hills H.S.; Alexander C. Roosma, Bloomingdale, Butler H.S.; Sean C. Schiess, Flanders, Mount Olive H.S.

Merchant Marine—Kurt T. Bethman, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Derek W. Day, Madison, Newark Academy; Jonathon M. Dobbins, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Matthew F. Poloniak, Sparta, Sparta H.S.

Military Academy—Andrew D. Carbone, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Thomas L. Comer, Gillette, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Stephanie Forgione, Morristown, Morristown H.S.; Jason Johanson, Parsippany, Morris Hills H.S.; Patrick H. Loeuis, Chatham, Chatham, H.S.; Megan O. Maiello, Succasunna, Roxbury H.S.; Evan R. Malanga, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Dario Marcelli, III, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Megan Milhisler, Succasunna, Roxbury H.S.; Scott D. Nordland, Mendham, St. Georges School; Kent S. Patterson, Madison, Madison H.S.; Andrew C. Peterson, Short Hills, Morristown-Beard School; Omar S. Shaikh, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.; Quentin Sica, Stanhope, Lenape Valley H.S.

Naval Academy—Lindsey C. Asdal, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.; Michael J. Campbell, Mendham, Delbarton School; Ralph N. Grossman, Green Pond, Morris Knolls H.S.; Michael C. Howley, West Caldwell, Seton Hall Preparatory School; William D. McAloon, Madison Delbarton School; Brian J. McNally, Morristown, Morristown H.S.; Christopher K. Schneider, Mendham, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Heather R. Smith, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Timothy F. Whitney, Pine Brook, Montville H.S.; Mark J. Van Orden, Jr., Morris Plains, Delbarton School.

RACHEL DUNN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Rachel Dunn on her recent offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Rachel sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. Rachel was selected for a nomination and West Point has offered her an appointment to their celebrated institution. I am proud to have given her a Congressional nomination.

Rachel is currently a senior at Humble High School in Humble, Texas. She possesses many qualities that will make her an excellent cadet at West Point, and an excellent officer in the United States Army. She has shown an unwavering sense of dedication to long-term goals, as she has played on the Humble Lady Wildcats volleyball team for her full four year career at Humble High. Rachel's hard work paid off during her senior year when her teammates voted her captain of the team. She has earned various awards: Volleyball JV Squad MVP in 2003, Offensive Player of the Year in 2004 and 1st Team All-District in 2004.

Not only has Rachel excelled in the sports arena, she also has excelled in the classroom. She has a 4.9 GPA on a 5.0 scale and was ranked 27th in a class of 887. She acted courageously to save someone's life, showing tremendous fortitude under intense pressure.

In addition Rachel interviewed with poise and intelligence with my Service Academy Nomination Board. The Board recommended her to me without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Rachel is a fine Texan who will serve her country with distinction and I wish her good fortune in this new chapter of her life.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE SHUMATE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wayne Shumate, an all around outstanding Kentuckian. Wayne passed away on November 14, 2005, the day after his 71st birthday.

Known for his intelligence, strong work ethic, and the ability to bring out the absolute best in people, Wayne Shumate made it easy to remember him. He led a distinguished career in the textile industry, serving as director of Jockey International and then as chairman of both Blue Grass Industries and Kentucky Textiles.

Always one to enjoy a challenge, Wayne began raising blackberries at his Nicholas County farm in an effort to find a replacement crop for Kentucky's dwindling tobacco industry. Thanks to Wayne's hard work and business savvy, the blackberry venture took off and became incredibly successful. Today—twenty-years after Wayne planted his first Hull Thornless blackberries—WindStone Farm is nationally recognized and famous for its Blackberry Jam.

Never one to rest of his laurels, Wayne was affiliated with many different civic and non-profit boards, which also speaks volumes about his personal character and reputation. Three different Governors appointed him to the Kentucky Harness Racing Commission and he served as President of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI). Wayne also spent two terms on the Cincinnati/Cleveland 4th District Federal Reserve Board, chaired Governor Julian Carroll's Economic Development Commission, and was widely known and recognized in the cities of Carlisle and Paris, Kentucky for his thoughtful leadership.

Wayne was a loving father and loyal companion, and I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to his mother, Carrie Spivey Shumate, his wife, Kay George Shumate, his two children, Clifford Wayne Shumate Jr. and Sara Paige Shumate Short, his sister, Rose Carol Shumate, and the rest of his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Wayne Shumate. While he will be sorely missed, I am confident his legacy—not to mention his famous smile—will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of his loving family and many friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2006, I was absent for the following vote for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 1.

IN MEMORY OF THE "COLUMBIA"
AND "CHALLENGER" HEROES**HON. TOM DELAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember 14 heroes of our Nation's space program.

Three years ago today, on a clear blue morning, the space shuttle *Columbia* exploded in the skies above Texas, killing all seven members of her crew.

The tragedy reminded us of a similar cloudless morning almost 17 years to the day earlier, when the space shuttle *Challenger* was lost moments after liftoff.

The 14 men and women who died on these missions were extraordinary individuals, but they were typical of the men and women NASA employs.

Courageous.

Dauntless.

Driven by a spirit of exploration and a desire to understand the unknown.

The *Columbia* and *Challenger* crew members knew the risks of spaceflight, but they chose to serve anyway—not in spite of the risks, but in part because of them.

They gave their lives in the hard and noble work of discovery, in service to their country and for all mankind.

Though these 14 heroes have slipped the "surlly bonds of earth," their legacy remains, grounded in the hearts and memories of those who strive every day to finish their life's work.

COMMENTS ON SECTION 1403 OF
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was signed by the President in August. This Act is the most comprehensive energy legislation in 30 years, and I believe it will lower energy prices for consumers, spur our economy, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and take unprecedented steps to promote greater energy conservation and efficiency. I want to highlight one provision that I included in the House passed version of this legislation and which was retained in the final conference report. This provision promotes energy efficiency of electric transformers and improved public safety, but also promotes strong environmental stewardship. This provision, [section 1403,] governs the use of non petro-

leum oil in electric transformers as electrical insulation.

The intent of section 1403 was to provide clarity for the new Oil Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations. As some of my colleagues know, electric transformers, whether the small buckets on telephone poles or those pad mounted on the ground, include some quantities of oil used as an electrical insulation and thermal dissipation medium.

Under SPCC, small and rural utilities and institutions that have their own electric transformers—including hospitals, schools, and military bases—will be required to build secondary containment diking around their electric transformers in case there is a spill of the oil used in transformers as thermal insulation. It should be noted that by the government's own estimates, facilities with less than 10,000 gallons of storage capacity account for less than 2 percent of the total volume of oil spilled in the United States. Furthermore, the amount of volume contained in electric transformers is well below this figure.

All those facts aside, section 1403 was included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 as a means to provide an alternative to the increased costs of Federal regulations on rural communities and institutions that have electric transformers, providing regulatory relief for bio-based oils that have proven environmental benefits. Specifically, local communities and institutions that have electric transformers can avoid the costs of constructing secondary diking containment around their transformers if they use bio-based, non petroleum oils as insulation. In addition, many older electric transformers still contain Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in their electrical insulation. By promoting these alternatives to petroleum-based oil used as thermal insulation in electric transformers, we provide a smart and environmentally friendly option to encourage the replacement of PCBs. It should be noted that this provision was retained in the final legislation without opposition or controversy.

Additionally, in 1995, Congress passed the Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act. This statute set forth specific guidelines for implementing regulations on oil spills. The Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act states ". . . in issuing or enforcing any regulation or establishing any interpretation or guideline relating to the transportation, storage, discharge, release, emission, or disposal of a fat, oil, or grease under any Federal law, the head of that Federal agency shall differentiate between and establish separate classes . . . and consider differences in the physical, chemical, biological, and other properties, and in the environment." Nearly a decade later, EPA continues to maintain the position that "oil is oil." EPA has either been unwilling or unable to differentiate between the different classes of oils. I raise this issue because I want to make clear how the author of section 1403 intends it to be interpreted.

Section 1403, Regulation of Certain Oil Used in Transformers, reads as follows: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, or rule promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency, vegetable oil made from soybeans and used in electric transformers as thermal insulation shall not be regulated as an oil identified under section 2(a)(1)(B) of the Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act (33 U.S.C. 2720(a)(1)(B))."

EPA's broad generalization that "oil is oil" disregards renewable oils that, I believe, have an improved effect on the environment in case of a spill. EPA's broad policy impedes the replacement of fluids known to be harmful to the environment with fluids that have proven, tested benefits for the environment.

CHARLES WARREN CILISKE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Charles Warren Ciliske on his recent offer of appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Charles sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. He was selected for a nomination and West Point has offered him an appointment to their celebrated institution. I am proud to give him a Congressional nomination.

Charles is currently a senior at Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas and he possesses many qualities that will make him an excellent cadet at West Point, and an excellent officer in the United States Army. He has shown the ability to dedicate himself to a goal over the long-term, and to succeed with this dedication. Charles is a 4-year varsity swimmer on the Kingwood High School Swim Team and was Captain of the team this season. He is a 5-time High School All-American, 2003 Rookie of the Year and 2005 District Swimmer of the Year. Also in 2005, he was on the Team 5A Texas State Champs and was a National Runner-Up.

Charles has proven himself academically as well, earning the AP Scholar Award. He is a member of the USA Swimming Academic All-American Team and a member of the National Honor Society.

The clincher for Charles was the interview by my Service Academy Nomination Board. Nothing can replace a personal encounter to establish credibility and repute. His interviewers said that he was an exceptional candidate, with excellent character and strong moral values. They were impressed by Charles's professed dream to attend the U.S. Military Academy, and knew he understood the gravity of the commitment to the Academy and of becoming an officer in the U.S. Army. They recommended him to me without reservation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Charles is a fine Texan who will serve his country with distinction and I wish him good fortune in this new chapter of his life.

COMMENDING THE SAN ANTONIO
STOCK SHOW AND RODEO**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize and offer my congratulations to the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo for receiving honors as the "Large Indoor Rodeo of the Year for 2005" and "Top Rough Stock Rodeo of the Year Award." Everyone who

worked together to support our world-class rodeo in San Antonio deserves our commendation.

Each year, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association honors the best of the best in contract personnel, stock contractors and rodeo committees during the annual "Contract Personnel Awards Banquet" on the eve of the National Finals Rodeo. The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo took home the prestigious honor of "Large Indoor Rodeo of the Year for 2005." The award is especially meaningful because winners are voted on by over 10,000 of their peers in the rodeo industry. It is the equivalent of the national championship for rodeo.

San Antonio made history in 2005 by bringing some new athletes into the rodeo: the roughest, toughest and best livestock from sixteen different stock contractors all over North America. This prompted the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association to create a category especially for the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo: the "Top Rough Stock Remuda of the Year Award."

The Executive Director Keith Martin and the over 4,000 dedicated San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo volunteers deserve special recognition. It is their hard work and dedication that makes the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo one of the best in the Nation.

**FREEDOM FOR JORGE LUIS
GARCIA PEREZ**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, better known as Antunez, a long suffering and heroic political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Antunez, Mr. Speaker, is the face of the real Cuba.

Antunez has been locked in the totalitarian gulag since 1990. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison for "oral enemy propaganda." In May 1993, he was tried in a second sham trial, and sentenced to an additional 15 years to be served from that moment. In total, Antunez has been sentenced to 18 years in Castro's grotesque, inhuman gulag.

Despite being locked up in the tyrant's gulag, Antunez has bravely carried out heroic activism in Cuban jails, writing reports on prison conditions and carrying out numerous protests and hunger strikes to demand more humane treatment for prisoners. He has never wavered in his commitment to human rights and democracy for the Cuban people. Antunez has never given in to the beatings, the punishment cells and the instruments of torture inflicted on him by the Castro regime. Antunez always rises up and calls out, demanding human rights and freedom for Cuba.

After over 15 years in the gulag, Antunez is still feared and relentlessly attacked by the dictatorship. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004, "on July 6, family members of political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, reported being beaten along with Garcia during a prison visit. Authorities handcuffed

and beat Garcia and later punched his sister and kicked his girlfriend's 9 year old son after the visitors protested the harsh treatment."

No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences to him and his family, Antunez will not waiver in his conviction that Cuba should be and will be free. He is a symbol of dignity and heroic resistance to tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, this courageous man has been in Castro's gulag since 1990, for failing to keep silent about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. My Colleagues, it is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We should never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire to be free. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

**INADEQUACY OF REIMBURSEMENT
FOR IMMUNE GLOBULINS**

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the House's attention a very important issue relating to the reimbursement of plasma protein therapeutics. Specifically, I continue to be concerned regarding the inadequacy of reimbursement for immune globulins.

A fragile Medicare beneficiary population is dependent on immune globulins for life saving therapies. As a result, Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) share a responsibility to assure access to these therapies. CMS recently recognized the importance of this issue by providing for a pre-administration fee in both sites of service for immune globulins, physician offices and hospital outpatient settings. This provision was outlined in CMS's Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System final rule and in the Physician Fee Schedule final rule.

Third party studies are currently underway to identify the true costs associated with the acquisition, handling, and administration of immune globulins. Congress anticipates that CMS will issue a Program Memorandum reflecting the study findings upon receipt of the data.

To guarantee access, I urge CMS to provide for product specific reimbursement for each separate immune globulin and to recognize that the infusion of immune globulins should be classified as a biologic response modifier for reimbursement purposes.

I intend to follow this matter carefully and look forward to working with the Administration and my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee to address these concerns.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN SIRI

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I

learned of the passing of Jean Siri last week. I knew Jean well, enjoyed our conversations, and highly valued her opinions on local and national concerns.

Jean Siri was born Jean Brandenburg on March 11, 1920, in Lakot, North Dakota. She grew up in a farming family her father was a prominent veterinarian. She earned a bachelor's degree from Jamestown College in North Dakota, then did graduate work at San Francisco State University and the University of California, Berkeley. Jean was a staff biologist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory from 1945 to 1952, then a board member and Chair of the Stege Sanitary District in El Cerrito from 1975 to 1979. She also served on the El Cerrito City Council from 1980 to 1985 and again from 1987 to 1991, including two terms as Mayor.

At the time of Will Siri's passing in 2004, the couple had been married 54 years. Mr. Siri was renowned as both a scientist and mountaineer. From 1943 to 1945 he worked as a member of the Manhattan Project. In 1963 he was the co-leader of the first American expedition to climb Mount Everest. Will was a leading researcher in biophysics at Lawrence Berkeley Labs. During the 1960s and 1970s he also served as President-Director of the Sierra Club.

The impact of Jean's life-long work on behalf of the environmental movement, public access to recreational resources, and public health is immeasurable. Among the long list of agencies that Jean supported with her time and endless energy were the West Contra Costa Conservation League, County Hazardous Materials Commission, the League of Women Voters, the West County Toxics Coalition, the Contra Costa County Public and Environmental Health Board, the Gray Panthers, and the Fresh Start Homeless Board of Directors. Along with her husband Will, Jean was instrumental in the creation of Save the Bay and was a long-time member of the Sierra Club. Jean will always be remembered as a staunch environmentalist and lover of the outdoors. Together, she and Will were recipients of many awards, including the Feinstone Environmental Award from Syracuse University in New York for their work on corrective legislation for air pollution, land use and solid waste treatment.

Perhaps though, her greatest advocacy role was her representation on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors. She was elected in 1992, and re-elected in 1996, 2000, and 2004. Jean loved the District, its staff, her colleagues on the Board and those who advocated on the District's behalf. She was passionate about the parks and contributed not only her great leadership experience, but a sharp wit and a wonderful smile for all who had the good fortune to work with her.

To Jean's two daughters, Lynn Siri Kimsey of Davis and Anne Siri of Philo, and their families, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Their loss is shared by all who came to know and admire Jean. All Californians will benefit for generations to come from her work born of an uncommon passion for people of all walks of life and our fragile environment.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM SUSSER

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention and that of Congress and the American people an inspirational story of a 5-year-old boy named Adam Susser; whose uplifting story is a true testament to the hope that stem cell research brings in the quest for the treatment and cure of numerous diseases, injuries, and birth defects from which hundreds of millions of people suffer worldwide.

Due to severe asphyxiation at birth, Adam Susser was diagnosed as being cortically blind with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Despite recommendations that Adam be institutionalized, and despite the grim predictions that he would never gain the ability to see or walk; his parents, Gary and Judith, and his twin brother, Brandon, refused to give up hope. With the help of the Genetics Policy Institute, a leading non-profit agency dedicated to the establishment of a positive legal framework to advance the search for cutting-edge cures like stem cell research, Adam's family discovered the means to provide him with the medical care he desperately needed.

Now, after receiving multiple stem cell treatments, Adam has miraculously recovered partial sight; he has overcome his atrophy, gaining the ability to move and walk; he communicates verbally and even goes horseback riding. While I am encouraged by Adam's astonishing progress against significant odds, his story casts a disturbing light on the current barriers that Americans face when seeking such treatment. Stem cell research, including embryonic-based research—which studies stem cells with the unique capability of developing into any cell type—offers the greatest hope to those who suffer from a myriad of deadly and debilitating diseases, like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, heart disease and diabetes. An even more promising aspect of embryonic stem-cell therapy is that it does not require expensive anti-rejection drugs after transplantation.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration policy continues to hinder the use of embryonic stem cells by only allowing researchers access to a limited number of these cells, most of which are unusable due to contamination. This unconscionable policy stance takes us in the wrong direction, as the Administration and Congress should be doing everything in their power to facilitate the scientific and medical community's search for a cure to horrific diseases afflicting millions in America and globally. Adam Susser's story is a shining example of what can be achieved through the use of stem cell therapy, and I urge all my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing his courage as well as his family's refusal to give up hope.

STEVEN ROBERT SOLLEE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Steven Robert Sollee on his recent

offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Steven sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. He passed the evaluation process, and I am proud to give him a Congressional nomination.

Steven is currently a senior at Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas. He has dreamed of becoming an officer in the United States Army. Steven possesses many qualities that will make him an excellent cadet at West Point and upon graduation, an excellent officer in the United States Army. He has always shown a dedication to public service as an Eagle Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts' Honor Society. Steven is a Christian with a deep faith in God that he demonstrates with his service to his church. He has a stellar academic background with 3.89 GPA and a class rank of 54 out of 980. He won the K-Award in Chemistry at Kingwood High School, which recognizes the best student of the class. Steven has achieved all these honors while participating in a demanding schedule of extracurricular activities, including varsity tennis, the high school band, the language club, the National Honor Society and the National French Honor Society.

The interview by my Service Academy Nomination Board was the real clincher for Steven. Nothing can replace a personal encounter to establish credibility and character. His interviewers said that Steven was a first class candidate, well qualified and highly motivated to attend West Point. They were impressed by his professed dream and knew Steven understood the gravity of the commitment to the Academy. They recommended him for a nomination without hesitation.

I believe that Steven is a fine Texan who will serve his country with distinction and I wish him good fortune in this new chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO MAX FALKENSTIEN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Max Falkenstein, 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 Falkenstein'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 Falkenstein "the best college radio personality in the country" and ESPN's Dick Vitale included KU's Bob Davis and Falkenstein in his "Sweet 16" of the best announcer teams in the United States.

A true legend, Max Falkenstein has been synonymous with KU athletics for six decades. As KU basketball coach Bill Self recently said in the Lawrence Journal-World, "Max has per-

formed at the highest level over an extended period of time like very few in his profession." Falkenstein 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. Falkenstein provided play-by-play for the Big Eight Conference basketball game of the week between 1968 and 1971, and for more than three 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 Falkenstein'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."

[From the Lawrence Journal-World, Jan. 7, 2006]

TO THE MAX

(By Dave Ranney)

A few seconds after he'd worked his way past security and into the Jayhawks' dressing room, veteran broadcaster Max Falkenstein fielded a warm, friendly—but unexpected—greeting. "Hey, Max, how're you doing?" It was Michael Lee, a popular reserve guard from last year's basketball team who had recently signed with the Harlem Globetrotters. Falkenstein smiled as they shook hands. There wasn't time to chat. A crowd of well-wishers had gathered around Lee and Kansas University had just trounced the Yale Bulldogs, 87-46, so Falkenstein needed to get ready for his postgame interview with coach Bill Self.

Quickly, Lee explained he was in town for a checkup for an irregular heartbeat. He wanted Falkenstein to know because the "Voice of the Jayhawks" cares. Despite their generational differences, Falkenstein, 81, and Lee, 22, are friends. "Max is cool," Lee said afterward. "As soon as you get here people start telling you, 'That's Max Falkenstein. He's been here forever.' So even before you meet him, you respect him. And then when you meet him, he's always nice. He always says hello. It's like you can't go wrong with him."

Lee isn't alone. Falkenstein, it seems, has more friends than Kansas has sunflowers. Some, like Wilt Chamberlain or coach Phog Allen, have been famous. Most are not. "I was with Max at the (KU vs.) K-State football game this year," said Jim Marchiony, KU associate athletics director. "It took us 20 minutes to get from the parking lot to the press box because so many people stopped to talk to him—and these were K-State fans! 'Whenever you're on the road with Max, it's like you're with the mayor of whatever city you're in,' he said. 'It's amazing.'"

Late last summer, Falkenstein announced he would retire after the 2005-06 men's basketball season. Sixty years behind a microphone, he said, was enough. "I'll miss it terribly," Falkenstein told the Journal-World. "But I think this is a good place to stop. I don't want to overstay my welcome." Though he underwent emergency intestinal surgery Sept. 7, Falkenstein said he was in good health.

"My surgery was completely unexpected and had no relationship to my decision to retire," he said. "As far as I know, I'm in good

shape. Of course, something could happen tomorrow. You never know." Falkenstien's exit will mark the end of an era.

"I can remember my father listening to Max on a battery-powered radio out on the farm," said Dr. Earl Merkel, a 73-year-old KU Medical School alumnus from Russell. "In Kansas, everybody identifies with him," Merkel said. "They may not have met him, but they know his voice. They feel like they know him." "Max is an institution," said John Clarke, a 1979 KU graduate who lives in Hays. "He is synonymous with the Jayhawks. When you hear him, you think of KU."

Falkenstien and his play-by-play partner, Bob Davis, have a one-of-a-kind relationship. "I don't think we've ever argued or had a disagreement," Falkenstien said. "We've had a lot of laughs in 22 years," Davis said. Both are native Kansans. Falkenstien grew up in Lawrence, Davis in Hays. Neither is young. Davis is 61.

"When you stand the test of time like they have for 22 years, you must be doing something right," said Tom Hedrick, a veteran broadcaster who competed with Falkenstien from the late 1940s into the early 1960s. "It'll be difficult for anyone else to do what Bob and Max have done because people move around so much now," said Hedrick, who's semiretired and lives in Lawrence. Falkenstien and Davis have stayed put. Both have other jobs. Davis is play-by-play announcer for the Kansas City Royals. Falkenstien was senior vice president of marketing for Douglas County Bank for 25 years. He remains an occasional consultant. "I've led a charmed life, I know," Falkenstien said.

While a senior at Liberty Memorial High School (now Central Junior High School, 1400 Mass.) Falkenstien heard that local radio station WREN had a job opening. He'd been told he had a good voice for radio, so he applied. "Arden Booth, who a lot of people will remember, had been called into the service," Falkenstien said. "I got the job, but it had nothing to do with sportscasting. I was just a staff announcer."

Falkenstien graduated from LMHS in 1942, six months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. After a semester at KU, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in hopes of becoming a meteorologist. "I put in 35 months, but I never went overseas," he said. Falkenstien returned to Lawrence. He'd been in town about a week when his former boss at WREN asked him to broadcast a basketball game in Kansas City that pitted KU against Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) in the NCAA district finals.

The fact he'd never done play-by-play didn't matter.

"Back then, it wasn't like it is now. People didn't expect to hear a game on the radio. They'd read about it in the newspaper," he said. "What we were doing was new." Falkenstien stayed at WREN until 1967, when he had a falling out with the station's owner, former Kansas Gov. Alf Landon. The Big Eight Conference wanted him to be the play-by-play announcer for its televised "Game of the Week." "Back then," Falkenstien said, "there was only one game a week that was televised. So this was a big deal for me."

But Landon refused to let his station manager, Falkenstien, appear on television. "I kept saying it would make me more sellable—that would be good for business," Falkenstien said. "But he just didn't get the concept." Falkenstien jumped to WIBW-TV, where he continued to broadcast KU football and basketball games.

In 1984, KU decided to put the broadcast rights to its basketball and football games up for bid. Before then, Falkenstien and

Hedrick broadcast the games for different stations. Learfield Communications, a company based in Jefferson City, Mo., won the bid in 1985. It brought in Davis, who had been broadcasting Fort Hays State University games for 16 years. Falkenstien was offered the sidekick role. "I had a lot of misgivings at first," Falkenstien said. But Davis welcomed the chance to work with Falkenstien.

"I know this sounds a little corny, but when I was growing up my heroes were sportscasters, and Max was one of the first ones out there," Davis said. "He was a pioneer."

Together, Davis and Falkenstien have mastered a low-key, fishing-buddy delivery that's unpretentious, never overbearing.

"Bob and I try to keep things in perspective," Falkenstien said. "Games are supposed to be fun. They're not the end of the world." He added: "It's like Dr. (Phog) Allen used to tell his players. He'd say, 'Remember, guys, there are 300 million Chinese out there who don't even know who we are.'" Falkenstien said he and Davis keep the game simple, their delivery conversational. "Too many color commentators are too analytical," Falkenstien said. "They lose the average fan."

Neither Davis nor Falkenstien pretend to be experts. "I remember one time, I had to ask Roy Williams what a 'secondary break' was, so I'd look smart," Falkenstien said, laughing. In the game programs, Falkenstien used to be listed as color analyst. "I had them drop the 'analyst,'" he said. "I'm just 'color.'"

The broadcasts are not as laid-back as they appear. Davis scrambles to keep track of fouls and points while Falkenstien plucks statistics from a nearby monitor, lifts tidbits from the day's sports pages and pulls trivia from packets provided by the teams' athletic departments—all while the game is going on, all without missing a beat.

Contrary to popular opinion, their press-row seats across from the KU bench are not the best in Allen Fieldhouse. They cannot see the scoreboard without leaning back and looking straight up. They are so cramped they cannot stand or cross their legs. Many times, a referee blocks their view. During the Yale game, Davis barked "there's a turnover" without mentioning who had stolen the ball from whom. That's because he couldn't see the play; referee Steve Welmer was standing in front of him, less than an arm's length away.

After the game, Falkenstien is the first—and only—member of the media allowed to meet with Self in the coaches' dressing room.

When they finish, Self leaves for a meeting with the press corps at-large. He uses a back door. Falkenstien leaves through the front door, where hopeful fans wait for autographs. He is an easy target. "Max! Max! Over here!" said Genie Gnagi, standing behind her 6-year-old daughter, Michaela, with a miniature plastic basketball. "May we have your autograph, please?"

Without hesitation, a smiling Falkenstien complies. "He is a true KU legend," Gnagi said. "He will be missed."

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO (PACO) ROVIRA-CALIMANO

HON. LUIS FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr.

Francisco Rovira-Calimano, whose life work serves as an example to us all. He is a hard-working gentleman, an honest citizen, and a true humanitarian dedicated to the betterment of humanity. Today, Mr. Rovira-Calimano celebrates his 95th birthday—and this is a cause for great celebration.

Paco, as everyone knows him in his beloved town of Guayama, Puerto Rico, was born on February 1, 1911, to Amalia Calimano-Diaz and Jose Rovira-Tomas, his hard-working parents, an exemplary couple in that lovely town by the Guamani River. As the eldest child, Paco soon learned the value of sharing, supporting others, fairness, and hard work principles—values which he has sustained throughout his long and fruitful life. He was an exceptional son, who for 20 years took care of all his mother's needs after his father passed away. He is a man of few words but strong actions and convictions.

While growing up, he attended the Guayama public schools system during his elementary school years, then St. Augustine Academy in San Juan and completed high school at Peekskill Military Academy in New York State. He attended college at Louisiana State University and graduated from The New York State Institute of Agriculture in 1934. Since childhood, he had worked at the family dairy farm "La Cuadra", doing extensive manual labor, and upon graduation he returned to work there. Later, he also acquired "La Tuna", a farm which he skillfully managed raising sugar cane, plantains, cattle and tending to his beloved Paso Fino horses.

Over the years, Paco was involved in many civic endeavors. He joined and became an active member of the Farmers Association of Puerto Rico. Additionally, he was an active member of the Regulatory Board of the Milk Producing Industry, of which he is still an honorary member. He has also been a member of the Guayama Rotary Club for over 40 years and served as its president in 1957. He was a member and an active board member of the "Asociación de Dueños de Caballos de Paso Fino de Puerto Rico", (Paso Fino Horse Owner Association). For many years he collaborated with the "Asociación Agropecuaria" (Agriculture and Livestock Association) from Mayaguez, and was a board member for two years. His main goal was to bring together people from all walks of life sharing a common interest.

Paco's life spans through WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, the Korean war, the Vietnam conflict, and the two gulf wars in Iraq. He has seen 17 Presidents enter the White House and even though he is an American citizen residing in Puerto Rico, he unfortunately cannot vote for the President because of where he lives. However, he has always wanted to see Puerto Rico become an integral part of our powerful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at 95 years of age, Paco continues to work hard every day. He is currently the President of the Campoamor Corporation, and the Santa Elena Development Company. This exceptional human being is married to Elsa Sabater-Recio. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. He is the loving father of 5, the doting grandfather of 14, beloved great-grandfather of 11, and father figure of many, many more.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Francisco Rovira-Calimano on his 95th birthday and to thank him for sharing his wonderful life, his heart, his time, and his energy

with his family, the people of Guayama, and all Puerto Ricans. Mr. Speaker, he has set a high standard for all of us to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOASTMASTERS EN ESPAÑOL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the founding of Toastmasters en Español, the first and only Spanish-language Toastmasters club in the State of Nevada.

Toastmasters International is a global organization devoted to teaching communication and leadership skills. It has more than 211,000 members, with 10,500 clubs in 90 countries. Las Vegas is home to 50 of these clubs. With the mission statement, "to make effective communication a worldwide reality," Toastmasters en Español was founded by Maite Salazar to improve the public-speaking and leadership skills of the more than half-million Spanish-speaking residents of the Las Vegas Valley, and to help Spanish-language learners improve their skills in a constructive, affirming environment.

Toastmasters en Español held its first meeting on October 3, 2005, at the Cambridge Community Center in central Las Vegas. The initial meeting attracted dozens of participants. Within 3 weeks, the club had enough active members to be officially chartered by Toastmasters International.

Today, Toastmasters en Español has 31 active members who hail from nearly every country in the Spanish-speaking world, and from every walk of life. The club also includes many native-born Americans who understand the importance of being bilingual in an increasingly interdependent world.

Mr. Speaker, as the world becomes more globalized, communication becomes increasingly more important for peaceful cooperation. I applaud the efforts of Toastmasters en Español in this regard and look forward to their continued involvement and dedication to the improvement of their community and the entire State of Nevada.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CAROL SUNAKO CONNELLY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Carol Sunako Connelly. Carol was born on August 22, 1936 in Salinas, CA. She graduated from Stanford University School of Nursing in 1959 and worked briefly for the county of Alameda as a public health nurse.

Carol served 33 years in the Franklin McKinley School District in San Jose, CA as "school nurse extraordinaire", working at numerous schools in the district, including Fair, Kennedy, Los Arboles and Meadows.

Carol was dedicated to her professions of nursing and teaching. She inspired many lives,

both young and old throughout her years of service. Teachers depended on her extensive knowledge to help with everything from human anatomy to head lice.

She led many fascinating and unforgettable lessons in "grossology": countless hours cutting up eyeballs with third graders, lungs with fifth graders, and hearts with sixth graders. In addition to these grade level standards, she also conducted numerous dissections and the cooking of squid in the primary grades. There are not many school nurses who have either the time or the passion to work with children in the classrooms.

Carol retired in 2003 at the age of 67. Though very busy in retirement, she continued to volunteer her time to Franklin McKinley School District.

Carol lived in Santa Cruz for the past 15 years and was an active member of TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Mah Jongg Players of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Senior Center, and the Pleasure Point Community Church.

Carol died on August 28, 2005. She is survived by her three daughters, Adrienne Keane of Santa Cruz, Heather Haan of San Jose, and Jennifer Haan of Los Angeles, and four grandchildren, Quinn and Malia Keane and Roland and Ava Kemmerer. She is also survived by her sister, Joyce Kawahara, and her brothers, Lloyd and Milton Yoshioka, all from Petaluma. Carol Connelly will be sorely missed. To the thousands of students and teachers who crossed paths with Carol, she will never be forgotten.

STARK OPPOSES UNJUST REPUBLICAN BUDGET

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this unjust Republican budget that cuts funding for working class programs and does nothing to improve the U.S. deficit.

"Remember Pearl Harbor" was a rallying cry to unite Americans in shared sacrifice to respond to a military attack on our Nation. In contrast, 9/11 will be remembered as a tragedy exploited by President Bush to divide Americans and place the financial burden of his ill-advised policies on working class Americans.

President Bush and his Republican cronies have used this tragedy to justify an unnecessary war in Iraq and ensure that the wealthiest Americans contribute nothing to pay for it by giving them billions of dollars in tax cuts. As the wealthiest Republican party donors—like Halliburton—make billions from this failed war, the Republican budget sticks America's working families with the tab.

This Republican budget cuts health care, child care, student loans, foster care payments, job training and aid to the elderly and people with disabilities in exchange for the Iraq war and tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Not even the extreme poverty displayed on televisions across this country of Hurricane Katrina's victims has been able to stir compassion into the cold hearts of the President and his Republican cronies in Congress. This bill forces states to stop providing job training and

vocational education programs for the poor and force millions of them into low-waged, dead end jobs with no health insurance or child care. In addition, many poor families will have to pay copays and deductibles for their health insurance on their incomes of less than \$19,000 a year for a family of four. Instead of giving the poor a hand up, this bill puts a boot in their face to push them down.

In true fashion, the Republican budget does take care of their rich lobbyist friends. For instance the Republicans decided to remove a provision that would have stopped taxpayers from overpaying HMOs participating in Medicare by \$22 billion. Had that provision remained in, cuts to programs that help people—not corporations—could have been reduced by that level.

Similar protections were given to the private lenders that provide student loans. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, Representative JOHN BOEHNER, met with these private lenders in December, who contribute handsomely to his campaigns, and said: "Relax. Stay calm. At the end of the day, I believe you'll be at least satisfied, or even perhaps happy. Know that I have all of you in my two trusted hands."

This budget clearly demonstrates that the Republican Party's corruption and cronyism causes real harm to average Americans. The next time a parent or former student has to pay extra for their student loan, or a senior citizen is forced to pay more for their health care, they should thank the Republican Party. You can be sure that the health insurance industry and private student lenders will be donating millions more to Republican campaigns to show their thanks.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this corrupt and unjust bill.

THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EMERGENCY GUARANTEE ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, after the first month of implementation of the Medicare private drug plan, it is clear that a number of measures are needed to ensure that seniors and Americans with disabilities who need prescription drugs do not leave the pharmacy empty-handed or overcharged.

Representatives BROWN of Ohio, RANGEL, STARK, WAXMAN, SPRATT, and I are introducing legislation today to make sure seniors are guaranteed the prescription drug relief they were promised in 2003 and deserve today.

This bill would do the following:

Ensure beneficiaries get at least 60 days of needed medicines, whether or not the pharmacist can verify the plan they are in or whether or not the drug they need is covered by their plan.

Eliminate red tape for pharmacists by allowing the pharmacy to bill Medicare directly. Medicare would then collect the payments from the drug plans.

Ensure beneficiaries can navigate the complex system, by providing a standard notice and appeals process and information on how

to locate a more suitable plan when a person's drug is not covered by the plan.

Protect beneficiaries from losing coverage of needed medicines during the year they are enrolled by not allowing plans to change what drugs they will pay for during that year.

Finally, for all those who actually paid more than they should have for their medications, this bill requires Medicare to reimburse them, as well as any others who have stepped in to pay the costs for seniors and those with disabilities when they were denied or overcharged for their medicines. Medicare should be cutting through the red tape, not the beneficiaries or their pharmacist.

Democrats have also introduced legislation that focuses on the major structural problems built into the program designed by the Republicans and their industry friends. But today we introduce this bill to alleviate some of the short-term and transition problems that have arisen with the current ill-conceived Medicare prescription drug benefit.

This Administration has failed in providing seniors and people with disabilities with a smooth transition to prescription drug coverage. Let us not fail them again by ignoring the immediate problems.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF EARL A. GREENE JR. OF THE CLARK COUNTY NEVADA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Earl A. Greene, Jr., Chief, Clark County Nevada Fire Department. Chief Greene is retiring from the fire department after 33 years of dedicated service. He has been involved in all areas of fire services, including: Suppression, Prevention, Hazardous Materials, Logistics, Volunteer Fire, and Administration.

Chief Greene received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with an emphasis on pre-law from Southwestern State College in Weatherford, OK. He is married to the former Susan Enoch and has two grown children, Earl III and Camile.

Among the highlights of Chief Green's career are his involvement in the implementation of the retrofit of building and fire codes that were passed as a result of the MGM Grand and Las Vegas Hilton Hotel fires. Chief Greene was also instrumental in the establishment of the Police and Fire Executives of Southern Nevada, an organization that brings together all sheriffs and police and fire chiefs on a regular basis to discuss and deal with issues common to public safety agencies.

Under Chief Green's direction, the Clark County Fire Department became the first county-level department to achieve Insurance Services Office (ISO) Level 1 status, and in 2003, the department was awarded accredited agency status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. In August, 2003, Chief Greene was awarded the prestigious Chief Fire Officer Designation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, an honor bestowed upon only 319 individuals nationwide who have demonstrated personal and professional excellence within the fire service.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Greene is a dedicated officer who has worked diligently for Clark County, NV. I ask my fellow colleagues to stand with me today and honor all fire fighters across the country, like Chief Greene, who have dedicated many years in protecting the residents of their community and State.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN AKAO

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise along with Congressman SAM FARR to pay tribute to the Honorable Kathleen Akao, her invaluable contributions to Santa Clara County and her longstanding dedication to upholding the integrity of our justice system.

Kathleen Akao was born in Long Beach on September 28, 1948 to Tokio and Lillian Katayama. She graduated from San Jose State University in 1971 with a Bachelors Degree in English and received her law degree from Santa Clara University in 1981.

In Santa Clara, Kathleen served as President of the Asian Law Students Association and later as Staff Attorney with San Jose's Asian Law Alliance, where she worked with many recent immigrants to the Bay Area. Kathleen was admitted to the California Bar in 1982 and immediately joined the State Bar's Subcommittee on Redress, working to seek recognition and restitution for Americans interned during World War II, an issue of particular resonance to Kathleen, whose mother had been interned during the war. Kathleen's personal experiences and dedication to understanding issues in-depth gave perspective to her work as a community activist, a lawyer and a judge.

Kathleen held a private law practice, and later, served as Deputy Public Defender for Santa Clara County. From 1986–1994, she worked for Santa Cruz County as Assistant County Counsel. In 1991, Kathleen's husband, James Akao, passed away at the young age of 46—a great loss for both Kathleen and their son, Kristoffer.

In 1994, Kathleen Akao became the first Asian American attorney in California to successfully challenge and unseat an incumbent Superior Court judge. Her victory highlighted her commitment to the public justice system and represented a landmark accomplishment in the Asian American community.

However, Kathleen's greatest achievement was the indelible mark she left on the community for her outstanding work with juveniles and families. She took a keen and genuine interest in providing the best options for juveniles and families who found themselves in her courtroom. In 1999, Kathleen established a county Drug Court, which coupled penalties with treatment programs, proving her commitment to the rehabilitation process. She believed in fair decisions for all and devoted her time to Teen Peer Court, a system under which juveniles may have their sanctions decided by their peers.

Kathleen died on November 27th, 2005—her untimely passing was due to heart failure following a biopsy procedure. She will always be known for her integrity and fairness both in

and outside of her courtroom. She was compassionate and generous, and had an uplifting sense of humor. Colleagues said she treated everyone with dignity and respect, approached problems pragmatically, and always sought to improve and expand the ways in which she served the public. Through her innovative and selfless work with her community and her tireless efforts to rule her courtroom fairly, Kathleen shaped and improved the lives of those around her.

Judge Akao is survived by her son, Kristoffer, her father, Tokio Katayama, her three brothers, Danny, Robert, and David, and a legacy of service, integrity and compassion for our community to share and uphold. We will all miss her.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION PROTECTING THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF HOUSE GALLERY VISITORS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, last night, at President Bush's State of the Union address, two visitors were forced from the House Chamber. Cindy Sheehan and Rep. Bill Young's wife, Beverly. Cindy Sheehan was arrested for unlawful conduct, Mrs. Young was not.

What did they do wrong?

They were each wearing T-shirts that the Capitol Police determined were "protests". Ms. Sheehan's shirt read: "2245 Dead. How many more?" Mrs. Young's shirt read: "Support the Troops—Fighting for Freedom."

Nothing in the House Rules prohibits the wearing of T-shirts or has limitations on what those shirts can have written on them.

Both individuals insist they were not protesting, but simply wearing shirts that delivered important messages for them.

What happened to them can only be described as Gestapo behavior. Each woman was forced to leave the House Gallery and Ms. Sheehan was then arrested and charged with unlawful conduct.

It is my understanding that because President Bush was in the Chamber, control of the Chamber was ceded to him—or the Secret Service to be exact.

Therefore, none of us should be surprised by what happened. Whenever and wherever President Bush speaks, he has the Secret Service sanitize and sterilize the audience. There are countless reports of people with T-shirts stating views that differ from the President being removed from his supposedly public appearances.

What happened last night to Ms. Sheehan and Mrs. Young was un-American and undemocratic. That's why I am introducing a resolution calling on the Office of the Sergeant at Arms to report to Congress within 30 days making clear under what authority these two individuals were prosecuted and making recommendations to Congress so we can assure that nothing like this ever happens again. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important resolution.

How can we allow the President to proclaim he is fighting for freedom abroad when he continually tramples our freedoms here at home?

This is supposed to be the people's house. Therefore, the President should not be able to override our governance and make us part of his Gestapo regime.

MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the story of our Nation's healthcare system is one of great success but also one of great failure and missed opportunity. We have some of the finest medical institutions in the world: the best trained medical professionals, cutting-edge technology, and state-of-the-art facilities.

We also have, however, major gaps in our healthcare system. At last count nearly 46 million Americans were uninsured. Close to six million Americans lost their insurance between 2000 and 2004. More than 18,000 Americans die prematurely each year because they lack health insurance coverage. Despite the outstanding job by hospitals, community health centers, and others, our safety net is becoming threadbare. Federal spending on the healthcare safety net declined 8.9 percent between 2001 and 2004, while the need continues to grow even larger.

The time is ripe for action. Today several of my Democratic colleagues and I are introducing a bill to bring the tried, true, and trusted Medicare program to all. This bill will for the first time make Medicare available to those under age 65. Americans will also have the option of selecting any of the plans offered to members of Congress, the President, and Federal employees.

According to the Institute of Medicine, covering all Americans will actually save the country \$380 billion a year. That is partly because we are already paying for the health care of the uninsured through emergency room services. By providing people the ability to obtain comprehensive healthcare coverage, they will be able to receive better prevention services and earlier treatments, lowering the cost of their care. All Americans will reap the economic benefits of a healthier Nation.

And this plan will save not only lives, but also American industries and jobs. We currently have an unlevel economic playing field. American companies are competing in the international marketplace against companies that do not directly bear the costs of providing their employees and retirees health care. American companies are doing the right thing, but being penalized for it.

I am pleased to introduce this "Medicare for All" bill today as a companion bill to the legislation Senator KENNEDY introduced yesterday. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the Republican leadership to let us address the healthcare crisis faced by millions of Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLEN KNOWLTON; SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE FBI LAS VEGAS OFFICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Ellen Knowlton, who retires from the Federal Bureau of Investigations on February 3, 2006, after 24 years of dedicated service.

Special Agent in Charge Ellen Knowlton, is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, where she received a bachelors of science in business administration. She also obtained a master's degree in business administration from Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California. Prior to joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation, she worked in the Insurance Industry as a Claims Supervisor.

Agent Knowlton has served in many offices and many positions throughout her years as an FBI agent. She has traveled the world on assignment and lived in many cities and countries as demanded by her job. Mrs. Knowlton's first assignment was to the FBI's Sacramento Field Office, where she was responsible for investigating bank robbery, fugitive, and kidnapping matters. She was later transferred to the Oklahoma City Field Office, where she was responsible for investigating white-collar crime matters.

When assigned to the San Francisco Field Office, she was responsible for investigating foreign counterintelligence and white-collar crime matters. In the New Orleans Field Office, she supervised the White-Collar Crime Squad. Later, she became Unit Chief in the Criminal Investigative Division at FBIHQ. Other managerial positions Mrs. Knowlton held were Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FCI ASAC, and Criminal Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office, Inspector, and Deputy Assistant Director of the National Security Division, Counterintelligence Operations Support.

In May of 2002 Agent Ellen Knowlton moved with her family to Las Vegas in order to begin her job as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Las Vegas office. During her tenure, Agent Knowlton has earned the respect of her colleagues and community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, we have been fortunate to have Ellen Knowlton in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the state has benefited from her knowledge and skill as an FBI agent. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Agent Knowlton today, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring all FBI agents, like Agent Ellen Knowlton, who have dedicated years of their lives to protecting the residents of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SUCCASUNNA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Presbyterian Church

of Succasunna in the Township of Roxbury, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On April 29, 2006, the good citizens of Succasunna will celebrate the First Presbyterian Church's 250th anniversary.

The congregation first organized in 1756. In 1760, their first building was erected and measured approximately 36 by 40 feet in size, had plain seats, an unfinished floor and no ceiling. In fact, it wasn't until 1768 that the congregation was strong enough to extend a call for a full-time pastor, Reverend William Woodhull, whom they shared with a congregation in Chester, New Jersey for a salary of £400. The church building was used during the Revolutionary War for barracks, for a hospital, and to keep material dry. It is rumored that George Washington visited hospitalized troops there. When the new Centennial Bell for Independence Hall in Philadelphia was being cast, the church contributed one of the cannons being stored there for bell metal.

On May 3, 1817, the church incorporated a Board of Trustees as "The Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunny Plains."

In 1853, the congregation tore down the original building and raised a new one in the fall of the same year. Amongst other relics, they placed a brief history of the church, a list of the officers and members at that time, certain newspapers, and a bullet found in removing the old building bearing the date in etching July 4, 1776 within the cornerstone of the new church. The first service in this new building was the funeral for Mahlon Dickerson, a distinguished native son, who had been judge, general, Governor of New Jersey, Member of Congress, and Secretary of the Navy in the cabinet of President Jackson. He was responsible for bringing President Martin Van Buren to worship there.

The building, now known as the Chapel, was erected in the memory of Eliza Platt Stoddard, a step-daughter to then Reverend Dr. Elijah W. Stoddard. In 1957, a committee planned fundraising for a new pipe organ and a major expansion project for what is now known as Fellowship Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna on the celebration of its 250 years serving Morris County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence for December 19, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 665, H.R. 2520, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act—"yea."

Rollcall 666, waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2863, Department of Defense Appropriations for FY06—"yea."

Rollcall 667, H. Con. Res. 284, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections in Israel—"yea."

Rollcall 668, motion to recommit Conference Report to H.R. 2863, Defense Appropriations for FY06—"nay."

Rollcall 669, H.R. 2863, on agreeing to the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report for FY06—"yea."

Rollcall 670, S. 1932, on agreeing to the Conference Report to the Budget Reconciliation bill for FY06—"yea."

Rollcall 671, H. Con. Res. 275, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the education curriculum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—"yea."

**PETER R. STROHM JOINS
MANTOLOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 2, Peter R. Strohm was sworn in as a new member of the Mantoloking Borough Council. Joining him in taking the oath of office for a three-year term was incumbent John H. Jones.

As the only Democrat on the seven member council, Mr. Strohm will be bringing a bipartisan spirit, years of legal experience and a desire to work long hours on behalf of the approximately 500 residents of Mantoloking, NJ, a beautiful, historic seashore community.

He is a principal in the law firm of Rothstein, Mandell, Strohm, Must & Gertner in Lakewood, NJ, in which he has practiced for 35 years. He serves and chairs a number of committees of the Ocean County Bar Association and of the New Jersey Supreme Court, including probate, chancery, and judicial appointments. In 2000, he received the Professionalism Award from the New Jersey State Bar Association.

He served in the past as an adjunct professor of law at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ, and from 1968 to 1996, in the U.S. Army Reserve, from which he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Strohm received degrees from Washington & Lee, Columbia University School of Law, New York University School of Law, and the United States Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

I congratulate Mr. Strohm and Mr. Jones as they begin their terms in office. Although Mantoloking is a small community, it is busy tackling large problems, such as beach erosion, bridge construction and protection of the fragile seashore environment. I look forward to working with them and their county, state and federal representatives on these critical issues.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES
AND PATRICIA WILLIAMS FOR
THEIR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS TO
PRESERVE RED ROCK CANYON**

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles and Patricia Williams, retirees from the Las Vegas community, who have given countless hours of service in helping preserve the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Chuck and Pat moved to Las Vegas in 1995 and started their love affair with the canyon. They enjoyed hiking there every weekend and, after Chuck's retirement in 1999, they decided it was time to repay Red Rock Canyon for the enjoyment that they had received. They began regularly volunteering their time and have since contributed over 13,000 hours of service dedicated to area preservation, improvement, and restoration.

Both Chuck and Pat are active in the volunteer organization Friends of Red Rock Canyon, a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the canyon. They perform a wide range of tasks including removing graffiti and trash, maintaining the authorized trail system, and rebuilding and repairing miles of trails. Chuck was president of the group from 2000 to 2002 and continues to participate in cultural site documentation and monitoring, trail rehabilitation and work event coordination; Pat has been the membership coordinator since 2000 and was elected president in 2004.

In 2002, Chuck and Pat were recipients of the Bureau of Land Management's National Volunteer Award, "Making a Difference on Public Lands," and later in 2004 they received "The Presidents Call to Service Award," for their volunteer contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor this couple and their contributions to the protection of the environment of the state of Nevada.

**IN MEMORIAL OF GEORGE
WORTHINGTON WILLIAMS**

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my dear friend, George Worthington "Jo Jo" Williams of Dunn, NC, who died December 8, 2005. In his passing, North Carolinians and veterans everywhere have lost a tireless voice and an outstanding civic leader.

Jo Jo Williams led a rich and full life, highlighted by his boundless energy and patriotism. Mr. Williams was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific theater of operations. Following the war, Jo Jo's dedication to those who serve our country led him to become a passionate advocate for America's veterans. As a U.S. Army veteran myself, I truly appreciate his life-long work on behalf of veterans. He maintained membership in numerous organizations including the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, AM Vets, the World War II Commission, and 20th Air Force Association. Jo Jo was also a life board member of Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children and was chosen by the American Legion of North Carolina to attend the dedication of the World War II Memorial here in Washington, DC.

However, Mr. Williams's service and contributions were not limited to the arena of veterans. Jo Jo also found time to be active in countless other community endeavors. He served as a chairman and member of the Harnett County Nursing Home Commission, as a member and former chair of the State Employees Credit Union, and as a trustee for

the Harnett County Library Commission. Following his retirement from the N.C. State Surplus Division in Raleigh, he served as Harnett County magistrate. He also served on the Dunn Planning Board and as a member of the Harnett County Jury Commission. Additionally, Mr. Williams was an active member of First Baptist Church where he acted as clerk for 25 years and a popular Sunday school teacher and church deacon.

Though the death of a friend brings great sadness, it is a privilege for me to take a moment to honor a man who spent so much of his life honoring others. Let Jo Jo Williams's life serve as a testament to caring, sacrifice and service.

**TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MYRICK,
TEXAS STATE TROOPER**

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, last month, Texas lost a law-enforcement officer in the line of duty. Trooper Matthew DeWayne Myrick lived in Hereford, TX, and served as a State trooper for 2 years. He died in an automobile accident while responding to another accident south of Hereford.

While I didn't have the honor to know Trooper Myrick personally, I did have the opportunity to pay my respects at his memorial service. There I learned about a remarkable man who loved God, his family and his country.

Trooper Myrick served his country as a member of the U.S. Navy. He then earned both his undergraduate degree and a masters degree in Agronomy from Texas Tech University. He was a devoted husband of Christy and loving father of four children, Matilyn, Tate, Luke and Embry. A family man, he was well known for his strong faith in God. His love for God was the center of his life and affected every part of his life.

Trooper Myrick leaves behind a great legacy of faith, love for his family and public service. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him and by those West Texans he served through his work with the Texas State Patrol. His family and community can be proud of his life of love and service. He is an example to us all of a life well-lived.

**THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND
HEALTH ACT OF 2006**

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, in the month of January, two major mining accidents took place in West Virginia, killing 12 miners at the Sago mine in Upshur County and 2 at the Alma mine in Logan County. Today the West Virginia congressional delegation on a bipartisan basis, introduced the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006. This mine safety legislation will require the Mine Safety and Health Administration to issue regulations to provide for immediate notification of mine accidents, new regulations for mine safety teams

to ensure a quick response, and improved technology to keep miners safe.

Specifically, the bill requires that mine rescue teams employed by the mine operator and familiar with an individual mine be available to respond immediately. Regulations require that three mine safety teams be present—two in a mine and one standing by outside—prior to a rescue operation beginning. It is important that the necessary rescue teams be in place as soon as possible so that the rescue can begin as soon as mine conditions allow.

This legislation creates an MSHA Office of Science and Technology, and requires MSHA to examine new mine safety and rescue technologies, including refuge chambers. The world watched as tragedy was averted in Canada this past weekend because 72 trapped miners were able to escape to a designated safe haven with a supply of oxygen and communications technology.

The Federal Mine Safety Act would require that emergency supplies of oxygen and breathing equipment be placed in strategic locations in the mine. Each of these locations would also include communications equipment so that miners can provide information about their location and condition to rescuers, and miners can receive information from the outside. The legislation also calls for miners to be provided with emergency tracking devices.

Other provisions of the legislation, including a miner ombudsman in the Department of Labor to take reports of safety violations from miners, will also help to make our mines safer.

It is important that this House act on legislation to improve the safety of our coal mines. I spent time with the friends and families of the Sago mine victims, both as we awaited news on the rescue effort and after we knew the tragic result. I do not want to watch more families endure what the families of the Sago victims went through.

I urge my colleagues, whether your State is a major producer of coal or not, and regardless of your party affiliation, to join the West Virginia delegation in helping to prevent future mining tragedies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDNA HARRIS FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LAS VEGAS MUNICIPAL COURT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edna Harris who died Sunday, January 29, 2006 after battling cancer.

Edna recently retired from the City of Las Vegas in January 2005, after serving 25 years in the Alternative Sentencing & Education Division of Las Vegas Municipal Court, as the Supervisor of Misdemeanor Programs. In the workplace, she was known for her fight to reduce the incidence of domestic violence. She was appointed to serve on the State of Nevada Committee on Domestic Violence, on which she served since its inception. She also chaired the Municipal Court's annual Domestic Violence Conference.

Edna was well known for her smile and humor. She always had a song to give you or a word of inspiration. Near and dear to her

heart was her love for family and the church where she was first lady and also active as an evangelist. Edna will be missed but never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Edna Harris was a shining example of diligent public service. Her legacy will long be remembered by the State of Nevada. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize her on the floor of the House in front of my colleagues.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WISCONSIN AND MARIA MONREAL-CAMERON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (HCCW), and its President and CEO Maria Monreal-Cameron.

For over 30 years, HCCW has been helping hard-working Hispanics throughout Wisconsin, share in a fundamental slice of the American dream—running a business. A nonprofit organization founded in 1972, HCCW serves as an incubator for Latino-run businesses across the state—focusing primarily, however, on the Milwaukee metropolitan area. The organization helps create greater opportunities for Hispanic entrepreneurs by offering some of the educational and technical resources necessary to start a business, while promoting greater involvement in the Hispanic community.

At the helm of this fantastic organization has been Maria Monreal-Cameron. For the past 16 years, Maria has served as President and CEO of HCCW, helping the Hispanic Chamber's membership swell to over 600 members. On top of that, under her leadership the organization has provided nearly \$350,000 in scholarships to college-bound high school students in Wisconsin. Maria has left an indelible mark on HCCW, and Wisconsin's Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, few have done more for Wisconsin's Hispanic citizens than the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin and Maria Monreal-Cameron, and that is why I consider it such a wonderful privilege to honor them today. I commend them for their work, and wish them continued success in 2006.

A TRIBUTE TO SCONYERS BARBECUE RESTAURANT OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA FOR 50 YEARS OF SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to mark a milestone in Southern politics and culture by recognizing the 50th Anniversary of a culinary and political tradition in my district—Sconyers Barbecue Restaurant of Augusta, Georgia.

Those outside my region might not be aware of how much a role a successful "bar-

becue" plays in Southern hospitality and politics.

The first thing one needs to understand is that in the South, the word itself can be noun, a verb, or an adjective. It is more than food, it is a cultural identification, and one that crosses all party lines.

I don't think there is any better example of this than Larry Sconyers and Sconyers Barbecue Restaurant in Augusta, Georgia.

Sconyers Bar-B-Que was founded 50 years ago in 1956, when Claude and Adeline Sconyers could no longer make a living at farming and decided to give their hobby a try.

With all their children but one grown and no one to help them on the farm, they opened Sconyers Bar-B-Que on Peach Orchard Road, just about a mile from the Tobacco Road of Erskine Caldwell fame. The small restaurant was an instant hit, with classically prepared southern barbecue.

Larry Sconyers, Claude and Adeline's youngest son, took over the business after the death of his father. Under Larry's direction, the hobby grew into a major business in the Augusta area, with a move to a larger and more upscale location.

But Larry wanted to take the traditional southern barbecue to a higher level—catering.

Over the years Sconyers' Bar-B-Que has been served on the White House lawn for President Jimmy Carter and members of Congress, in Atlanta at the Georgia Capital as well as at many local and state events, including my own fundraising barbecues.

Larry's close ties with political events almost cost us this wonderful asset.

He was enticed to run for office himself, first serving as a Richmond County Commissioner from 1991–95, then as the first Mayor of a consolidated Augusta-Richmond County—Georgia's second largest city—until he retired from direct politics in 1998 to return to the barbecue business.

All this isn't just me talking. Sconyer's Barbecue has been featured in People's Magazine as one of the top ten Bar-B-Que restaurants in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 9th District of Georgia, I commend Larry Sconyers, the Sconyers family, and the entire staff, past and present, of Sconyers Barbecue for a half-century of service and traditional southern hospitality to the people of East Central Georgia, the South, and the nation.

TEXAS LONGHORNS—NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I was personally on hand January 4, 2006 to see one of the greatest college football games ever played; Texas vs USC in the granddaddy of them all, the Rose Bowl. Today I rise to congratulate the victors, College Football's National Champion, the University of Texas Longhorns.

In front of over 100,000 fans, an impressive portion of which were wearing burnt orange, the Longhorns triumphed with a stunning come from behind win that will be talked about for years to come. The State of Texas is immensely proud of the Longhorn's Head Coach

Mack Brown, his entire staff, and the fine players that represent them.

Those fine young men and the thousands of screaming Texas faithful taught the entire country the lesson that Sam Houston taught Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. You don't ever want to share the same field as a bunch of fired up Texans.

That's just the way it is.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
'NOLAN' CARWELL AFTER 25
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Nolan" Carwell, Postal Inspector, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Nolan is retiring from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service after twenty five years of dedicated service.

Nolan Carwell began his career as a Postal Inspector in May of 1980 when he accepted an assignment with the Seattle Division. In April 1983, he transferred to the Oakland/San Francisco Division 976 as a reserve officer and in November of that same year, he transferred to the Los Angeles Division where he was assigned to the External Crimes and Violent Crimes Division. He remained in Los Angeles until 2000 when he accepted a transfer back to the field as a Multi-Functional Team Leader with the Las Vegas Domicile Division.

Nolan has received the Vice President's Award for the Department of Justice Task Force, investigating conspiracy allegations into the Dr. Martin Luther King assassination; the Meritorious Service Award for the investigation of the Los Angeles riots; the Los Angeles Federal Bar Association Distinguished Achievement Award; and the Chief Inspector Performance Award, serving as an Instructor with FLETC, teaching classes in crime scene investigation, crime scene preservation, drug abuse, fingerprints, death investigation, rape investigation and burglary, photography, undercover technical investigations equipment, and labs and practical exercise programs to over 15,000 students representing over 70 federal law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, Nolan Carwell has worked diligently with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for twenty five years I ask my fellow colleagues to stand with me today to honor him, to thank him for his service, and to wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO THE
NATION DURING THE 32ND AN-
NUAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the 32nd annual Catholic Schools Week, I want to recognize the contributions of Catholic schools to this Nation. Mr. Speaker, children all across America have benefited from Catholic education. I applaud these schools for their

long commitment to education, to a value system and character development, and to developing the kind of lifestyles that students as well as adults need to seek. There are almost 8,000 Catholic schools nationwide. Illinois is one of the ten States with the highest enrollments of Catholic students, with over 181,000 students in 538 schools in the State. In Chicago, as in other urban areas, Catholic schools play an important role in providing quality academic training to children and youth. Indeed, the Archdiocese of Chicago was the second largest Catholic school system in the country. There are many outstanding Catholic schools in my Congressional district. Among them is Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Resurrection Elementary School in Chicago, and, of course, St. Ignatius Preparatory, which is recognized as one of the top preparatory schools in the Nation.

Catholic schools emphasize discipline, values, and parental involvement—three elements that are critical to raising responsible citizens. Self-discipline, or the ability to restrain our impulses and to apply ourselves in the face of competing interests, is a quality that is important for young people and old. It allows us to use prudence and wisdom in making choices rather than to act out of impulse. Value-added education instills in youth a commitment to others and one's community. In an age where many individuals place primacy on their personal needs, such a focus prepares students to contribute to society by considering the needs of others. The close involvement of parents, a hallmark of Catholic education, makes clear that education is not something that occurs only within the school house, but is a life-long process.

One of the truly great aspects of the American education system is its diversity. The goal of our system should be both public and private, and it is to provide anyone and everyone in any city, any State, with the opportunity they need to succeed. The educational recipe for success in our country certainly includes Catholic schools. These schools contribute to the rich diversity that truly makes American education powerful. Catholic schools help make American education successful in its mission and provide a strong and positive force in America's educational system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CONTAINER STORE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Container Store, whose headquarters are based in Coppell, Texas, for being ranked number 6 on Fortune Magazine's 2006 list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For."

The Container Store is one of only two companies from the State of Texas to make the Top 10 overall. It was awarded a number 3 ranking in the "Best Medium-Sized Companies (2,500–10,000 employees) to Work For" category.

The companies are chosen based upon Fortune's evaluation of the policies and culture of the company, and the opinion of its employees. The latter is given more weight; it is

found from employee responses to a survey that evaluates factors such as attitudes towards management and job satisfaction.

The Container Store continues in the excellent tradition of employee satisfaction. The company has been at the top of the "Best Companies to Work For" list for 7 years in a row. Last year it was ranked number 15 on the top 100 list. The company prides itself on the philosophy that "employees are our greatest asset."

And so, I commend the Container Store for maintaining its dedication to a friendly and productive workplace environment. Its successful and creative practices have not only led to satisfied employees, but a business that continues to thrive and expand on a national level as well.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, February is a month of remembrance. February is a significant month for the United States of America because it marks an important part of our heritage, Black History Month. It is important for all Americans to recognize the great contributions of African-Americans.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard scholar, deserves most of the credit for establishing Black History Month. He was determined to bring Black history into the mainstream public arena and he succeeded. In 1926, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln—two men who had greatly impacted the Black population.

Over time, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month. This 4-week-long celebration of African-American history is packed with important anniversaries and remembrances of African-American struggles and triumphs. February 14, 1817 is the presumed birthday of Frederick Douglass, February 21, 1965 marks the date of Malcolm X's assassination and Nelson Mandela's release from prison was on February 11, 1990.

Americans must remember that within the 4 short weeks of February, American history was radically changed. Many African-Americans risked their lives to stand up for their freedoms and as a result our culture has changed for the better.

The first day of February is significant for two separate reasons: On this day in 1865 Abraham Lincoln approved the 13th amendment to abolish slavery, and 1960 was the date of the Woolworth lunch counter sit-in. African-Americans prevailed again throughout February with the ratification of the 15th amendment guaranteeing that race would not prevent a man from voting, February 3, 1870; the day of the Montgomery bus boycott arrests, February 22, 1956; and opera star Marian Anderson's birthday on February 27, 1897.

Black History Month pays tribute to inspirational African-Americans from the past, as well as those who will continue to make history well into the future. It is important to inspire today's children by teaching them that there

were people in the past such as Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, and Dr. Vivien Thomas who laid the paths for all Americans. The hard work, sacrifices and hardships of these role models permitted the accomplishments of a new generation: Tiger Woods, Senator BARACK OBAMA, and Dr. Benjamin Carson.

Mr. Speaker, with all of the significant contributions African-Americans have accomplished throughout history, it is important that we recognize those achievements. Let's make sure that all Americans celebrate and understand the principles, achievements and ideals of African-Americans; after all, African American history is American history.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE MURPHY, PILOT AND CO-FOUNDER OF NORTH LAS VEGAS AIRPORT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Florence Murphy who died Monday January 22, at the age of 94. I recognize Florence for her accomplishments in aviation and business, and for paving the way for other women as one of Nevada's first female pilots and the first woman to be vice president of an airline company.

Florence Murphy attended the University of Nevada, Reno, for 2 years before meeting her husband, John Murphy. He worked for the State Highway Department and she was a legal secretary when they first got the chance to fly in 1936. Two years later they each had their pilot's licenses. Murphy earned her flight instructor's license in 1941, and 3 years later she became the first woman in Nevada to earn a commercial pilot's license.

She was not always welcomed in the male-dominated field of commercial aviation, especially when she took the controls of an airliner. At times, she had to board the plane before the passengers so they could not see that a woman was flying the plane.

In 1941, Florence Murphy, her husband and their friend Bob Barrett built Sky Haven Airport, which is now North Las Vegas Airport. The airport opened on December 7, 1941. The festivities came to an abrupt end when an unscheduled military plane landed and shut down the airport with the announcement that Pearl Harbor had just been bombed. Florence's husband and Barrett then went to Arizona as civilian flight instructors. Florence stayed behind to keep the Sky Haven running during World War II.

After the war, Florence met Ed Converse, a Navy veteran who had started Bonanza Airlines. She joined the company and eventually became vice president, the first woman to hold such a position with an airline. She stayed with the company until 1958, when she started a real estate company with another friend, Larry McNeil. She remained active as a licensed pilot until the age of 82 and as a real estate executive until 93.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I have the opportunity to honor the memory of Florence Murphy, and her achievements, in front of my colleagues of the house.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK CUTRONA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Frank Cutrona, a resident of the Ninth District of New Jersey and the San Ciro Society's Man of the Year for 2006.

The San Ciro Society, located in Garfield, NJ, is an organization comprised of New Jerseyans of Italian-American descent that makes contributions to many worthy charitable causes each year. Locally, it provides students with scholarships to continue their education. On the international level, the society has sponsored foster children in Africa.

Frank Cutrona was born in Marineo, Italy on February 18, 1956. At the age of 13, his family moved to America to realize the American dream and settled in Garfield, NJ. Frank grew up in Garfield and worked as a truck driver for Dorwin Manufacturing, located in Elmwood Park, NJ, for 26 years. He now lives in Carlstadt with his beautiful wife, Rosa, where they run their own deli and where Frank works part-time for the Carlstadt Board of Education. The couple has two wonderful children, Joseph and Christina. Frank has been a devoted member of the San Ciro Society for 15 years and has served as its secretary of finance for 7 years.

Today, I would like to recognize Frank Cutrona's dedication to the San Ciro Society and send the Garfield, NJ's San Ciro Societa Religiosa my best wishes for their upcoming 97th annual Dinner Dance. Viva San Ciro.

HONORING BARBARA SNOPEK, PRINCIPAL OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Snopek, Principal of Saint Francis Xavier in La Grange, Illinois and recipient of the 2005 National Distinguished Principal Award.

The National Distinguished Principals Program was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. One principal is chosen from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and this year Ms. Barbara Snopek has been selected as a National Distinguished Principal.

Before arriving at St. Francis in 1989, Snopek served as principal at St. Genevieve in Chicago and St. Suzanna in Harvey, Illinois. In her first year at St. Francis she worked closely with the staff to create and implement new curricula for the school. Since Ms. Snopek began her work at St. Francis, enrollment in the school has increased greatly and the majority of the students are testing above the 75th percentile in all academic areas on standardized tests.

Aside from initiated programs that benefit students, Ms. Snopek is also credited with an

excellent ability to recognize the talents of her teachers. She helps develop staff members by providing them with varied opportunities for professional growth, including pursuing advanced degrees. Teachers and administration alike recognize Ms. Snopek as one who merges her responsibilities as a spiritual and educational leader to the benefit of her students and staff.

It is my honor to recognize Ms. Barbara Snopek who serves as an example of one of the best in PreK-8 school leadership and helps to foster a greater understanding of the principal's key role in meeting the challenging responsibility of educating children.

THE LEGACY OF FAYARD NICHOLAS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize legendary tap dancer Fayard Nicholas who died on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at the age of 91 and to enter into the RECORD a statement remembering Nicholas prepared by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nicholas was the elder half of an amazing tap dance legend—The Nicholas Brothers. Together the show-stopping duo influenced generations of dancers with their wildly creative tap routines, which included slides across the floor and signature no-hands leg splits.

Legends in their own time and ours, Fayard and Harold Nicholas are best known for their unforgettable appearances in more than 30 Hollywood musicals in the 1930s and '40s. They were talented singers and actors as well, but Jim Crow segregationist customs kept them from having speaking parts. Their artistry, choreographic genius, and unique style—a smooth mix of tap, jazz, ballet and acrobatic moves—have astonished vaudeville, theatre, film and television audiences all over the world. Their work influenced dancers from Gene Kelly to Fred Astaire to Debbie Allen, Gregory Hines to Savion Glover. Russian ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov once called the Nicholas Brothers "the most amazing dancers I have ever seen in my life—ever."

Born in Mobile, the brothers learned to dance while watching their musician parents who played in their own band at the old Standard Theater—their mother at the piano and father on drums. Fayard was 18 and Harold was just 11 when they became the featured act at New York's Cotton Club in 1932. They then appeared on Broadway with "The Ziegfeld Follies of 1936" and later Hollywood appearing in such great hits as "The Pirate" (1948) with Gene Kelly and Stormy Weather (1943) with Fred Astaire.

In 1981, the Brothers were honored with a retrospective of their work in films at the Academy Awards. Fayard received a Tony Award for his choreography in the Tony Award winning Broadway show "Black and Blue" in 1989. Two years later, the brothers received a Kennedy Center Honor. Their legacy has also been remembered with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and induction into the Apollo Theater Hall of Fame. Even after Harold passed away in 2000 due to heart failure,

Fayard kept their legend alive by giving lectures and demonstrations until 2004, when he suffered a stroke.

Not only is the Nicholas Brother's dance skill to be admired and remembered but so is their spirit. With each advancement in their career, they overcame racial discrimination, proving that even ignorance cannot dampen one's skills and drive. The Nicholas Brothers stand as a testament and an example to all by finding joy in following one's passion. I join the NAACP in remembering Fayard Nicholas.

NAACP MOURNS THE LOSS OF LEGENDARY
TAP DANCER FAYARD NICHOLAS

NICHOLAS BROTHERS DUO INSPIRED DANCERS
SUCH AS FRED ASTAIRE, GREGORY HINES AND
SAVION GLOVER

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) mourns the loss of Fayard Nicholas, the elder half of the tap-dancing duo the Nicholas Brothers, who died Tuesday in Los Angeles after suffering from pneumonia.

Bruce S. Gordon, NAACP President and CEO, said "Both of the Nicholas Brothers will be greatly missed. They took their passion for the art of dance and turned raw talent into skill. Each performance by the Nicholas Brothers demonstrated the depth of their creativity and left audiences gasping at their show-stopping presentation."

Fayard and his brother Harold overcame racial boundaries when their vaudeville tap show headlined New York's Cotton Club in 1932. From there the brothers went on to dazzle audiences on Broadway and Hollywood.

In 1934, the Nicholas Brothers were hired to be in their first major musical titled, *Kid Millions*, and appeared on Broadway in *The Zeigfield Folies* of 1936. Despite the lack of formal training, the Nicholas brothers also pioneered in the art of ballet and in 1937, they performed in *Babes in Arms*.

Throughout the 1940s, the Nicholas Brothers updated their style and performed in a series of musical films in Hollywood. Among those films was *Sun Valley Serenade* (1941) with performances with Dorothy Dandridge, whom Harold later married and divorced. In 1948, the pair performed a memorable routine with Gene Kelly in *Be a Clown*.

After a series of international tours, nightclub and television performances, the brothers' schedule remained tight. In 1970, Fayard captured the leading role in *The Liberation of L.B. Jones* and in 1989 won a Tony Award for his choreography of the Broadway revue *Black and Blue*, featuring child tap star Savion Glover.

In 1991, the Nicholas Brothers received the Kennedy Center Honors and were honored at the Academy Awards. Harold passed away in 2000 from heart failure, but Fayard continued to give lectures and demonstrations until suffering a stroke in November 2004. Fayard Nicholas was 91.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. It's adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN J. PERA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Norman J. Pera of Saugatuck, Michigan, who died on January 1, 2006, at the age of 83.

Norman J. Pera was born in Gary, Indiana, where he graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1939. He served honorably from 1942 to 1946 in the U.S. Navy, including active duty in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Upon completing military service, he attended the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, and graduated in 1948 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked for Inland Steel of East Chicago, Indiana, and retired in 1982 as the Assistant Superintendent of the Mechanical Department. Mr. Pera moved to Saugatuck in 1989 and became an active volunteer for many local organizations, giving generously of his time and his many talents.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, the great love of his life for 57 years, their 5 outstanding sons, David, Timothy, Mark, Thomas, and John; his daughters-in-law Ruth, Kathleen, Leslie and Catherine; his nephew and niece Anthony and Mary Ester Merza, and his 11 beautiful grandchildren.

Norman Pera was a principled and decent man who loved his family, his faith, his community and his country very deeply.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of my dear cousin Norman and extend to his beloved family our deepest sympathy. America has lost a magnificent citizen.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TYRONNE E.
DORAM, SR. FOR TWENTY-TWO
YEARS OF TEACHING FOR THE
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tyronne E. Doram, Sr., who retired on January 20, 2006, after twenty-two years of teaching in the Clark County School District.

Mr. Doram has been a role model, mentor, and constant example of what is good in education. In 1994, he was honored as Kiwanis Teacher of the Year, and when many people are winding down their careers, Mr. Doram was instrumental in expanding the Culinary Arts program at the Area Technical Trade Center (ATTC), in North Las Vegas. His senior students have had the opportunity to complete internships in various hotel culinary departments both on and off the Las Vegas Strip. Many of his graduates have secured positions in the industry immediately after graduation while other students have continued their education in postsecondary institutions. Mr. Doram and his students were recognized by President Clinton for their contributions to the 1995 White House Christmas celebration. Graduates from the 2004 and 2005 ATTC culinary arts program have received over \$90,000 in scholarships, due mainly to Mr. Doram's fine teaching.

Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Doram served our country for twenty years in the United States Air Force. He retired as a Master Sergeant, with his most notable tours of duty being Vietnam and Thailand. Mr. Doram was honored by President Ford for his ideals and recommendations that saved the country

money in the operations of the culinary departments, throughout the United States Armed Forces.

The Clark County School District will greatly miss Mr. Doram, who during his years as a teacher was an outstanding educator who deeply cared about the youth of Nevada. Yet his legacy of service to the community will be seen for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor that I am able to recognize Tyronne E. Doram today, on the floor of the House in front of my colleagues. I commend Mr. Doram for his fine example and exemplary service to the State of Nevada.

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA GRADUATE PRO-
GRAMS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the University of the District of Columbia Graduate Programs Act that amends Section 326 of the Higher Education Act to provide federal Historically Black College and University (HBCU) grant funding to the qualified graduate programs at the University of the District of Columbia.

The University of the District of Columbia, or UDC, is the District's only public university and institution of higher learning. An open admission institution at the undergraduate level, the University has consistently and historically provided higher education opportunity to D.C. residents at low and affordable cost. The University justifiably prides itself on its vital role in educating the leaders of the next generation by producing theoretically sound and practically skilled graduates, ready to undertake careers in service in both the public and private sectors.

UDC also is one of the Nation's oldest HBCUs, but the university did not receive federal funding as an HBCU until 1999, when Congress passed the District of Columbia College Access Act that my good friend, Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, and I sponsored to establish the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant program.

Funding from the Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGIs) program will allow UDC to increase its production of skilled graduates in vital disciplines and jobs in which African Americans, Hispanics and others are underrepresented and to strengthen its graduate programs in occupations where there are shortages in our region. For example, the University has graduate degree programs in cancer biology prevention and control, early childhood education, mathematics, special education, and speech and language pathology, and other graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, the David A. Clarke School of Law, and the School of Business and Public Administration. A graduate curriculum is being developed in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA CONWAY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to an outstanding woman, Gloria Conway, the long-time editor of the Charlestown Patriot. She recently sold this neighborhood weekly, a publication that she owned with her husband, Jim, for nearly 40 years.

Gloria's passion for her neighborhood was evident in the pages of her paper and in the various charity events she champions with her husband. As editor of The Charlestown Patriot, she would honor a mother's wish to recognize a son's first little league homerun with the same importance as any news emanating from Washington, DC. Her paper creatively balanced a nostalgic tie to Charlestown's historic past while also covering today's relevant topics, and it was always done with a local flair.

The Patriot will remain in Charlestown with Gloria Conway as Publisher Emeritus. It has a different look and new owners, but the decades of positive influence that Gloria Conway provided will endure at the Patriot and within the Charlestown community for years to come. I wish Gloria, Jim and the entire Conway family all the best in whatever the future holds. I want to thank them for their friendship and commitment as they recorded Charlestown's most recent history in their pages.

HONORING JESSICA TURNER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Turner, an exemplary citizen from my district who was recently named recipient of the Elizabethtown Independent Schools' 2005-06 Excellence in the Classroom and Educational Leadership (ExCEL) Award.

A teacher for more than six years, Ms. Turner promotes a unique style in her classroom that incorporates hard work, cooperation and respect among her kindergarten and first grade students at the Helmwood Heights Elementary School in Elizabethtown, KY. Year after year, she continues to capture the attention of her students, encouraging them to feel comfortable with themselves and with each other as she blends activities with lessons to keep them engaged and learning.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Jessica Turner oversees the professional development of kindergarten, first-grade, and second-grade teachers and is a valuable resource to new faculty. Ms. Turner is also actively involved in numerous teacher training programs including the Kentucky Reading Project and the Louisville Writing Project.

I applaud Jessica Turner's accomplishments in public education, an occupation of great responsibility and even greater reward. On behalf of so many in the Elizabethtown area, I would like to express my profound appreciation for her service and inspiration as she mo-

tivates young people to recognize and develop their talents and abilities.

It is my great privilege to recognize Jessica Turner today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for her achievements as an educator. Her unique dedication to the development and well-being of young people and the communities they will someday serve make her an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this February we commemorate Black History Month. Since 1976, the month of February has been the designated time for honoring the countless African-American contributions to American history and culture. We should all take this opportunity to learn about and understand the Black experience in this country. It has completely revolutionized our shared concepts of freedom, hope, and justice.

In celebrating the progress our country has made because of these contributions, let us also be honest and frank in determining what remains undone. We must work to ensure that all of America's communities have access to the American dream. We cannot ignore the reality that many Americans, particularly within the African-American community, still face serious obstacles in accessing the opportunities everyone deserves in education, health care, home ownership, and economic development. The devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita only serve to highlight the remaining challenges of seeking equality and equal treatment under the law.

We must commit ourselves to challenging the social, political, and economic status quo so that each of us may realize the dream of equal opportunity envisioned by the late Dr. King, and now the late Coretta Scott King. This year, Black History Month will be dedicated to the memory of Ms. King.

Our Nation mourns the recent loss of Coretta Scott King, a true American icon who championed civil and human rights for all Americans. Widow of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Ms. King first stepped into the international spotlight as the wife and faithful supporter of the famed minister, ultimately emerging as an influential civil rights advocate in her own right. She was 78 at her passing. I hope you will join me in remembering this great person and the precious values that her life embodied. She was not only a symbol of positive change but also a tireless agent of progress. May her work continue to influence future generations in the ongoing fight for justice in this Nation and throughout the world.

During the month of February, I encourage all Americans to honor African-Americans by attending local Black History Month events, or hosting a roundtable discussion about Black History Month at the local library with African-American activists from your community. The best way to honor the African American experience is to educate oneself and one's community. Use this month to expose yourselves to the ways in which the African American experience has already been made a part of your life.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CIVIL LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS CONTAINED IN PATRIOT ACT CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the following House Judiciary Committee press releases that highlight important civil liberty safeguards that are contained in the PATRIOT Act conference report.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #1—Requiring High-Level Approval and Additional Reporting to Congress for Section 215 Requests for Sensitive Information Such as Library or Medical Records:

Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act authorizes the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designee of the Director to apply to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court for an order requiring the production of any tangible things (including books, records, papers, documents, and other items) for a foreign terrorism or spy investigation. This authority provides counterterrorism and law enforcement officials a helpful tool to uncover what activities suspected terrorists or spies are engaged in. The Department of Justice testified in April 2005 to the House Judiciary Committee that a Section 215 order had not been used to request sensitive information such as library, bookstore, medical, or gun records and no evidence has been presented to demonstrate otherwise. Nonetheless, some have raised concerns that this authority could be abused by mid-level officials to seek sensitive categories of records about law-abiding Americans.

To address these concerns, the conference report provides that when the documents sought relate to certain sensitive categories of records (such as library, bookstore, tax return, firearms sales, educational, and medical records), only the FBI Director, Deputy Director, or Official-in-Charge of Intelligence may approve the application before it can be submitted to the FISA court. Without the personal approval of one of these 3 officials, the 215 order for these sensitive categories of records may not be issued. Additionally, the conference report establishes enhanced reporting requirements to Congress regarding the use of Section 215, including a breakdown of its use to obtain library, medical, educational, and other sensitive types of records in order to further protect this authority from possibly being abused. These civil liberty safeguards contained in the conference report do not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #2—Statement of Facts Showing Relevance to a Terrorism or Foreign Spy Investigation Required for Section 215 Requests:

Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act authorizes the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designee of the Director to apply to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court for an order requiring the production of any tangible things (including books, records, papers, documents, and other items) for a foreign terrorism or spy investigation. This authority provides counter-terrorism and law enforcement officials a helpful and less invasive tool to both uncover what activities suspected terrorists or spies are engaged in and clear innocent people suspected of terrorism or spying. Without Section 215 authority, counter-terrorism and law enforcement officials seeking to discover whether a person is involved in

terrorism or spying activity would be forced to use more invasive investigative techniques such as obtaining a search warrant. Current law only requires that an application for a Section 215 order state that the requested records are sought for an authorized investigation to collect foreign terrorism or spy information.

The conference report requires that a Section 215 application must include a statement of facts demonstrating that the records sought are "relevant" to an authorized investigation to obtain terrorism or foreign intelligence information. This statement of facts civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law. In addition, the conference report maintains the specific prohibition that the requested information not concern a U.S. person unless it is to protect against international terrorism or spying activities.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #3—Explicitly Allowing a FISA Court Judge to Deny or Modify a Section 215 Request:

Under current law, upon receiving the Section 215 application, the FISA Court judge must approve or modify the order; the current law does not include specific authority for the court to deny an application. The PATRIOT Act conference report explicitly provides a FISA Court judge the discretion to not only approve or modify a Section 215 application, but also to deny an application. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #4—Requiring Minimization Procedures to Limit Retention and Dissemination of Information Obtained About U.S. Persons From Section 215 Requests:

In order to address concerns that information sought in a Section 215 order might be unnecessarily retained or disseminated, the PATRIOT Act conference report requires that the Attorney General create minimization procedures for the retention and dissemination of this data and that the FBI use these procedures. Specifically, the A.G. must establish minimization procedures to minimize the retention, and dissemination, of nonpublicly available information concerning non-consenting United States persons consistent with the need of the United States to obtain, produce, and disseminate foreign intelligence information. This civil liberty provision provides another safeguard to ensure information about innocent U.S. persons is not kept or used in nefarious or inappropriate ways. This civil liberty safeguard is not contained in current law and was requested by Senator Leahy.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #5—Explicitly Providing for a Judicial Challenge to a Section 215 Order:

Current law requires judicial review before a Section 215 order can be issued. Specifically, the FISA Court is required to review all applications before a Section 215 order is approved. However, current law does not provide a judicial review process after a 215 order has been issued. The pending PATRIOT Act conference report explicitly establishes a judicial review process after the 215 order has been issued to allow the recipient of a 215 order to challenge the order before the FISA Court. The FISA Court may quash a Section 215 request if it does not meet the requirements of the statute or is otherwise unlawful. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #6—Explicitly Clarifying that a Recipient of a Section 215 Order May Disclose Receipt to an Attorney or Others Necessary to Comply with or Challenge the Order:

Current law prohibits the recipient of a 215 order from disclosing the receipt of such an order except to those necessary to comply with the order. This is done for 2 main reasons: 1) fear of tipping off terrorists or spies that they are being investigated; and 2) irreparably harming the reputations of innocent people by publicly disclosing their activities were investigated because of terrorism or spying links. Current law is silent as to whether a 215 order recipient may disclose the receipt of such an order to an attorney to comply with the order. The pending PATRIOT Act conference report clarifies this issue by stating explicitly that the recipient of a 215 order may disclose receipt to an attorney or others necessary to comply with or challenge the order. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #7—Requiring Public Reporting of the Number of Section 215 Orders:

On April 6, 2005, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales testified before the House Judiciary Committee that as of March 30, 2005, the FISA Court had approved the Justice Department's request for a Section 215 order 35 times. However, under current law, the number of Section 215 orders is not required to be made public. At the request of Senator Leahy and other Senate Democratic conferees, the PATRIOT Act conference report requires the Justice Department to report to the public annually the aggregate number of Section 215 applications submitted, approved, modified, and denied. Despite the concerns of some that this public reporting requirement unnecessarily informs America's enemies of the sources and methods being used to thwart terrorism and spying, the conference reports includes this civil liberty safeguard to assuage any concerns that the Section 215 authority is being abused. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #8—Requiring the Justice Department's Independent Inspector General to Conduct an Audit of Each Justice Department Use of Section 215 Orders:

The PATRIOT Act conference report provides additional public information and congressional oversight by requiring the Justice Department's independent Inspector General to conduct an audit for each Justice Department use of Section 215 orders. These audits will be compiled into two Inspector General public reports with classified annexes. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #9—Explicitly Providing for a Judicial Challenge to a National Security Letter (NSL):

Current law does not specify that an NSL can be challenged in court and provides no process for challenging an NSL. The conference report provides explicit authority to challenge in court an NSL under all existing statutes authorizing NSLs. Specifically, the conference report provides that the recipient of an NSL may petition for an order modifying or setting aside the NSL request in the U.S. district court for the district where the recipient does business or resides. This civil liberty safeguard is stronger than the Senate-passed bill, which only addressed one of the NSL statutes, does not exist under current law, and was written by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

Originally created by a Democrat-led Congress and signed into law by President Carter, NSLs are a long-standing tool by which the FBI and other appropriate federal law enforcement officials request, for sen-

sitive foreign spying or international terrorism investigations, subscriber information and toll billing records of a wire or electronic communication service provider, such as a phone company or AOL.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #10—Explicitly Clarifying: that a Recipient of a National Security Letter (NSL) May Disclose Receipt to an Attorney or Others Necessary to Comply with or Challenge the Order:

As NSLs may only be used in highly sensitive international terrorism or foreign espionage investigations with national security implications, current law prohibits the recipient of an NSL from disclosing the receipt of such an order. Current law is silent as to whether an NSL recipient may disclose the receipt of such an order to an attorney to comply with or challenge the order. The pending PATRIOT Act conference report clarifies this issue by stating explicitly that the recipient of an NSL may disclose receipt to an attorney or others necessary to comply with or challenge the order. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law and was written by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #11—Providing that a Nondisclosure Order Does Not Automatically Attach to a National Security Letter (NSL):

Current law automatically prohibits the recipient of an NSL from disclosing receipt of it. The conference report amends the law so that a nondisclosure order does not automatically attach to an NSL. Instead, a nondisclosure requirement will attach to an NSL only upon a certification by the government that disclosure could cause one of the harms specified in the conference report, such as endangering a witness or threatening national security. This civil liberty safeguard does not exist in current law and was written by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #12—Providing Explicit Judicial Review of a Nondisclosure Requirement to a National Security Letter (NSL):

Current law does not allow the recipient of an NSL to challenge a nondisclosure order attached to the NSL. The conference report changes this by explicitly providing for judicial review of a nondisclosure requirement to an NSL. The NSL recipient may challenge the nondisclosure requirement in the U.S. district court for the district in which the recipient does business or resides. This civil liberty safeguard does not exist in current law and was written by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #13—Requiring Public Reporting of the Number of National Security Letters (NSLs):

At the request of Senator Leahy and other Senate Democratic conferees, the PATRIOT Act conference report includes—for the first time—public reporting on the aggregate number of NSLs requested for information about U.S. persons. Despite the concerns of some that this public reporting requirement unnecessarily informs America's enemies of the sources and methods being used to thwart terrorism and spying, the conference reports includes this civil liberty safeguard to assuage any concerns that the NSL authority is being abused. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #14—Requiring the Justice Department's Independent Inspector General to Conduct Two Audits of the Use of National Security Letters (NSLs):

The PATRIOT Act conference report provides additional public information and congressional oversight by requiring the Justice Department's independent Inspector General to conduct two audits on the use of NSLs

during the years 2003–2006. These audits will be compiled into two Inspector General public reports with classified annexes. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #15—Requiring Additional Reporting to Congress by the Justice Department on Use of National Security Letters (NSLs):

The PATRIOT Act conference report enhances congressional oversight over the use of NSLs by requiring additional classified reporting to Congress on the use of NSL authorities. Specifically, the conference report requires the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to receive all classified reports regarding use of NSLs; currently these committees only receive classified reports under one of the five statutes authorizing NSLs.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #16—Requiring the Justice Department to Re-Certify that Nondisclosure of a National Security Letter (NSL) is Necessary:

The PATRIOT Act conference report explicitly allows an NSL recipient to challenge a nondisclosure requirement in U.S. district court. If an NSL recipient challenges the prohibition on disclosure more than a year after the NSL is issued, the Justice Department must re-certify that nondisclosure is necessary, or else the nondisclosure requirement lapses. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #17—Narrowing the Deference Given to the Justice Department on a National Security Letter (NSL) Nondisclosure Certification:

The PATRIOT Act conference report provides greater judicial discretion by narrowing the deference given to certifications by the Justice Department on NSL nondisclosure requirements. Like the Senate-passed version, the conference report provides an additional level of deference if an NSL nondisclosure certification is made on the grounds that disclosure may endanger national security or diplomatic relations. At the request of Senator Leahy, this heightened degree of deference is only provided to certifications made by a few Senate-confirmed officials at the time the nondisclosure petition is filed. This civil liberty safeguard contained in the conference report does not exist under current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #18—Requiring a Report to Congress on Any Use of Data-Mining: Programs by the Justice Department:

Data-mining programs take vast amounts of information and try to utilize it for specific purposes such as identifying a group with similar features. These programs can be helpful in “connecting the dots” and are becoming more useful as a tool to bolster homeland security. Congress wants to ensure that agencies using data-mining programs take all necessary steps to protect privacy and the unauthorized dissemination of information.

The PATRIOT Act conference report enhances congressional oversight of data-mining programs by requiring the Justice Department to report to Congress on the use or development of any of these programs by the Justice Department. This report will help inform Members of Congress of the civil liberty protections that are built into—or should be built into—these Justice Department data-mining programs. This new civil liberty safeguard contained in the PATRIOT Act conference report does not exist in current law and was written by Reps. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) and William Delahunt (D-Mass.).

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #19—Requiring Notice Be Given on

Delayed-Notice Search Warrants Within 30 Days of the Search:

Prior to the enactment of the PATRIOT Act in 2001, the U.S. Courts had authorized delayed notice search warrants under limited circumstances. For these special situations, the PATRIOT Act adopted the Courts’ practice of requiring law enforcement to provide notice within a reasonable amount of time after the search has been carried out. Some were concerned that using a “reasonable amount of time” standard could allow abuse. Thus, the PATRIOT Act reauthorization conference report narrows and clarifies this standard by providing a Court the discretion to delay notice for up to 30 days after the search is executed. This new conference report civil liberty safeguard is not found in current law.

Notice has been delayed in only rare cases. As of January 31, 2005, the Justice Department has requested delayed-notice search warrants approximately 155 times since passage of the PATRIOT Act on October 26, 2001 out of the tens of thousands of search warrants authorized each year. These warrants make up fewer than 1 in 500 search warrants obtained in that period. Delayed-notice search warrants have been a valuable tool used by law enforcement for decades. Like all criminal search warrants, a delayed-notice search warrant is issued by a federal judge only upon a showing that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been or will be committed and that the property sought or seized constitutes evidence of this criminal offense. Notice is delayed only to protect an on-going investigation and the safety of the American public. Not delaying notice could allow a terrorist or criminal to flee the country, destroy evidence about his activity, alert associates to go into hiding, or even kill witnesses who could implicate the individual.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #20—Limiting Delayed-Notice Search Warrants Extensions to 90 Days or Less:

Like the versions passed by the House and the Senate, the PATRIOT Act conference report narrows and clarifies the permissible extension period by providing a Court the discretion to extend the delay of notice for up to 90 days except under exceptional circumstances. This new conference report civil liberty safeguard is not found in current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #21—Requiring an Updated Showing of Necessity in Order to Extend the Delay of Notice of a Search Warrant:

To ensure that a Court considering extending a delay of notice has the best and most up-to-date information, the PATRIOT Act conference report requires an updated showing of necessity by the applicant in order to extend the delay of notice of a search warrant. This new conference report civil liberty safeguard is not found in current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #22—Requiring Annual Public Reporting on the Use of Delayed-Notice Search Warrants:

To assuage concerns that delayed-notice search warrants could be abused, the PATRIOT Act conference report requires public reporting on the use of these search warrants. Specifically, the annual public report will include the “number of applications for warrants and extensions of warrants authorizing delayed notice, and the number of such warrants and extensions granted or denied during the preceding fiscal year.” This new conference report civil liberty safeguard is not found in current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #23—Requiring Additional Specificity from an Applicant Before Roving Surveillance May be Authorized:

In an age of disposable cell phones, “roving” wiretaps are a reasonable and common-

sense updating of investigative techniques to account for technological advances. A “roving” wiretap follows the target rather than just a single phone or communications device. The PATRIOT Act conference report addresses concerns about vagueness in applications for “roving” wiretaps in foreign spying and terrorism investigations by requiring additional specificity in these applications in order for a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court judge to consider authorizing a “roving” wiretap. This civil liberty safeguard is not included in current law.

Congress has authorized criminal wiretaps for decades as an effective crime-fighting tool. Because of technological advances, including the use of cell phones, in 1986 Congress authorized “roving” wiretaps in criminal cases that allowed for the surveillance to target a person rather than a specific phone or communications device. However, prior to the PATRIOT Act, this authority did not exist for international spying or terrorism cases; thus, for these cases the government had to return to the FISA Court and apply for a new wiretap every time the suspected spy or terrorist used a different phone or communications device. This costly, cumbersome, and time-consuming requirement served as a major impediment in foreign spying and terrorism investigations. The PATRIOT Act extended the “roving” wiretap authority to international spying and terrorism cases by allowing a FISA Court judge to authorize a “roving” wiretap provided the applicant demonstrates there is probable cause to believe the target is a foreign spy or terrorist.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #24—Requiring Court Notification Within 10 Days of Conducting Surveillance on a New Facility Using a “Roving” Wiretap:

The PATRIOT Act conference report addresses concerns the “roving” wiretap authority could be abused by requiring the investigators to inform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court within 10 days when the “roving” surveillance authority is used to target a new facility.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #25—Requiring Ongoing FISA Court Notification of the Total Number of Places or Facilities Under Surveillance Using a “Roving” Wiretap:

The PATRIOT Act conference report enhances judicial oversight to address any concerns that the “roving” wiretap authority could be abused. Specifically, the conference report requires the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court to be informed on an ongoing basis of the total number of places or facilities under surveillance using a “roving” wiretap authority.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #26—Requiring Additional Specificity in a FISA Court Judge’s Order Authorizing a “Roving” Wiretap:

The PATRIOT Act conference report addresses concerns about vagueness about the target in a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court judge’s order authorizing a “roving” wiretap in foreign spying and terrorism investigations by requiring additional specificity. The conference report requires the FISA Court judge’s order authorizing a “roving” wiretap to specify “the identity, if known, of the specific target” of the surveillance. Current law requires “the identity, if known, or a description of the target.” This new civil liberty safeguard is not included in current law.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #27—Providing a Four-Year Sunset on FISA “Roving” Wiretaps:

Despite no evidence that the FISA “roving” wiretap authority has been abused, the PATRIOT Act conference report aggressively

attempts to avoid any potential abuse of FISA "roving" wiretaps by providing a four-year sunset of this authority. This civil liberty safeguard will ensure Congress revisits this authority in four years.

PROVIDING FUNDS FOR TOURETTE SYNDROME RESEARCH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Congress for including \$1.8 million for Tourette Syndrome research in H.R. 3010, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006, and to encourage the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to continue its partnership with the Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA).

The Tourette Syndrome education program provides intensive training and education about Tourette Syndrome for the public, physicians, allied healthcare workers, and teachers. Its objectives are to increase recognition and diagnosis, decrease the stigma, increase the provision of and improve the nature of treatments, decrease negative impacts on families, and improve academic outcomes for children with this disorder.

In May 2004, Chairman REGULA indicated in a letter to the CDC Director that the money Congress was appropriating to help those with Tourette Syndrome should be sole-sourced to the Tourette Syndrome Association. He respected TSA's expertise, and I congratulate him for recognizing that they would be the entity best able to undertake the following kinds of successful and efficient use of the funds. It is my sincere hope that CDC will continue to work in partnership with TSA, so they can build upon the successes they have demonstrated to date.

TSA, in partnership with the CDC, completed the first year of the program on August 31, 2005 and began the second year on September 1, 2005. In the first year, TSA offered 25 expert medical education programs, as well as five major education-allied professional programs. The medical programs trained 2,149 physicians, nurses and medical-related allied professionals while the education programs trained 745 teachers and school-based allied professionals. These program sites were well distributed across the country.

An April 2005 analysis found that 73.5 percent of the physicians who responded to TSA's evaluation reported that over half of the material presented in the training was new to them.

The Tourette Syndrome Association also videotaped Dr. John Walkup's presentation on "Diagnosis and Treatment of Tourette Syndrome" which has been made available on TSA's website as the first of several Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs. To learn more about Tourette Syndrome or to view this presentation please, visit <http://tsa-usa.org>.

All ready for year two of this program, the Tourette Syndrome Association has scheduled twenty medical education programs and seventeen education programs. TSA also plans to videotape Dr. Jorge Juncos offering training

for neurologists in both English and Spanish for a future CME presentation on TSA's website.

It is in the best interest of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue its partnership with the Tourette Syndrome Association, so that this established program will continue to reach medical and education specialists across the country.

HONORING STEVE MONTGOMERY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Steve Montgomery, an exemplary community leader, businessman and citizen from Kentucky's Second Congressional District. A charter member of the CORE Committee at Fort Knox, Steve is stepping down from his duties after 14 years of dedicated service marked by tremendous growth and success.

Steve Montgomery first came to Radcliff, KY in 1983 to buy and operate an auto dealership. He has remained in the community for 22 years, distinguishing himself as a business leader and good neighbor. As a charter member, Steve has served on the CORE Committee since its inception. One of Steve's first recorded duties was to arrange a meeting for the group with MG Foley, then Fort Knox Commanding General. MG Foley was briefed on the details of CORE activities and objectives at the congressional, state and Fort Knox levels. Following their initial meeting with Senator MCCONNELL in 1992, the CORE Committee was directed to devote primary focus on securing the future of Fort Knox. In this effort, the Committee has ably managed numerous challenges throughout the years that have followed.

In 1992, the Committee played a major role in the decision to relocate USAREC Headquarters to Fort Knox after Fort Sheridan closed. Soon thereafter, the CORE Committee began conducting informational briefings for local governments and business requesting monetary support. Steve Montgomery was elected Vice Chairman in 1993 and immediately worked to build a strong rapport with Kentucky's Congressional Delegation. Steve was elected Chairman of the CORE Committee in 1996. During his Chairmanship, Fort Knox has endured an especially active decade as the post adapted to a new security environment, carried on a wartime training mission, managed BRAC considerations and the significant administrative changes that have followed.

Under Steve Montgomery's leadership, funding was secured to modernize facilities, such as the new STARBASE barracks, significantly enhancing Fort Knox's future viability. Perhaps Steve's greatest legacy will be his tireless promotion of Fort Knox's military value during Base Realignment and Closure proceedings in 2005. Because of his critical contributions, working with the Governor, Members of Congress, and private consultants, Fort Knox remains open today, adapting to a new mission as a vital multi-functional home to operational Army forces and various administrative commands. Steve leaves the CORE

Committee having completed the mission he was assigned many years earlier in the committee's nascence.

It is my great privilege to recognize Steve Montgomery today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his example of leadership and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his invaluable contributions to the CORE Committee, Fort Knox, and the Greater Radcliff community. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

REMEMBERING THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" CREW

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. BORDELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the astronauts of Mission STS-107 who lost their lives on February 1, 2003, when our Nation lost the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. The crew included Rick Husband, William "Willie" McCool, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, and Colonel Han Ramon.

Commander William "Willie" C. McCool was a son of Guam. Commander McCool, who attended Deddo Middle School and John F. Kennedy High School on Guam, was the pilot of the *Columbia* on Mission STS-107. He proudly carried the Guam flag with him on the mission. Commander McCool's life and service to our Nation and our world holds special meaning to the people of Guam.

STS-107, like other Space Shuttle missions, sought to broaden our understanding of the world in which we live and of the heavens beyond. That mission, and the work of STS-107, represents the best of human endeavor. Willie McCool understood this. On January 29, 2003, Commander McCool reported from orbit high above the Earth, "From our orbital vantage point, we observe an Earth without borders, full of peace, beauty and magnificence, and we pray that humanity as a whole can imagine a borderless world as we see it and strive to live as one in peace." Willie McCool gave his life in pursuit of that dream. It is a dream that should be honored, and one that should be an inspiration to us as well as our children.

For that reason, on February 11, 2003, I introduced H.R. 672, a bill to rename the Guam South Elementary/Middle School after Commander McCool. The President signed H.R. 672 into law on April 11, 2003. And today, as namesake to the Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School, Willie McCool's dream of a borderless world of peace lives on.

Exploration of space is exciting and inspiring. Rocketing into the heavens and returning to Earth represents the best of American ingenuity and courage. Manned space travel was once only a science fiction writer's dream. Our Nation made it a reality. Landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth was thought to be impossible. Our Nation proved the critics wrong. Routine missions to space flown by the Space Shuttle were considered frivolous. But our Nation remains proud of the Space Shuttle program, the Astronaut corps, and the contributions to

science, to other fields of study, and the practical applications of technology that regular space travel have made possible. With the perspective that only orbiting the Earth can provide a man, Willie McCool was inspired to dream of a borderless world of peace. That dream makes me proud. And achieving this dream should be the foundation upon which future manned spaceflight is based.

Let us renew our commitment to space exploration and manned space flight on the occasion of the anniversary of this mission and the loss of the *Columbia* crew. We also honor the memory of the *Challenger*, Mission STS 51-L, and the *Apollo 1* crews, and all pioneers who have lost their lives in the mission to explore space.

HONORING A NATIONAL LEADER IN CHILD SAFETY: DR. ROBERT SANDERS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our nation's most important voices in the fight to protect our children: Dr. Robert Sanders.

Today it is almost impossible to imagine but, as recently as the late 1970s, there were no laws requiring that young children be buckled into safety seats while traveling in a vehicle. Dr. Sanders, a soft-spoken pediatrician from my home state of Tennessee, had seen what happens to children in an automobile accident when they are not protected. He knew that so many of those injuries and deaths were preventable. And Dr. Sanders decided then and there that someone had to speak out on behalf of children and their safety.

Starting with the Tennessee General Assembly, Dr. Sanders and his wife Pat spent countless hours presenting medical data. Their facts and their passion overcame initial doubts. In 1977, thanks to the vision and determination shown by Dr. and Mrs. Sanders, Tennessee became the first state in the nation to adopt a law mandating that all children under the age of 4 must ride in a safety seat. State by state, the rest of the nation followed. Today all 50 states require this protection for young children.

Dr. Sanders passed away on January 19th after a long illness. He leaves behind his wife, Patricia Pelot Sanders, and two children. And he leaves behind a legacy of fighting for the needs of others. Even after he had won the battle for child safety seats, he continued to speak out on issues such as the need for seat belt laws, health care reform and environmental protections. His work earned him the love and appreciation of his community and citizens across the state of Tennessee, as well as awards from groups including the Tennessee Medical Association, the Tennessee Public Health Association and the Tennessee Pediatric Society.

Dr. Robert Sanders believed that each citizen had a responsibility to help others whenever possible. Dr. Sanders lived his life doing that every day. In addition to his public policy work, he served as chief physician and director of the Rutherford County Health Department from 1969 until his retirement in 1991.

Dr. Robert Sanders will be missed in Middle Tennessee. He will be missed by many who, like me, had the privilege of working alongside him as he fought for better health care policies. And he will be missed by all of us who were fortunate to know him as a neighbor, a friend and an inspiration.

TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is an important date in America's history. On February 2, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican-American war. I ask that my colleagues in Congress and all New Mexicans join me in commemorating this significant date.

In 2000, New Mexico's Senators BINGAMAN and DOMENICI requested a study by the General Accounting Office to investigate whether the United States fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty with regard to community land grants made by Spain and Mexico in what is now the State of New Mexico. I was proud to join in their effort because of the importance of this issue to many of my constituents.

In June of 2004 the General Accounting Office issued its final report in response to the requested investigation. The GAO also identified for consideration by Congress a range of possible options in response to community land grant concerns. Additionally, last month, a group of land grant community leaders submitted its own ambitious proposal to resolve this situation. I want to thank them for their efforts in drafting this plan, and I look forward to working with the New Mexico delegation and the land grant communities to consider all possible approaches.

Regardless of any individual's personal thoughts on celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2nd is a significant event in the history of the New Mexico and the United States. The Treaty is a living document in much the same way that the U.S. Constitution is. Many believe, however, that our Federal Government has failed to honor the commitments it made in the Treaty of 1848 in respect to the property rights of community grants. Many Mexicans who became American citizens as a result of the Treaty lost all right and title to much of their lands.

During the 107th Congress, I introduced H.R. 1823, the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Land Claims Act, which would have established a Presidential commission to determine and evaluate the validity of certain land claims arising out of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 involving the descendants of persons who were Mexican citizens at the time of the Treaty. The GAO also recommended such a commission as one of their options for consideration by Congress.

For 158 years, descendants have been fighting to get the Federal Government to look into this matter. I am very proud to be part of the effort to bring justice to this issue. In order to move on, we need to close this sad chapter in our Nation's history. We have an obligation to do no less.

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST WHILE FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps is often selected as the day to honor those murdered at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. More than one million people were killed at Auschwitz before the survivors were liberated on January 27, 1945. Appropriately, each January 27, individuals and governments around the world pause to remember those individuals murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Also known as the Sho'ah, Hebrew for "calamity," the Holocaust witnessed the death of six million Jews by the Nazi killing machine, many of them in concentration camps or elsewhere in a web that stretched throughout the heart of Europe. Millions of individuals—political dissidents, Jehovah's Witnesses, those with disabilities, and others including entire Romani families—also perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Holocaust Remembrance Day also celebrates those brave souls who faced unimaginable horrors and lived to tell of their experiences. In a historic first, late last year the United Nations designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Initial drafters of the resolution—Australia, Canada, Israel, Russia and the United States—were joined by 100 nations in sponsoring the resolution in the General Assembly. Other international organizations, like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have done much to ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are taught in schools across Europe, including the former Soviet Union. In addition, the Belgian Chair-in-Office of the OSCE held a commemorative event for Holocaust victims on January 27 in Brussels.

Unfortunately, while the Holocaust is rightly remembered, its lessons have yet to be fully learned. Early on, the world said "Never Again" to genocide, only to allow genocide to happen again in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda in the 1990s, and in Darfur today. The establishment of international tribunals to seek justice in response to these crimes may indicate some progress, but the best way to honor the lives of those who died during the Holocaust or in subsequent genocides would be to have the resolve to take decisive action to try to stop the crime in the first place.

Some heads of state refuse to recognize even the existence of the Holocaust. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of Iran, made the outrageous claim on December 14 that Europeans had "created a myth in the name of Holocaust." Showing his virulent anti-Semitic nature, two months earlier in October, he said Israel is "a disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the map." While Ahmadinejad's anti-Semitic hate is shocking, other hate mongers have physically attacked Jews. In early January, a knife-wielding skinhead shouting "I will kill Jews" and "Heil Hitler" burst into a Moscow synagogue and stabbed at least eight worshippers. A copycat attack followed in Rostov-on-Don, with the attacker thankfully being stopped inside the synagogue before anyone was hurt.

As Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I have worked over the past four years with other Members of Congress and parliamentarians from around the world to fight anti-Semitism. I was pleased to have either authored or cosponsored three resolutions at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which condemned anti-Semitism, while also being a principal sponsor to the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act that passed the Congress and was signed into law by President Bush in 2004. Internationally, the OSCE has held three international meetings focusing on anti-Semitism and has pledged to hold another major conference in Romania in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, while our struggle continues, we have made progress, moving governments and international organizations to begin to act. To reverse Edmund Burke's truism, what is necessary for the triumph of good over evil is for good men and women to take action.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's *RECORD*.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for January 2006.

2212 RHOB

FEBRUARY 6

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine wartime executive power and the NSA's surveillance authority.

Room to be announced

2 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on managing law enforcement and communications in a catastrophe.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 7

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year

2007 and the future years defense program.

SD-106

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine common defense to common security relating to NATO.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal.

SD-608

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal agencies and conference spending.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 8

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-628

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Iraq stabilization and reconstruction.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine implementation of the new Medicare drug benefit.

SD-215

Commerce, Science, and Transportation National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1215, to authorize the acquisition of interests in underdeveloped coastal areas in order better to ensure their protection from development.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

Budget

To continue hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Consumer Affairs, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine protecting consumers' phone records.

SD-562

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine new initiatives in cooperative threat reduction.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine commercial aviation security, focusing on Transportation Security Administration's aviation passenger screening programs, Secure Flight and Registered Traveler, to discuss issues that

have prevented these programs from being launched, and to determine their future.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine global competitiveness.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Energy Information Administration's 2006 annual energy outlook on trends and issues affecting the United States' energy market.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

FEBRUARY 15

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine video franchising.

SD-562

11 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the President's views and estimates to be submitted to the Committee on the Budget.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine developments in nanotechnology.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to review the progress made on the development of interim and long-term plans for use of fire retardant aircraft in Federal wildfire suppression operations.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine priorities and plans for the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and to review the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine NOAA bud-
get.

SD-562

FEBRUARY 28

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine legislative
presentation of the Disabled American
Veterans.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Bureau
of Reclamation Reuse and Recycling
Program (Title XVI of Public Law 102-
575).

SD-366

MARCH 1

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Sub-
committee
To hold hearings to examine winter
storms.

SD-562

MARCH 9

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine aviation se-
curity and the Transportation Security
Administration.

SD-562

MARCH 16

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Sub-
committee
To hold hearings to examine impacts on
aviation regarding volcanic hazards.

SD-562

MARCH 30

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Sub-
committee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine
National Polar-Orbiting Operational
Environmental Satellite System.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 9

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To continue oversight hearings to exam-
ine commercial aviation security, fo-
cusing on physical screening of airline
passengers, including issues pertaining
to Transportation Security Adminis-
tration's Federal passenger screener
force, TSA procurement policy, air
cargo screening, and the deployment of
explosive detection technology.

SD-562