

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. NORTON HURD
OF DELTAVILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD the accomplishments of Mr. Norton Hurd of Deltaville, Virginia.

Mr. Hurd, whose grandfather fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, grew up in Deltaville, Virginia, and attended Lynchburg College, studying history while playing varsity tennis, baseball, and basketball. After graduating from Lynchburg, Mr. Norton became a teacher and coach at Amelia High School before signing up for the U.S. Naval Air Reserve in 1941. After receiving his flight wings in May 1942, Ensign Hurd was stationed in Minneapolis, training pilots in open-cockpit planes in the frigid temperatures of Minnesota. He, however, longed for combat.

Ensign Hurd repeatedly asked his skipper for a transfer, telling him "I don't want to tell my grandchildren, when the war is over, that I fought the battle of Minneapolis." After flight training sessions in New Jersey and Massachusetts, Lieutenant Hurd found himself aboard the legendary aircraft carrier *Wasp*, heading for Guam. Lt. Hurd was a member of the Hell Razors, and flew in the first group of Navy planes to bomb Tokyo. After surviving a showdown with a Japanese fighter near Chi-Chi Jima, one of his engines failed, and he crashed into the Pacific within 100 yards of the *Wasp*. After being rescued, Lt. Hurd was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, given to those who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

After returning home from the Pacific, Mr. Hurd opened Hurd's Home Appliances in Deltaville in January 1946, figuring that after the war everyone would need appliances. In 1947 he married Alvine Taylor, and they have three children together, Myra, Jack, and Michael. Mr. Norton is a charter member of the Middlesex Lions Club, has served as presidents of the Deltaville Community Association and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and for 25 years was on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Middlesex, First Virginia Bank. He is also a member of the fire department and rescue squad, and has been inducted into the Lynchburg College Hall of Fame. Mr. Hurd is an outstanding athlete, gentleman, and asset to Virginia, and is loved by everyone who knows him.

I would like to submit for the RECORD a recent article about Mr. Hurd in the Baysplash, entitled "Hell Razor: Staying Still's Been the One Thing Norman Hurd of Deltaville Can't Do." I recommend my colleagues in the House of Representatives to read about this fine American in the First District of Virginia.

HELL RAZOR: STAYING STILL'S BEEN THE ONE
THING NORTON HURD OF DELTAVILLE CAN'T DO
(By Capt. Bob Cerullo)

As a young lad, Norton Hurd, now nearing 90, loved to sit with his grandfather on the porch of the home his grandfather built after the Civil War. He recalled the day his grandfather "gave me a dime to stay still and not say a word for ten minutes because I was always jumping and carrying on."

His grandfather, Jesse C. Hurd, had been shot in the leg at the Battle of Gettysburg. When the Civil War ended he arrived in Deltaville and did logging work, fell in love with the place, became a carpenter, built several homes including his own, and fell in love again, marrying Ida Harrow of Deltaville.

Their son (and Norton's father), Jesse W. Hurd, married Mabel Norton, also of Deltaville. Jesse W. loved farming and eventually opened a grocery store to sell the crops he grew. Young Norton worked the crops, milked the cows, gathered eggs, tended the store and dreamed about baseball. Ted Williams was his hero, and there is a family legend that Norton's first words were, "Throw it here."

Norton, who didn't share his father's love of farming, attended Lynchburg College, studied history, and played varsity tennis, basketball and baseball. After graduation he was a teacher and coach at Amelia High School, and he recalls coaching a student named Monte Kennedy, who went on to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

TRAINING FOR COMBAT

With the drums of war beating in Europe, it was only a matter of time before Norton faced being drafted, probably into the infantry. "I had played a lot of baseball and I had played every position, at one time or another, except catching," he said. "I have not had any desire to be a catcher. So I said, 'I think I would really rather be up there pitching than down there catching'." Determined to be a pilot, the gangly young teacher signed up with the U.S. Naval Air Reserve, Air Corps. A few weeks later he reported to Anacostia, MD, for a physical, where doctors found he was underweight, had a cold and was running a fever; they told him to go home, stay still, rest and eat. Staying still was the hardest part, and after consuming dozens of bananas and quarts of milk he was back in three days, both heavier and fever-free.

By August of 1941 he was flying an open-cockpit N2S Starman bi-plane, and with seven hours of in-flight training he was transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, where he got his wings in May of 1942. Ensign Hurd was then stationed in Minneapolis, where he trained pilots in freezing cold open-cockpit planes for two winters. "It got so cold up at 5,000 feet that you couldn't stay in the air for more than 30 minutes," he said. "The Red Cross ladies knitted ski masks for us, but it was cold." There were several close calls when a student panicked and he had to take over the controls to avoid crashing the plane.

Hurd, impatient for combat, kept asking his skipper for a transfer, and the skipper in turn asked him if he knew what he was saying, and why he wanted to be reassigned. "Well, I joined because I thought there was going to be a fight," Hurd told him. "I don't

want to tell my grandchildren, when the war is over, that I fought the battle of Minneapolis." Three months later he was in Wildwood, NJ, where he trained to fly Curtiss SB2C dive bombers; pilots nicknamed the cumbersome plane "The Beast." Next, at Otis Field in Massachusetts, he learned to land a plane on an aircraft carrier. "The first time I went out there to land I had to find the carrier and make three landings to qualify," he said. "The Navy figured if you could land on one of the little carriers then you could land on anything. I looked down at that carrier and it really looked to me like a wooden roof shingle floating in the sea. I made it."

THE HELL RAZORS

Sent to Maui, Hurd reported aboard the legendary aircraft carrier *Wasp*, steaming for Guam. He was a member of the infamous air group known as the Hell Razors, and flew in the first group of Navy planes to bomb Tokyo. On a flight over Chi-Chi Jima, a Japanese communication center near Iwo Jima, he was jumped by a Japanese fighter, which he shot down, then, within about a hundred yards of landing back on the *Wasp*, he engine failed and Lt. Hurd plowed into the sea.

It was February, the churning sea water was cold, and the plane hit the water hard, "My head hit the cockpit. I was momentarily stunned," he said. "When a fighter goes in it goes down in the water, then comes back up. The water came over my head. I thought I was sinking so I jumped out of the cockpit and crawled out on the wing. Then the plane came up. I swam back to try to get the lifeboat that I knew was stored under the pilot's seat."

Pilots sometimes debated about whether one could be sucked down when a plane ditched, Hurd recalled, and "I didn't think it was time to settle that debate right there, so I ran off the wing again and jumped overboard. My head was bleeding. All I had was a Mae West life preserver, a dye marker and a whistle. I was treading water and blowing the whistle. In the waves, one minute I could see the carrier going away; in the next I couldn't see anything. I was bleeding and thinking about the sharks. It finally hit me that there was no place to swim to. Finally I saw a destroyer coming. Then, God, I am standing in the water blowing my whistle. It steamed right on past me. Then finally it backed up. They threw me a rope and wanted me to climb up it. I was so weak I couldn't do it. Then they threw me a net and pulled me up and put me in sick bay.

"They sewed up my head, then took me up on deck to be transferred back to the *Wasp*. The transfer basket from the *Wasp* arrived with ten gallons of ice cream aboard. Then they put me in the transfer basket and sent me back over the raging sea to the *Wasp*. So I figure I am worth ten gallons of ice cream."

Hurd was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, given to those who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight, as evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty.

BACK HOME

Undecided about what to do after the war, Hurd said he thought about sailing a boat around the world but couldn't find any of his friends who were "crazy enough" to go with

• 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.

him. He headed to Deltaville to relax and contemplate a career, but the future was decided for him. His father had sold his grocery business for \$5,000, which he used to buy a store for Norton. "When I came home my dad said, 'I got a place'," he recalled. "My father never wanted me to leave home. Dad was a hard worker and expected the same from me." In January of 1946 Norton opened Hurd's Home Appliances, figuring that everyone would need appliances after the war. With his father's help he obtained credit and a stock of scarce home appliances, and had more customers than stock.

In 1947 he married Alvine Taylor, daughter of the founder of Taylor's Restaurant, still a Deltaville landmark. "When I came home from the war and saw Alvine Taylor, I knew she was the most attractive young woman I had ever seen anywhere," he said. "We were married two years later." They have three children: Myra Wall and Jack Hurd run Hurd's Hardware, and Michael, a former prosecutor, is an attorney in Deltaville; his office is in the renovated old store once run by Norton and his father. Jack and his wife live in the old Hurd home built by his great grandfather, Jesse C.; Michael and his wife live in a home Norton built in 1953.

Norton, a charter member and later resident of the Middlesex Lions Club, also has served as president of the Deltaville Community Association and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and for 25 years was on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Middlesex, First Virginia Bank. A member of the fire department and rescue squad, he has been a member of the Phillippi Christian Church since he was 12 and has served as a deacon, board member and elder. He is perhaps best known as a baseball coach and player, and once played with the Deltaville Deltas. He also has been inducted into the Lynchburg College Hall of Fame.

Hurd retired from his business in 1981, at age 65, but still is actively involved. While Jack now manages the store, Norton's often there on Saturdays and other days when Jack is off. Since he retired he has found more time to golf, often playing 36 holes straight.

Of his many awards and wartime memorabilia, he seems to treasure most a tattered copy of the Amelia High School yearbook compiled by his former students and dedicated to him. A copy was sent to him while he was fighting in the Pacific. He considers it perhaps his proudest possession.

It's unlikely Norton Hurd will earn any more dimes, as he did from his grandfather, for sitting still. That never was something he liked to do.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Hepatitis B Foundation, which is located in my state of Pennsylvania, as well as all the groups involved in the "AIM for the B" campaign which seeks to raise awareness for chronic hepatitis B. The "AIM for the B" campaign has been working over the past 3 years to encourage communities most impacted by the chronic hepatitis B virus, including Asian Americans, to seek treatment for the disease, and to prioritize the disease as a serious health issue in the U.S. and I commend them for this noble goal.

In the United States, approximately one out of every 10 Asian Americans is chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus, resulting in more than half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and half of the deaths resulting from chronic hepatitis B infection. Today, only a small percentage of diagnosed chronic hepatitis B patients are being actively managed for their disease. Every year, approximately one million people worldwide die from chronic hepatitis B because they are diagnosed past the point where medical care and intervention can be effective.

In December, I, along with Congressman MIKE HONDA, introduced H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act, which included strategies for expanded vaccination programs, primary and secondary preventive education and training, surveillance and early detection, and research. I want to thank Congressman HONDA for his tireless efforts on behalf of this issue and my 21 colleagues who have already recognized the importance of this legislation and are currently cosponsors of this bill. I encourage my colleagues to be a part of the solution to this terrible and silent disease and sign on to co-sponsor this important legislation.

Today, Congressman HONDA and I along with representatives from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), patient advocacy organizations, physicians and patients joined together at a Congressional Briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building hosted by the "AIM for the B" campaign to kick off National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. The week will educate communities, patients and families about chronic hepatitis B through events held across the country. The briefing was designed to increase knowledge of chronic hepatitis B as a serious health issue in the United States and to emphasize the importance of increasing diagnosis, screening and treatment. The briefing allowed us to communicate the potential consequences of chronic hepatitis B and to lay out actions needed to increase treatment rates for this extremely infectious disease.

I want to take this opportunity to especially recognize the Hepatitis B Foundation based in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. As a representative of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to support this national non-profit organization solely dedicated to the global problem of hepatitis B. The foundation was founded in 1991, with the support of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the hepatitis B virus. In just 10 years, the Hepatitis B Foundation has grown from a grassroots effort into a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B.

As we begin National Hepatitis B Awareness week, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the severity of hepatitis B and take steps to educate, raise awareness about and put an end to this disease. Together, we can make a difference in addressing this U.S. and global public health issue.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR.
NIRANJAN S. SHAH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Niranjana S. Shah, a prominent Indian-American businessman, activist, and philanthropist, who was one of the few selected to receive the prestigious 2006 Ellis Island Medals of Honor. This award is presented to influential leaders of various fields and ethnic backgrounds who contribute greatly to American society. Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the heritage of those groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic and extraordinary individual achievement. Past medalists include six U.S. Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

As a young man growing up in India, Mr. Shah was an academic standout obtaining his bachelor's degree in engineering from Sardar Patel University. After the completion of his studies in India he was given the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in the United States, a big move for a young man from India. With the support of his family and his village, Mr. Shah left India for America and successfully obtained his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Mississippi. After receiving his Master's degree he supplemented his engineering education with the Harvard Business School Executive Management program. With this incredible wealth of education a lack of opportunities still existed for a young Indian. So Mr. Shah went forward with his own American dream and decided to go it on his own and create what is now a thriving engineering firm. He is well known in his adopted hometown of Chicago for his engineering success. Any American who has flown through O'Hare International Airport, or has attended a convention at McCormick Place has seen first hand the work of Niranjana Shah and his engineering firm.

The spirit of making a better life was not limited to just himself but pushed him to provide assistance to those less fortunate than himself. Mr. Shah's generosity was extended to small villages in India and he has worked tirelessly to create a better U.S. Indo relationship. Mr. Shah is one of the few Americans who was also recognized this winter by the President of India through the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award, the highest Indian civilian award to be given to people of Indian origin, to recognize the contributions of the Indian Diaspora to India.

Mr. Speaker, Niranjana is an asset to the United States and his efforts are deserving of this prestigious award. Mr. Shah fully embodies the commitment and values that the Ellis Island Medal of Honor represents. Mr. Shah will receive this honor joined by his loving wife Pratima, and his two children Smita and Ajay. It is an honor for me to recognize this great American today.

IN HONOR OF BAYOU METO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON
THE CHURCH'S 125TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to the Bayou Meto United Methodist Church in DeWitt, Arkansas, where my parents were married, my family and I have attended for more than fifty years, and my brother Mark and his family are members. This month marks our church's 25th anniversary, a significant milestone for the congregation and the entire community.

The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church was organized in 1881 as the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church South. The original 13 charter members chose the southwest corner of the Bayou Meto Cemetery to build a small wooden sanctuary of sawed boards. The sanctuary only had six windows, four of which were made of glass shipped by boat from St. Louis to Crockett's Bluff and hauled by ox wagon to the church site. The original building was heated by a wood stove and furnished with handmade pews and oil lamps.

The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church played a prominent role in the community during this time, serving as the local school until residents could build a school house elsewhere. The first minister, Reverend C.T. Thompson, traveled on horseback from Goldman once a month to preach two services.

By 1915, the church community was anxious to expand. Mrs. Joe Webster donated one acre of land to the church and local residents moved the original building to a new location using horses and ropes. Just four years later, the congregation sold the church building as a private resident and built a new structure to accommodate the growing congregation. The original building still stands about 1,500 feet from its first location.

The new sanctuary included a bell tower and bell donated by a prominent Jewish merchant of DeWitt, Mr. T.M. Loeb. Although our community constructed Sunday school rooms, a pastor's study, and replaced the original church pews, the sanctuary is almost identical to the one constructed in 1919.

The Reverend C.H. Andrews became the church's first resident minister in 1939. During his tenure, the church constructed a parsonage, and a new education building. The church's current minister, Reverend Jackie Gregory, now occupies the parsonage and is the minister for both Bayou Meto and Lodge Corner Churches. The congregation continues to worship in the sanctuary, and the community frequently holds weddings, funerals, reunions, and meetings in both the sanctuary and education building.

The congregation has grown smaller over time as residents leave for larger towns, in search of job opportunities, schools, or greater convenience. As Lucinda Ax Jacobs wrote in her history of the Bayou Meto Cemetery, "Our Bayou Meto community was settled by former soldiers, both Union and Confederate, glad to find peace and a place they could build homes, raise families, and make an honest living for themselves." This phrase remains true for those of us who see this community as

their home, and intend to remain to raise our families and earn an honest living.

The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church has a long history, marked by the community's strong commitment to service. Every single building on the church property was constructed by the men in this community through hours upon hours of hard work and sacrifice. This spirit is unique to our church, and will guide the members in our congregation for years to come.

On May 28, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Bayou Meto United Methodist Church. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing this community on this important day in history, and to send our best wishes for a memorable service of homecoming and remembrance.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF JENNY
CHIA-JEN CHANG

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former staffer who has touched my life and the lives of many others.

Jenny Chang was in the first class of Park Scholars at North Carolina State University, a Caldwell Fellow, student body president, senior class president, and dean's list student. She graduated in 2000 with a degree in biochemistry and minor in economics. She was also awarded a Truman Scholarship for graduate study. Jenny worked in my 2000 re-election campaign and then brought her talent, dedication, and cooperative spirit to my Washington office. Later, she moved to the office of the gentlewoman from New York, Carolyn Maloney.

On April 29, Jenny Chang died after a 4-year battle with breast cancer. She was 28 years old.

One of the things that made Jenny such a remarkable young woman was her grace. She confronted death in the same way she lived life: with candor, with faith, and without mincing words. Knowing that her time with us was probably short, she wasted not a single opportunity whether traveling to the places she longed to see, savoring a good meal, or sharing her love with the people she cherished.

Along the way, Jenny befriended countless breast cancer survivors who were as exhausted by battling bureaucracy as they were from fighting cancer. She was a compassionate warrior. She would visit sister patients in the hospital, even when her energy was diminished by that day's rigorous chemotherapy treatment. She would take a book or just sit quietly nearby, offering support and complete understanding.

Jenny was outraged that we live in a nation where almost 213,000 women this year will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 41,000 will die from the disease. Still, she believed in the power of public policy to create change. She requested that memorial contributions in her honor be made to a scholarship fund to provide a stipend to students in public policy internships.

We honor Jenny by remembering that when we consider funding and policy questions re-

garding research on breast cancer and other dread diseases, we must get beyond the abstractions of budgets and ideologies. We're talking about the lives of loved ones, friends and co-workers. Despite extraordinary advances in medicine and technology, there is still much we do not know. Jenny tried every therapy available to her, but there was no cure.

Jenny was a leader and expected leaders to be good stewards of their power. It stuns us that she is gone, but her legacy of courage, honesty, kindness, and purpose rekindle our efforts and inspire our leadership. We will do better in her name.

HONORING THE CAMDEN NA-
TIONAL BANK ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Camden National Bank, on the occasion of its 100th year. On May 12, 1906, the United States Department of the Treasury issued a charter for the operation of the Camden National Bank. Since that time, the bank has been a "home-owned, home-operated bank" with faithful and loyal employees.

Throughout the bank's existence, it has overcome periods of serious financial instability including the boll weevil infestation, the Great Depression, and the war years. Although the bank has faced such challenges in the past, it continues to grow and prosper. In March 2004, the Camden National Bank opened its first branch in Greenville, Alabama.

One of the most remarkable qualities of the Camden National Bank is its list of faithful employees. In its 100 years of existence, the bank has seen only four presidents. The first president elected was Mr. Edwin Walker Berry, a former high school principal and mayor of Camden. Upon Mr. Berry's retirement in 1934, Mr. Joseph McReynolds Moore was elected president of the bank, followed by Mr. A.L. (Les) Johnson, Sr. in 1952, and Mr. A.L. Johnson, Jr. who remains president today.

In addition to the presidents, vice presidents, and founding directors, there are several other employees that have substantially contributed to the growth and success of the bank. For example, the bank's first employee, Mrs. Dorothy McNeil, was hired as the bookkeeper in 1941. The Hugh C. Dale Directors' Building was named to honor Mr. Hugh C. Dale and his years of service, including 43 years as a director. Mrs. Barbara Ivey was elected vice president and cashier in 1972 becoming the first female vice president of the Camden National Bank. Also, Mrs. Lola Saulsberry was the first African American employee of the bank when she was hired in 1982 and was later elected assistant cashier in 1995.

The Camden National Bank, over its 100 years, continues to have a "hometown bank" atmosphere. With the help of its loyal employees who have contributed to its success, the Camden National Bank continues to thrive in its accomplishments and its service to the people of Camden and Wilcox County. It is my

sincere hope that the Camden National Bank will continue its success in south Alabama for another 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL L. WHATLEY, JR., 2006 ALABAMA STATE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carl Whatley, Jr., of Montgomery, Alabama. The United States Small Business Administration recently recognized Mr. Whatley, Founder and CEO of ProEthic Pharmaceuticals, Inc., as the Alabama State Small Business Person of the Year during Small Business Week 2006.

Mr. Whatley began his career in the industry by working as a salesman for major pharmaceutical firms. In 2001, after nineteen years of working for other companies, he founded Pro Ethic Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The business was created to focus on selling specialty pharmaceuticals that larger companies considered insignificant. Mr. Whatley's company has grown from five to 113 employees, expanding from one to 15 products that it now acquires, develops and markets in 31 states. ProEthic Pharmaceuticals has seen revenues rise from \$1.2 million in 2002 to \$25 million in 2005.

National Small Business Week recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to our nation's economy. Mr. Whatley is a dedicated individual whose hard work warrants congratulations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BARNEY WEHR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barney Wehr for his long and distinguished nursing career.

Barney has been a nurse for the past 35 years. Over the course of her career she has worked in the Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit and as a Labor and Delivery nurse. Barney has been working at Boulder City Hospital as an Endoscopy nurse for over 10 years.

During her tenure at Boulder City she greatly contributed to the start up and development of the GI Department. Barney also belongs to the Endoscopy RN Society and uses this professional affiliation to help keep the department current on the latest technology. She is admired by both her peers and patients, and regarded as knowledgeable and experienced. Barney is recognized within the Boulder City Community as one of the best nurses in the community. She is a true asset to Boulder City Hospital and the nursing profession.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Barney Wehr for her professional expertise and significant contributions to the art of nursing. I wish her the best in her future efforts.

ON AVIAN FLU

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I made the attached remarks regarding the Avian Flu on May 11, 2006.

You're on your own.

This has been the credo for the Administration's approach to health care and it summarizes their approach to Avian Flu. The Implementation Plan gives a little guidance to state and local governments and businesses and then wishes them luck.

First, there is the leadership vacuum. The plan calls for HHS to coordinate the medical response but calls for Homeland Security to coordinate federal operations and resources. A bipartisan report out of the Senate, released in April, found that the Department has lagged in fixing the problems that plagued its atrocious response to Hurricane Katrina. It found that major structural reforms were necessary and that little has changed in the Department so far. So we can expect Homeland Security to adopt a similar motto to the one they adopted last Summer: you're on your own.

What's more is that the plan has been called the mother of all unfunded mandates. While 7.1 billion dollars for avian flu preparedness is a step in the right direction, it is simply not enough. Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, called the budget "completely unrealistic." A big part of the reason it is insufficient is that it has to make up for years of steady erosion of the public health infrastructure due to lack of funding. In fact, Dr. Redlener points out the need for 5 billion dollars just for "staffs, equipment and supplies, and general resiliency." Yet the vast majority of the Administration's funding is going toward the anti-viral and vaccine stockpile.

This plan, therefore, gives us inadequate leadership and inadequate funding, which leaves the clear impression that we truly will be on our own in a pandemic. And a crisis is precisely the time we need to look out for each other the most.

However, we can be assured that everyone is not left to their own devices.

On November 4, 2005 during a House Government Reform Committee hearing on Avian Flu Preparedness, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt responded to my questioning by saying that he would not be issuing a compulsory license for the anti-viral drug, Tamiflu. He also declared that he was in negotiations with Roche, manufacturer of Tamiflu, over the cost of the drug being purchased for the national stockpile. On one hand, Secretary Leavitt has a Congressional mandate to stockpile enough Tamiflu for 25% of the nation. On the other hand, he withdrew the threat of compulsory licensing, even if Roche tries to price gouge. In so doing, Leavitt undercut his own negotiating power and effectively surrendered control of price to Roche.

On November 10, six days after the hearing, the New York Times reported that Roche announced what they would be charging developed countries for Tamiflu: 15 Euros, or about 19 dollars for a course of treatment. Wondering how the price negotiations between

HHS and Roche went, my office recently asked HHS what they were paying for Tamiflu for the stockpile. The asking price of 15 Euros, or 19 dollars. Even with the bulk purchasing power of 810 million pills, HHS did not bother to get a better deal than the asking price.

Let's get the impression that this price is fair, allow me to point out that Roche did not sink a dime into research on the drug. They simply license it from its inventor, Gilead Sciences. That means there is no need to recoup research costs. Furthermore, we know it can be sold for a profit for much less. Cipla, a generics manufacturer in India, for example, is selling Tamiflu for only 12 dollars. That is 36 percent less than what the Federal Government is paying. If we paid Cipla's price instead of Roche's, we would save over a half a billion dollars. I bet local health agencies and hospitals could save a lot of lives with that kind of money. Think of what we could do with a half billion dollars—we could reduce the deficit, put teachers in classrooms, invest in renewable energy, provide health care to some of the uninsured, brace ourselves for the effects of climate change.

Those that stand to gain from inflated prices for pandemic pharmaceuticals are doing well. Roche's sales for the first quarter of 2006 are up 22 percent to 7.7 billion dollars. Gilead Sciences, the company that originally developed Tamiflu and continues to receive royalties on its sales, outperformed RBC Capital Markets estimate of 350 million dollars in Tamiflu Sales by 163 million dollars.

In essence, we are telling state and local governments that there's not enough money to fund things like medical personnel and equipment while we're giving away bags of money to the already incredibly profitable pharmaceutical industry. In other words, you're on your own, unless you're big Pharma.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES D. LEMMOND FOR 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE WILKES-BARRE LAW AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pennsylvania Sen. Charles Lemmond, who is observing 50 years of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

A lifelong resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Senator Lemmond received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Wilkes University.

Prior to his election to the Senate of Pennsylvania in 1985, he served as an assistant and first assistant district attorney in Luzerne County and as a judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Long active in community and civic organizations, Senator Lemmond is a past potentate of Irem Temple and a 33rd degree Mason, a trustee of the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church, a life member of the board of trustees of Wyoming Seminary and a

member of the advisory boards of Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus and the Salvation Army.

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association was located in the county Court House located on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square from 1859 to 1909 when it was moved to the second floor of the current county Court House at 200 N. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The Law Library contains over 20,000 volumes of law books, reports and journals. The Law Library also operates the Luzerne Legal Register, the law journal of Luzerne County and the official reporter of the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. A lawyer referral service is also operated out of the law library for people who need a lawyer but do not know whom to contact.

The Law and Library Association also operates a charitable foundation that supports charitable and humanitarian projects throughout Luzerne County. It is intended to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the legal system in Luzerne County, ensure access to legal information and representation to all members of the Luzerne County community and foster good relations between members of the Bar, Judiciary and the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Senator Lemmond for a half century of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association. His devoted service and the service of other distinguished legal practitioners have enabled the Association to grow and thrive and be a continuous source of support to its members.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on our nation's dire fiscal situation. How can it be that at a time of war, when we are cutting \$735 million from the defense health care budget and facing the largest deficits in our Nation's history and an \$8.3 trillion national debt, this Congress decides to prioritize million dollar tax breaks to Big Oil Company CEOs instead?

Because of the tax cut legislation passed out of the House, the former CEO of Exxon Mobil, Lee Raymond, will take home an extra \$2.5 million dollars in dividend income each year on top of his \$400 million retirement package and the \$144,000 he made each day when he was Exxon Mobil's CEO. Tell me how that is possibly fair to the middle class worker who is paying \$3 a gallon to fill up his car, or to the student who has to find a third job in order to pay off her student loans. The truth is it isn't fair, Mr. Speaker, and Americans everywhere know it.

The average middle class family could not afford to buy one meal for their family with the money they will save from this tax cut, but Lee Raymond gets \$2.5 million?

I urge my colleagues to take a serious look at our nation's fiscal priorities as we continue down this road of fiscal irresponsibility. We

owe it to our children and grandchildren, to leave them a legacy of economic stability, not one of debts and deficits. We should show them that we care about their future by not squandering away more money we don't have to pay for irresponsible tax cuts benefiting only Big Oil Company CEOs like Lee Raymond.

It's past time to focus on the true priorities of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EAST NEW YORK FAMILY ACADEMY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East New York Family Academy Girls' Varsity Basketball Team. They are champions of the 2006 Girls Varsity Division VIII-B of the Public School Athletic League of New York City. Under the direction of Head Coach Earl S. Mitchell, Assistant Coach Eddie Barron, and Managers Rayon Clarke and Shakeema Mattocks, the 2006 "Lady Eagles" excelled to an undefeated regular season record of 18 wins and no losses, while losing only one out of five games during the playoff season. Additionally, the East New York Family Academy Lady Eagles currently holds a record of two consecutive undefeated regular seasons.

I want to especially recognize the work of Athletic Director, John Cortese, and Principal Sheila Richards, who have worked hard to infuse excellence, respect and accountability not only in athletic programs, but in academic departments as well. At East New York Family Academy, it is truly a family affair. Coaches Mitchell and Barron have received a tremendous amount of inspiration from Tony Yard, the Head Coach of the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and former member of the Panamanian Olympic Team, and from Donald Vanteerpool, the Head Coach of the Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Team. Coach Mitchell is deeply appreciative of these coaches for teaching his team to respect the fundamentals of the game and for always being there when needed.

Although athletics are important, academics have not taken a backseat. In an era when sports achievements have sometimes replaced excellence in English, math, science and other academic areas, the coaches have demanded a high level of academic performance from team members. As an example, two players rank in the Top 10 of their senior class and four members of the starting five have received college acceptance offers.

Long after the last shot has been taken and the last ball dribbled, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles": Naledi Anderson, Alana Arthurs, Veldina Chaunce, Karanja Craig, Tiffany Dugue, Ayana James, Shada Jordon, Dalkeitha Layne, Shamika McIntosh, Krista Mitchell, Tashanya Morris, and Tara Powell will benefit from the leadership, love and guidance given to them by their coaches, teachers and administrators at East New York Family Academy.

I am certain that in the days to come, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles" will build upon their experiences in basketball and their

days at the East New York Family Academy and there will be more achievements to come.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, I believe that the accomplishments of the 2006 "Lady Eagles," and the work of their coaches, teachers and administrators, are truly worthy of our recognition here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE MAE MAXWELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Essie Mae Maxwell, of Coosa County, Alabama. Ms. Maxwell turned 103 years old on April 20th, which she celebrated with family and friends in her Kellyton home.

From 1903 until today, Ms. Maxwell has lived a full life that has seen many transitions in our country's history. She remembers growing up as a witness to the introduction of cars, computers, and laundry machines. She enjoys reading the Bible and newspaper, both without her glasses, on a daily basis. A mother of eleven, she has inspired her family from her oldest child to her youngest great-great grandchild.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Maxwell today in the House, and congratulate her on her 103rd birthday. I wish her the best and many more enjoyable times with her family and friends.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYDIA MOORE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lydia Moore for her 38 years of service to the Boulder City Hospital.

Lydia Moore came to Boulder City Hospital on November 2, 1968 as a Certified Nursing Assistant. While working she developed a program for unit clerks. Desiring to further her education she enrolled in Clark County Community College and received her Licensed Practical Nursing degree and later returned to Clark County Community College receiving a Registered Nursing degree. She has held several supervisory positions including night Charge Nurse, House Supervisor, Medical Surgical Unit Manager, and is currently the Social Services Manager.

Lydia received the Clark County March of Dimes Nurse of the Year in 1992 and is Vice President of Lend a Hand. She continues to be an advocate for the prevention of domestic violence and is active in the Clark County immunization program for children.

Lydia has served her community continuously throughout her life and Boulder City Hospital has been privileged to benefit from her knowledge and service for the past 38 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lydia Moore for her years of service to the Boulder City Hospital and the Boulder City community.

She has been a great asset to Southern Nevada and deserves recognition for her valuable efforts.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the tax reconciliation conference report, H.R. 4297, that will cost \$70 billion over 10 years and provides little to no tax relief for working American families. Today is yet another missed opportunity by the Republican-controlled Congress to provide real tax relief to working families. For example, this bill would extend the capital gains and dividends tax cut set to expire in 2008 for an additional 2 years through 2010. While on the other hand, the bill would only provide a 1-year extension in relief for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) that affects an estimated 15 million middle-class taxpayers and already expired in 2005.

Originally intended to ensure the wealthy taxpayers paid their fair share, the AMT has become a tax on the middle-class. Without adjustments for inflation like the federal income tax, the AMT targets a growing number of people each year. Those most affected by the AMT are taxpayers in States like my home State of New York, with high property taxes, high local and state income taxes, and high sales taxes. These taxpayers are middle-class families. Instead of taking this opportunity to pass real AMT reform, the House Republicans have chosen to barely patch this problem without providing any real relief for working families.

Making matters worse, this conference agreement also drops three provisions in the Senate bill that would have rolled back nearly \$5.4 billion over 10 years in unneeded tax breaks and loopholes for the oil industry. This is truly unbelievable when we see oil companies earning record profits and consumer paying record prices.

I wish this Congress could get their priorities straight and pass real AMT reform and provide leadership for true fiscal responsibility.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAMP OUT
HUNGER. THE ANNUAL FOOD
DRIVE ORGANIZED BY THE NA-
TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LET-
TER CARRIERS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Association of Letter Carriers as they prepare to stage their fourteenth annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive this Saturday. Letter carriers in over 10,000 cities and towns will participate in this effort, the largest one-day food drive in the United States.

In the Fourth Congressional District, the National Association of Letter Carriers Pioneer Branch 2 partners with the Hunger Task Force to ensure that all food collected gets distributed quickly, fairly and safely. Last year's effort netted over 1.29 million pounds of food, and solicited the participation of 800 volunteers. Thousands of families contributed food, and letter carriers throughout the Milwaukee area worked tirelessly to make the event a success. As a result, this annual food drive is a true community effort that enables all of us to serve our neighbors. I have no doubt this year's event will meet or exceed last year's impressive achievements, and thousands of Milwaukeeans will have access to food throughout the summer as a result.

It is simply unconscionable that so many Americans have insufficient food to meet their needs. Stamp Out Hunger is a true testament to the strength of our community and our commitment to ensuring the security of our most vulnerable residents. I am honored to express my gratitude to the Hunger Task Force, NALC Pioneer Branch 2, and the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District who give to this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL EI-
LEEN COLLINS ON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor the achievements of Colonel Eileen Collins, an inspirational member of the aerospace community. Last week, she announced her decision to retire from NASA, where her passion for discovery and her leadership skills will be greatly missed.

Building on a childhood love for airplanes and space, Col. Collins studied mathematics and science, earning her associate degree from Corning Community College in 1976, her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in 1978, her master of science degree from Stanford University in 1986, and her master of arts degree from Webster University in 1989.

Col. Collins' career included many firsts: she was the first woman to enter Air Force pilot training straight from college, the first woman to pilot a space shuttle, and the first woman to serve as commander for a space shuttle mission. She also served her country as an Air Force pilot and as a mathematics teacher at the Air Force Academy. Her last space flight took place during the summer of 2005 when she commanded the STS-114 space shuttle mission, the first mission following the 2003 Columbia space shuttle disaster. As we've all come to expect, she carried out her duties on this mission with distinction. In sum, as noted by the Colorado Springs Gazette referred to her nearly 30-year career as an "era" in spaceflight. And I think that that is a truly fitting description of her legacy.

I would like to include the following article with more details about Col. Collins' extraordinary work. The progress she made for both her gender and her country are admirable.

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, May 8, 2006]

HAPPY (CON)TRAILS TO COLLINS

For some reason, perhaps buried deep in the subconscious, people love to mark events in their lives. The media are especially fond of memorializing moments we think should be important to readers and viewers. Last week, when Eileen Collins announced her retirement from NASA, it truly marked the end of an era in spaceflight. She was an astronaut who represented the pioneering spirit that drove mankind to explore space.

From an early age, she longed to fly airplanes and dreamed of space travel. One biography pointed out that her parents used to take her to the airport to watch planes land and take off. She worked hard in school and earned multiple degrees in mathematics and space-related subjects. After college, her career literally took off.

She was among the first women to go directly from college to Air Force pilot training. She spent several years flying various aircraft for Uncle Sam and continued her education as a student at the Air Force Institute of Technology. From 1986-1989 she taught mathematics and was an instructor pilot at the Air Force Academy.

Tapped by NASA for astronaut training while she was attending the Air Force's test pilot school in 1990, she later became the first woman selected for shuttle pilot training, was the first woman pilot of the space shuttle and the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. She retired from the Air Force in January 2005 and will leave her NASA duties later this month.

Collins has had a career of which anyone could be proud and many can only dream of. We wish her blue skies and tailwinds as she pursues other interests in the aerospace industry.

TRIBUTE TO TOYOTA MOTOR
MANUFACTURING

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia. While Toyota is considered leader in the "new American auto industry," this anniversary clearly demonstrates that Toyota is well established in the United States. With a 10-year history and West Virginia investment rapidly approaching the \$1 billion mark, Toyota has been contributing to the U.S. and local economies for a long time—hopefully with more to come.

The Buffalo plant, which produces four-cylinder engines for Corolla, Matrix, and Pontiac Vibe; V6 engines for the Sienna and Lexus RX 330; and automatic transmissions for North American-built Camry, Solara, Lexus RX 330 and Sienna, currently provides quality jobs for over 1,000 team members. Employment is projected to grow to 1,150 when the current transmission plant is expanded.

As a testament to the Mountain State's workforce, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia has been named four times the "Most Productive Engine Plant in North America" and has earned a global reputation for producing high quality engines and transmissions.

Importantly, the jobs Toyota has created in the Second Congressional District have not come at the expense of our environment. The

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection presented this facility with its environmental award in 2004 due to the facility's focus on the environment through the products it produces and its environmentally-sound business practices.

Throughout the last decade, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia has understood that people are the most valuable resources available, and it continues to develop their talents and strengths for future success in the auto industry.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to congratulate Toyota for this important milestone. We are proud to have them as West Virginia corporate citizens, and I look forward to celebrating similar anniversaries in the many years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE
WEBB ROWELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the House's attention today to recognize George Webb Rowell of Lee County, Alabama, in anticipation of his 90th birthday on May 31, 2006.

In 1916, Mr. Rowell was the seventh born child to a poor farming family in Loachapoka, Alabama, where he resides today. He was the only son to serve overseas in World War II, beginning his service with the U.S. Army in June of 1941. He served in the 1st Army under General Eisenhower, with the 3rd Armored Division in the 703rd Tank Battalion. It was his division that landed on the beach in Normandy on D-Day, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, entered France and marched through Belgium to Germany to defeat the enemy. Mr. Rowell spent four years and four months in the Army, and his service was awarded with a Silver Star.

When he returned home he attended a trade school to learn farming techniques. He and his wife raised five children on a small farm. Mr. Rowell is a devout Christian, a patriot, and an American Hero to his family and his country.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's attention to the life of George Rowell today, and I thank my colleagues for helping honor an American who so bravely served our Nation as a member of our Greatest Generation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SALOME
JARVIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Salome Jarvis and her service to the health care community.

Salome has a long and distinguished career dating back 20 years. She received her certificate in Gerontology from Chaffey College in California in 1985 and also took numerous nursing courses at San Bernardino Community College. After working in a California hospital for nearly 15 years, Salome moved to the Las

Vegas Area in 1991 and began working at the Boulder City Hospital. She subsequently obtained her National Certification as an Activities Director. The professional affiliations of which she is a member include the National Association of Activities Professionals and the Southern Nevada Activity Professionals Associations, both of which she serves as an officer of the board. Salome is also very active in the community primary working with programs designed to promote positive change for youths.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Salome Jarvis for her distinguished record of service to the health care community. I wish her the best with her future efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZION CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members, past and present, of Zion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate forty years of faith, guidance and support, embracing citizens of all ages within our Cleveland community and far beyond.

Zion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was founded in the spring of 1966, when a small group of devoted Christians met at the home of Reverend and Mrs. Rudy York and decided that an organized mission of faith and service was needed in the neighborhood. On Monday, May 2, 1966, the Church was officially established and the Reverend Robert M. Berry was called upon to lead as the first Pastor.

Reverend Berry guided the early days of the church with commitment and compassion. When he became ill, Reverend Thomas Shearer served as interim pastor, and did so with great care and dedication. In June of 1969, Reverend George O. Stewart was called to serve as Pastor. For 37 years, Reverend Stewart has led this congregation with grace, energy and steadfast faith in the resilience and goodness of the human heart, raising lives into the light of self-awareness, forgiveness and service to others. Reverend Stewart's kind heart and charismatic demeanor inspires thousands of churchgoers every week. His dynamic leadership is reflected in faith-based initiatives for families, children and teens; is evidenced within a congregation that continues to flourish; and is visible in structural expansions that include a new fellowship hall, new parking lots and new residential properties.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every member and leader, past and present, of the Zion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, as they celebrate 40 years of faith, hope and healing. The guidance and compassion offered here serves to strengthen the lives of countless families and individuals, and offers light and hope along Lee Road and horizons beyond.

CONGRATULATING ATTORNEY
CHARLES BUFALINO FOR 50
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
WILKES-BARRE LAW AND LI-
BRARY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Charles Bufalino, of West Pittston, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

A graduate of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School, Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Attorney Bufalino was admitted to the practice of law in 1956 and he continues to be an active practitioner before the Luzerne County Court, all of the appellate courts of Pennsylvania and the United States Courts for the Third Circuit and the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Attorney Bufalino has been involved in precedent-setting litigation involving both First Amendment rights and freedom of the press as well as workers' compensation law.

A First Amendment landmark case was considered by the United States Supreme Court and a workers' compensation case was decided earlier this year by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Attorney Bufalino served as special assistant attorney general, Luzerne County solicitor, law clerk to the late Judge Harold Flannery and as solicitor to many municipalities.

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association was located in the county Court House located on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square from 1859 to 1909 when it was moved to the second floor of the current county Court House at 200 N. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The Law Library contains over 20,000 volumes of law books, reports and journals. The Law Library also operates the Luzerne Legal Register, the law journal of Luzerne County and the official reporter of the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. A lawyer referral service is also operated out of the law library for people who need a lawyer but do not know whom to contact.

The Law and Library Association also operates a charitable foundation that supports charitable and humanitarian projects throughout Luzerne County. It is intended to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the legal system in Luzerne County, ensure access to legal information and representation to all members of the Luzerne County community and foster good relations between members of the Bar, Judiciary and the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Bufalino for a half century of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association. His devoted service and the service of other distinguished legal practitioners have enabled the Association to grow and thrive and be a continuous source of support to its members.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM
CLIFFORD ADAMS ON GRAD-
UATING FROM THE UNITED
STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to an exceptional young man from Central Texas. I am happy to announce that William Clifford Adams will graduate with a degree in Political Science from the United States Naval Academy on May 26th, with the midshipmen class of 2006. He will go on to serve specializing in surface warfare in the U.S. Navy.

As the highest ranking midshipman in his class, Cliff has demonstrated incredible leadership abilities and strength of character. This top ranking was based not only on his outstanding academic achievement, but also on his standing among his peers. He has led countless demonstrations and is clearly a respected student leader on campus.

I have had the great pleasure of working with Cliff personally, and there could not be anyone more worthy of this prestigious honor. Cliff grew up in Goldthwaite, Texas, and has excelled in all of his academic and community activities. As an intern in my Congressional office in 2003, I learned first-hand of Cliff's outstanding dedication to the community, his intelligence and tremendous wit. He is a remarkable young man who, without a doubt, will go on to become one of Texas' and America's great leaders.

Mr. Speaker I ask you to join me today in recognizing William Clifford Adams on his remarkable achievement of graduating from the United States Naval Academy.

A TRIBUTE TO THE THOMAS JEF-
FERSON GIRLS' BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Thomas Jefferson Girls' Varsity Basketball Team, champions of the 2006 Public School Athletic League of New York City, Girls Varsity Basketball—B Division. In one year, under the direction of Head Coach Calvin Young, Assistant Coach Unique Nelson, Assistant Coach Helms, and Student Manager Natoya Sylvester, the Lady Orange Wave excelled to a regular season record of 15 wins and only three losses, while going undefeated with 5 more victories in the city playoffs.

I also want to especially recognize the work of Athletic Director, Fred Landron; Principals Michael A. Alexander, Ms. Almonte, Ms. Gibbs, Mr. Palmer, and Ms. Lawrence; and Superintendent Varleton McDonald. These educators have worked hard to infuse excellence, respect and accountability not only in athletic programs, but in academic departments as well. In addition, Coaches Young, Nelson and Helms have instilled a team first approach and a tough regimen of discipline

and no excuses that has lead to the team's current success.

However, academics have not taken a backseat. In an era when sports achievements have sometimes replaced excellence in English, math, science and other academic areas, the coaches have demanded a high level of academic performance from team members.

Moreover, long after the last shot has been taken and the last ball dribbled, the members of the 2006 Lady Orange Wave: Crystal Berry, Chanell Bracker, Shaequana Brathwaite, Raven Cumberbatch, Wuraoa Dipeolu, Esther Farmer, Elisabeth Ferby, Melonie Jones, Takima Lucky, Makini Manning, Shameek Pollard, Talaya Robinson, and Chrysty Taylor will benefit from the leadership, love and guidance given to them by their coaches, teachers and administrators at Thomas Jefferson High School.

I am certain the 2006 Lady Orange Wave's experiences in basketball and their days at Thomas Jefferson will guide them through life's journey and there will be more achievements to come.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, I believe that the accomplishments of the 2006 Lady Orange Wave, and the work of their coaches, teachers and administrators, are truly worthy of our recognition here today.

HONORING THE WORK OF DEBRA
STEINBERG, RECIPIENT OF THE
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S
PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent of mine who is being honored by the American Bar Association (ABA) as a recipient of their Pro Bono Publico Award. Ms. Steinberg is being recognized by the ABA for her work in assisting families of World Trade Center Victims.

I will be submitting for the record the ABA's description of her service, but I also want to personally recognize the work that she has done for our community. I have been proud to work with Ms. Steinberg to draft legislation, H.R. 3575, The September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act. This legislation would provide humanitarian assistance to the non-citizen victims of 9/11 by providing them with an adjustment of their immigration status. Ms. Steinberg's commitment to this legislation is a very personal one, as she has dedicated countless hours assisting these families. I commend her commitment to humanity and I congratulate her on this well deserved recognition by her peers.

ABA's Description of Debra Steinberg's work:

DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

Ms. Steinberg led the Cadwalader firm's 9/11 pro bono efforts providing representation of families of World Trade Center victims. She personally represented several families of 9/11 victims. Furthermore she played a leading role in the creation and development of the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest 9/11 Project which came together in early October 2001.

She drafted The Association of the Bar of the City of New York's comments on the in-

terim and final regulations for the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, she drafted a substantial portion of the 9/11 Victims and Families Relief Act in NY, and she's assumed a leading role in advocating at both the state and national levels on behalf of victims' families. In particular, she drafted substantial portions of legislation to provide legal recognition and protection to family members of non-citizen victims of the attacks—the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act (pending in both the House and Senate).

Ms. Steinberg's public service was honored in the United States House of Representatives (May 18, 2004) and in a New York State Senate Legislative Resolution (April 29, 2003). Ms. Steinberg also received the New York State Bar Association's 2003 Pro Bono Service Award.

IN TRIBUTE TO MRS. RUTH
BACHHUBER DOYLE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of an extraordinary Wisconsin woman, Mrs. Ruth Bachhuber Doyle. Mrs. Doyle died May 6, 2006, after a long life dedicated to public service.

Born in Milwaukee and raised in Wausau, Ruth Bachhuber met Jim Doyle Sr. when both were students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the 1930s. They married in 1940, and had three children together, including the current governor of Wisconsin, The Honorable Jim Doyle. Though three generations of her family preceded her in political life, Mrs. Doyle was one of the first women elected to the state Legislature. As a result of her election, the Bachhuber family became the only one in Wisconsin history to see four generations serve in the state Legislature. Mrs. Doyle is also known for helping to revitalize Wisconsin's Democratic Party. She reenergized the party by engaging women as leaders and activists. She later served on the Dane County Board, and as the first woman president of the Madison School Board.

In addition to her exemplary political career, Mrs. Doyle and her husband—who served at one point as U.S. district attorney—raised four children. She was a true public servant in every meaning of the term, with a keen interest in education, and a strong commitment to acting always with integrity and maintaining and honoring the integrity of the democratic process.

Mrs. Doyle pioneered a new public role for women. I consider myself very fortunate to be one of those who has benefited from the trail she blazed. Women, men, and families throughout our state have been blessed by her quiet wisdom and sincerity and her constant efforts to safeguard the interests and needs of Wisconsin citizens. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize her life and achievements, and send my condolences to her family.

ON INTRODUCTION OF CREDIT
CARD LEGISLATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to add some common-sense rules to the laws governing issuance of credit cards.

Americans benefit from the widespread availability of consumer credit, and their use of that credit has been important to our economy. But there are some warning signs that signal a need for some additional legislation.

Overall, during the last decade, total credit-card debt rose by about 70 percent, and this clearly has an effect on consumers. Some polls have reported that about 70 percent of surveyed families said the quality of their lives is adversely affected by the extent of their debts, and young people are more worried about going deeply into debt than about a terrorist attack.

For many Americans, consumer credit is more than a convenience. It is something that many people need to use to pay for their everyday needs. For them, it is a necessity.

And, of course, another word for credit is debt.

In its most recent report on family finances, the Federal Reserve says that from the third quarter of 2001 to the same period in 2004, inflation-adjusted household debt increased by more than 26 percent. During the same period, when incomes remained about the same, more families carried a credit-card balance and the average balance owed on a card rose nearly 16 percent, to \$5,100.

Some have argued that much of this debt was caused by recklessness and an erosion of financial responsibility. That was one of the main arguments advanced in support of the legislation to revise the bankruptcy laws that Congress passed last year.

There was something to that argument, but it was not the whole story and it put too much emphasis on borrowers alone.

Instead of just focusing on borrowers, Congress should also do more to promote responsibility by those who provide the credit—and one place to start is with credit card companies.

For example, let's talk about interest rates. Credit is not free, and it should not be. But consumers should be treated fairly.

We have all seen print ads and commercials that advertise very low interest rates, but don't make clear that these rates can change, sometimes without warning, and that higher rates can apply even if a consumer gets a warning and then acts to cancel a card.

The bill would address that by requiring that a credit card company provide advance notice of any increase (unless the increase results from the expiration of an introductory rate for new accounts or a change in another rate to which the credit-card rate is indexed) and notice of the right to avoid paying the higher rate by cancelling the card before the new rate takes effect. And it says that if the consumer does cancel the card in time, any remaining amounts owed on that card will be subject to the terms and conditions that applied at the time of cancellation.

Similarly, the bill would require that card holders be more fully informed about the rela-

tionship between the monthly minimum payments and the full amounts owing on their cards and what monthly payment would be required to eliminate the outstanding balance in 36 months if they do not use their cards to make additional purchases.

Further, the bill would require that card holders be given clear notice of any fees, other charges, or increases in interest rates that would result from their making late payments.

For payments made by mail, card holders would have to be given a reasonable time for their payments to be received and would have to be told the date on which a mailed payment must be postmarked in order to avoid fees, charges, or increased interest rates.

And if a card issuer accepts payments made in person, a payment made at least one day before the due date would mean that no late-payment penalties would be in order.

The bill also would bar charging fees or other penalties because a card holder pays more than the monthly minimum or pays in full an existing account balance.

And it would bar imposing a fee for a charge that would mean a card holder has gone over the total credit authorized on a card if the card issuer has authorized that charge either in advance or at the time of a purchase.

The bill also would limit issuance of credit cards to people under the age of 18.

People under that age applying for a credit card will need one of three things—the signature of a parent or guardian willing to take responsibility for the applicant's debts; information indicating that the applicant has some other means of repaying any debt; or a certification that the applicant has completed a credit counseling course by a qualified nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency. These requirements would apply to issuance of both regular credit cards and college "affinity cards."

And, finally, the bill increases the amounts people injured by violations of the rules can collect from card issuers.

Mr. Speaker, like a similar (but not identical) bill introduced by Senator DODD, the bill I am introducing today takes some simple, common-sense steps to stop abusive practices, educate cardholders, and stiffen the penalties for violations. I think it deserves to be enacted.

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching a short digest of the bill's provisions.

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Section One provides a short title and table of contents. The short title is "Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act of 2006 or 'Credit CARD Act of 2006'."

Section Two authorizes the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors to issue rules or publish model forms to implement the bill and the changes it makes in existing law.

TITLE I

Title I amends the Truth in Lending Act regarding certain credit card rates and fees.

Section 101 requires at least 15 days' notice of certain increases in interest rates and requires card holders to be told of their right to cancel an account before the increases take effect.

Section 102 imposes a freeze on interest-rate terms and fees applicable to accounts closed or canceled before a scheduled rate increase.

Section 103 bars charging penalty fees for on-time payments or for either full payment of a balance owed or a payment larger than the minimum required amount.

Section 104 bars imposing fees for a purchase that exceeds a credit card's limit if the lender approves the charge in advance or at the time the card holder makes the purchase.

TITLE II

Title II amends the Truth in Lending Act's provisions regarding disclosures to card holders.

Section 201 specifies information that must be provided regarding outstanding balances, required monthly minimum payments, grace periods for avoiding additional charges, and the monthly payments needed to pay off the balance in 36 months.

Section 202 requires that card holders be told the date by which mailed payments must be postmarked to avoid late fees, whether (and by how much) interest rates will be increased because of one or more late payments, whether (and if so, where) a payment can be made in person and when it must be made to avoid late fees (which must be no sooner than one business day before the payment is due).

TITLE III

Title III adds provisions to the Truth in Lending Act dealing with issuing credit cards to people under age 18 and amends the Act's provisions regarding penalties.

Section 301 requires that a credit card can be issued to someone under 18 only if the application includes either (1) the signature of a parent, legal guardian, spouse, or other person willing and able to be jointly liable for amounts charged on the card before the card holder becomes 18; or (2) financial information showing the applicant has enough independent means to be able to repay amounts charged on the card; or (3) proof that the applicant has completed a credit-counseling course by a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency meeting certain specified requirements.

Section 302 allows borrowers injured by violations of credit card rules to collect increased amounts from card issuers. Current law says they can recover at least \$200 but no more than \$2,000. This section would increase that to at least \$500 or twice the amount of an improper finance charge (whichever is higher), with an overall limit of \$5,000 for isolated violations or appropriately higher amounts for established patterns or practice of violations.

Section 303 makes the rules specified in section 301 for regular credit cards apply as well to college "affinity cards" (a card with the logo or name of an institution of higher education in addition to that of the lender) issued to someone under age 18.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY KING

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandy King as the recipient of the 2006 Weston Democrat Citizen of the Year Award. Sandy is receiving this award in recognition for her life long commitment and commendable service to Lewis County by enhancing the dignity and worth of all of its citizens.

Sandy has always been known as ready and willing to help neighbors and friends in need. She has long been involved with the community through Our Neighbor, CEOS activities, and the Irish Spring Festival. Sandy is currently the president of the Shamrock CEOS Club and attends the Ireland United Methodist Church. She also works as a liaison between

the Salvation Army, local churches, and the public.

I commend Sandy for being an outstanding citizen and a dedicated asset to her county and her state. The citizens of Lewis County will forever be indebted to Sandy for her tireless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sandy King for her life long commitment to the community of Lewis County. She works tirelessly to give so much that she is truly the Citizen of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDRA
BRIDGES NEWKIRK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to Sandra Bridges Newkirk, who has devoted her life to her work and service in Lee County, Alabama. After 40 years with Auburn University's Department of Health and Human Performance, Mrs. Newkirk is anticipating retirement on May 15, 2006.

Mrs. Newkirk has accomplished much at Auburn University and is wholly deserving to be recognized for contributing to some of the University's firsts. As the first volleyball coach, the first intramural director, and the first Women's Athletic Director at Auburn, she has proven to be a monumental supporter of health and wellness. Mrs. Newkirk advanced women's sport programs in Alabama and worked to elevate such programs to a competitive basis. The Department of Health and Human Performance is sure to miss her as one of its professors.

In addition to her dedication to Auburn University, Sandra Bridges Newkirk has also contributed greatly to the Lee County community, including her service as a mediator with the Lee County Court System for adults.

I salute Mrs. Newkirk for her contributions to Auburn University, Lee County, and for the betterment of the entire State of Alabama.

IN HONOR OF JAMES A.
TUCCARONE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of James A. Tucciarone, upon his retirement that follows an exemplary, thirty-six year career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), throughout Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

In 1971, Mr. Tucciarone began his career as an FAA air traffic controller at the Akron-Canton control tower, and later served as Manager of the Akron Municipal Air Traffic Control Tower, Akron-Canton Air Traffic Control Tower and the Columbus Air Traffic Control Tower. He was called upon to serve as Manager of the Cleveland Center, and as Sectional Supervisor of the Operations Branch at the Great Lakes Regional Office in Des Plaines, IL. Mr. Tucciarone also worked as Assistant Air Traf-

fic Manager at Cleveland and Detroit Metro Towers, and also at the Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center. In every place he worked, Mr. Tucciarone's integrity, expertise and focus on flight safety never wavered.

Mr. Tucciarone's boundless enthusiasm, energy, kind heart and steadfast integrity frame both his personal and professional life. Aside from his numerous accomplishments in the field of aviation, Mr. Tucciarone is an active member of his community. He is a member of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board for "Kids in Flight," a non-profit organization whose mission is to use aviation as a tool of empowerment for seriously ill children and their families. He is a member of numerous civic agencies and also volunteers his time coaching and umpiring youth basketball and softball teams.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mr. James A. Tucciarone, upon his retirement from the FAA that follows thirty-six years of outstanding service and accomplishment. His dedication, expertise, leadership, and energy, focused on excellence and safety in aviation, also extends outward into the community, where he offers his time and talent to children and their families who struggle daily with illness, uplifting their lives to a place where hopes and dreams take flight. I wish Mr. Tucciarone and his family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as his journey begins from here.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL
BUTERA, ESQ., ON A SUCCESS-
FUL TERM AS PRESIDENT OF
THE WILKES-BARRE LAW AND
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Michael Butera, immediate past president of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Attorney Butera performed in an exemplary manner by providing leadership and direction to a proud and prestigious organization founded 156 years ago on June 18, 1850.

A graduate of the University of Scranton and Temple University School of Law, Attorney Butera has been in the private practice of law since 1976 in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

He is also active with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Northeastern Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the Pennsylvania Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Attorney Butera served on the Wyoming Area School Board for six years. He also served as president of the board of Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, president of the board of the Greater Pittston YMCA and was vice president of the Third Legislative District for the Luzerne County Democrat Party. He is also a charter member of the St. Martin Society.

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association was located in the county Court House located on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square from 1859 to 1909 when it was moved to the sec-

ond floor of the current county Court House at 200 N. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The Law Library contains over 20,000 volumes of law books, reports and journals. The Law Library also operates the Luzerne Legal Register, the law journal of Luzerne County and the official reporter of the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. A lawyer referral service is also operated out of the law library for people who need a lawyer but do not know whom to contact.

The Law and Library Association also operates a charitable foundation that supports charitable and humanitarian projects throughout Luzerne County. It is intended to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the legal system in Luzerne County, ensure access to legal information and representation to all members of the Luzerne County community and foster good relations between members of the Bar, Judiciary and the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Butera on a job well done. His devotion to community service is reflected in his tireless pursuit of excellence on behalf of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE FRESNO METRO-
POLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DIS-
TRICT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District for reaching a momentous milestone—its 50th anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District was created in order to regulate flooding that had plagued the community for over 80 years. From the outset, the Flood Control District committed itself to managing the flood, storm, surface and ground water resources of the area with the goal of preventing property damage and personal injury as a result of floods. The agency works to conserve such waters for local, domestic and agricultural use. In addition, it seeks to maximize the public use and benefit of the District's programs and infrastructure. This has resulted in the use of ponding basins for recreational purposes such as soccer fields, baseball diamonds and parks. The district has generated 22 recreational sites, including the Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park in Fresno, which serves to accommodate disabled children. This recreational facility has received numerous awards, including the Innovations in American Government Award from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

With such a mission in mind, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has established infrastructure projects and completed systems in Fresno and its surrounding areas. These projects, valued at over \$600,000,000, include 149 ponding basins, 57 pumping plants, 513 miles of pipeline, three dams, seven flood detention basins, two major stream diversion channels, 145 miles of natural streams and eight river outfalls.

In addition to the creation of these infrastructure projects, the Fresno Metropolitan

Flood Control District has worked resolutely for over 50 years to create programs such as "Clean Storm Water" that seek to educate the community on the importance of water resource management and the prevention of pollution to help protect and preserve groundwater supplies for the future. Moreover, many of its policies on outsourcing construction, professional services and maintenance of certain facilities have not only helped the flooding problems, but also have created countless local jobs as well.

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has had long standing and effective working partnerships with State and Federal agencies such as the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agency and its partners have created a successful model for cooperative interagency planning, management, and execution of local public works projects among the Fresno Irrigation District, County of Fresno, City of Fresno and the City of Clovis. Moreover, it has greatly enhanced the safety and quality of life in the Fresno and Clovis areas.

For all its efforts, I would like to commend the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. The organization has tirelessly worked to meet the flood control, drainage and water resource management needs of its constituency; while adhering to high standards of performance, environmental sensitivity, economic efficiency and maximization of public benefit. On this special occasion I would like to extend congratulations to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District on its milestone 50th Anniversary.

RECOGNITION OF CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER TWO CHRISTOPHER B.
DONALDSON

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Chief Warrant Officer Two Christopher B. Donaldson who was recently killed in a helicopter crash during combat operations fighting for freedom in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

Donaldson was a 28-year-old from Effingham, Illinois and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He was a 1995 graduate from Effingham High School in Effingham, IL. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Air Assault Badge and the Army Aviator Badge.

Donaldson paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is survived by his mother, Lynne Donaldson of Effingham; his father, William Donaldson of Beecher City and many other family, friends and loved ones. I am proud of the service this young man gave to his country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Chief Warrant Officer Two Donaldson. It is soldiers like him that are risking their lives day in and

day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. God bless them and may God continue to bless America.

TRIBUTE TO OWOSSO MASONIC
LODGE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise tomorrow, Friday, May 12, 2006, to congratulate all the members of the Owosso Masonic Lodge as they celebrate the 150th anniversary since the founding of the lodge.

Since its establishment, the lodge has built a storied tradition of service and charity. This tradition of support to the residents of Michigan continues today through activities including the Special Olympics and support for the local police and fire departments and youth programs. The Owosso Masonic Lodge should be proud of their accomplishments, and I commend their dedication to the community for the last 150 years.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I applaud the Owosso Masonic Lodge for this outstanding achievement.

HONORING MR. LINDSLEY
FRENETTE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of an extraordinary man who has dedicated his life to serving and bettering his community.

Mr. Lindsley Frenette started his public service career in 1953, when he began serving as Doyle Township Supervisor. For 13 years, he served in that capacity before he was elected Schoolcraft County Board Commissioner in 1966.

Not only has Mr. Frenette made his community a better place through 52 years of involvement with local government, but he has spent decades working to improve mental health in Michigan.

As a co-founder of the Schoolcraft County Community Mental Health program and its successor agency, the Hiawatha Community Mental Health Authority, he has helped to provide mental health services to many people who would otherwise not have had access to them. In addition to creating these agencies Mr. Frenette helped grow and sustain them, spending 33 years on the Schoolcraft County Mental Health Board.

Mr. Frenette also spent many years on the Legislative Committee for the Michigan Association of County Mental Health Boards. In that capacity he played a key role educating state and federal legislators about the importance of mental health. My own father spent a number of years serving alongside Mr. Frenette on the Mental Health Board and he had nothing but good things to say about Mr. Frenette and his dedication.

By all reports, Mr. Frenette is not only a devoted public servant, but a genuinely kind person who is concerned about the welfare of his fellow citizens.

Together he and his wife Guerda raised seven children and saw the arrival of many grandchildren.

On Friday, Lindsley Frenette will be honored by friends, family and colleagues for his 33 years of service as a Community Mental Health Board member. While he is not retiring, the people closest to him decided it was time to come together and pay tribute to Mr. Frenette.

Mr. Speaker, that recognition is truly deserved. I join Mr. Frenette's friends and family in wishing him and his family all the best, in saluting him for his years of service and in wishing him the best for his many future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO EDDY ARNOLD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to take a moment today to honor Eddy Arnold on his 88th birthday.

I'm fortunate enough to call him a friend and neighbor, but like so many Americans, I'm also a fan of his wonderful musical talent.

Raised on a Tennessee farm, the "Tennessee Plowboy" started playing guitar at ten and he's been entertaining us all ever since.

He shattered the country and pop charts with 28 number one hits. And he proved that a beautiful song never gets old with hits like "You Don't Know Me."

Eddy's songs spanned 5 decades. Whether you saw him at the Grand Ole Opry, watched Eddy Arnold Time on television, or heard one of his songs just the other day on the radio—there's no mistaking that Eddy Arnold is an American icon and we wish him all the best on his birthday.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS FROM
SADDLE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate four outstanding students from Saddle Brook Middle School in my district: Ursula Kapinos, Heather Kuehnle, Ashley LaRose, and Kasia Truskowska. This team of girls was recently named the national winners of the Christopher Columbus Awards competition, a science and technology program for middle school students, for their invention called the Auto-MAT-ic. As the winners of the competition, the girls received a \$25,000 award to further develop their prize winning invention.

The dedication that Ursula, Heather, Ashley, and Kasia have demonstrated to this project is a true testament to the excellent work that is being done in New Jersey public schools. After learning that 1.6 million senior citizens are treated in emergency rooms for injuries caused by falls in the home and that

many of these falls are caused by darkness, these four members of the Saddle Brook Gifted and Talented Program figured out a way to help solve one of the causes of this problem. As a result of four months of intensive research and design, they invented a pressure sensitive floor mat, the Auto-MAT-ic, that automatically illuminates a bedside lamp enabling seniors to see, so they can walk safely at night. Preventing falls will not only save injuries and medical costs, but it will also help seniors retain their independence.

In many ways, the work has only started for these young ladies. They are currently putting their \$25,000 prize to good use. The girls have contracted with a company to help them make their product wireless and to date they have made progress in creating four prototypes that are being tested by seniors. In addition, the students have created their own corporation, Safety Steps LLC. On Monday, May 15, 2006 the group will be in Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressional staff, the American Association of Retired Persons, and the Center for Aging Services Technology about their product and to continue their advocacy on behalf of seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these four students. I commend Urszula Kapinos, Heather Kuehnle, Ashley LaRose, and Kasia Truszkowska for their continued pursuit of trying to help keep seniors safe by creating devices to help prevent falls in the home. On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey, I congratulate them on winning the Christopher Columbus Award. I wish them continued success in their work and advocacy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 4-LIFE PROJECT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the 4-Life Project in Lexington, Missouri. On May 12, 2006, the 4-Life Project will receive the Bishop John J. Sullivan Award by the Catholic Charities of Kansas City—St. Joseph. The award, the Catholic Charities' most distinguished honor, is given to individuals or organizations whose deeds, character, leadership, and accomplishments best exemplify the mission of the Catholic Charities.

The 4-Life Project consists of 4 programs critical to the Lafayette County area: the Margaret Gray Senior Center, the Rodgers-Lafayette Community Health Center, the Lexington School District Preschool, and Vocational Childcare Training Program. The Senior Center opened on February 15, 2006. It provides a wide array of home and community based services for persons 60 and over, including on-site and home delivered meals, computer classes, and a new program called ProjectEnhance, which assists seniors with ongoing health and wellness issues. The Rodgers-Lafayette Community Health Center opened on January 15, 2006, and provides comprehensive medical care, including dental and mental health care. The Lexington School District Preschool and the Vocational Childcare Training Program provides the area

with a much needed total early childhood center.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the staff of the 4-Life Project for their accomplishments and in thanking them for their contributions to the community.

HONORING EVA HALLER AND WOMEN'S eNEWS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great friend, constituent and tireless advocate for women's issues, Ms. Eva Haller.

Eva Haller began her political activism in Budapest, Hungary during World War II by printing and distributing anti-Hitler leaflets. She eventually moved to the United States, where she earned a master's degree in social work while maintaining full-time employment in the service-industry. After graduating, Eva worked as a social worker in New York's Lower East Side. She then took time to volunteer for UNICEF with her husband in Southeast Asia, officially beginning her career as a philanthropist.

A dedicated activist as well, Eva serves on the board of Women for Women International, a Washington-based agency that helps women in war-torn regions rebuild their lives. She also chairs the American board of Free the Children U.S.A., an organization dedicated to eradicating child poverty, exploitation and the use of child soldiers.

Dedicated and talented women such as Eva Haller deserve to be recognized by such credible institutions as Women's eNews. Serving as the definitive source of substantive news—unavailable anywhere else—covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy, Women's eNews enhances women's ability to define their own lives and to participate fully in every sector of human endeavor.

Eva is an excellent example for all of us to live up to and I am proud to recognize the inspiring work she does on her own and in conjunction with Women's eNews. It is no accident that the organization will honor Eva, among other admirable women, at its gala dinner, "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" on May 16. In these trying times there is more and more need for the leadership exemplified by Eva and Women's eNews.

SALUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZILWAUKEE LIONS CLUB

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Zilwaukee Lions Club as it celebrates 50 years of service to the community of Zilwaukee, Michigan. The Lions Club will gather on June 9th to mark the occasion with a banquet.

The Zilwaukee Lions Club was founded in March 1956 by a group of men looking to fulfill the Lions motto, "We Serve." Lions Clubs offer their associates the opportunity to give back to the community and the members of the Zilwaukee Club have embraced this philosophy wholeheartedly.

That same year, the members built the first boat dock in Zilwaukee. Not content to be limited to one endeavor, the Zilwaukee Lions Club has spent the past 50 years providing such diverse services as arranging eye exams and glasses for the needy; taking blind men fishing; expanding the tape library for the blind; building a pavilion in the Zilwaukee City Park; holding an annual Christmas Dinner for the senior citizens of Zilwaukee; and many other worthwhile projects too numerous to name.

Lions Clubs International has 1,300,000 members in 196 countries all contributing to the Vision Program. The Zilwaukee Lions Club participates with its fellow clubs to achieve the goal of bringing sight to the world's blind as well as improving their individual communities. The Zilwaukee Club has continuously maintained this commitment throughout its 50 year history.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives, please join me in congratulating the Zilwaukee Lions Club on the wonderful job they have done over the past 50 years serving the residents of Zilwaukee, Michigan and the surrounding area. They are to be commended for their good work, their dedication to others and their pledge to continue to serve.

HONORING STAFF SGT. GREG WARNER

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of Staff Sgt. Greg Wagner who died May 8, 2006, from wounds suffered while serving in Iraq.

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

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Greg's compassion and service. Greg, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military, continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Staff Sgt. Greg Wagner. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTAURI HIGH
SCHOOL FALCONS GIRLS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and applaud the Centauri High School Falcons Girls Basketball team for their thrilling victory over the Denver Christian High Crusaders in the Colorado State Championship this past March. This riveting victory marks Centauri High School's second girls state championship, one undoubtedly deserved by this group of hard-working and devoted players.

Displaying their tenacious defense, the Falcons forced 31 turnovers against the Crusaders. Even though they were down by 8 points at the end of the first half, Centauri High proved its maturity and experience, regrouping and coming back in the second half to win the game 62 to 57.

The Falcons are soaring high today not only because they are great individuals, but because they are great athletes who work together. Led by coach Dave Forster, teammates Janette McCarroll, Amanda Gylling, Marcie Cooley, Wynona Miller, Lucia Muniz, Jeree Booth, Krystina George, Raina Gylling, Venessa Jaramillo, Lisa McCarroll, Lindy Norton, Amanda Ruybal, and Lacey Smith all displayed the determination, focus, and teamwork needed to defeat their challenging opponent. The Falcons' victory was based on a combination of accurate shooting, powerful defense, and masterful passing. Throughout the intense second half, the team never lost its focus or concentration, sinking pivotal free throws and continually executing plays with perfection.

The Falcons' ability to work together is a true inspiration to any person who has ever been on a team or worked with others. Once again, congratulations to these amazing student athletes and all of Centauri High School on their great victory!

TRIBUTE TO DR. DON MICHAEL
RANDEL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer recognition to Dr. Don Michael Randel, the outgoing president of the University of Chicago. Dr. Randel has presided over the University of Chicago since 2000, and he has been instrumental in strengthening the humanities and the arts on the campus. Dr. Randel has also been active in overseeing a broad range of interactions with the city of Chicago and further strengthening the University's programs in the physical and biomedical sciences and its relationship with the Argonne National Laboratory. He also led the Chicago Initiative, an ongoing campaign for \$2 billion, the largest in the University's history, which has raised more than \$1.3 billion toward this goal.

Dr. Randel came to Chicago after 32 years at Cornell University, where he served as a faculty member in the department of music and in many administrative posts, including

department chair, vice-provost, and associate dean and then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He became provost of Cornell University in 1995.

Dr. Randel is one of the nation's leading musicologists and served as the editor of the *Journal of the American Musicology Society*. He also is editor of the *Harvard Dictionary of Music* 4th ed., published in 2003, the *Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music*, published in 1996, and the *Harvard Concise Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, published in 1999.

During Dr. Randel's presidency, substantial improvements to the University of Chicago's facilities were completed, including the Paley residence halls, the Ratner Athletic Center, the new Graduate School of Business and the \$200 million Center for Integrative Sciences, the largest building in the University's history. The University also completed several joint programs with the city along the Midway, including opening a highly successful charter school, which has now been joined by another, under the auspices of the University's Center for Urban School Improvement. The University also has launched the Collegiate Scholars Program, a College bridge program aimed at preparing Chicago public school students for elite academic institutions.

Dr. Randel will leave a long-lasting impact on the First Congressional District by encouraging a greater awareness of the value of diversity. Speaking on the importance of combating prejudice, Dr. Randel noted the related virtue of diversity, both of ideas and of experience when he commented, "No part of the University community can think of itself as immune from this concern for diversity. An unprecedented number of programs are in place to increase diversity in the functioning of our academic programs and in the ways in which we carry on our business affairs and our relations with the neighborhood and city of which we are a part. Each of us must believe that embracing—not merely tolerating—diversity is a personal obligation."

Mr. Speaker, the University of Chicago, as well as the city itself, will be losing an exceptional, first-class leader, but we want to wish Dr. Randel well on all of his future endeavors, as well as thank him for his many contributions to the school and to the great city of Chicago.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the conference report on H.R. 4297, the FY06 tax reconciliation bill.

As I stated in December 2005, when I voted against the House tax reconciliation bill, I do not oppose tax cuts, and in a more stable fiscal climate I would support reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividend income. What I do oppose is borrowing money to pay for tax cuts, particularly for tax cuts that do not expire for another 3 years. According to the Joint

Committee on Taxation, the conference report before us today would cost approximately \$91 billion over the next 10 years, and would raise taxes by approximately \$22 billion over the same period. Considering the state of our current fiscal situation, this conference report would do more harm than good at this time.

In 2001, I was one of only 28 House Democrats to vote for President Bush's 2001 tax cuts that reduced marginal income tax rates. Since 2001, however, our country's fiscal condition has dramatically reversed course. In 2001, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] predicted that the 10-year budget surplus would be \$5.6 trillion. That projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion has deteriorated into a projected \$3.9 trillion deficit during the same period. In FY 2005, the Federal Government ran a budget deficit of \$319 billion, the third largest deficit in our Nation's history.

Further, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our Nation's history. On October 21, 2005, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$8 trillion for the first time in our Nation's history. That is an increase of \$1 trillion in our national debt over the last 2 years. It took our country 193 years, from 1787 to 1980, to accumulate an additional \$1 trillion in debt.

Unfortunately, our national debt is only getting worse. When I voted against the House tax reconciliation bill in December, our national debt was \$8.1 trillion. Today, our national debt is \$8.4 trillion, an increase of \$300 billion in only 5 months. An \$8.4 trillion national debt comes down to approximately \$28,000 per person in our country. That is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report on H.R. 4297 extends several tax cut measures, including reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income and relief from the alternative minimum tax, that I support and would vote for in a balanced, revenue neutral measure. I would also support several provisions, including the above-the-line deduction for higher education and classroom expenses and the research and development credit, that were included in the House tax reconciliation bill and are not included in this conference report. I hope that extensions of these provisions in the tax code will be included in a future tax measure this year.

Further, while the conference report includes multiyear extensions of lowered capital gains and dividend tax rates, it includes only a one-year extension of relief from the alternative minimum tax [AMT]. I strongly support AMT relief, and voted for H.R. 4096, the Stealth Tax Relief Act, on December 7, 2005, which extended AMT relief and indexed it for inflation. The AMT is the most significant looming tax concern for middle-class American families; if AMT relief is allowed to lapse, the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT will increase from 3 million in 2004 to 21 million this year. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending AMT relief and indexing it for inflation would reduce Federal revenue by \$191 billion over the next 5 years. This is an immediate problem that Congress and the administration need to work together to fix in a responsible, bipartisan, and long-term manner, before millions of Americans are hit with large, unexpected tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues in both parties to advance commonsense, bipartisan approaches to solving

our country's fiscal problems. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act as soon as possible, in a fiscally sound way, to prevent serious consequences for current and future generations.

**FREEDOM FOR EMILIO LEYVA
PÉREZ**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Emilio Leyva Pérez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Leyva Pérez is a pro-democracy activist, President of the opposition group Hard Front Line and a delegate of the pro-freedom coalition Assembly to Promote Civil Society. Because of Mr. Leyva Pérez's steadfast conviction in human liberty and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

Amnesty International classified him as a prisoner of conscience after he was arrested by the terrorist regime on February 22, 2002. He was locked in the totalitarian gulag for over 2 years, without ever being convicted of a supposed "crime."

The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, describes the deplorable conditions in the totalitarian gulag, "Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening. Conditions in detention facilities also were harsh. Prison authorities frequently beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, particularly those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet."

Despite over 2 years in this hellish gulag, Mr. Leyva Pérez never wavered in his commitment to freedom for all Cubans. As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on July 13, 2005, Mr. Leyva Pérez and other opposition activists were detained whilst commemorating the "13 de Marzo" tugboat sinking of 1994, when the dictatorship murdered dozens of unarmed men, women and children. Once again, the tyranny has locked Mr. Leyva Pérez in the totalitarian gulag awaiting "trial."

Mr. Leyva Pérez is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. His bravery and courage in defiance of tyranny serve as a tragic reminder that the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leyva Pérez is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My colleagues, it is categorically unacceptable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are languishing in the depraved prisons of tyrants.

**TRIBUTE TO FATHER BRENDAN
NALLY**

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Father Brendan Nally. I am proud to join with the members of Our Lady of the Rosary in Clinton, Massachusetts in saluting him with a special celebration of his retirement as well as the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Since 1989, Father Nally has served as Pastor of "Holy Rosary," as the Church located in the Acre District of Clinton is known. As the one priest assigned to the Parish during the past 17 years, Father Nally has singularly ministered to the spiritual needs of all the parishioners—saying all the daily and weekly Masses, performing all the religious sacraments and ceremonies including baptisms, weddings and funerals, visiting the sick and elderly, as well as performing all the administrative tasks and duties required for the operation of the Church. Throughout this period, Father Nally has endeared himself not only to the many families and members of his Parish but to countless citizens of the Town of Clinton.

As a recognized community leader, Father Nally has been a strong supporter of the local youth of the town. In addition to coordinating and overseeing a strong religious education program for the children of Holy Rosary, he has ensured that a program of other youth activities be maintained. He has also been a loyal fan and booster of the local school athletic teams, attending and cheering on the town's athletes to victory. When the Clinton Public Schools needed a clergy member to participate in the Baccalaureate Exercises for graduating seniors, Father Nally was there. Whenever other organizations needed help, Father Nally was only too glad to be of assistance—as, for example, when a local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter or an Irish step-dancing group needed a meeting place and the parish hall was made available to them.

As if he didn't already have enough duties and obligations to fulfill during his busy days, Father Nally also answered the call and served for a number of years as Chaplain to the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Pre-Release Center in the nearby town of Lancaster.

Prior to his most recent assignment as Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, Father Nally had served as a Pastor and Associate Pastor at a number of other Parishes throughout the Diocese of Worcester in Central Massachusetts. Additionally, his priestly service included periods as a faculty member and Headmaster at several Catholic High Schools in the region.

A native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Father Nally attended LaSalette Preparatory Seminary and LaSalette Major Seminary in Ipswich, Massachusetts and was ordained a Priest on May 5, 1956.

The 50th Anniversary of Father Nally's Ordination as a Priest, and his remarkable record of outstanding service to the Church, certainly deserves to be applauded and celebrated. His rich legacy of religious ministry and service has touched and improved the lives of so

many people, and I am truly honored to offer my personal thanks and congratulations. I know that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man of God and in extending very best wishes for a retirement blessed with continued health and happiness to Father Brendan Nally.

**NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER
APPRECIATION**

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 12th, 2006 as National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. Child care providers are all too often unsung heroes. Yet early childhood is a critical developmental period for children and it takes a special person to work in this field. The contribution of childcare providers to the quality of family life is certainly deserving of recognition by this body.

Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. This recognition takes many forms, including state and municipal government proclamations, local media coverage, business and community events, and the personal acknowledgment of providers by parents.

The childcare profession not only plays a critical role in supporting healthy families and children, but is also a key part of the economy. A recent National Child Care Association study shows that there are at least 2.8 million people who earn their living by teaching or caring for young children. It is also estimated that of the 21 million children under age 6 in America, 13 million are in child care at least part-time. An additional 24 million school-age children are in some form of child care outside of school-time.

I am proud to recognize Wyoming childcare providers and their efforts to make Wyoming's bright future even brighter through their dedicated care. In a state with wide open spaces, Wyoming's daycare providers have wide open arms with which they embrace our children to help them grow and prosper.

With that, I commend our nation's childcare providers and invite my colleagues to do the same on National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.

**STATEMENT HONORING THE TOWN
OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 200TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Town of Canton, Connecticut, on the occasion of its 200th Anniversary on May 20, 2006.

While the Town of Canton officially celebrates its bicentennial on this date, the community that became Canton actually traces its roots as far back as 1737, when it was known

as the First Ecclesiastical District of West Simsbury. The community officially separated from the Town of Simsbury on May 20, 1806, taking the name Canton, which means "division of territory."

Many generations of hard-working people have lived and worked in Canton throughout its 200 years. When David and Samuel Collins and their cousin William Wells sought natural waterways for factory power, they settled in Canton in 1826. Through their industriousness, they developed the world's first factory devoted to making axes, which eventually became the world's largest manufacturer of edged tools. The Collins Company also gained recognition as one of the world's most innovative manufacturers, after Samuel Collins developed the utilization of anthracite coal for factory operation—a significant step in igniting our country's Industrial Revolution.

Of course, the Collins Company would not have realized this impressive and historical success were it not for the hard-working citizens who helped establish a very solid industrial base in the region. Many generations of Canton residents have stood out and have had important roles in shaping the town's history for the past 200 years. One of Canton's most famous citizens, William Edgar Symonds, earned the Medal of Honor for bravery while fighting with the Union Army in the Civil War. After the war, Mr. Symonds became a well-known patent attorney and political figure, rising to the position of Speaker of the House in the State Legislature. Later, as a U.S. Congressman, he helped pass legislation to protect patents on an international level, and was awarded the French Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Canton, Connecticut, upon achieving its 200th Anniversary. I applaud the generations of Canton citizens who have helped this town grow since its founding in 1806, and I commend today's Canton residents for everything they do to make sure that this great town will enjoy a prosperous and productive future.

CHRONIC HEPATITIS B NEEDS PRIORITIZATION AS A SERIOUS HEALTH CONCERN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for sending so many staff members to today's "AIM for the B" briefing designed to elevate awareness of chronic hepatitis B, a serious health issue in the United States. This briefing emphasized the importance of increasing diagnosis, screening, and treatment, particularly for Asian Pacific Islander Americans who are disproportionately affected with the disease.

I joined my colleague, Rep. CHARLIE DENT of Pennsylvania, and representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), patient advocacy organizations, physicians, and patients to convey the potential consequences of chronic hepatitis B and to layout actions needed to increase awareness and address the continued progression of this infectious disease.

Rep. DENT and I have introduced H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act, which

would authorize additional resources to more effectively research, track, diagnose, treat and manage chronic hepatitis B. I urge my colleagues to recognize chronic hepatitis B as a potentially life-threatening disease and to help us enact this bill in the 109th Congress. Together, we can make a difference in addressing this national and global public health issue.

We are extremely fortunate to have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better chance at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that remains to be done. We need to increase public education about chronic hepatitis B and its relation to liver disease, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, and work to increase the length and quality of life for patients chronically infected with chronic hepatitis B. Unfortunately, vaccination rates remain low and the hepatitis B virus continues to be one of the most commonly reported vaccine preventable diseases in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned about the tremendous impact that chronic hepatitis B has on the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans have chronic hepatitis B.

Today's "AIM for the B" briefing and next week's National Hepatitis B Awareness Week events in California and New York are encouraging steps in the right direction. We have the ability to stop the spread and progression of this disease and it is the responsibility to help our constituents affected by chronic hepatitis B.

THE TRUTH ABOUT HIGH GAS PRICES

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2006, the House of Representatives voted on legislation, H.R. 5253, to federally prohibit price gouging in the sale of gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, and biofuels. While I am committed to working with my colleagues to enact energy policies that will lower gas prices and help out American families, I do not believe that this legislation will help.

I voted against this legislation because I believe it irresponsible to criminalize an action without defining exactly what we would be criminalizing. As my constituents in East Texas would say, this legislation simply does not pass the smell test. Not only does this legislation criminalize an action without defining the crime, but it passes off that responsibility to unelected bureaucrats at the Federal Trade Commission. Thus, this legislation could effectively criminalize profit making by companies according to some artificial and arbitrary definition determined by bureaucrats in Washington—and that's not the American way.

Additionally, at a November 9, 2005, joint hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Fed-

eral Trade Commissioner Deborah Platt Majoras testified that federal price gouging laws would unnecessarily hurt consumers, instead emphasizing that enforcement of our current antitrust laws is the best method by which to protect American consumers. I find it interesting that not even the Federal Trade Commission believes that federal price gouging laws are an effective protection for consumers.

While I believe that price gouging may exist in limited circumstances, such as the immediate aftermath of a hurricane where market forces have broken down, I have seen no evidence that we are experiencing high gas prices because of price gouging. Instead, I believe that the following factors are responsible for high gasoline prices: (1) A huge increase in worldwide demand, especially in China and India; (2) Supply uncertainty and political instability from large producers like Iran, Venezuela and Nigeria; (3) Over-reliance on the Gulf Coast region; (4) Environmental concerns limiting domestic production and refining; (5) Failure of new technologies to yet mature. Only through increasing our domestic production and reducing excessive federal regulations will we create conditions for lower gasoline prices in the future.

In the face of high gas prices, Congress must not pass knee-jerk reaction legislation that will only worsen the problem in the future. We owe it to our constituents to pass solid, sensible legislation that will promote American energy independence in the future and address this issue in the long term. Ultimately, I did not believe this bill would do anything to lower gas prices for my constituents.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE MILWAUKEE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, MYSO. MYSO was started in 1956, with assistance from the Junior League Children's Arts Program, the Milwaukee Art Center and later the Rotary Club. It has since grown into a valued community institution and the largest youth orchestra program in the Nation.

MYSO provides valuable education and character development for all of its young participants. Through participation in MYSO programs, young musicians develop discipline and creative problem-solving skills, and learn to work as part of a team. MYSO provides young artists with exposure to professional musicians and master teachers. Since its inception, the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra has become one of the most respected youth orchestras in the United States, serving almost 800 young musicians in a range of programs that include several large orchestras in addition to smaller and more specialized ensemble groups. MYSO alumni have gone on to distinguished careers as professional musicians, and have become accomplished and dedicated supporters of arts in the community.

MYSO has also made a significant commitment to bringing arts into the community. As

budget cuts trim funding for arts and music education in the Milwaukee Public Schools, MYSO has created new programs that ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn about and appreciate music. Programs like Progressions and MYSO Jazz Studies bring instrumental instruction and ensemble performance to students who might otherwise never have the opportunity to play an instrument or learn to read music. Together with several other youth arts organizations, MYSO collaborated to develop the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, creating a dedicated space for youth arts that fosters excellence and honors the creative talents of Milwaukee-area youth. This project has contributed to the revitalization of a key central city neighborhood.

For all of these good works, I am honored to commend the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. I thank them for 50 years of exemplary leadership and teaching, and look forward to their continued efforts to provide Milwaukee's youth with outstanding arts education.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE ROSE MYERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly exemplary student and constituent as she prepares to graduate from C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy on May 23, 2006. Not only is Katherine Rose Myers valedictorian of her high school, she is a student leader among leaders and an outstanding example for all young people.

Katherine is the daughter of Kenneth Myers, Sr. and Emma McGraw Myers of Columbia, South Carolina. She has grown up in the same home where her mother was raised. However, she made a different choice than her mother regarding her high school education. Katherine's mother helped integrate a nearby high school during the early days of desegregation. Although Katherine could have chosen to attend any high school in her school district, she chose to go to C.A. Johnson, the neighborhood school. She felt very strongly about her choice, telling the local newspaper "It's my community and it's a nurturing environment."

It is certainly an environment in which Katherine thrived. Academically, she earned a 4.93 grade point average and has been recognized as a National Achievement Finalist, Palmetto Fellow Scholar and an Academic All-Star. Outside the classroom, Katherine has been a student leader as well. Her peers elected her to serve as Student Body President, and she is on the leadership team of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a varsity member of the Lady Hornets Basketball team and the track team. During the summer of 2005, Katherine was chosen to attend the prestigious Palmetto Girls State where she was chosen by her peers to serve as Governor. To honor this significant accomplishment Columbia City Council proclaimed October 5, 2005 Katherine Myers Day and awarded her the key to the city.

Despite all of these accomplishments, Katherine still finds the time to contribute to her

community. She is the former state vice president of the L.M. Atkinson Federated Youth Club Ladies of Essence and a Senior Cadette in the Girl Scouts Council of the Congaree Area. She also sings in the W.H. Neal Youth Choir at First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia.

This fall, Katherine will attend Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina as the recipient of the Herman W. Lay Scholarship, and will study political science. Prior to beginning her college experience, Katherine has already been selected to be one of ten Furman incoming freshmen to study in China for three weeks in July.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in commending Katherine Rose Myers as a leader of tomorrow. She has demonstrated that she will be a young person to watch in the coming years, and I will certainly be following her progress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT OF 2006"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy, DOE, recently announced that it will no longer reimburse its contractors for the cost of providing defined benefit pensions for new employees. Beginning in March 2007, contractors will only be reimbursed for defined contribution, 401(k)-type plans. Furthermore, DOE will only reimburse for a "market-based medical benefit plan," thus encouraging contractors who provide comprehensive medical coverage for their employees to drop or reduce that coverage. In short, the DOE's action is a direct threat to workers' retirement and health care security.

That is why I rise today to introduce legislation to put an immediate halt to this policy. At a time when even well-funded companies are choosing to terminate their pension plans and Congress is struggling to find ways to encourage employers to provide meaningful health and retirement benefits to workers, penalizing federal contractors for offering guaranteed retirement benefits and quality health insurance is hypocritical and counterproductive. This bill, "the Department of Energy Contractor Employee Equitable Treatment Act of 2006," will simply prevent DOE from using its funds to implement this wrong-headed proposal.

According to a Department press release, the purpose of the new policy is "based on sound business practices and market-based benchmarks for cost management." However, at a speech at the National Press Club in January of last year, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao claimed that "President Bush has made retirement security one of the highest priorities of his second term. A critical component of his agenda is ensuring that the defined benefit pension system is viable and that the promises made to the workers enrolled in these plans are kept." This new DOE policy, particularly after the President's effort to privatize Social Security, contradicts that statement and reveals a true agenda of undermining guaranteed retirement benefits.

The DOE rationale—that defined benefit pension plans are too volatile—is particularly ironic given the pressure the Bush Administration is pushing for a House-Senate pension conference bill to change pension law in ways that will make the cost of a pension plan higher and less predictable.

Moreover, by tying reimbursement to a "market based medical benefit plan," the DOE encourages contractors who provide comprehensive medical coverage to reduce such coverage and to further shift health care cost burdens onto employees, rather than addressing rising health care costs. The DOE directive requires all contractors to make clear that they can "unilaterally change, suspend, or terminate any medical plan, coverage or contribution at any time." It further limits the conditions under which retirees may receive retiree health benefit coverage. Encouraging the loss or reduction of health benefits of any workers or retirees, including workers and retirees serving our country at nuclear facilities, is just plain wrong.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

IN HONOR OF DR. DANIEL R. MISHELL, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Daniel R. Mishell, Jr., an outstanding physician and pioneer in the field of women's health. This Saturday, May 13, 2006, family, friends and admirers will gather to celebrate Dr. Mishell's 75th birthday—which occurred on May 7—and salute his many achievements as husband, father and consummate professional.

Daniel Mishell, Jr., earned his BA with great distinction in 1952 and his medical degree in 1955 from Stanford University. As a faculty member at the University of California, Los Angeles in the 1960s, Dr. Mishell's breakthrough research resulted in the first pregnancy tests in the United States not involving animals. In 1969, he joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. As the Lyle G. McNeile Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and as its chairman from 1978 to 2005, Dr. Mishell has left an indelible hand print upon this nationally recognized institution of women's health.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mishell has held several prominent national posts and consulted internationally throughout the years in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Since 1970, he has served as editor-in-chief of *Contraception*, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' official journal. He served as president of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1986 to 1990 and then as its chairman from 1990 to 1994. In 2003, he was elected as a fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Great Britain. Respected as an international trailblazer in his field, Dr. Mishell led the World Health Organization's only clinical research and training center for

human reproduction in the United States. Included, Dr. Mishell has received numerous awards and honors throughout the years, including the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society of Gynecologic Investigation in 1994 and the Guttmacher lectureship of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals in 1999.

The countless studies and research that he has conducted and guided throughout his career have placed Dr. Mishell at the forefront in the field of women's health. His studies in the late 1960's resulted in the development of many of the devices and hormonal methods used for contraception today, including the Copper IUD, Norplant and the Contraceptive Ring. He directed research that led to technologies and tools that make it easier for women to conceive. He published more than 260 scientific papers in peer review journals, co-edited 34 medical textbooks, and wrote more than 140 textbook chapters on contraception, reproductive endocrinology, and infertility. There's no doubt that you will agree with me when I say that Dr. Mishell continues to influence the field of women's health today.

Dr. Mishell regards as one of his greatest achievements having "trained over 400 residents and made sure they would provide excellent health care in the field of Ob/Gyn." Imagine that! There are over 400 residents who have had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Mishell and they continue to build on his work in the field of women's health and share his enthusiastic commitment to ensuring that all women have the healthcare they deserve. Mr. Speaker, I can make this declaration with full confidence in its accuracy because I am the fortunate spouse of one of those superbly trained obstetrician/gynecologists. Moreover, as another of America's finest physicians, Dr. Paul Brenner, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Keck School, points out, Dr. Mishell has been instrumental in opening the field to more female physicians. With Dr. Mishell playing a major role in the education of numerous residents, fellows and junior faculty, it is easy to see why Dr. Brenner acknowledges that "in my lifetime, I don't think there's been anyone else who's had a greater impact on the field of ob/gyn."

Mr. Speaker, as Carol, Dr. Mishell's wife of almost 45 years, their children Sandra, Daniel and Tanya, and their four grandchildren gather with family and friends to toast his 75th birthday, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this thoughtful human being and tireless champion of women's health.

THE PROTECTION OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE ACT

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 2006, I withdrew my support for H.R. 5289, the Protection of University Governance Act. I co-sponsored the legislation believing at the time that it would help schools such as Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant recoup costs associated with eliminating offensive mascots. Upon further inspection it is clear to me that this bill does not achieve that

goal. Rather, this bill helps those schools that refuse to change and I cannot support that effort.

Changing a mascot is a costly proposition for a public college or university. For this reason, I feel our public institutions that have voluntarily decided to no longer associate themselves with offensive mascots need whatever assistance we can provide to them. Additionally, I feel that easing the financial burden of this undertaking could also encourage other schools to follow this responsible course of action.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2006

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 2.9 million nurses across the country whose vital contributions to our healthcare system are rightfully honored this week during "National Nurses Week."

The theme of National Nurses Week (NNW) 2006 is "Nurses: Strength, Commitment, Compassion." These are 3 qualities that nurses show on a daily basis in caring for patients during times of disaster and crisis, at the bedside, and through continuing education.

In my own healthcare and that provided to my family and friends, I am continually impressed by the knowledge, professionalism, and kindness that nurses demonstrate in their patient care. They are literally at the front lines of our healthcare system, and their important role deserves to be recognized. That is why I am pleased to support House Resolution 245, supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week.

There are immediate challenges facing the profession of nursing, and there are concrete steps that Congress should take in order to ensure that patients can benefit from their care now and in the future. Most notably, we must take steps to address the growing shortage of nurses and the aging of the nursing workforce.

Recruitment and retention of nurses is important, as is ensuring that schools of nursing have the faculty and resources they need to teach and train students. That is why I introduced H.R. 2184, the Nursing School Capacity Act, which would authorize an Institute of Medicine (IOM) study to identify constraints encountered by schools of nursing in admitting an adequate number of nurses for our healthcare system, and develop recommendations to alleviate the constraints.

We must fully fund nurse workforce development programs through Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. Unfortunately, as the nursing shortage has worsened, funding has remained flat. We must ensure that healthcare providers are adequately staffed with nurses, and protect nurses from mandatory overtime. We also must support the right of nurses to bargain collectively with their employer, a basic right that should be afforded to workers in all sectors of our economy.

I thank all nurses for the contributions that they make to our health and to our communities.

ENCOURAGING ALL ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO REVIEW AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ENROLLMENT IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN BEST MEETS THEIR NEEDS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and to call for an extension of the May 15th deadline to allow our Nation's seniors more time to enroll in the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program.

While I support the resolution sponsored by Representative NANCY JOHNSON, I believe that seniors need more than just encouragement to enroll in Medicare Part D. They need time—to figure out their myriad of choices under this new benefit.

Mr. Speaker, seniors do not need an extension of the arbitrary May 15th deadline because they don't know the deadline is fast approaching. They need time because the benefit is so complicated.

They need time because the prescription drug benefit is not a direct add-on to Medicare centrally administered through CMS—which is what seniors and Democrats wanted, but a labyrinth of private companies, premiums, deductibles, co-payments, formularies, and pharmacy access that varies widely from plan to plan. In fact, in most states, beneficiaries have a choice of more than 36 drug plans.

They need time because the Medicare Modernization Act passed in the wee hours of the morning by the slimmest of margins in the 108th Congress, protects the interests of big pharmaceutical companies at the expense of our seniors by not allowing the Secretary of HHS to negotiate the best price for lifesaving drugs for our seniors.

They need time because they have to figure out how much their choice will cost them and whether or not they're in or out of the doughnut hole.

They need time because a recent GAG Report indicates that 60 percent of callers to the CMS regarding this benefit were given inadequate and incomplete information.

They need time because they face a maze of options provided by private insurance and pharmaceutical companies, entities which stand to reap great profit windfall that were placed in the bill by those who received enormous benefit from these industries.

Mr. Speaker, private companies wanted to be in this business, but they didn't want to risk losing any money. So the law was specifically designed to maximize profits and ensure the participation of many private plans. That is why the choice of providers is plentiful, collective bargaining power is non-existent, and the confusion to seniors is so great. It is truly by design.

Assuring that seniors have access to a high-quality and affordable prescription drug plan has been a top priority for me and my Democratic colleagues.

When seniors tell me that they must cut their pills in half or skip meals just to pay for the medicines they need, it breaks my heart. The injustice of this incenses me.

So despite its flaws, this benefit may provide relief to some seniors. That is why I have been holding town halls in my district to provide information to hundreds of seniors about this benefit since sign-up began. That is how I know first-hand that even months later that the plethora of plans is confusing and the various components of the benefit are still not clear to many.

I am convinced that there is a better way. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choices Act, H.R. 752 introduced by Representative BERRY and H.R. 5263, recently introduced by Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN. These bills would extend the enrollment period and provide immediate fixes to the Medicare Part D benefit.

However, the will to make these changes for the benefit of our seniors by the Republican leaders in the House and Administration does not exist.

Given this fact, while the federal legislation that authorized these plans is far from perfect, until a more comprehensive and more affordable prescription drug plan becomes available, I urge seniors to research your options.

Seniors who do not already have prescription drug coverage should consider enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan of their choice before the May 15, 2006 deadline.

Seniors who already have prescription drug coverage should check with their existing plan and consider whether a change in insurance is in their best interest before May 15, 2006.

The May 15 deadline is less than one week away.

There could be serious consequences for seniors if you delay, resulting in an unfair 7 percent lifetime premium penalty.

The consequences of not making a choice are dire, so I urge seniors to make a choice before May 15, 2006 about Medicare Part D.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's seniors deserve comprehensive and affordable prescription drug coverage through the Medicare benefit.

Making this a reality should be our goal for the future. In the meantime, let's extend the deadline and fix the flaws of the Medicare Part D program for our seniors. They deserve no less.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY PORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4954) to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Chairman, while I would have preferred a more proactive and comprehensive plan such as that proposed by the Democratic "Real Security Agenda", I rise today in support of H.R. 4954, the Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act because it is a step in the right direction.

As a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations subcommittee, I am well aware of

the vulnerabilities of our nation's ports. In fact, the 9/11 Commission report concluded that terrorists have the "opportunity to do harm as great or greater in maritime and surface transportation" than the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Our nation's seaports handle over 95 percent of our foreign trade, more than \$1 trillion annually. The ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach near my district form the largest container port complex in the nation. These ports processed more than 35,000 cargo containers a day in 2005, and accounted for some 40 percent of all container traffic nationwide.

Given the volume of our shipping trade, a terrorist attack against the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach, or any major commercial seaport for that matter, would freeze commercial shipping business, close all seaports for an indefinite time, and have a devastating impact on our national economy. This is not a wild estimate or an exaggeration for effect. We have only to look at the work stoppage at the LA/Long Beach ports in 2002 that directly impacted businesses across the country and cost the national economy approximately \$1 billion a day.

When approved, the SAFE Port Act will make progress toward protecting the physical infrastructure of our seaports as well as our national economy which is so clearly dependent on the commercial shipping business.

I believe the following three provisions in the bill are particularly important.

First, the bill requires the development of plans to address supply chain security and the resumption of trade in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. Securing the supply chain against cargo-tampering is critical to decreasing the likelihood that weapons of mass destruction make it aboard ships bound for the United States. Ensuring that our ports can resume trade operations as soon as possible following any terrorist will mitigate the economic cost of any such attack.

Second, the bill also mandates that Transportation Worker Identification Cards to be issued to port workers. Standardizing identification cards will better enable us to determine who should have access to sensitive areas at our ports and it will make it more difficult to counterfeit the ID cards.

Lastly, the bill more than doubles present funding for the successful port security grant program to \$400 million. At the current rate of funding, securing the physical infrastructure of our ports would take decades to complete.

Despite these and other important provisions, I continue to be disappointed that the rule for this bill did not allow consideration of amendments by my Democratic colleagues that would have further enhanced the protection of our ports and our economy.

For example, the Thompson Amendment would have added 1600 new Customs and Border Protection officers at our Nation's ports. Having adequate staff to inspect incoming cargo is a basic first step toward securing incoming cargo.

Additionally, the Langevin Amendment would have accelerated the installation of radiation detection monitors at our seaports. This is important because inspection of every incoming cargo container isn't realistic given the volume of trade. We are foolish not to maximize and expedite the full use of technology to scan containers for radiation that may reveal weapons of mass destruction.

Lastly, Democrats sought to mandate 100 percent screening overseas, of cargo containers bound for U.S. seaports to protect the homeland from hidden shipments of weapons of mass destruction.

Democratic proposals were common sense improvements to the bill and would have better prepared us for the increased security concerns facing our country. The House should not have been denied the opportunity to openly debate these important issues.

The additional inspection officers, scanning equipment, and mandated cargo screening that these amendments proposed are not inexpensive plans and would have required significant investments. However, we cannot afford to not make these necessary investments and risk a far greater cost in terms of our economy and loss of American lives.

Madam Chairman, port security is national security. This bill is a good step in the right direction toward securing our ports, our economy, and our Nation. However, I hope the conference committee will improve the bill further by addressing the issues of customs inspection officers, radiation detection monitors, and cargo screening that the Democrats proposed.

THE PLATFORM EQUALITY AND REMEDIES FOR RIGHTS HOLD- ERS IN MUSIC ACT OF 2006

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague MARY BONO in introducing "The Platform Equality and Remedies for Rights Holders in Music Act of 2006" (Perform Act) which we hope will be the first step in addressing the convergence of digital radio and distribution technology. This bill mirrors the PERFORM ACT introduced by my colleagues two weeks ago in the Senate. The purpose of the PERFORM ACT is to address current inequities in the Section 114 compulsory license of the Copyright Act.

One of America's greatest treasures is its intellectual property. In cities and towns across the nation and in countries around the world, American music is heard throughout the streets. People are consuming more music than ever. Yet the music industry is in crisis. The total value for the music industry at retail declined from \$14.5 billion in 1999 to \$12.1 billion in 2004. In March 2005 alone, 243 million songs were downloaded from illicit peer-to-peer services (NPD Musicwatch).

Our Founding Fathers recognized that in order for America to be at the forefront of creativity they must support and incentivize musicians to pursue their art by providing necessary protection to these original works to produce a return on investment in those works.

In that vein, in 1995 Congress took a step forward and established a limited performance right for digital sound recordings. However, while with one hand Congress granted a right to creators when their music is performed digitally, with the other hand it took away by requiring that this new limited right be subject to a government compulsory license for radio-like services. Therefore, as we continue with

this debate we must remember that copyright owners cannot negotiate a fair market price for their works in the marketplace for digital radio, and cannot withhold access to their works as leverage in the marketplace to negotiate for necessary content protection on digital radio.

Cable, satellite, and Internet radio services are granted a compulsory license to broadcast (perform) music as long as they pay the statutorily defined fee (or another negotiated rate) and abide by the terms and conditions of the government license.

We are fortunate that with the evolution of new technologies there are many legal music distribution services currently available. Cable, Internet and satellite platform providers all compete to provide consumers their choice of music, anytime, in any place, in any format. While I am encouraged by the many options, I am concerned that certain features of the new devices turn radio, or performance services, into distribution services. This increased functionality may cause the unintended consequence of bypassing the typical marketplace distribution channels by allowing the consumer to turn broadcasts into downloads. This utility enables consumers to create an unlicensed music library without paying the artist.

However, just as consumers have certain expectations when it comes to radio usage, copyright owners have a reasonable expectation to be compensated for both the performance right (where a copy is listened to but not kept by the consumer such as a broadcast or concert) and the copying of their works into a library (such as a download or reproduction). This bill seeks the appropriate balance between promoting the creativity of music and fostering the innovation of technology.

Some say the legislation is unnecessary because they assert that current business models are technically legal. While I myself refrain from statutory interpretation, the question for Congress now is how to formulate the right policy to ensure that creators receive adequate compensation for their work and that fair rules apply evenly across all platforms of music that deliver similar services to consumers. Some say this legislation is lacking because it does not provide parity across all broadcasting platforms. While I believe there should be a full performance right for all digital transmissions, across all broadcasting platforms, the bill provides a step in the right direction.

We hope that with introduction of this companion bill in the House to the PERFORM Act in the Senate, Congress will act quickly to level the playing field between technologies and ensure rightful compensation to artists.

In order to level the playing field for those technologies currently covered by Section 114, this bill establishes parity in the rules and regulations covering service platforms (satellite, webcasters, cable) by ensuring that satellite, webcasters, and cable operators are required to operate under the same rate standard and content protection rules. Under the bill, the performance license will only be available for behavior that constitutes a performance, and will require a radio service that wants to engage in a distribution business model to get a distribution license in the free marketplace like its competitors.

For services coupled with new and proposed devices that permit subscribers to search for and keep permanent copies of songs included in the broadcaster's program-

ming without ever listening to the program and where subscribers simply scroll through a list of songs and pick those they want to keep without ever buying the song or paying additional subscription fees a service will not be able to take advantage of the 114 license unless they get a necessary distribution license in the marketplace.

The ability to enable automatic, organized copying and storage of individual songs that replace the sale of downloads or subscriptions by competitive distribution services such as Napster, Rhapsody, and iTunes should not be allowed without similar rules and compensation requirements. If listeners are able to instantly make a free copy of the song they are listening to, they will have little reason to purchase it. The use of a performance license should not be a shield against providing the requisite payment for the reproduction or distribution.

Section 1 provides parity in the rate standard for the technologies currently covered under the section 114 license. All licenses under section 112 and 114 will have their rates set under the same standard, a fair market value standard, that would more closely replicate aggregate deals in the marketplace. Fair Market Value is a standard that is used hundreds of times in the laws of the United States and is one that replicates to the closest extent possible to free marketplace. Currently, the rate for satellite and cable music services are set under factors contained in Section 801(b) of the Copyright Act. The rate for Internet services is a "willing buyer, willing seller" standard that approximates what a particular willing buyer would pay a particular willing seller in the marketplace. The bill sets the standard at "fair market value" to provide broad-based market-influenced compensation to creators across all platforms.

Section 2 provides that the technologies which broadcast sound recordings provide adequate protection to the content. These provisions ensure that all licensees under section 114 have similar content protection requirements, which respond to marketplace developments but include recording for legitimate time shifting purposes.

The bill also requires that licensees use reasonably available technology to prevent copying of the transmission to prevent against third party "stream-ripping"—the use of tools created by third parties that captures the stream, and then disaggregates the songs for storage in a manner that substitutes for a sale. However, any content protection system must allow for reasonable recording. Most notably the bill allows for all manual consumer recording to the extent such recording is consistent with fair use under Section 107 of the Copyright Act.

Section 3 provides a placeholder for the Copyright Office to convene a meeting with interested stakeholders to discuss creation of a category of new interactive services. Currently, one of the most contested issues in the license is the definition of interactivity. The question is "how much consumer influence is allowed before the experience has transitioned from a purely listening service to an interactive service?". The definition of interactivity itself impacts whether one can take advantage of the compulsory license, and the share of the royalty to the artists, musicians and other vocalists. I am hopeful that the Copyright Office will be able to provide some guidance and recommendations for Congress.

Finally, while not included in the bill, I do believe at some point soon, Congress needs to take another look at the Audio Home Recording Act. I don't believe that the royalties provided by the AHRA were ever intended to substitute for the marketplace licenses afforded end-to-end transmission and distribution services. The AHRA was intended to protect music creators from serial copying using off-the-shelf consumer electronics devices, not to enable transmission services to transform themselves into distribution services that provide an unlicensed download that substitutes for record sales. The time has come to re-evaluate the act in light of new technologies and changing business models.

I do not want to suggest that this bill is a "perfect" solution. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

This bill attempts to strike a balance between providing adequate protection to our musicians and continuing to support new innovative technologies. My goal is to preserve the legitimate marketplace by reserving downloading capability for those services that appropriately pay for it. I hope the parties can work together to reach further consensus on how to achieve parity between technologies and provide rightful compensation to our artists.

OPENING OF THE MOTHER HALE LEARNING CENTER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of the Mother Hale Learning Center by entering into the record an article from the New York CaribNews that celebrates the official opening of the MHLC in Harlem, New York.

Clara Hale, best known as "Mother Hale," was a prominent philanthropist, social activist and child care worker who founded Hale House in New York City and created a sanctuary for drug-addicted and AIDS-infected infants and their mothers.

As a foster care parent in 1940, Mother Hale provided a home to over 40 children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds over the next 25 years. As problems associated with drug abuse exploded in Harlem, Mother Hale expanded her home for infants addicted before birth. It was the first—and only known program—in the U.S. designed to deal with infants born addicted to illegal drugs.

Clara Hale was a rare individual who devoted her life to caring for over 800 unwanted children. She left her loving imprint on the lives of thousands. When Mother Hale passed away in December, 1992, her daughter, Lorraine Hale carried on her mother's mission.

The Mother Hale Learning Center is an expansion of the work Hale House does through its residential programs. It also allows for affordable childcare to the Harlem community.

This dedication of the Mother Hale Learning Center, as detailed in the attached article, is recognized as the perfect present to honor the legacy of Mother Clara Hale.

Mr. Speaker: I congratulate everyone associated with this notable community resource

expansion known as the Mother Hale Learning Center. This center is truly a testament to the life work of Clara Hale.

DEPUTY MAYOR & CHILDREN'S CHARACTER
CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG JOIN IN OPEN-
ING MOTHER HALE LEARNING CENTER

NEW YORK, NY.—Dennis Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development and beloved children's character Clifford The Big Red Dog, recently joined Zachary Carter, Hale House Chairman of the Board, and Randolph McLaughlin, Executive Director of Hale House, civic leaders, parents and children to officially open the Mother Hale Learning Center (MHLC), located at 300 Manhattan Avenue in Harlem.

"The opening of the Mother Hale Learning Center is a natural expansion of the work Hale House does through its residential programs and gives us the opportunity to provide educational and affordable childcare to the community-at-large," said Mr. McLaughlin. "It also is the perfect present to honor the legacy of Mother Hale, who would have been 101 on April 1st."

Following the opening ceremony, attendees were led on a tour of the facilities and Deputy Mayor Walcott and Clifford The Big Red Dog greeted the excited children.

MHLC offers high-quality, yet affordable educational childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers of families in the community. Classes are led by the Center's experienced and highly trained childcare staff, who create an atmosphere that is caring, nurturing and supportive to each child's educational needs. Adhering to the standards of excellence set forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the curriculum is designed to foster the growth of each child by focusing on social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

There are classrooms for each age group, each with a daily curriculum and activities specifically designed for that particular group, including: Infants (6 weeks to 1 year old) curriculum which utilizes tactile toys and stimulating activities to help infants gain awareness of their senses; Young Toddlers (1 to 2 years old) and Older Toddlers (2 to 3 years old) curriculum which focuses on building language, creativity, motor skills and social interaction to help children process the new and exciting things they discover each day; and Preschoolers (3 years old to their 5th birthday) curriculum which provides hands-on learning experiences that foster independent thinking and self-expression, and daily group activities that help enhance cognitive and social skills to prepare children for kindergarten.

As one of the few educational programs in Harlem that works with both infants and toddlers, the fully secured facility can ac-

commodate up to 38 children and is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It also features a computer room with three child-friendly computer stations—donated by I.B.M. and United Way—a sleep room for the infants, as well as an outdoor recreation courtyard. The Center will also provide parent workshops, a resource library and referrals to other appropriate services.

HONORING DAMU SMITH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues here in the Congressional Black Caucus, throughout the United States and across the globe in commemorating and honoring the extraordinary life of Damu Smith. A leader in the ongoing struggles for civil rights as well as social and environmental justice for more than 30 years, Damu is known worldwide for his lifelong commitment to advancing equality, human rights and nonviolence. Damu passed away on May 5, 2006 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in 1952 in St. Louis, Missouri to Sylvester and Vernice Smith, Damu was raised with his three brothers and sisters in the Carr Square Village housing project. A working-class family, they often struggled to make ends meet, sometimes receiving welfare or other government assistance. Damu has said that having this experience growing up developed in him a great sensitivity to the plight of low-income communities, and played a central role in shaping his views as an adult and as an activist.

As a high school student, Damu had the chance to attend some of the Black Solidarity Day rallies in Cairo, Illinois, where he listened to speeches by Amiri Baraka, Nina Simone and Jesse Jackson, and toured black neighborhoods where white supremacists had sprayed houses with gunfire, a sight that changed his life. As a freshman at St. John's University in Minnesota, and president of the Organization of Afro-American Students, Damu led a protest and takeover of the school's administrative offices to demand a Black studies program. It was during that time that he changed his name to Damu Amiri Imara Smith, the first three words meaning "blood," "leadership," and "strength" in Swahili, respectively. In 1973, he moved to Wash-

ington D.C., where he began the next chapter in his lifelong mission of advocating for social justice in the United States and abroad.

Over the next thirty years, Damu's activism included vigilance in the fight against Apartheid in South Africa as Executive Director of the Washington Office on Africa and co-founder of Artists for a Free South Africa. Additionally, Damu focused his energy and attention on broad-based efforts to expose gun violence and police brutality, and was also active in peace and nuclear weapons freeze campaigns, working as the Associate Director of the Washington Office of the American Friends Service Committee.

Furthermore, Damu was known for his pioneering leadership in the environmental justice movement, working as the first environmental justice coordinator for the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice. After touring cities severely impacted by chemical pollution and seeing the devastating impacts of these practices on low income and African American communities, he organized Toxic Tours in the South for Greenpeace. In 1999, he coordinated the largest environmental justice conference ever held, an event which led to the formation of the National Black Environmental Justice Network, which was the first ever network of Black environmental justice activists, and of which he served as the Executive Director.

Throughout his historic and far-reaching career of activism and advocacy, Damu was widely respected and viewed as a leading voice for social justice and progressive change in the United States and abroad. Revered by his colleagues and all who knew him as not just a leader but a true visionary in the fight for justice, peace and equality, Damu's contributions to the effort to affect genuinely democratic reforms in the United States and around the world are truly immeasurable.

My life was personally touched by Damu. I met him many years ago and his intellect, heart and soul brought joy and clarity to my life. Like all who knew and loved him, I will deeply miss his presence on this earth.

Though his death is a great loss to our country and to our entire global family, the legacy of his work will continue to improve countless lives for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with Damu's family, as well as the numerous friends, colleagues and other individuals that he inspired during his lifetime as we mourn the loss of this exemplary leader.