

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Chicago Food Depository, a non-profit organization that provides food to a half-million adults and children every year. The Food Depository accomplishes this massive undertaking with a network of almost 600 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in the Chicago area. Last year, the Food Depository distributed more than forty million pounds of nonperishable food, fresh produce, dairy products, and meat—the equivalent of more than 84,000 meals every day.

Recently, the WGN Radio Neediest Kids Fund awarded a \$60,000 grant to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, supporting two of its unique programs: the Kids Café and Nourish for Knowledge. These programs specifically focus on providing sustenance for the neediest children.

The Food Depository administers nearly forty Kids Cafés in Cook County, serving over 1800 meals per day through this program. Kids Café is a place where underprivileged children can enjoy a warm meal, exercise, and receive tutoring/other educational services. The Food Depository also sponsors Nourish for Knowledge, a program that provides take-home bags of food on weekends to schoolchildren in low-income neighborhoods. Together, the Chicago Food Depository and the Chicago Public Schools offer bags of food and after school programming for students and their parents in sixteen community schools. Both Kids Café and Nourish for Knowledge act to mitigate the negative effects of hunger for young people.

Today, I am honored to recognize the Greater Chicago Food Depository, their sponsors and partners, and all those making their work possible. The Food Depository's ongoing and innovative efforts to fight hunger serve as an inspiration to our community. In a world where hunger plagues many people, organizations like the Greater Chicago Food Depository make life-saving differences

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 492, my vote was not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MR. FREDRICK W. HATFIELD AS A 2006 TOP DOG AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Fredrick W. Hatfield for his achievement in receiving the California State University Fresno's Outstanding Alumni 2006 Top Dog Award for the College of Social Sciences. Mr. Hatfield has enjoyed an exceptional career in public service and has served in many key positions in both the Federal Government and the private sector. Mr. Hatfield is currently one of five commissioners appointed by the President, and confirmed by the Senate, to oversee the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

A native of the Central Valley, Mr. Hatfield graduated from Fresno State in 1977, Summa Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Upon graduating from Fresno State, he worked as a government teacher for the Fresno County Schools. After his time in the classroom, Mr. Hatfield relocated to Washington, D.C. and embarked on his lifelong career in public service by joining the staff of then, House Majority Whip Tony Coelho. His 9 years of diligent service to Congressman Coelho's office opened the floodgates for career opportunities elsewhere in our Nation's Capitol. Mr. Hatfield pursued and successfully served as a partner with Copeland and Hatfield Government Affairs; Chief of Staff for Senator John Breaux of Louisiana; Senior Vice President for Human Resources and Community Relations for Education Training Communications, Inc.; and Deputy Commissioner General for U.S. Pavilion's World's Fair in Lisbon, Portugal.

Above all, Mr. Hatfield is someone who has never forgotten his roots and has never failed to contribute and invest in the future of the Central Valley. Aside from serving as chief of staff, advisor, and confidant to some of the most powerful and influential elected officials on Capitol Hill, Mr. Hatfield has dedicated time to serve as a mentor, role model, and friend to many Central Valley residents who have gone to Washington, D.C. for internships and employment opportunities from Fresno State. In addition, Mr. Hatfield has provided many local elected officials and their staff with indispensable advice and guidance. He has also helped our local leaders by facilitating introductions to high level policy makers, administrative agencies, boards and commissions on behalf of many Central Valley residents.

Mr. Hatfield's commitments and efforts to improve the quality of life in the Central Valley are truly deserving of such recognition. It is for those reasons that I, a Fresno State Alumni myself, join his family, friends, colleagues, and the Fresno State community in honoring Mr. Hatfield as a 2006 Top Dog Awards recipient

TRADEMARK DILUTION REVISION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the fair use exception is of great importance to ensure that the threat of dilution claims does not chill the exercise of free speech, particularly in expressive works of authorship.

Parody, criticism, and commentary are familiar and important examples of fair use.

Another common example is the appearance of trademarks when products are used in motion pictures as props, "set dressing," and the like.

I also want to clarify that nothing in H.R. 683 is intended to amend, change, or disturb the fair-use defenses available in a claim of trademark infringement under Section 43 or other applicable sections of the Lanham Act.

HONORING SHELTON BEACH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 47TH YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Shelton Beach Road Baptist Church on the occasion of its 47th year.

Shelton Beach Road Baptist Church has been a vital partner of the city of Saraland and the State of Alabama. The church was founded in 1959, and for the last 47 years, this congregation has been worshipping God and serving the people of south Alabama.

The congregation of Shelton Beach Road Baptist Church has used its resources and opportunities to provide hope, comfort, instruction, and inspiration to countless citizens in the north Mobile County area. Their outstretched arms have touched the hearts of many through their efforts in missionary projects throughout the world.

Shelton Beach Road Baptist Church has lovingly served the people of Saraland through its contributions to children and family throughout the community. The Shelton Beach Road Baptist kindergarten and day care center, and the beautifully constructed family life center, are among the inspirational services provided to the young people of north Mobile County. The World of Life Club, the Olympians Club, and Gopher Buddies are just a few of the many youth activities offered to help instill Christian values in the children of Saraland.

It is my sincere hope that the Shelton Beach Road Baptist Church will continue to be such a source of inspiration, hope, and comfort to the people of Saraland for another 47 years, and I rise today to salute this wonderful congregation and the many contributions they

● 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.

have made toward the betterment of south Alabama.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION FROM FRIVOLOUS LITIGATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Physicians and Taxpayers' Protection from Frivolous Litigation Act. This bill provides protection from frivolous lawsuits for physicians in cases involving Medicare and Medicaid, and in cases where physicians are obligated to provide treatment under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).

Among the legal reforms contained in this act are a loser pays rule providing for physicians to be reimbursed for costs incurred in defending against frivolous lawsuits; a tightening of statutes of limitations to ensure lawsuits are not just attempts to extort money for conditions that arose years after treatment was delivered; reforms of how putative damages are calculated in order to ensure the damages bear a relationship to the harm suffered; limitations on contingent fee contracts which encourage the filing of frivolous lawsuits; reforms to calculations of joint and several liability so a defendant is only liable for the harm he actually caused; and limitation of damages in cases where the plaintiff has already received compensation.

Frivolous lawsuits and the accompanying increase in malpractice insurance payments have driven many physicians out of medical practice. The malpractice crisis has further increased the cost of health care by forcing physicians to practice defensive medicine. While most malpractice reform issues are properly addressed at the state level, Congress does have a duty to act to protect physicians from frivolous lawsuits stemming from cases involving federally funded programs or federal mandates. After all, these programs already impose tremendous costs on physicians. For example, Medicare imposes so many rules and regulations on health care providers that the Medicare code is actually larger than the infamous tax code!

EMTALA imposes additional burdens on physicians. EMTALA forces physicians and hospitals to bear 100% of the costs of providing care to anyone who enters an emergency room, regardless of the person's ability to pay. According to the June 29, 2003 edition of AM News, emergency physicians lose an average of \$138,000 in revenue per year because of EMTALA. EMTALA also forces physicians and hospitals to follow costly rules and regulations. A physician can be fined \$50,000 for a technical EMTALA violation.

The combined effect of excessive regulations, inadequate reimbursements, and the risk of being subjected to unreasonable malpractice awards is endangering the most vulnerable people's access to health care. I am aware of several physicians who have counseled young people not to enter the health care profession because of lawsuits, federal regulations, and low federal reimbursement rates. Other physicians are withdrawing from

the Medicare and Medicaid programs and cutting their ties with emergency rooms in order to avoid the EMTALA mandates. Protecting physicians from frivolous lawsuits who are participating in federal programs or acting to fulfill federal mandates is an important step in removing federally created disincentives to providing care to elderly and low income people. I therefore call upon my colleagues to stand up for health care providers, low income people, senior citizens, and taxpayers by cosponsoring the Physicians and Taxpayers' Protection from Frivolous Litigation Act.

VETERANS' MEMORIALS, BOY SCOUTS, PUBLIC SEALS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2679, Public Expression of Religion Act of 2005, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

I take very seriously my duty to uphold the rights safeguarded for all citizens by the United States Constitution. Our founding fathers created a document that not only gives us a framework that we govern by even today but a document that sets forth the unalienable rights of all Americans. The legislation that passes Congress should be designed to protect these rights, not weaken them. Unfortunately, H.R. 2679 fails to meet this most basic test.

H.R. 2679 is not a bill that would protect the freedom of religion as its authors contend. In reality, by weakening the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, it would have the opposite effect. Under current law, attorneys' fees are paid for by the defending party when the plaintiff is found to have had their constitutional rights violated under the Establishment Clause. By denying the payment of these attorneys' fees, even in successful cases, H.R. 2679 insulates serious constitutional violations from judicial review. Few citizens can afford to pay attorney fees that can total hundreds of thousands of dollars in these cases. In addition, attorneys cannot always take cases, even on a pro bono basis, if they are unable to recoup their fees and out-of-pocket costs when they prevail. By barring the awarding of attorneys' fees to prevailing parties in these cases, H.R. 2679 severely impairs the ability of our citizens to protect their constitutional rights.

Furthermore, the Establishment Clause is included in the Constitution to protect and promote religious freedom for all Americans. H.R. 2679 would for the first time single out one of the constitutional protections afforded in the Bill of Rights, and prevent its full enforcement. If the right to attorney's fees is taken away in these cases, a dangerous precedent would be set for the erosion of more civil liberties included in the U.S. Constitution. All of the rights in the Constitution are granted to every citizen of the United States, not just to those who can afford to pay for them. I urge you to oppose H.R. 2679, the misnamed "Public Expression of Religion Act."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAURETTA ZARLENGA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of Lauretta Lisa Zarlenga. A wife, mother, and grandmother, Lauretta dedicated her life to her family.

Born in a small town in Italy in 1913, Lauretta immigrated to the United States during the Great Depression as a teenager. Settling in Chicago, Lauretta's family carved out their presence as a working class immigrant family. Learning quickly the skill of artistic hat design at night school, Lauretta practiced her craft to support her constantly growing family. It was also at night school that she met her future husband, Dino, whereupon the two coincidentally chose the same topic for an essay assignment and subsequently discovered they came from neighboring villages in Italy.

Lauretta went on to serve her Chicago community in the restaurant industry where she eventually managed several dining rooms at Chicago's premier establishments. Once, while running the dining room at the Drake Hotel, she accommodated a desperate Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, who had been denied entrance to another restaurant based on their attire. The two had been referred to Lauretta by her brother, who said, "You give these guys good service." This story exemplifies the two strongest qualities for which we remember Lauretta: service and family. Lauretta's ability to always hospitably put others before herself stood out to anyone who knew her. As a mother of four, she modestly provided her children with any opportunities she could and supported them in all their endeavors. In this way, she truly accomplished her own American Dream.

Lauretta Zarlenga's legacy continues to live on through her posterity. Lauretta's inspiration and support of her family shows itself in the work of her children who include a lauded poet, successful restaurateur, and a notable scholar of monetary reform.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and recognizing the accomplishments of Lauretta Zarlenga. Her unwavering commitment to her family, friends, and community framed her life and served to make a difference in the lives of countless individuals.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JAZZ POWERHOUSE FOURPLAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the jazz supergroup, Fourplay, distinguished artists of the music industry. It behooves us to pay tribute to these outstanding artists and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the group's impressive accomplishments.

Fourplay debuted with a splash in 1991. Their self-titled debut album sold more than one million copies and lodged for 33 weeks at

the top of the Billboard Contemporary Jazz charts. The follow-up album, *Between the Sheets*, reached number one, earned gold status, and was nominated for a Grammy in 1993. The band went three-for-three in 1995 with its third release, *Elixir*, which also hit number one and stayed on the charts for more than a year and a half. And, as if to save time, its fourth album, *4*, entered the charts at number one.

The magic of *Fourplay* is based on the interactions between keyboardist Bob James, bassist Nathan East, guitarist Larry Carlton, and drummer Harvey Mason, each a pop music icon in his own right.

Now in heavy rotation at radio throughout the country, *Fourplay X*, the supergroup's landmark tenth album, entered the Billboard Jazz Charts at the number one position and has remained No.1 for five weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of *Fourplay*. The group's phenomenal success makes them most worthy of our recognition today.

VETERANS' MEMORIALS, BOY SCOUTS, PUBLIC SEALS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2679, the "Public Expression of Religion Act." This legislation would eliminate awarding attorney's fees to individuals who win lawsuits under the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. While the proponents argue that the bill would protect public officials from lawsuits, what the bill will actually do is deny citizens from exercising their freedom of religion.

Without the ability to recoup legal fees, the costs to bring a lawsuit against a defendant would be too high for most people to afford. This body should not be enacting legislation to deny Americans their day in court.

H.R. 2679 is opposed by groups including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the American Jewish Committee.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

HONORING DAN SHANNON OF LAGRANGE, IL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan Shannon, an exceptional citizen of the Third Congressional District of Illinois and founder of Operation Homelink. Operation Homelink seeks to establish a communication link between deployed military personnel and their families. The program not only serves as a means of contact for troops and their families, but as a strong show of support for American soldiers stationed overseas.

Operation Homelink enables communication and encouragement by providing free refurbished computers to both deployed military units and their spouses or parents. Troops on the field then have the ability to e-mail their loved ones updates, while loved ones have the ability to relate local news and send their best regards. This excellent program truly makes a difference in the lives of our soldiers, as well as their families and friends.

I ask my colleagues to rise with me to acknowledge Dan Shannon for his highly successful and significant program that supports our armed forces. Dan shows all citizens the importance of becoming involved to support our troops and how one idea can touch the lives of so many people. I commend him for his continued efforts and unyielding determination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 483, my vote was not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this legislation to establish military tribunals for terrorist suspects.

This legislation was made necessary by a U.S. Supreme Court decision in June in the case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, in which the court ruled that the military commissions created by the Bush administration violated both U.S. and international law. This important legislation is necessary to create a lawful framework in order to bring to trial such terrorist suspects as Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks on America. Without passage of this legislation, the United States will have no legal means to bring to justice those who have participated in the most heinous acts of terrorism against our country.

I agree with my Democratic colleagues who rightfully argued we should have been allowed to consider substantive changes to the bill such as those contained in the Skelton motion to recommit, which I voted for. The Skelton language would have provided for expedited consideration of the statute's constitutionality and required the statute to be renewed in three years, but unfortunately, the Skelton motion failed to pass. Although the Republican Majority would not allow consideration of proposed Democratic amendments, it is important to note the significant and substantive changes that have been made to the bill to correct the serious flaws of the original White House proposal.

Specifically, the bill would replace the White House's denial of habeas corpus rights with a

process known as combatant status review in which detainees may challenge their detention within the confines of the military commission system. In addition, the manager's amendment assures the prohibition of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, codified in the Detainee Treatment Act (Pub. L. 109-163, P.L. 109-148). It also clarifies that defendants will be able to examine and respond to redacted classified evidence being used against them.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6166 is not a perfect bill, but I will vote for it so the United States can move forward with prosecuting terrorist suspects in a manner consistent with our values in a fair and just system.

A TRIBUTE TO STUART PYLE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Stuart Pyle of Bakersfield, California. Mr. Pyle was an exemplary advocate for effective water policy primarily in California's San Joaquin Valley.

As a past manager of the Kern County Water Agency, Stuart is remembered by all who knew him for his love and dedication to his family, his commendable service to the community, and his success in managing the second largest water contractor in the State of California.

Mr. Pyle was born in 1925 in Napa, California. He spent most of his adolescent years with his five siblings in Tahoe City and Auburn, California. As a Naval Officer during World War II, Mr. Pyle earned a degree in civil engineering in only three years. Following the war, he began his career in water as a developer of dams and canals for the California Department of Water Resources. As his career in water was established, he met his wife Virginia and married her in 1950.

In 1967, the Pyle family moved to Pakistan, where Stuart worked as a project manager for water systems for three years. When the Pakistani Civil War broke out they were forced to move back to the United States. Upon his arrival to the states, Stuart was hired as the manager of National Water Issues for the Federal Government in Washington DC. After three years in DC, he was offered a job as manager of the Kern County Water Agency. Stuart spent the next 17 years of his life dedicated to advancing water policy in Kern County.

Throughout his life Mr. Pyle was extremely involved in his community. He served on the National Academies of Science, was a Member of the Rotary Club, and was an active supporter of the Bakersfield Assistant League. Even while enjoying retirement, he was active in the United States Committee on Irrigation and Drainage. In addition to being a life long advocate of water policy, he was also a dedicated member of the Christian Science Church where he was a reader on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Pyle is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years Virginia, their five children; Linda, Jennifer, Stuart, Marianna, and Tom, and his nine grandchildren.

Stuart Pyle led a happy life full of love and adventure. His professional achievements will

leave an eternal legacy for his family and community.

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
CLEVE KINSEY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Cleve Kinsey, who was wounded in Ramadi, Iraq, earlier this year.

Cleve, a native of Foley, Alabama, and a member of the Marines' 3rd Battalion, 8th Regiment, was injured on April 1, when an improvised explosive device was detonated next to the Humvee in which he was riding. Sustaining serious injuries to his left leg, Cleve faced the very real threat of losing his leg. After undergoing at least 12 surgeries, which included having muscle tissue transplanted from his back to his leg, his leg was saved.

A member of Foley High School's track and football teams, Cleve joined the Marines upon graduation. Throughout his career with the Marines, Cleve has set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are the hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to note that Cleve returned home last month. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Cleve Kinsey and his selfless devotion not only to our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are in the infant stages of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing a true hero. I know Cleve's parents, Jimmy and Penny, his brothers, Matthew and Christopher, his sister April, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending heartfelt thanks for his selfless efforts on behalf of a grateful Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO POINT
COMFORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Point Comfort Elementary School, of the Calhoun County Independent School District, is among the 26 Texas schools that have recently received the Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools award.

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes outstanding public and private schools that are either academically superior or have demonstrated dramatic and consistent gains in student achievement. The Department of Education selects Blue Ribbon Schools based on nominations submitted by the states. My colleagues may be interested to know that every school nominated by Texas received a Blue Ribbon Schools award.

Schools can be nominated for a Blue Ribbon Schools Award if at least forty percent of

their disadvantaged students show dramatic improvement over three years on state tests in reading or English language arts and mathematics. Schools whose student bodies rank in the top ten percent on state tests in reading or English language arts and mathematics may also be nominated for a Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

In addition to these two criteria, Blue Ribbon Schools must meet Adequate Yearly Progress requirements in reading or English language arts and mathematics, must not have been identified as a "Persistently Dangerous" school within the last two years, and must comply with other Department of Education requirements.

Point Comfort's designation as a Blue Ribbon School is a tribute to the schools' teachers, administrators, and other employees' dedication to providing students with a quality education. It also is a reflection of the students and parents' commitment to the pursuit of educational excellence. I am therefore pleased to offer my congratulations to Point Comfort Elementary School for being one of the 26 Texas schools designated as Blue Ribbon Schools by the Department of Education.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JOSEPH PIZZORNO, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Joseph Pizzorno, Jr., N.D. Dr. Pizzorno is a pioneer in naturopathy, the founder of Bastyr University, author of several books, and acclaimed by various health organizations.

Dr. Pizzorno has illuminated the field of naturopathy, or treatment by natural, holistic methods, in the modern world of medicine. He has founded Bastyr University, a multidisciplinary accredited school in natural health sciences; where he served as president for 22 years followed by serving as president emeritus, senior advisor to the president, member of the Board of Trustees, and a professor, until his recently announced retirement. Dr. Pizzorno was appointed by President Clinton to the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy and by President George W. Bush to the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee. He has also served on the Seattle/King County Board of Health, founding board of directors of the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, the Scientific Review Board of the Cancer Treatment Research Foundation, chair of the American Public Health Association, and vice chair of the Institute for Functional Medicine Board of Directors. Dr. Pizzorno is an accomplished author having written several acclaimed books and is the founding editor of *Integrative Medicine: A Clinicians Journal*. In 2001, Dr. Pizzorno founded SaluGenecists, Inc. to develop artificial intelligence-aided advice systems to provide smart, personalized health promotion, and self-care guidance for the public and practitioners.

Dr. Pizzorno was recognized as a "Pioneer in Holistic Medicine" by the American Holistic Medical Association; awarded "Naturopathic Physician of the Year" by the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians; granted the "Founder's Award for Pioneering Complementary and Alternative Medicine" by the National Foundation for Alternative Medicine; and declared "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, today I ask you to join me in commanding the actions of the noble Dr. Joseph Pizzorno, Jr. His dedication to the medical community has improved the medical field for everyone and his doctrines are certain to endure.

TRIBUTE TO THE JAZZ GREAT,
NATHAN EAST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the renowned jazz musician, Nathan East, a distinguished member of the music industry. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding artist and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Born one of seven children to Thomas and Gwendolyn East on December 8, 1955, in Philadelphia, PA, Nathan East and his family moved to San Diego, CA, when he was 4 years old to accommodate his father's aero-dynamic engineering position at General Dynamics. As a child, East would peck out familiar melodies on the family piano. Music filled the home as his sister Cecilia practiced the French horn and their sister Gertrude played the flute. When Nathan was in the seventh grade, he began playing cello in the junior high school orchestra. At age 14, he switched to bass guitar, inspired by his older brother David's mastery of the guitar. He began playing for local church groups and folk masses with his brothers.

East played along with the recordings of jazz bassists Ray Brown, Ron Carter, Charles Mingus, Buster Williams, Scott LaFaro, Motown's James Jamerson, James Brown, Sly Stone with Larry Graham, Cream, and horn bands like Chicago, Tower of Power and Blood, Sweat & Tears as they came over the radio or out of his record player. The young bassist began playing in his high school's jazz ensemble, marching band, choir, chorus, and pep band, as well as local Top 40 bands. He also listened to Wes Montgomery, Quincy Jones, Cannonball Adderley, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, George Benson, Bob James, Harvey Mason, Lee Ritenour, Jimi Hendrix, Santana, session bassist Chuck Rainey, Earth, Wind & Fire's Verdine White, and Francis Rocco Prestia.

East's breakthrough came while he was a member of a band named Power. They were hired as the house band for a Stax revue. The recognition brought the attention of Barry White, who hired the entire band for a national tour. Still a teenager, East became a member of the Love Unlimited Orchestra ("Love's Theme") playing The Apollo Theater, Madison Square Garden, Kennedy Center and other major U.S. venues. East earned a bachelor of arts degree in Music from University of California at San Diego. He began work on a master's degree when instructor Bertram Turetzky suggested that he already had

enough education and that it was time for him to move to Los Angeles to try and start a lucrative music career.

While involved with the San Diego club and studio scene, Barry White contacted him to play on many of his recording projects. In early 1980, veteran writer/arranger Gene Page, whom East had worked with on White's sessions, called the bassist to play on a recording session for a Hertz commercial jingle. Impressed with East's ability to read music as well as his diverse playing skills, Page used East on numerous projects (Dionne Warwick, Johnny Mathis, Whitney Houston, and Madonna).

As East's reputation grew on the L.A. session scene, so did his job calls. From that point on, East worked consistently. He did sessions for Lionel Richie ("Endless Love," Kenny Rogers' "Lady") and Kenny Loggins ("Footloose," "Vox Humana"). He toured with Loggins appearing with the singer at Live Aid in 1985. Eric Clapton heard East and invited him to join his band. With keyboardist Greg Phillinganes and drummer Phil Collins, they toured the world over and performed multiple concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall which resulted in the release of Clapton's "24 Nights" CD, 1988.

In 1990, East was one of four musicians that formed the supergroup, Fourplay. The group had phenomenal success: albums selling millions of copies, several times charting at No. 1 as well as remaining on the chart as long as 90 weeks and a Grammy nomination.

East was voted the Most Valuable Player in the bass category at the International Rock Awards. He also won Britain's most prestigious Ivor Novello Award for co-writing the number one hit song "Easy Lover" with Phil Collins and Philip Bailey. East has developed his own Yamaha Signature Series bass guitar (the BBNE-2) available in stores worldwide. He also has an instructional VHS video, Contemporary Electric Bass and instructional DVD, The Business of Bass, (distributed by Hal Leonard Music Publishing Co), a behind the scenes look that goes into considerable detail on the steps he has taken, the choices and decisions made and the mindset that has successfully earned him both the profile and a respect many players would be pleased to call their own.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Nathan East, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities,

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

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

Rather than allow a full and open debate on this important issue, the Majority has decided

that 2 hours is sufficient and prohibited any amendments from being offered during consideration on the Floor.

We all are committed to bringing the masterminds of the 9/11 attack and other terrorist plots to justice. However, I have strong concerns about several provisions of the bill before us today. First, by allowing the President to interpret Geneva Conventions requirements, H.R. 6166 would endanger American soldiers who for 60 years have been protected by those very provisions. Under this bill, the President could determine what methods constitute torture rather than banning torture outright. This loophole could leave our soldiers vulnerable to the same reinterpretations should they be taken as prisoners.

Second, the bill prevents detainees from filing habeas corpus suits challenging their detentions in court. The indefinite detention of individuals who have been designated as enemy combatants without judicial recourse is very likely unconstitutional and rejects the long American commitment to the rule of law.

Finally, rather than use the existing appellate military system, H.R. 6166 creates a new and untested Court of Military Commission Review that would handle appeals of military commission determinations.

Amendments offered by Democratic members to address these three concerns were denied by the Republicans, and so the House today will debate a bill that raises serious constitutional issues. This is a shame.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6166.

HONORING THE SOUTHWEST YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative, an outstanding organization for teenagers and young adults, that serves several Chicago communities troubled with gang violence, high drop-out rates, and high unemployment. For more than a decade, the Collaborative's after-school programs have given students a vision and focus they need to become responsible leaders of their communities—leaders that are agents of change.

Area churches, social service centers, recreational centers, and neighborhood organizations are responsible for the good work of the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative. They bring hope to participants through the recreational centers, a soccer league, and even a Hip-Hop Academy. Additionally, the organization offers mentoring and support programs that provide wisdom, understanding, and a second chance for many young adults.

Recently, the WGN Radio Neediest Kids Fund awarded the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative a \$25,000 grant in recognition of their after-school programming. The grant will help support these essential after-school life skills programs that make a difference in the lives of so many young people.

It is my honor to recognize the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative for their role in providing opportunities for young people and making our community a better place to live. I also commend the staff, facilitators, and vol-

unteers who truly make this organization possible. Their work positively influences the lives and outlook of many who face the pressures of life in disadvantaged areas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 494, my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY TRULLINGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Lawrence E. Trullinger who passed away on Wednesday, August 30, 2006. Larry dedicated his life to serving his community as a civic leader and his efforts will provide all those engaged in a civic movement with a lasting model. Through my time in public office I came to know Larry and considered him a good friend within the Fresno community.

Mr. Trullinger was born on February 22, 1930 in Portland, Oregon. Throughout his life, he was a devoted member of the Democratic Party and he never shied away from lending a helping hand to further the party's cause. Mr. Trullinger had several leadership roles with California's Democratic Party, including serving as the president of the Democrats of North Orange County and the regional vice president of the California Democratic Council (CDC). After moving to Fresno, he served as the CDC's Executive Vice President and State Treasurer. Further, Mr. Trullinger contributed countless hours as statewide chair of CDC's Organizational Development Committee, Living Wage Initiative, Water Advisory Committee, Interfaith Alliance, Health Care for All and many other projects.

Mr. Trullinger is survived by his sons Steven and Mark; daughter, Laureen; and many grandchildren. Although Mr. Trullinger's passing brings sadness to his family, friends, and the community, he left a legacy as an advocate for the people that will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOEL T. BROYHILL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Joel T. Broyhill, former Congressman for Virginia's 10th district.

Congressman Broyhill was born in Hopewell, Virginia on November 4, 1919. His family moved to Arlington in 1937, when his father relocated his building and real estate firm,

M.T. Broyhill and Sons, to the area. He attended Fork Union Military Academy as well as George Washington University.

Before he took his seat in the House of Representatives in 1953, Congressman Broyhill served in World War II, where he became a decorated Captain and commanded a rifle company. During the Battle of the Bulge, he was captured by the Germans. However, he rejoined the advancing U.S. forces six months later after he and a fellow soldier escaped from a prisoner of war camp. Among his military awards was a Bronze Star.

Upon his return from World War II, he joined his father's real estate firm, becoming a partner and general manager of the company. He was president of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Arlington County Planning Commission and in 1950 was elected president of the Arlington Republican Club.

In 1952, he won his seat in Congress on his 33rd birthday. Congressman Broyhill was known as an effective politician with a boyish grin and an easy conversational manner. A strong advocate for Federal workers and the postal service, Congressman Broyhill was especially well known for the way he attended to the needs of his constituents. The Washington Post accredited this personalized service to Congressman Broyhill's sense of kinship with his constituents stating, "He is, simply, one of them. He is a war hero turned postwar booster, a hell-of-a-fellow".

On a personal level, I cut my teeth working on Joel Broyhill's campaigns. I attended his election night parties at the Old Broyhill Building on Lee Highway and remember the long night in 1964 when he narrowly escaped the LBJ landslide, as well as his huge victory over Clive Duval in 1966, when he came on the stage and exclaimed "How Sweet It Is".

After leaving office, Congressman Broyhill returned to his family's real estate and investment business, which developed several neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. He remained engaged in politics and served as campaign manager for JOHN W. WARNER's successful first campaign for Senate in 1978.

Congressman Broyhill's first wife, Jane Marshall Bragg, died in 1978. He is survived by Suzanne Broyhill, his wife of 25 years; three daughters, Nancy, Jane and Jeanne; a step-daughter Kimberly; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Congressman Joel T. Broyhill, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation which threatens to overturn two centuries of legal precedent, and which undermines our Nation's longstanding international obligations enshrined in the Geneva Conventions.

As Members of Congress we have no higher priority than the security of the American people. It's our duty to see that anyone who

murders Americans is properly tried and punished. This responsibility requires us to address the disastrous detainee policies put in place by the Bush Administration. Republicans and Democrats have sought to create a sustainable legal framework that gives our judiciary the tools to deliver justice to our enemies in swift, clear and fair terms. Above all, our methods must reflect the ideals of our Constitution and the highest standards in protecting human rights and due process under the law.

The bill before us fails to meet these standards. Instead, it erodes the protections of the Geneva Conventions and reverses two centuries of American jurisprudence by denying habeas corpus protections for the accused. More dangerously, it fails to eliminate the use of torture, which has seriously undermined global support for our fight against terrorism.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee I'm very familiar with the challenges we face in the fight against terror, and nothing I have seen has convinced me that the measures in this bill will make us safer or provide an effective framework for bringing our enemies to justice.

The Geneva Conventions exist not to embolden our enemies but to protect our own soldiers from harm should they be captured or detained. Our failure to embrace these standards of treatment opens the door to misconduct by our enemies, a reality that many current and former military experts have spoken out against. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell put it best by saying that redefining our obligations under the Geneva Conventions will encourage other countries to "doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism. . . . Furthermore, it would put our own troops at risk." No one doubts the wisdom of Secretary Powell in these matters and it's reckless of this body to ignore his counsel.

Habeas corpus rights, likewise, do not give comfort to the guilty, nor do they help to free terrorists in our custody. They exist only to protect the innocent, and their proper application helps reduce the risk of detaining the wrong individuals. The failure to provide habeas corpus rights was a key issue in the Supreme Court's decision to declare the Administration's original tribunal system unconstitutional. Denying these rights again with this bill creates a serious threat to the constitutionality of the legislation, and makes it more than likely that we'll all be back here in a year, or 5 years from now, trying once again to create a system that will bring terrorist enemies to justice.

Finally, this bill fails to set an appropriate standard for the treatment of prisoners and relaxes the restrictions on the use of torture embodied in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. The bill grants the sole authority for interpreting the Geneva Conventions, including Common Article 3, to the President, giving the Administration the option to relax or simply ignore these protections outright. The bill also specifies that the restrictions on the use of torture laid out in the Army Field Manual which apply uniformly to U.S. military personnel and facilities, do not apply to other U.S. agencies engaged in the fight against terror, including the CIA.

Our security depends on effective and lawful interrogation practices that yield dependable, actionable intelligence. This legislation gives the Administration a blank check to define its

own methods for interrogation and opens the door for abuses. We've already seen where permissive interrogation rules can lead . . . it's called Abu Ghraib. Certainly what we have lost in credibility in the eyes of the world community and the Iraqi people weighs heavily against any information that has been obtained. To ensure accountability Congress must have the ability to review and set standards for interrogation practices around the world. Doing so ensures not only their legality, but ultimately their effectiveness. This bill takes that responsibility out of our hands.

Mr. Speaker, for all the stated reasons, this bill should not become the policy of our great Nation and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

THE DETERIORATING PEACE IN SUDAN

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, people are being massacred in Darfur, Sudan by the Sudanese Government's proxy militia called the Janjaweed. The Janjaweed have been unleashed to carry out a scorched earth campaign against innocent civilians from three African communities in Darfur causing death, destruction, and displacement.

After the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews of Europe were murdered as a result of Adolf Hitler's plan called the "Final Solution", Germany's deliberate and systematic attempt to annihilate the entire Jewish population of Europe, the world said "Never Again."

In 1994, from April to June, 800,000 Rwandans were brutally slaughtered in one of the worst cases of human suffering of the 21st century. The U.S. and the international community failed to mount an intervention to stop the genocide, instead, we stood by watched and did nothing. The United Nations had a front row seat to these atrocities for they were on the frontlines but did not have the mandate to stop the slaughter. After the Rwandan genocide, we looked back and said, "Not on my watch."

From August 1998 to April 2004, 3.8 million people or 38,000 people per month have died in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, DRC. Today, the people of the DRC are still suffering the affects of a lack of a serious commitment to end the lawlessness in their country.

Mr. Speaker, it is our watch and genocide continues to happen in Darfur, Sudan. What will be our excuse for not acting this time? We have witness testimonies from survivors of the genocide and other documentary evidence that the Sudanese government is acting with intent to destroy groups in Darfur because of their ethnicity.

The United Nations estimates the number of people affected by the conflict at almost 4 million and according to the World Food Program, nearly 3 million people are reliant on humanitarian aid for food, shelter and health care. The Sudanese government and regional insecurity continues to obstruct aid workers from reaching displaced villagers. This phenomenon coupled with a lack of adequate funding will cause the number of people dying each month to increase significantly.

The Khartoum government has demonstrated that it cannot be relied upon to address the humanitarian crisis. The government's use of import restrictions and routine harassment of aid workers and obstruction to food aid deliveries is according to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, "a violation of international humanitarian law." Also, The United Nations' International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur report found that the Sudanese government has committed major crimes under international law, including a pattern of mass killings, rape, pillage and forced displacement that constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity. The U.N. must act now to protect civilians.

History will remember that we waited for the approval of a genocidal regime before going in to protect innocent Darfurians. We must act now. The world will remember that this Republican Congress, Republican Senate and Republican White House did not do all it could to stop the deaths, destruction and displacement that is occurring in Darfur.

It has been 2 years since then-Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that, "genocide has been committed in Darfur, and the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility." I have supported and continue to support the 7,000 member African Union Mission in Sudan, AMIS. As it stands, AMIS has no mandate to protect civilians, lacks the troop strength, financial, and logistical support necessary to stop the ongoing genocide. However, given these insurmountable odds, the A.U. force has performed admirably. AMIS' mandate was set to expire on September 30, 2006, and the A.U. has consistently called for transition of AMIS to the U.N. force. Khartoum vehemently opposes this request and consequently opposes U.N. Security Resolution 1706 but with much reluctance, Khartoum has agreed to extend AMIS' mandate until the end of the year.

The United States continues to call on the Sudanese Government to recognize the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and immediately agree to a transition of AMIS to the U.N. President Bush has failed to leverage the diplomatic might of the presidency to overcome the objections of the Sudanese Government to a U.N. force entering Darfur. Instead, we have accepted the stalling tactics of the Sudanese administration: Only a massive U.N. force can legitimately and credibly protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access and fully carry out the extensive monitoring and implementation duties spelled out in the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The Darfur Peace Agreement, DPA, establishes critical security, wealth-sharing and power sharing arrangements that address the long-standing economic and political marginalization of Darfur. To date, the criteria's of the DPA have yet to be implemented thus creating a sense of uncertainty for Darfur.

We must leverage our compounded international diplomatic efforts to work with members of the Security Council such as China and Russia to overcome Sudanese President al-Bashir's objections to U.N. Security Council Resolution 1706 and allow the 20,000 U.N. forces to enter Darfur and begin to provide immediate security to Darfurians. The international community should not take a back-seat to Khartoum's objections nor should the deployment of the troops be contingent upon Khartoum's consent.

The situation on the ground continues to spiral out of control. Violence is causing surges in malnutrition and starvation rates. Humanitarian aid organizations have been cut off from helping those in need. Twelve humanitarian aid workers have been killed in the last 2 months. Twenty-five humanitarian aid vehicles have been hijacked causing humanitarian aid organizations to pull out of northern Darfur leaving major populations vulnerable.

Under pressure from the Congress, the President recently appointed a Special Envoy for Darfur, Andrew Natsios. Securing civilians should be Mr. Natsios' primary responsibility. Further, he should have a strong mandate and staff to ensure he is successful in achieving this mandate.

The Government of Sudan is deploying 26,000 Sudanese troops to Darfur in preparation for a major offensive. At the same time, the Sudanese Government is opposed to U.N. forces entering Darfur and continues to object to the African Union troops remaining in Darfur if they transition into a U.N. force. The actions by the Government of Sudan should raise concern for the safety of the people of Darfur.

Sudanese armed forces—Janjaweed militia—are still using vehicles that they've painted white to look like African Union troops and they continue to steal gasoline from the A.U. It is despicable to know that the Sudanese Government in Khartoum continues to use helicopter gunships and Soviet-era Antonov planes to bomb villages and drive innocent unarmed civilians from their mud-and-thatch hut homes.

An international force is needed immediately to stop the killings, rapes, and pillaging in Darfur; provide security to facilitate humanitarian assistance programs for internally displaced people; enforce the cease-fire between the government in Khartoum and the rebel groups in Darfur to allow for political negotiations; and, facilitate the return of civilians to their land, reconstruction of homes, and provide a secure environment.

Mr. Speaker, we should be immediately deploying a U.N. peacekeeping force in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1706 and immediately implement all previously passed U.N. Security Council resolutions. The people of Darfur should not have to wait. We must act not before it is too late, we must act now before there is no one left to protect.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. FRED L. DAVIS, SR.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Fred L. Davis, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement from the Community Church of God in Ypsilanti, Michigan, after 39 years of service.

A native of Boligee, Alabama, Dr. Davis came to the Ypsilanti area in 1968 with the intention to serve and help those in his community. He has provided this service with his leadership at the Community Church of God. Dr. Davis also worked as a Supervisor at General Motors for more than 30 years. His preparation and training for this service included a strong and supportive family and church and it

was supplemented by studies at the Detroit Bible College, where he received his diploma in 1961. Dr. Davis was also awarded an honorary doctorate's degree in 1996 from the Detroit Extension of Faith Evangelistic Christian Schools.

During his tenure, Dr. Davis implemented many different programs at Community Church of God, including Alcoholics Anonymous, narcotics and substance abuse assistance, food and clothing distributions, marriage and singles therapy classes and tutoring. These programs, which Dr. Davis started and facilitated, have helped to strengthen and improve the church and its community.

Dr. Davis' service has not been limited to only to his congregation. He has served as the Ypsilanti Police Department Chaplain since 1992, providing aid and comfort to the brave men and women of the department in their times of great need. He also currently serves as an active member of the United Way and the Hope Clinic and is on the executive committees for the United Negro College Fund and the Ministerial Alliance of the Ann Arbor Npsilanti Area.

I applaud Dr. Davis for his many years of service. I know that he and Verlouis Davis, his wife of 54 years, will enjoy this new phase of life, but will continue to give back to the community in the Ypsilanti area. Once again, I salute the work of Dr. Fred Davis and I wish both he and his wife many more years of happiness.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006. There are many glaring problems with this bill. It gives the President unilateral discretion to interpret the meaning and application of provisions in the Geneva Convention that relate to torture, which could result in the allowance of humiliating and degrading interrogation practices. It redefines the definition of an "unlawful enemy combatant" to include any individual who "materially" and "purposefully" supported hostilities against the United States. This new definition is so broadly worded; it could include someone who made an economic contribution to an organization that they did not know was on a terror-watch list. It still allows into evidence information that was obtained through torture and coercion, as long as it was obtained before the passage of the Detainee Torture Act. Perhaps most damaging is the stripping of the United States courts' habeas corpus jurisdiction to review detentions, eliminating one of the most fundamental and important precepts of our American Constitutional tradition.

The court-stripping provisions included in this legislation would do serious harm to the longstanding rule that the government cannot just imprison people without giving them the opportunity for a fair and impartial determination that the detention is in accordance with the Constitution. Consider the case of Maher

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen. During a layover in New York on his way home to Canada, United States authorities seized him and shipped him to Syria, where he was imprisoned and tortured for nearly a year. He was subjected to extensive interrogations, during which he was beaten and whipped. He was imprisoned in a 6-foot underground cell. The Canadian Government conducted an investigation into the case and found that Mr. Arar was placed on a terrorist watch-list based on inaccurate, unsubstantiated and unreliable evidence. Since being released, he has been cleared of all charges. This case illustrates why the right of habeas corpus is so vital to our rule of law. Individuals must always have an avenue to challenge their detention. If not, innocent people can be unlawfully detained and indefinitely imprisoned based upon insubstantial or even erroneous evidence.

In a letter to Members of Congress commenting on the habeas stripping provisions, former Judge Advocate Generals John Hutson, Donald Guter, and David Brahms stated, "it is critical to these detainees, who have not been charged with any crime, that Congress not strip the courts of jurisdiction to hear their pending habeas cases. The habeas cases are the only avenue open for them to challenge the bases of their detention—potentially life imprisonment—as 'enemy combatants.'" In another letter to Members of Congress, 9 former Federal judges also expressed concerns. They warn that ". . . depriving the courts of habeas jurisdiction will jeopardize the Judiciary's ability to ensure that Executive detentions are not grounded on torture or other abuse . . . Congress would thus be skating on thin constitutional ice in depriving the Federal courts of their power to hear the cases of Guantanamo detainees." Thomas Sullivan, a former United States attorney in Chicago who has represented Guantanamo Bay detainees, testified at a recent Senate hearing that he believed that if this legislation is "passed with these habeas-stripping provisions in it, then after I am dead and the members of this Senate are dead, an apology will be made, just as we did for the incarceration of the Japanese citizens in the Second World War." ("Security and War Take Center Stage as Campaign Break Nears," New York Times, September 26, 2006)

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we should work to protect Constitutional rights, not deny them. As the former Judge Advocate Generals wrote in their letter to Members of Congress, ". . . the writ of habeas corpus embodies principles fundamental to our Nation. It is the essence of the rule of law, ensuring that neither king nor executive may deprive a person of liberty without some independent review to ensure that the detention has a reasonable basis in law and fact. That right must be preserved."

H.R. 6166 has serious consequences for the safety of our brave military men and women and for our Nation. If the United States supports stripping detainees of fundamental legal protections, other countries will feel justified in doing the same thing. Allowing questionable interrogation techniques—practices that could actually violate the Geneva Convention—would have dangerous implications for the treatment of American soldiers who are captured abroad. It will also make the enemy fight harder because capture or surrender could have such dire consequences. In fact,

there are fewer people surrendering to American troops now than in at the start of the war in Iraq.

While there are those who argue that the erosion of civil liberties is needed to protect our Nation, I believe it will actually have the opposite effect and will make our country less safe. The most important asset the United States has in the world community is our commitment to the rule of law and fair treatment. By denying habeas corpus rights and giving the President unfettered discretion in defining torture, we are sending out a signal to the world that the United States will no longer serve as the world's standard in our commitment to human rights, civil rights and the rule of law. It will erode our international reputation as a moral Nation that is an example of democracy and freedom, and it will undermine our leadership role in the world community.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 6166.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LLOYD WAYNE WAGGONER

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to express my profound sadness for the loss of a constituent and a friend, Lloyd Wayne Waggoner. He was a husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, and a friend. Known by most people as "Wayne" or "Gotebo," the little town in Oklahoma in which he grew up, Wayne was an Alaskan for more than 40 years. He arrived shortly after the 1964 earthquake with a friend who asked him to ride along on his trip to the last frontier. And like many people in Alaska, Wayne fell in love with the beauty, independence and kind people that Alaska had to offer, and he never left.

When he first came to Alaska, he worked on an oil rig on the North Slope. During his years in the Last Frontier, he pursued such varied career interests as holding the first Seiko watch distributorship in the State, running for state office, operating a wholesale jewelry business, serving on the Anchorage Zoning Commission and opening Wayne's Diamond Center stores in Anchorage, Wasilla, and Fairbanks. He also gave his time generously to the Anchorage Lions Club, the Shriners, and the Freedom Frog program, which promotes recovery from substance abuse and addiction.

Wayne had experiences, met people, and lived a life that most people only dream about. He regaled his family and friends with stories he told about the little bar in Laguna Beach that he gave to a friend when he decided not to return from Alaska; his dislike for salmon because that was all he ate for 3 weeks on a cargo ship he boarded as a stowaway in the Mediterranean; his one and only hole-in-one that he shot in 2001 at Fort Richardson Golf Course; the night he met the beautiful pianist—the love of his life, Karen—at the bar up at Stuckagin Heights; and the time he and his daughter saw a moose calf taken down by a sow bear right in front of them while fly-fishing in Naknek River.

Wayne was a patriot, a great American who served his country honorably and a true

sourdough Alaskan. With a story and a smile for everyone, he was a person that made people think, "boy, am I glad I met him." We are all better for having known him, for having loved him, and for having been loved by him. For the person he was, for the lessons he taught us, for the love he shared with us, he will always be in our hearts. We celebrate his life and cherish our memories. Mr. Speaker, in Wayne's words I leave you with his favorite toast "may you work like you don't need the money, may you dance like no one is watching, and may you love like you've never been hurt."

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in the 5 years since this Administration declared a "War on Terror", hundreds of insurgents have been detained in Afghanistan and Iraq and are currently being held at Guantanamo Bay by American military forces. It was my hope that this legislation would establish clear guidelines for the treatment of these detainees as opposed to the undefined, and often conflicting, rules that the Administration has been acting under. Instead, this legislation threatens both the safety of our troops and undermines our values. Rather than clearly banning abuse and clearly recognizing these detainees as POWs under the Geneva Conventions, this legislation reinterprets the Geneva Conventions' guidelines and leaves American soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere outside the scope of protection offered by the Geneva Conventions. We have made the decision to send these soldiers into harm's way and we cannot in good conscience vote for legislation that exposes them to the risk of abuse.

McGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON (MO) and I, along with 23 of our House colleagues, introduced legislation to reauthorize the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole). This unique and flexible program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), helps promote education, child development, and food security for the world's poorest children.

Sadly, an estimated 300 million children go hungry every day around the world. Of these children, an estimated 120 million do not attend school, in part because of hunger or malnourishment. Because of cultural traditions, prejudice, or simple economic need, many of these children are girls or children engaged in labor to increase their families' basic income. Providing meals in schools has proven to be

the single most effective incentive for convincing parents to send their children to school, including their daughters.

The McGovern-Dole Program has used American-grown commodities and financial and technical assistance to decrease the incidence of child hunger and increase educational opportunity for millions of these vulnerable children. Nutritious meals, take home rations, or both are provided as means to increase food security for children, and increase school enrollment and attendance. Official evaluations by USDA document how McGovern-Dole has been especially successful at increasing access to education for girls and in strengthening parental and community commitment and engagement in education, nutrition and agriculture. McGovern-Dole has also become a catalyst for other community-based projects such as clean water, sanitation, children's health, and HIV/AIDS education, treatment and prevention programs. These outcomes have resulted in broad bipartisan support for the program and especially for increased annual funding. The McGovern-Dole Program has also garnered the support of farm, commodity and agricultural groups, as well as U.S. and international humanitarian, development, education, anti-hunger and food security organizations.

In several projects, the McGovern-Dole Program also supports maternal and child health projects when those projects complement school feeding, including early learning and early childhood development programs that address critical nutritional and developmental needs of children under five years of age.

Named in honor of former Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole, who worked closely during their tenures in the U.S. Senate to address the problems of hunger and malnutrition in the United States and around the world, the McGovern-Dole program was initiated in 2000 by President Bill Clinton as a \$300 million pilot program, the Global Food for Education Initiative (GFEI). From 2001–2003, the GFEI fed nearly 7 million children through 48 projects in 38 countries. Enrollment increased by up to 10 percent in participating schools, and other donors provided almost \$1 billion of funding to complement the GFEI program. In 2003, as part of the Farm Bill Reauthorization, the GFEI was established as a permanent program, and renamed the McGovern-Dole Program. During 2003–2004, the McGovern-Dole Program used \$100 million of Commodity Credit Corporation funds and \$50 million in appropriated funds to support over 4 million children in 26 countries. School enrollment overall rose by 14 percent in participating schools, with girls enrollment increasing by 17 percent on average. McGovern-Dole helped considerably in Afghanistan when the country's leadership changed and girls were once again allowed to be educated. The program helped to build or renovate schools, provided meals and other incentives for children to come to school, and contributed to a 123 percent increase in overall enrollment in the country. The McGovern-Dole school feeding programs also received support from other donors, private businesses, and local governments and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of visiting some McGovern-Dole and school feeding programs in Colombia. They were in some of the poorest neighborhoods surrounding the capital of Bogotá, where thousands of people

displaced by violence and conflict were trying to survive. I remember, in particular, a mother and grandmother who came up to me and thanked me and the United States for supporting the school and providing these daily meals. They told me how members of the right-wing paramilitaries and the FARC guerrillas would prowl around the edges of their neighborhood, trying to recruit young children as soldiers with the promise of a meal. But their children would not be lured into becoming child soldiers because they were being fed and educated at the school. Mr. Speaker, you can't imagine how proud and grateful those words made me feel. I could see the powerful good will this modest project had created for America among these poor families.

I was reminded of the words of these families when I read the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and more recently, when reviewing the declassified judgments of the latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE). Both of these reports noted that the lack of sustained social and economic reform and development feed the anger, humiliation, powerlessness and sense of hopelessness that are the feeding grounds of terrorists and extremists. When mothers and fathers have hope for a better future for their children, they turn away from extremists. When children have the chance to go to school and stay in school, and when hunger no longer impedes their ability to learn, then they are on the path that leads to greater economic opportunity. Hope and opportunity are among our most powerful weapons in the fight against terrorism, Mr. Speaker, and I believe it is programs like McGovern-Dole that will ultimately help us win the war against extremism.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we just introduced would reauthorize the McGovern-Dole Program for fiscal years 2008 through 2012. It provides stable funding with annual increases to expand the reach of current programs and initiate new project in more countries, bringing hope and opportunity to more children and their families. Such secure funding will allow McGovern-Dole programs to work with local communities and national governments to make these critical educational, nutritional and development programs self-sustaining. The increase in funding over time will also support greater project development in early learning and early childhood development programs so that more children enter school healthy and ready to learn. And by demonstrating a firm, long-term commitment to this program, I believe this reauthorization will serve as a catalyst to increase support from other donors for global school feeding programs.

In the true spirit of George McGovern and Bob Dole, Congresswoman EMERSON and I are also very proud that this bill reflects the strong bipartisan support that the McGovern-Dole Program has received since first initiated. In a time of intense partisanship, this bill demonstrates that men and women of good will not only can come together, but want to come together, on issues and programs that genuinely make a difference in children's lives and help make our world a better place. I would like to thank Representatives LANTOS, HYDE, SKELTON, WOLF, POMEROY, SMITH (NJ), DELAURIO, LEACH, HERSETH, OSBORNE, KAPTUR, WALSH, BOSWELL, BOUSTANY, McCOTTER, PAYNE, SHIMKUS, MOORE (KS), ENGLISH, SNYDER, MORAN (KS), MCCOLLUM (MN), and SOLIS for joining us as original cosponsors of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to submit for the RECORD a copy of a letter Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole sent to representatives urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the McGovern-Dole Reauthorization Act.

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 21, 2006.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We are writing in support of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and to request that you cosponsor legislation reauthorizing this important program.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program has made a critical difference in the lives of millions of children and provides a clear statement throughout the world about America's compassion and values. The McGovern-Dole Program provides American-grown food to hungry children in schools in the world's poorest countries. It helps ensure that children suffering from hunger receive at least one nutritious meal during the day. In addition, where school feeding programs are offered, enrollment and attendance rates increase significantly—especially for girls. Increasing girls' education has important implications for social and economic progress in the world's poorest communities. It is a model food aid program that is tailor made for the 21st Century and we strongly support its reauthorization.

Representative Jim McGovern and Representative Jo Ann Emerson are introducing legislation to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole Program. We respectfully urge you to contact either Jim or Jo Ann and add your name as a cosponsor of this important legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

GEORGE McGOVERN.
ROBERT DOLE.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD G.
“ANDY” ANDERSON

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor an outstanding citizen and public servant who will celebrate his 50th Anniversary as Fire Chief of the Quincy Volunteer Fire Department on November 11, 2006. I join with the local community of Quincy and the residents of Plumas County in congratulating Mr. Richard G. “Andy” Anderson for his remarkable service.

Andy Anderson was born and raised on a farm in Southern Illinois. In addition to attending school and performing farming chores, Andy also worked at the local mortuary. When World War II commenced in 1941, he pleaded with his father to allow him to serve in the United States military. When his father finally granted permission in 1942, Andy enrolled in the United States Navy and served aboard the USS Cullman for the duration of the conflict and received an honorable discharge for his contributions.

After the war, Andy attended mortician school in San Francisco and completed his apprenticeship in the Bay Area. He then took a position in Red Bluff, California, before purchasing mortuaries in Portola and Quincy, California. In 1956, Andy moved to Quincy to manage his businesses and was elected fire chief of the local department in November of that same year.

During his service as chief, Andy made the Quincy Volunteer Fire Department into a model organization. He has stressed the importance of interagency cooperation and created the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association which included the fire chiefs from throughout rural Plumas County. Andy served as the chairman of this organization for 25 years. Presently, the organization has expanded to include all Plumas County emergency service providers. In addition to this valuable contribution, Andy participated in or created several other county and statewide organizations dedicated to emergency services and disaster preparedness. To this day, he serves as the Director of the Plumas County Office of Emergency Services and as Plumas County Fire Warden.

Andy is also an accomplished pilot and has an active interest in radio broadcasting, railroading, and county fairs. He has poured his efforts into these worthy causes as well as numerous other local volunteer and civic organizations. Andy has great pride in his two grandsons, Will and Richard, and has been married to his wife Gayle for over 42 years. He affectionately refers to Gayle as "the real Chief."

Mr. Speaker, my district encompasses a large area of rural California, and I am happy to say that these communities are kept strong by people like Andy Anderson who make sacrifices in order to serve their fellow citizens. Andy is deserving of our recognition because of his five decades of public fire and emergency service, his military service to our country, and his love of family. I appreciate the opportunity to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. G. DAVID HORTON, PASTOR OF GREATER NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's indefatigable church leaders, Rev. Dr. G. David Horton, Pastor of Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, as he celebrates his 27th Pastoral Anniversary.

Rev. Horton is married to Modena Smith Horton and is the father of five sons: Gregory, Eldrick, Reginald, Michael, and Thomas, and one daughter, Ava Rena.

Rev. Horton represents the vocation of a Good Shepherd who attends to his flock in ways we can never understand. As pastor and teacher, he exudes the knowledge and pragmatism of a visionary who goes about teaching the ways of God. He has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the agenda of spiritual wisdom and good governance, impacting our duties and responsibilities to the less fortunate.

I want to commend his tremendous work in guiding not only the members of Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, but also the members of the larger community. Through the longevity of his pastorate, he has truly persevered in showing us the Way and expounding for us the Truth that emanates from the teachings of the Gospels.

Having completed his religious studies at the Esonian Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama, he went on to pursue and obtain his Doctorate of Ministry from the South Florida Center for Theological Studies. In the midst of his studies, he continued to serve as the CEO of Bethel's Family Life Center and Bethel's Child Care Center. He emphasizes the sanctity of the family and the importance of responding to the needs of children. This commitment truly underscores his unshakeable belief that ". . . the ruin of a nation starts in the homes of its people."

Rev. Horton continues to be involved in the Baptist Church on both the state and national level. He is currently Moderator of the Seaboard Baptist Association, Inc. and President of the Moderator Auxiliary, Florida General Baptist State Convention, Inc. He has previously served in several other capacities within the Seaboard Baptist Association and the State Congress of Christian Education.

Rev. Horton's timely and persevering leadership at Greater New Bethel Baptist Church for 27 years is genuinely admirable. As a man of God and as a deeply spiritual leader immersed in Scriptural commitment, he has earned our deepest respect and commendation.

This is the legacy of Rev. Dr. G. David Horton. I am truly privileged in thanking him for his many years of service. My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my utmost gratitude for everything he has sacrificed on behalf of our community. He continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of loving God by serving our fellow man.

BRINGING TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would like talk about the most important reason our constituents send us to Washington—to work to secure our Nation. Our forefathers never shirked from this responsibility and neither should we. Since the Supreme Court's Hamden decision this year it is critical that this Congress create a legal structure to bring terrorists to justice.

Since September 11, 2001, our country has captured hundreds of members of the al-Qaeda network including masterminds of the 9/11 attacks and others who have made it their mission in life to kill innocent Americans. It is critical that we continue to stay on the offensive in the fight against terror. Our soldiers have pushed this objective forward with the apprehension of these terrorists, who, with the passage of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, will have their day of justice.

This Act ensures that terrorists have basic legal rights, including the right to counsel, the right to obtain evidence and witnesses, and the right to appeal a guilty verdict. Suspected terrorists have the right to be present at all legal proceedings, and no evidence may be presented to the jury unless it is also provided to the accused terrorist. This measure also reinforces our commitments under Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions that prohibit the use of torture contrary to the outrages of war.

I am glad to cast my vote in support of creating a legal system that will bring to justice those who seek to destroy our way of life. As President Bush said before a joint address before Congress, "whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, if I was present to vote on rollcall No. 431, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE WITHHOLDING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I have long championed tax relief for small businesses because such firms are the lifeblood of our economy. As a small businessman myself, I know how small business owners struggle to remain profitable in a highly competitive and extremely challenging environment. Yet they continue to be the drivers of much of our Nation's economic and new job growth. It is for this reason that I have strongly supported increases to the current section 179 small business expensing limits, an end to the onerous death tax, and the reduced double taxation of capital gains and dividends. I am concerned, however, that a little known revenue raising provision, passed as part of the tax reconciliation bill in May, will hamper small business' creative spirit by significantly and adversely changing the way governments pay for the goods they use and services they require.

Effective in 2011, section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 will require federal, state, and local governments to withhold 3 percent from payments for goods and services, excluding payments to non-profits and those made by governments with less than \$100 million in annual expenditures. This onerous provision will not take effect for 4 years. But I believe we must begin addressing the impacts it will have on honest taxpaying businesses now, and actively seek alternatives to withholding in the meanwhile.

Every day, thousands of businesses and individuals across the country are reimbursed by governments for various reasons. In my Northern California congressional district, governments rely on local and regional businesses all the time to maintain public services—from the electrician who rewrites a city council chambers in Redding to the construction company that builds an interchange at a dangerous stretch of highway in Butte County. When the Feather River needs a new setback levee, or an existing levee in the network requires urgent repairs to protect the community, the Army Corps of Engineers employs local businesses for construction and materials. Similarly, when an escape route from a fire-

prone community requires widening, the government turns to local sources to get the job done. In 2011, however, firms providing these necessary goods and services to governments will see 3 percent of their payments withheld.

I am troubled that the withholding provision will effectively force firms to float a new interest-free loan to the federal Treasury if they do business with a local, state or federal government. In addition, unlike other income-based withholding, which is actually based on tax liability, the new government withholding provision is based on government payments with no relationship to a company's taxable income. This means that, while businesses will be deprived of much needed cash flows for day-to-day operations, the 3 percent provision could end up significantly over withholding for tax purposes. The Joint Committee on Taxation (Joint Committee) confirmed this in its description of the provision, stating "sellers of goods and materials are more likely to have overwithholding and, thus, bear more of the burden of a flat rate because of the lower profit margin on such sales relative to sales of services."

The provision would also disproportionately harm small-and medium-sized businesses that operate on low margins, and contractors that frequently employ subcontractors. It is conceivable that, faced with 3 percent withholding on a revenue source, companies that do business with governments may inflate contract costs to compensate, shift costs to subcontractors, or simply hire fewer employees over the course of the year. Others may resort to increased debt financing to make up for reduced cash flows. In addition, governments at all levels have expressed concerns over the new administrative burdens that such withholding will require.

Among the reasons for inclusion of this provision was a desire to reduce America's tax gap, or the difference between the taxes we believe should be collected in a given year, and those that actually are. The Internal Revenue Service currently estimates the net tax gap to be in the area of \$290 billion. Whether due to taxpayer error or willful tax avoidance, the tax gap is a very real problem that can undermine taxpayer confidence in the voluntary nature of our tax system, and encourage continued non-compliance. According to the National Taxpayer Advocate, the "cost" of the tax gap could be equated to a \$2,000 annual "surtax" on each taxpayer to subsidize non-compliance. The result is that the tax gap ends up "harming compliant taxpayers because they pay their correct tax liability while others do not."

Like many, I believe that bridging the tax gap and encouraging tax compliance should remain a top priority of both Congress and the Administration. Where identification of specific non-compliant sectors of the economy has been difficult, the Administration should continue to investigate ways it can use its existing authority to improve the collection and utilization of non-wage taxpayer information for enforcement purposes. In addition, as better information on noncompliance is generated, Congress should actively consider whether additional legislation is needed to crack down on tax cheats.

Prior to implementing a new tax collection regime, such as the 3 percent withholding provision, we should investigate what other methods are at our disposal to deal with the out-

standing problems of non-compliance. To this end, I believe that any solution that aims to reduce the tax gap should consider the impacts of new burdens on taxpayers. For this reason, I am pleased to introduce the "Withholding Tax Relief Act of 2006," a companion to legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 2831, by Senator LARRY CRAIG of Idaho.

While I recognize the underlying problem of tax compliance must be addressed, I believe this problem—as it pertains to businesses and individuals that provide goods and services to governments—can be tackled in a less intrusive manner than withholding, and with positive results. As reported by the Joint Committee, the withholding provision is estimated to increase revenues coming into the Treasury by \$6.079 billion in its first year of implementation, and between \$215 million and \$235 million per year over the next four years. Further, the Joint Committee recognizes that the "significant revenue effect" in the year of implementation "is largely attributable to accelerating tax receipts," indicating that the additional compliance sought by this provision is really in the ballpark of \$235 million. Still, in order to recapture this amount of unpaid taxes, the withholding provision will affect over \$6 billion of government payments to honest business and individual taxpayers.

It is probably unrealistic to think that we could ever reduce non-compliance to zero, especially given the enormous complexity of our CUITent tax code. But apart from fundamental tax reform and simplification, increased compliance should remain an objective. Congress and the Administration should continue to pursue increased compliance alternatives, including the use of the federal government's already broad authority to levy federal payments, improve coordination and use of taxpayer information, require new information reporting, or increase enforcement. Ultimately, though, any alternatives that focus on compliance should be balanced against the new burdens such compliance mechanisms would cause. We should avoid placing unnecessary burdens on all honest taxpayers in a particular sector of the economy to force the compliance of the few.

Although I recognize that repeal of the 3 percent withholding provision will leave the actual problem of non-compliance unanswered, I believe withholding is the wrong policy approach to this issue. Repeal, as proposed in the "Withholding Tax Relief Act of 2006," serves as a reminder of the importance of this issue, and the need to seriously address the impacts this policy will have on businesses in my congressional district and elsewhere in the country. In addition, we must also begin discussion of alternatives to withholding. I intend to continue working with the business community and others in the 110th Congress on ways to reduce any eventual burdens this provision will cause, as well as alternatives to withholding that will reduce taxpayer non-compliance.

PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF
HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to Representative TOM LANTOS for introducing H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006.

Hurricane Katrina brought to light the difficult circumstances and decisions citizens may face when forced to evacuate their homes. Heartbreaking scenes and stories of evacuees being forced to leave behind their beloved pets were all too common. Thankfully, many evacuees were reunited with their animals after the storm. However, thousands of pets either did not survive or may still be separated from their owners.

H.R. 3858 would ensure that all States and communities include the evacuation of pets and service animals within their emergency and disaster preparedness plans. With pets present in 63 percent of American households, this legislation would provide the needed tools for citizens and communities to better navigate the already stressful experience of evacuation.

I was not present when the House considered H.R. 3858 because I was in Texas to participate in a critically important conference on Latino health issues. However, I would have voted in favor of this legislation. I now look forward to the President signing the bill into law.

RECOGNIZING HONORAIR 2006

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the World War II veterans group, "HonorAir" of Western North Carolina, who recently visited Washington, DC. I want to commend the residents of Henderson County, who made this trip possible and showed the rest of the Nation how to honor the heroes of the greatest generation.

The residents of Henderson County, with a population of 98,000, raised more than \$100,000 to send 220 World War II veterans on two chartered aircrafts to Washington, DC to see the World War II memorial for the first time.

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people.

The idea for HonorAir started when Jeff Miller, a resident of Western North Carolina whose father served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater, read an article about a man who flew World War II veterans in a small plane to Washington, DC to see the memorial.

A fundraising campaign began in Western North Carolina on Memorial Day and ran

through July 4, 2006. This effort was lead by Jeff Miller, Frank Schell, David Reeves, David Adams, Senator Tom Apodaca, Mike Murdock, Henry Johnson, George Erwin, Meridith Elliott, Marybeth Burns, Kim McKibbin and Sarah Smith. Within 6 months, residents young and old rallied to raise more than \$100,000 for the trip. I would like to commend these individuals for their hard work in making this awe-inspiring idea into reality. Also, I want to commend Mr. Frank Schell and the "guardians," a group of over 50 volunteers, who flew up from North Carolina to assist with the operation of the event.

From the celebrated departure at the Asheville Regional Airport, to the water-arched greeting at Reagan National Airport, to the wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns, the World War II veterans of Henderson County received a day of honor that was long deserved. It is apparent that the people in Henderson County truly love the Nation, and they honor the heroes who have protected it.

Again, it was truly an honor to take part in HonorAir 2006 and I and the rest of the United States Congress hope to see more events like this around the Nation.

CELEBRATING KPMG LLP'S
VOLUNTEERISM IN PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the spirit of volunteerism embodied by a company in Philadelphia which celebrates its 100th anniversary in our city, KPMG LLP.

KPMG's partners and employees serve as officers, directors and volunteers for many of Philadelphia's philanthropic and charitable organizations. Earlier this year, KPMG sponsored the "City Hall in Bloom" spring planting. As part of the event, more than 200 KPMG volunteers joined students from the Bach-Martin Elementary School in clearing, cleaning and preparing beds for more than 8,500 flowers, plants, and trees in the largest volunteer clean-up ever mounted at City Hall. Other examples of KPMG's volunteerism are many. Employees helped paint the interior of Bach-Martin school and created a new mural for the entrance. The firm also has assisted the "Help Philadelphia" women's shelter with a number of events over the years. And last year, KPMG helped welcome refugees from Hurricane Katrina, assisting in their relocation, while this year a group of KPMG professionals traveled to the Gulf region to help rebuild homes with Habitat for Humanity.

In 1906, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. opened its doors on Chestnut Street. Marwick, Mitchell & Co. was then a small accounting firm with less than a handful of partners. In the these last 100 years, Philadelphia has added greatly to its history as the birthplace of the American republic to its renown as one of the Nation's leading ports, centers of commerce, and home to many Fortune 500 companies. Marwick, Mitchell & Co. grew with Philadelphia and is known today as KPMG.

Throughout its history, KPMG has been and is an outstanding citizen of Philadelphia.

KPMG is today one of the oldest and largest professional services firms in the city, employing more than 850 professionals headquartered on Market Street and providing a variety of audit, tax and advisory services to the public and private sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to KPMG and its people for 100 years of service to Philadelphia, for its contributions to the growth and health of the city's commerce, and for its many efforts benefiting our community's quality of life.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006 (GLFWRA), which passed the House yesterday. This important legislation makes available critical federal dollars allowing state and tribal management agencies to take significant strides to address the challenges threatening Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources and habitats. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent and I am hopeful will be signed by the President soon. I believe the reauthorization of the GLFWRA will go a long way to help protect the environmental and economic health of one of our nation's most unique and splendid natural treasures: the Great Lakes.

In both size and ecological diversity, there is no other freshwater system which matches that of the Great Lakes Basin. The Great Lakes are simply magical. They offer outstanding recreational and tourism opportunities. The Great Lakes are a source of drinking water for millions of residents and provide a safe and efficient mode of transportation in the region. Obviously, the Great Lakes also provide habitat for our fisheries and wildlife. Ohioans know what Lake Erie means for the state's economy. Lake Erie alone produces more fish for human consumption each year than the other four lakes combined. And, Lake Erie supports a \$1 billion a year sport-fishing industry and one of the largest freshwater commercial fisheries in the world. There is no question that restoration and protection of one of our nation's most unique and precious resources, the Great Lakes, warrants the level of federal commitment reauthorized under S. 2430.

I am pleased that S. 2430 is consistent with the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's (GLRC) Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes. The GLRC is a tremendous effort to coordinate the pathway forward for the restoration, protection, and sustainable use of our Great Lakes. I am pleased that passage of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act will advance the GLRC goals which were developed through extensive collaboration of federal, state, tribal, and local partners.

The challenges facing the Great Lakes will not be solved overnight, but the GLRC process has designed a unifying strategy forward, and I strongly support S. 2430 as one part of

that strategy to restore and protect our invaluable Great Lakes.

BULGARIAN MIRACLE CONTINUES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a joyous day for the people of Bulgaria. The European Commission recommended Bulgaria be admitted into the European Union in January 2007.

In less than 16 years, Bulgaria has successfully transitioned from a Communist totalitarian regime into a free market democracy.

Just 3 years ago, I was honored to be at the White House with former Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha as Bulgaria was admitted into NATO. Bulgaria has proven to be a true ally in the Global War on Terrorism, and Bulgarian troops have served bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are currently plans for three U.S. bases to be located within Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has one of the fastest growing European economies, and membership in the EU will accelerate its pace. Economically and militarily, Bulgaria is secure.

Congratulations to President Georgi Parvanov, Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev, Ambassador to Washington Elena Poptodorova, and my longtime friend Ambassador to Athens Stefan Stoyanov.

I am grateful to serve with Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER as Co-Chair of the Bulgarian Caucus, promoting the growing partnership between Bulgaria and America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

TRIBUTE TO AUTISM SPEAKS

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the incidence of autism is rapidly growing. By some estimates, one out of every 166 children born today will be diagnosed with autism. And science has not yet been able to determine a cause or treatment for autism. Efforts to treat children with autism have resulted in children being subject to chelation, hyperbaric chambers, massive allergy therapies, and restrictions in diet, to name a few. So many treatments, yet few have real scientific proof behind them and none has proven effective. With such a great number of children affected by autism, we need to find the cause and also a cure! To assist in these efforts, the people of Arizona are raising awareness through such events as the Lake Pleasant Bar-b-que Cook-off. The people of Lake Pleasant, Arizona will host Autism Speaks, a national organization that raises awareness about autism and is actively searching for the causes of and a cure for autism. Events like these are crucial to raising awareness about the prevalence of and lack of information on autism. I applaud organizations like Autism Speaks for raising awareness of autism and the need for more scientifically-based information.

EMERGENCY ULTRASOUND

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the use of ultrasound imaging by emergency physicians. October 2006 marks the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the American College of Emergency Physicians', ACEP, Section of Emergency Ultrasound, which actively encourages research and training of emergency physicians in the use of emergency ultrasound. October 15, 2006, celebrates Emergency Ultrasound Day.

Emergency ultrasound, defined as the use of ultrasound imaging at the patient's bedside, is a critical component of quality emergency medical care. Ultrasound imaging enhances the physician's ability to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients in the emergency department. It provides immediate information and can answer specific questions about the patient's physical condition, such as determining whether a presenting patient has thoracic and abdominal traumas, ectopic pregnancy, pericardial effusion, and many other conditions.

High quality emergency care is dependent on rapid diagnostic tools, enhanced safety of emergency procedures, and reduced treatment time. Imaging technology has greatly improved quality of care and made invasive medical procedures safer.

Emergency physicians are trained in the use of imaging equipment during their residency, as well as continuing medical education courses. Hospital privileges further validate this training.

Emergency ultrasound has moved outside the hospital due to its compact nature. In fact, emergency ultrasound technology is helpful on-site during military and disaster medical care. It has served in the care of America's brave military troops during both the Gulf and Iraq Wars. Also, emergency ultrasound was used to care for patients last year after Hurricane Katrina, and will be helpful in responding to other disasters and mass casualty events.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the work of the ACEP Section of Emergency Ultrasound. It has increased awareness of the contribution and value of emergency ultrasound by emergency physicians in the medical care of emergency patients, survivors of disasters, and our military forces serving at home and abroad. Research in this field should continue to be encouraged to allow the adaptation of critical technologies to continually improve the quality of emergency care.

HONORING JOHNNY MOSBY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Chief Johnny Mosby on his retirement from the Murfreesboro Police Department. After 42 years of dedicated service, Chief Mosby is retiring on October 6.

Not only has Chief Mosby done an excellent job of serving his native Rutherford County, he

also bravely answered his country's call to service during the Vietnam War. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 in the Big Red One Infantry Division. He was wounded three times while serving his country and earned numerous medals, including the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and Sharpshooters Badge.

Upon his return from Vietnam, Chief Mosby rejoined the Murfreesboro Police Department and rose through the ranks, eventually receiving a promotion to assistant chief in 2003. He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police.

Civic involvement is a big part of Chief Mosby's life. He serves on the Usher Board of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and on the Rutherford County Workhouse Board. He is also a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Pin High Golf Club.

I thank Chief Mosby for his dedication and service to his community. I know he is ready to spend quality time with his family, but his service to Murfreesboro certainly will be missed. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

ARROWROCK PROJECT HYDRO-ELECTRIC LICENSE EXTENSION BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for H.R. 4377, the Hydroelectric Project at Arrowrock Dam License Extension. This bill will bring more public power to Pacific Northwest energy customers by extending the time required for construction of the Arrowrock hydroelectric project.

The extension is necessary because of consultations with the Fish & Wildlife Service to evaluate and protect threatened species in the vicinity of the project—bull trout. Because of delays in these consultations the commencement of construction was delayed past the expiration date of March 2005. An extension of license P 4656 is needed in order to begin construction during winter of 2006 or 2007 to take advantage of the lower water conditions.

This project was unable to meet the March 20, 2005 start of construction deadline because the Fish & Wildlife Service would not begin consultation on the project until after it completed consultation on all of the Reclamation projects in the Upper Snake River Basin. That Upper Snake consultation was a direct outgrowth of the requirements of the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004, H.R. 4818, Title X, and the Nez Perce Agreement of 2004. I believe that the inaction of one federal agency should not be the basis for depriving the citizens of Oregon, Idaho and the United States of important rights, including their rights under permits issued by other federal agencies.

I support H.R. 4377 and ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CLEMITY THOMAS BAKER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. C.T. Baker the Pastor of Holy Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church located in Chicago, Illinois. This Sunday Rev. Baker will celebrate 32 years as Pastor of Holy Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Baker has come a long way from his birth in Lexington, Kentucky. He has served in the ministry now for more than 45 years.

Rev. Baker has served as a beacon of light and a ray of hope throughout Chicago. Rev. Baker is not only a great preacher, but he has also been blessed with a great singing voice. After preaching on Sunday's he can be found singing God's praises in Dr. Willie Wilson's Singsation Choir. The choir is in a different church ever Sunday afternoon.

Rev. Baker really epitomizes the scripture found in the sixth Chapter of the Book of Micah. In that chapter the writer asks the question—what does God require of man? The response that was given—God requires that man do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. When Hurricane Katrina struck and thousands of people were displaced—it was Rev. Baker who helped lead the effort on behalf of Dr. Willie Wilson and Ministers throughout Chicago to provide relief. Rev. Baker, Dr. Willie Wilson and others personally went to the Gulf Coast and New Orleans—while there they handed out more than \$300,000 dollars to people who were displaced by the storm.

Rev. Baker is a compassionate man with a big heart. He received his formal training in the ministry from Moody Bible Institute and The Chicago Baptist Institute. He is a family man, father of his own children and he and his wife Mrs. Diane Baker are parents to many others.

On behalf of the constituents of the Seventh Congressional District I join with those paying tribute to Rev. Baker for his 32 years as Pastor of the Holy Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church.

HONORING DR. BEATO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Virgilio I. Beato, a constituent of Congressional district, in Coral Gables, Florida. Dr. Beato was born on December 20, 1916, in Cuba, where he grew up and attended medical school. Dr. Beato graduated as President of his class at the Havana University School of Medicine in 1943. Over the course of a career that has spanned more than six decades in both the United States and Cuba, Dr. Beato has treated thousands of patients and left a tremendously positive impact on countless lives.

Dr. Beato has done more than cure patients; he has also contributed greatly to the

medical community with dozens of articles published in both English and Spanish medical journals. He has also shared his wealth of knowledge and tremendous insight with his peers by addressing numerous medical conventions on a wide variety of subjects.

Dr. Beato's dedication and support extends beyond the medical community and has long been a strong advocate for his community and activist for South Florida. Dr. Beato has also stood firm in the face of brutality and oppression as a staunch and vocal opponent of Fidel Castro and his tyrannical reign in Cuba.

I wish Dr. Beato an early happy 90th birthday and that he has many more happy returns. I would also like to offer many congratulations on his numerous accomplishments throughout his lifetime and his contribution and service to his community. I offer my best wishes to Dr. Beato in all his future endeavors and thank him for over 60 years of service to the medical community.

TRIBUTE TO SIMON GREEN
WOODARD OF WASHINGTON, DC

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that Mr. RYAN of Ohio and I rise to pay tribute to the late Simon Green Woodard, a dedicated public servant devoted to his family, religion, community, and country. Mr. Woodard is the father of Kimberly Annette Woodard of Washington, DC. We mourn alongside Kimberly in this time of family sorrow.

Simon Green Woodard was born on March 3, 1943, to the late Charles and late Ida Harrington Woodard in Columbia, South Carolina. He was educated in the public schools of Richland County District One in Columbia, and after graduating from Booker T. Washington High School, he served in the United States Navy for 4 years.

Mr. Woodard moved to Washington, DC, in 1963. He received a B.A. in public management from the University of the District of Columbia. He began his 25 years of service in the Federal Government as an entry level contract specialist with the National Aeronautics Space Administration, NASA. Following his time at NASA, Simon worked for the National Science Foundation. At the time he retired from the Federal Government, Simon served as a Procurement Executive at the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps. Simon's "retirement" lasted less than a week and in April 2003 he joined the Washington Convention Center as manager of the Contracts and Procurement Services Department.

Mr. Woodard was a man of faith who dedicated his life to Jehovah's Witnesses. He attended the Ft. Chaplin Park North Congregation for more than 20 years and for the past 3 years, belonged to the Mt. Pleasant Congregation.

Mr. Woodard was the loyal and loving husband of Iris Woodard. They wed on September 23, 1972. Together they had one

daughter, Kimberly Annette Woodard; and two sons, Lamar Simon Woodard of Champaign, Illinois, and Mark Christopher Woodard of Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Woodard was loved and admired by his family and friends. He will be sorely missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his family and all who were touched by his kindness and service.

THE CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY RIGHT
TO KNOW ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, in March 2006 the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act passed the House of Representatives as part of the College Access and Opportunity Act of 2006. This landmark legislation called for colleges and universities across the United States to report vital fire safety information to the U.S. Department of Education so that prospective students and their parents could make informed decisions regarding a fire-safe school based on criteria such as the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems, automatic fire alarm systems, fire prevention training, and other related factors.

The fact that this legislation passed the House of Representatives was due, in no small part, to the tremendous support provided by leading fire safety organizations. Each of these organizations works tirelessly every day to improve fire safety for our citizens, and their contribution to the passage of this bill was instrumental.

These organizations include: The Center for Campus Fire Safety, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Fire Chiefs Association, the International Code Council, the International Fire Marshals Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Fire Sprinkler Association, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and Underwriters Laboratories.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to these associations for their hard work and dedication to the safety of the students of this Nation. They are to be commended for their commitment to the cause of fire safety and for their support in the passage of the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act.

I also want to thank my friends on the Education and Workforce Committee who worked to make passage possible. My colleagues Representatives ROB ANDREWS, CAROLYN McCARTHY, JOE WILSON, Chairman BUCK McKEON, and former Chairman (and current Majority Leader) JOHN BOEHNER were immensely helpful in passing our amendment in Committee and I am eternally grateful for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I will not stop fighting to enact legislation to ensure a safe school environment for all college and university students. This is the least we can do for the young people of this nation. When we entrust our children to any institution, we expect that they will

be in a safe environment. And we have the right to expect that much.

TRIBUTE TO SHOSHANA SHOUBIN
CARDIN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Shoshana Shoubin Cardin, a remarkable woman and Baltimorean who will celebrate her 80th birthday on October 10.

Shoshana Cardin is known to many in this Chamber, and to many presidents and prime ministers throughout the world. She has been a tireless worker for human rights, women's rights, education, Jewish spirituality and culture, and the State of Israel.

As Chairwoman of the Maryland Commission for Women, Shoshana worked with Citicorp to help women understand their economic rights and to initiate the first women's credit "hotline." She also worked with the Maryland Senate to revise rape legislation, and convened the first state conference on battered women, leading to the opening of the House of Ruth, a safe haven for victims of domestic violence. She promoted volunteerism and helped to form and then chaired the Maryland Volunteer Network.

Shoshana was the first woman to become the Chair of the Board of the Associated Jewish Community of Baltimore, the first female President of the Council of Jewish Federations, the first woman Chair of the National Council of Soviet Jewry, NCSJ, the first female Chair of the Council of President of Major American Jewish Organizations, the first female President of the National Center for Learning and Leadership, CLAL, and the first woman to Chair the United Israel Appeal.

Using her position of leadership in the Jewish community, Shoshana brought her courage and wisdom to bear on many major national issues. As Chair of the NCSJ, she succeeded in convincing Soviet President Gorbachev to denounce anti-Semitism as negative antisocial behavior. She met with Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, Prime Ministers of Israel Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin, Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon. She served as a Public Member of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Conference, as well as an NGO representative in numerous world conferences promoting human rights.

Currently, Shoshana serves as co-founder and chair of the Shoshana S. Cardin School, Baltimore's first trans-denominational Jewish high school.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Shoshana Cardin, a woman who has made a difference as a wife, mother, grandmother, volunteer, professional, activist, philanthropist and humanitarian. I hope you will join me in wishing Shoshana Shoubin Cardin the happiest of birthdays and wishes for many more.

THE GUILT-FREE RECORD OF
GEORGE SOROS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, George Soros is one of the most controversial figures in American politics, and I think it is important for American families to focus on what George Soros has said about himself, what George Soros has said about his objectives, and where George Soros has spent his money to influence public opinion. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis once wrote that "the best disinfectant is sunshine," and it is in that spirit that I submit "The Guilt-Free Record of George Soros" to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE GUILT-FREE RECORD OF GEORGE SOROS

"I am basically there to—to make money. I cannot and do not look at the social consequences of—of what I do." George Soros, commenting on being blamed for the financial collapse of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia. "He can move world financial markets simply by voicing an opinion or destabilize a government by buying and selling its currency . . . [W]hen he saw cracks in the Asia boom, he began selling the currency in Thailand. Traders in Hong Kong followed suit, triggering a financial crisis that plunged much of Asia into a depression." ("George Soros," 60 Minutes interview transcript, December 20, 1998)

"I don't feel guilty. Because I'm engaged in an amoral activity which is not meant to have anything to do with guilt." George Soros, commenting on his actions in the currency markets. ("George Soros," 60 Minutes interview transcript, December 20, 1998)

Soros Convicted of Insider-Trading, Ordered to Pay \$2.8 million. "George Soros's bid to overturn an insider-trading conviction has been rejected by France's highest appeals court, ending the billionaire's fight to erase a legal stain on his 40-year investing career. The Court of Cassation, the tribunal of last resort in France, ended its review of a March 2005 judgment that Soros broke insider-trading laws when he bought Societe Generale SA shares in 1988 with the knowledge that the bank might be a takeover target. Soros had been ordered to pay back 2.2 million euros (\$2.8 million) in gains." (Gabriele Parussini, "Soros Insider-Trading Conviction Upheld by Paris Appeals Court," Bloomberg, June 14, 2006)

Soros: "No Sense of Guilt" for Confiscating Property from Jews in Nazi-occupied Budapest. "But there was no sense that I shouldn't be there, because that was—well, actually, in a funny way, it's just like in markets—that if I weren't there—of course, I wasn't doing it, but somebody else would . . . be taking it away anyhow . . . whether I was there or not, I was only a spectator, the property was being taken away. So the—I had no role in taking away that property. So I had no sense of guilt." ("George Soros," 60 Minutes interview transcript, December 20, 1998)

Extended quotation from the 60 Minutes transcript follows: "When the Nazis occupied Budapest in 1944, George Soros' father was a successful lawyer. He lived on an island in the Danube and liked to commute to work in a rowboat. But knowing there were problems ahead for the Jews, he decided to split his family up. He bought them forged papers and he bribed a government official to take 14-year-old George Soros in and swear that he

was his Christian godson. But survival carried a heavy price tag. While hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews were being shipped off to the death camps, George Soros accompanied his phony godfather on his appointed rounds, confiscating property from the Jews.

(Vintage footage of Jews walking in line; man dragging little boy in line)

KROFT: (Voiceover) These are pictures from 1944 of what happened to George Soros' friends and neighbors.

(Vintage footage of women and men with bags over their shoulders walking; crowd by a train)

KROFT: (Voiceover) You're a Hungarian Jew . . .

Mr. SOROS: (Voiceover) Mm-hmm.

KROFT: (Voiceover) . . . who escaped the Holocaust . . .

(Vintage footage of women walking by train)

Mr. SOROS: (Voiceover) Mm-hmm.

(Vintage footage of people getting on train)

KROFT: (Voiceover) . . . by—by posing as a Christian.

Mr. SOROS: (Voiceover) Right.

(Vintage footage of women helping each other get on train; train door closing with people in boxcar)

KROFT: (Voiceover) And you watched lots of people get shipped off to the death camps.

Mr. SOROS: Right. I was 14 years old. And I would say that that's when my character was made.

KROFT: In what way?

Mr. SOROS: That one should think ahead. One should understand and—and anticipate events and when—when one is threatened. It was a tremendous threat of evil. I mean, it was a—a very personal experience of evil.

KROFT: My understanding is that you went out with this protector of yours who swore that you were his adopted godson.

Mr. SOROS: Yes. Yes.

KROFT: Went out, in fact, and helped in the confiscation of property from the Jews.

Mr. SOROS: Yes. That's right. Yes.

KROFT: I mean, that's—that sounds like an experience that would send lots of people to the psychiatric couch for many, many years. Was it difficult?

Mr. SOROS: Not—not at all. Not at all. Maybe as a child you don't—you don't see the connection. But it was—it created no—no problem at all.

KROFT: No feeling of guilt?

Mr. SOROS: No.

KROFT: For example that, "I'm Jewish and here I am, watching these people go. I could just as easily be there. I should be there." None of that?

Mr. SOROS: Well, of course I c—I could be on the other side or I could be the one from whom the thing is being taken away. But there was no sense that I shouldn't be there, because that was—well, actually, in a funny way, it's just like in markets—that if I weren't there—of course, I wasn't doing it, but somebody else would—would—would be taking it away anyhow. And it was the—whether I was there or not, I was only a spectator, the property was being taken away. So the—I had no role in taking away that property. So I had no sense of guilt." ("George Soros," 60 Minutes interview transcript, December 20, 1998)

Soros Said That President Bush's Statements Remind Him of Nazi Slogans. "'When I hear Bush say, 'You're either with us or against us,' it reminds me of the Germans.' It conjures up memories, he said, of Nazi slogans on the walls, Der Feind Hort mit ('The enemy is listening'). 'My experiences under Nazi and Soviet rule have sensitized me,' he said in a soft Hungarian accent.'" (Laura Blumenfeld, "Soros's Deep Pockets vs.

Bush," The Washington Post, November 11, 2003).

Soros Is the Primary Financier of Left-Wing Causes. Tax records of Soros' Open Society Institute show contributions of: \$4.41 million to the American Civil Liberties Union and its state affiliates; \$500,000 to the Pro-Choice Education Project to launch a (pro-abortion rights) "public education and media strategy;" \$100,000 to Catholics for a Free Choice, an allegedly Catholic group that advocates for abortion rights; \$100,000 to the Death Penalty Information Center, an organization that works against capital punishment; \$100,000 to the Pennsylvania Coalition to Save Lives Now "to support needle exchange programs," \$80,000 over three years to the Gay Straight Alliance Network, to promote "a traveling photo documentary exhibit by lesbian, gay, transgender, queer and questioning youth;" \$35,000 to the Abortion Access Project. (Jeff Johnson, "George Soros' \$30M Welfare Check," CNSNews.com, April 26, 2005).

The Soros Prostitution Agenda. Open Society Institute (OSI), a foundation funded and controlled by George Soros, sued the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) "over requirement that recipients of federal AIDS grants pledge to oppose prostitution. The group would be the second charity to challenge the policy, which AIDS activists say stigmatizes prostitutes and makes it harder to fight the disease." In June 2006, Open Society Institute published a study entitled "Sex Workers Health and Rights: Where is the Funding?" The report highlighted the role of OSI and various Soros foundations, in financing "a large number of sex workers organizations" and attacked the Bush Administration policy for refusing to fund such groups. OSI received at least \$30 million between 1998 and 2003 from the federal government, mostly from the State Department. (Wall Street Journal, September 23, 2005; Open Society Institute webpages, http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp/news/usaid_20050923; http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp/articles_publications/publications_where_20060719/where.pdf

Soros Called the War on Drugs a "Fantasy" and More Harmful Than Drugs Themselves. "Tilting the balance against the drug warriors side is a short piece by Howard Fineman on the activities of George Soros. The billionaire financier, who calls the drug war 'a fantasy' and says it does more harm to America than drugs themselves, has spent big money pushing his position that we should treat drug abuse as a medical problem, not a criminal one." (Bill Steigerwald, "Newsweek Wants A Drug Debate," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, January 30, 1997).

Soros is Major Financier Behind Drug Legalization Groups. In 1994, Soros pledged \$4 million over five years to the Lindesmith Center, a pro-marijuana legalization think-tank that merged with the Drug Policy Foundation to form the Drug Policy Alliance, which supports legalization of marijuana for "medical" purposes, repealing mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses, ending imprisonment for drug possession. (Neil Hrab, "George Soros' Social Agenda for America," Capital Research Center's Foundation Watch, <http://www.capitalresearch.org/pubs/pdf/x3770435801.pdf>)

Soros Heavily Financed Drug Legalization Efforts For Marijuana. "And the award for best supporting role goes to billionaire George Soros, the Daddy Warbucks of drug legalization. He doesn't reside in either state [Arizona or California], but he bankrolled both efforts. . . . Most money used to buy misleading TV ads for both referenda came from out of state. In Arizona, as of the most

recent reporting date (May 31), of \$300,490 contributed to support Prop. 200, only \$490 came from in state. The remaining \$300,000 came from out of state, \$200,000 of it from the Drug Policy Foundation—a pet charity of George Soros—and the other \$100,000 came directly from Soros himself.” (Joseph A. Califano Jr., “Pro-Drug Campaigns’ Hidden Agenda,” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, December 22, 1996)

Soros Helped Finance a Pro-Marijuana Children’s Book. “Dr. Robert Newman, served on the Board of Directors for the Drug Policy Foundation as early as 1997, and presently serves on the board of directors with another minority witness, Rev. Edwin Sanders, of the Drug Policy Alliance (the new name of the Drug Policy Foundation since its merger with the aforementioned Lindesmith Center). The Drug Policy Alliance describes itself as “the nation’s leading organization working to end the war on drugs.” Along with its major donor George Soros, it helped produce It’s Just a Plant, a promarijuana children’s book. I will be very interested in learning from the witnesses today what they believe U.S. Government policy should be with respect to financing heroin distribution, safe-injection facilities, and how-to manuals like *H Is For Heroin*, published by the Harm Reduction Coalition, and children’s books on smoking marijuana, produced with the help of the organization run by two of the minority’s witnesses today.” (Mark Souder, opening statement, “Harm Reduction or Harm Maintenance: Is There Such a Thing as Safe Drug Abuse?”, hearing before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, February 16, 2005, <http://www.dpna.org/resources/current/02-16-5c.htm>; <http://www.justaplant.com>)

Soros and Two Friends give \$450,000 to “take apart [California’s] criminal justice system one step at a time.” “International financier George Soros and two other wealthy donors have contributed a total of \$450,000 for a November ballot measure that would alter California’s tough three strikes sentencing law . . . The donation marks the third time that this trio has backed criminal justice measures in California. In 1996, the three gave money to pass Proposition 215, which sought to legalize marijuana for medical uses. In 2000, they supported the successful Proposition 36, which diverts drug offenders from prison to treatment.” (Bill Ainsworth, “\$450,000 to help try to weaken law,” San Diego Union-Tribune, September 14, 2004.)

Soros Effort To Infiltrate the U.S. Conservative Movement. “The scheduled Friday CPAC event on “A Conservative Drug Policy” was to feature a mini-debate between Ethan Nadelmann of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) and Calvin Fay. The “moderator,” hardly unbiased, was scheduled to be Rob Kampia of the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). The Soros Open Society Institute has given the DPA millions of dollars, including \$2.5 million in 2004 alone. MPP has been funded by Soros as well as Peter Lewis, chairman of the Progressive Corporation, who was arrested in New Zealand several years ago after customs officers found marijuana in his luggage. Lewis, who gave \$340,000 to MPP in 2004, is also a major funder of the ACLU.” (Mark Souder, Congressional Record, insertion in the record of article by Cliff Kincaid, February 8, 2006, <http://reform.house.gov/CJDPHR/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=39349>)

Soros Support of Lynne Stewart, Lawyer to Terrorists. “George Soros funds many controversial projects, some extreme projects. One quick example is the \$20,000 that went from his Open Society Institute to the Lynne Stewart Legal Committee. Lynne

Stewart was the attorney who represented the blind sheik who was involved in the first bombing of the World Trade Centers and was later convicted for aiding and abetting his activities while in prison.” (Peter Flaherty of the National Legal and Policy Center, O’Reilly Factor, May 20, 2005, relying on Open Society Institute IRS Form 990 filings. Byron York, “Soros Funded Stewart Defense,” National Review, February 17, 2005.)

Soros Attacks “War on Terror,” Compares Bush Administration to Nazis. Soros told an audience at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, “We are working with a very false frame when we talk about a ‘war on terror,’ and yet it is universally accepted.” He added, “President Bush is exploiting it even further ahead of these elections . . . I would voice my concerns about the similarities between this administration and the Nazis and communist regimes.” (Monisha Bansal, “Soros Slams Terror ‘War,’ Compares White House to Nazis,” CNSNews.com, September 15, 2006.)

Soros To Encourage a U.S./Europe Split. “Soros, the Hungarian-American financier who has historically invested his billions in encouraging democracy in eastern block countries, is turning his attention to Western Europe because he thinks the EU is failing. Soros is to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in foundations, the first of which will be either in London or Paris.” Soros: “The practical message for Europeans is that the world really needs a strong European Union with a mission which is different to America’s priorities.” (Rupert Stein, “Soros lays foundations to restore EU purpose,” The Scotsman, July 15, 2006.)

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDANGERED SALMON PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that provides an expedited process for the States of Washington and Oregon and the four Columbia River treaty tribes to manage aggressive California sea lion predation of endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River. This bill is the result of months of collaboration with my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, and I thank him and his staff for their diligent efforts in working with me to develop this legislation.

The Columbia River is the heart of our region, and runs right through my district in Central Washington state. This river is critical for power production, irrigation, transportation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. This river is renowned for its salmon, which are an important part of the regional economy and way of life, and of great cultural significance to the Native American people of the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, at this time, we have a number of salmon and steelhead runs that are listed as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act in our region. Many of these are in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Our region is working diligently to restore healthy salmon runs, and we have made great progress over the last 10 years. We have invested hundreds of millions of dollars each year in direct spending in support of salmon

recovery. I have long argued that we must take a balanced approach to salmon recovery that recognizes the many factors that influence their life cycle. This includes the so-called “four Hs”—hydropower, hatcheries, harvest, and habitat—as well as things like ocean conditions and the high level of predation by certain birds and marine mammals. This legislation is about addressing the latter problem.

We have witnessed dramatic increases in the number of California sea lions over the past few decades. In fact, their numbers have grown six-fold to nearly 300,000 coast wide. While these animals have always been present in and around the Columbia River, we have seen them appear in growing numbers in recent years—especially during the peak of the spring salmon run. A few years ago, just a few sea lions were witnessed in the tailrace below Bonneville dam, where the salmon tend to gather before entering the fish ladders. Now, it is becoming the norm to see nearly 100 of them. Recent estimates by the Army Corps of Engineers indicate that California sea lions are responsible for eating more than three percent of the run as observed at Bonneville dam. This does not include the numbers of salmon eaten elsewhere in the lower Columbia River by sea lions.

Despite efforts by federal, state, and tribal officials to discourage the sea lion predation through aggressive nonlethal hazing, the sea lions appear to becoming more brazen with each passing year. It is clear that lethal removal of some of the worst actors is necessary to deter this sea lion behavior and to help recoup more of our substantial investment in salmon recovery.

Similar conflicts between protected marine mammals and ESA-listed fish have occurred in the Northwest before. In fact, the Marine Mammal Protection Act was amended in 1994 to address the problem of California sea lions eating returning winter steelhead at the Ballard Locks in Seattle. The process established by that amendment allows states to apply to the Commerce Department for legal authority to remove marine mammals under certain conditions. However, in practice, the application process takes 3 to 5 years to come to a conclusion.

The Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, which I am introducing today, would provide expedited authority for states and tribes to manage the sea lion problem while the states concurrently apply for longer-term authority through the established process. There are numerous protections in this proposal to ensure that only a limited number of sea lions are removed. In addition, the permit holders would have to determine that the sea lion in question has preyed upon salmon stocks and has not been responsive to non-lethal hazing methods. The proposal calls upon the Commerce Secretary to report to Congress on the need for amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to address conflicts between protected marine mammals and fish species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition to Mr. BAIRD, I am pleased to be joined today upon introduction by Mr. WALDEN and Mr. Dicks. This proposal is a measured, common-sense response to the very real problem of increasing California sea lion predation of threatened and endangered salmon, and I hope my colleagues will allow us the opportunity to move this legislation expeditiously before the end of the 109th Congress.

IN HONOR OF MIKE HURST

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of this session of Congress, I see the end of the loyal service of my legislative director and counsel, Mike Hurst. He leaves my office in October to become an Assistant United States Attorney in Mississippi. Today I make these remarks to honor Mike's service and to recognize the challenges we faced together as he now embarks on this new opportunity.

It was August 2003 when Mike Hurst first joined my team. After graduating from Newton County Academy as the valedictorian in 1993, he attended East Central Community College on a basketball scholarship where he earned an Associates of Arts degree. He was the student body association president and "Mr. ECCC." He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at Millsaps College in 1997 here he was recognized for his academic achievements and earned a law degree from George Washington University Law School in 2000. After working in the private sector for a few years at Troutman Sanders, Mike turned to public service as majority staff counsel for the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution.

Mike joined my staff as legislative director and counsel and led my staff and committee work on telecommunications, transportation, and energy issues including the House-passed Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 and Mississippi specific language in the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004. He served as my representative on the conference committees for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Following Hurricane Katrina, he assisted me in drafting and passing into law—in less than a month—the Local Community Recovery Act of 2006. He also played an integral part in drafting the Housing Opportunities and Mitigating Emergencies Act of 2005, which served as the model for Mississippi's post-Katrina housing initiative implemented through community development block grants.

Mike is a son of Newton County who grew up in what we affectionately call Hurstville, a "suburb" of the town of Hickory, population 512. His father Mike operates Mike Hurst Trucking and his mother Lucy is an assistant district engineer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. I know they, along with his sister Aime'e Hurst Lang, are proud of Mike.

Now Mike, his wife Celeste and their children Anna Reagan, Amelia, Asa with another on the way, have returned home to Mississippi. Our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but Mississippi and our Nation will continue to benefit from his service as an assistant United States attorney.

Mike Hurst leaves a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, humor, and dedication to his work. But I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

HONORING THE SAFETY RECORD OF THE UTILITIES DISTRICT OF WESTERN INDIANA REMC

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Utilities District of Western Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation (REMC) for its remarkable safety record, specifically working more than 750,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

Since its incorporation some seventy years ago, UDWI REMC has focused on its core mission of providing reliable and affordable power to its member consumers. The electric cooperative was formed to serve southwestern Indiana residents in 1936 when most of our nation's rural homes and farms were without the benefits of electric power.

Today, UDWI REMC delivers power, services and energy solutions to nearly 19,000 homes, businesses and farms in Indiana's Greene, Clay, Daviess, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Owen, Putnam, Sullivan and Vigo counties. Through its efforts, the Bloomfield-based cooperative has improved the quality of life for thousands of Hoosiers.

Ensuring reliable electric distribution is a vital job that requires dedication, skill and safe work practices. Electricity provides light, heat, cooling, and comfort, and power for labor-saving conveniences and electronics along with life-saving benefits. Yet electricity demands proper respects and attention. UDWI REMC's 49 employees have demonstrated their commitment to safe work practices by compiling an exceptional safety record, working from February 24, 1998 to August 10, 2006 without a lost-time accident.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the efforts and cooperation as demonstrated by UDWI REMC that our country's rural communities enjoy the benefits of clean, safe electricity. We take great pride in commanding UDWI REMC General Manager Roger Davis, the cooperative's employees, and Board of Directors on a job done well—and safely—for the past 8 years. Thanks to these men and women, and others like them, the future is bright in southwestern Indiana.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I strongly support the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act." This bill demonstrates the strong bipartisan commitment of Congress to address to the terrible crisis in Sudan.

Day after day, month after month, we have watched the situation in Darfur deteriorate before our eyes. The genocide occurring there is a clear example and tragic reminder that atrocities still exist in the world today.

This bill sends a clear message that the United States and the entire global community must do more to intervene in this catastrophe.

It will expand our ability to support peace-keeping operations in the region and will hold accountable those responsible for committing atrocities.

I recognize that this bill alone will not stop the violence in Darfur. However, it is a step, and an important step. I am hopeful that this will signal the beginning of our increased engagement with this issue.

THE U.S.-OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (H.R. 5684)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, which perpetuates the flawed CAFTA model by sacrificing worker rights and environmental standards for the sake of greater profits for the elite.

American policies should promote global trade that is both fair and free. Trade agreements that meet this standard improve the quality of life for American families by expanding export markets for our products while also providing economic opportunity, human dignity and political stability for workers around the world.

Unfortunately, the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement is another step towards a lowest-common-denominator global economy where sinking labor and environmental standards undermine American competitiveness and global security. The intellectual property provisions of the agreement will hinder the spread of lower priced generic drugs, which could improve public health and stabilize populations in Oman. The agreement's only enforceable labor protection is a requirement that Oman enforce its own labor laws, even though the country's laws fail to comply with basic international labor standards in ten specific areas. Rather than requiring improvements in Oman's labor law, H.R. 5684, accepts unenforceable promises from Oman's government. Even the most basic labor safeguards in this agreement have been crippled: the Bush Administration subverted the will of Congress and stripped out a provision inserted by the Senate Finance Committee stipulating that goods made in Oman with forced labor may not benefit from the trade agreement.

Global trade is the keystone of America's economic success. Expanding trade promotes economic growth in our country and the quest for higher living standards and opportunity abroad. And, as with foreign policy, America's trade policy is an expression of our values and a tool to advance our global vision. Unfortunately, this Oman Free Trade Agreement contradicts America's much-touted commitment to foster global democracy and freedom. If America is to find success in our efforts to spread democracy, serious commitments to the conditions that support democracy: economic stability, environmental sustainability and human dignity. To secure economic prosperity at home and human rights around the world, we in Congress do better than H.R. 5684.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, during the week of September 18, 2006, I was unable to cast recorded votes due to the death of my father and attendance to family matters in Kansas.

On September 19, had I cast my vote on rollcall votes 451, 452, and 453, I would have voted "yes" on each one.

On September 20, had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 454, 455, and 456, I would have voted "no" on each one. Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 457, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 458, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 459, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 460, I would have voted "yes."

On September 21, had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 461, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 462, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 463, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 464, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 465, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 466, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 467, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 468, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 469, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 470, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2006 I missed rollcall vote No. 178 on the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (H.R. 3858). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this legislation that requires local and state authorities to consider the needs of people with pets and service animals in disaster planning. Hurricane Katrina taught our Nation many difficult lessons about preparing for a disaster. We now know that many evacuees, who were fleeing the area, were forced to abandon their animals. This bill works to correct these problems by requiring all federal evacuation plans to protect pets. I know how important a role pets play in the lives of many people, and therefore am proud to be both a co-sponsor and full supporter of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to attend a number of votes that took place Sep-

tember 26, 2006 on the House floor. I take my responsibility to vote very seriously and would like my intentions included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 479, or the Child Custody Protection Act, S. 403; "yea" on rollcall 480, or the Public Expression of Religion Act, H.R. 2679; "yea" on rollcall 481, or the Calling on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, Sudan, with specific emphasis on civilian protection, H. Res. 723; "yea" on rollcall 482, or the Urging the President to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, H. Res. 992; "yea" on rollcall 483, or the Commanding the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes, H. Res. 989; "yea" on rollcall 484, or the Affirming support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, H. Res. 1017; "yea" on rollcall 485, or the National Institutes of Health Reform Act, H.R. 6164; and "yea" on rollcall 486, or the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007, H.R. 5631.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE ELECTRONIC WARFARE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence at the Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, as it celebrates its 55th anniversary.

Electronic Warfare encompasses the science of denying an enemy the ability to locate, monitor, guide, and communicate within its own offensive and defensive operations, while retaining one's own capabilities. In practical terms, it includes, but is not limited to, the ability of our missiles and aircraft to avoid detection while breaking through the electronic barriers erected by our enemies.

Great Britain's World War II Prime Minister Winston Churchill dubbed this technology the "Wizard War." And for much of Point Mugu's Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence's existence, its work has been shrouded in secrecy accorded wizardry. Much of its work today, in fact, remains sensitive and classified.

However, what is public knowledge is impressive: maintaining the EA-6B, Airborne Electronic Attack platform, optimizing Jammer techniques, developing Mission Planning systems, conducting post-mission processing, and continually updating the worldwide threat database.

The center has generated millions of lines of software code; provides fleet support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year—including Thanksgiving and Christmas; and fields tens of thousands of help desk calls every year. The men and women who staff Point Mugu's Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence are not only among the most creative, they are also among the most dedicated.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Point Mugu's Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence and the men and women who have worked diligently behind

the curtain for 55 years to keep our Nation free.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's Episcopal Church in the Town of Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On October 21, 2006, the good citizens of Boonton will celebrate St. John's Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary.

St. John's Episcopal Church was established in 1856, when the Reverend Charles F. Hoffman began holding services at a building on Main Street in Boonton. The Reverend Francis D. Canfield became Rector later that year and was responsible for leading his congregation to finance and build their own church. The plans were drawn by an architect renowned for the designs of such magnificent structures as Trinity Church, Trinity Chapel and St. Thomas' in New York City. The cornerstone of St. John's Church of Boonton was laid on July 8, 1863. The total cost of the building amounted to \$3,600. The building was completed in three months and consecrated on October 13, 1863. Two years later the grounds were graded and enclosed in stone. The Reverend Canfield, in addition to his regular responsibilities, was responsible for raising much of the money needed to build the church.

St. John's is also graced by its E. & G. G. Hook Company Opus 394 pipe organ, which was installed in the north transept in 1893. The organ company was one of the foremost makers of fine pipe organs in the 19th century. The organ has been in continuous service since its installation and is dedicated to Eleazar Bidwell, St. John's organist-choirmaster for 37 years, through 2001.

St. John's continues to be a vital part of the greater Boonton area to this day, hosting regular luncheons for the needy and helping to support the local Cedar Street Community Development Corporation, the Boy Scouts, the Seamen's Church Institute, and the Boonton Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. John's Episcopal Church of Boonton on the celebration of its 150 years serving Morris County.

H.R. 4893

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4893, which represents a significant change in federal policy towards tribal governments and grossly undermines tribal sovereignty.

The U.S. Constitution article 1, section 8 acknowledges Indian Tribes as governments, equal to States and Foreign Nations. In recognition of this constitutionally guaranteed

sovereignty, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, IGRA, directs tribes to negotiate gambling compacts with states and the federal government. H.R. 4893 amends Section 20 of IGRA to restrict off-reservation Indian gambling by forcing tribes to enter into agreements with subdivisions of states for the first time in over 200 years.

H.R. 4893 further undermines tribal sovereignty and Indian Self-Determination with a provision that requires tribes to enter into binding arbitration with counties and parishes. Binding arbitration is an alternative dispute resolution process between two equals, yet the Constitution makes clear that Indian Tribes are equal to Federal and state governments, not their local subdivisions. This legislation creates a precarious precedent that could lead to further erosion of tribal sovereignty.

For these reasons, major tribal organizations vehemently oppose passage of H.R. 4893. The National Indian Business Association, the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians, which includes 250 tribes throughout the United States, are among the bill's detractors.

This bill is only the most recent in a long and regrettable series of assaults on the rights of Native Americans. As a proud member of the Native American Caucus and a stalwart defender of tribal sovereignty, I stand opposed to this legislation and in defense of the Constitution. I will continue to work in Congress to ensure that our federal government's commitment to America's Native peoples, cultures and languages remains steadfast.

**A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP L.N.
FORBES**

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, Bishop L.N. Forbes whom I greatly respect for his dedication, commitment and loyalty to serving the Lord and his people. Bishop Forbes was born on October 24, 1936 in Wayne County, North Carolina, the fourth of ten children to the late Will Scott and Sally Melvin Forbes. At an early age, he began practicing actively and later received his biblical and spiritual guidance at the Leventon Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, where he remains a member in good standing.

After receiving the call to the ministry, Pastor Forbes preached his initial sermon in May 1959, using as a subject, "You Need It and You Must Have It." In 1959, Pastor Forbes established Faith Temple No. 1 in East Orange, New Jersey, and in 1962, Faith Temple No. 2, now in Capitol Heights, Maryland. In 1978, Bishop Forbes established Faith Temple No. 3 in St. Paul, North Carolina.

As the Presiding Bishop of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference, he spearheaded the construction of the L.N. Forbes Tabernacle in Wilson, North Carolina, which was dedicated in 1975. He now serves as the General Bishop of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference of America, the Vice President of the National Convention of Free Will Baptist of USA, President of the East Orange Clergy Movement and Past President of the Hampton University Ministers Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Forbes is my personal friend and I know so well the difference his Ministry is making in our community. He works tirelessly and often without compensation. My colleagues, I ask that you join with me in honoring this great American, Bishop Lemmie Nathaniel Forbes.

RECOGNIZING VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND GODCHAUX HALL

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and its historic Godchaux Hall. Some of Nashville's most talented health care professionals, educators and students will gather today to celebrate a place "where tradition meets innovation," the newly renovated Godchaux Hall.

Godchaux Hall was built in 1925 as the dormitory for the 100 students and faculty of the Vanderbilt nursing program. It included classrooms, laboratory space and a library. Since then, it has undergone several name changes and renovations, but last year, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to improve the space for the first time in thirty years.

Today, Godchaux Hall is a truly innovative place where students from all over the world come to earn advanced nursing degrees and learn the skills they need to care for patients as nurses. An advanced 9-bed "Intervention Lab" provides a simulated hospital environment and includes state-of-the-art computer equipment, "Sim Man," to replicate a human patient. New behavioral labs create space for nursing researchers to work with human subjects outside the laboratory. The increased space also allows Vanderbilt to expand its relationship with community partners like Fisk and Lipscomb Universities whose students can earn Bachelor degrees at Vanderbilt's Godchaux Hall.

The improved learning space at Godchaux Hall will give Vanderbilt the ability to continue its long tradition of excellence in nursing education. I commend Dean Colleen Conway-Welch for her leadership and Vanderbilt University School of Nursing for its achievements in innovation and education. One of the most significant outcomes of today's ribbon-cutting is that it will allow Nashville to combat the nursing shortage our nation faces and continue to provide the best in health care to patients from across Middle Tennessee.

NATO SUMMIT IN RIGA

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus and in light of the forthcoming National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Riga, I would like to bring your attention to the significant progress Croatia has made to date under Euro-Atlantic integrations. I would also like to emphasize the contributions Croatia could make as a new NATO member in furthering its principles and enhancing security in the area. Finally, I would like to commend both the Croatian Embassy to the United States and the National Federation of Croatian Americans for their steadfast commitment to furthering the U.S.-Croatian relationship.

In pursuing extensive political, economic, and defense reforms since its independence, Croatia has proven to be a reliable partner in the international community's efforts to build long-term support and stability, and has been an active supporter of the global coalition against terrorism. Croatia fully recognizes the fundamental importance of sharing its vision of Euro-Atlantic integration with other countries in the region, demonstrating this through various regional initiatives such as the U.S. Adriatic Charter for Partnership with Albania and Macedonia.

Croatia is one of the countries first in line for the next round of NATO enlargement, and has benefited greatly from the substantial investment made by the United States in the region. This investment represents the United States' belief in Croatia as a partner in promoting democratic ideals and peace-keeping efforts world-wide. Croatia has been an active contributor to non-Article V. NATO operations in the areas of crisis management and crisis response, notably under NATO-led ISAF operations in Afghanistan. Further, Croatia has consistently demonstrated its support for international efforts to bring peace, stability, and democracy in Iraq.

The Congress' continuing support for further NATO enlargement was expressed last year, when the United States House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution 529, recommending Croatia's integration into NATO. This was quickly followed by a similar resolution in the United States Senate. These resolutions not only represented recognition by the U.S. Legislature of the significant progress made by the Croatian government towards participating actively in a free and democratic world, they also provided valuable support for further efforts in Southeast Europe towards stability and security in the Southeastern European region.

At the Riga Summit, NATO should go beyond its "open door" policy and issue an unequivocal message to invite one or more aspirant MAP countries to begin accession talks with NATO at the next Summit in 2008, provided that they continue with necessary reforms and fulfill the conditions for membership. Croatia has demonstrated it is willing and able to assume responsibilities of NATO membership, and will prove to be an effective contributor to the collective defense and overall Alliance mission.

Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Croatian Caucus, I am fully convinced that Croatia's earliest integration into NATO will allow it to be a more valuable ally to the United States. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me today in recognizing Croatia's progress and in encouraging the Departments of State and Defense to push for full integration of Croatia into NATO at the earliest opportunity, preferably with an invitation no later than 2008.

CRIMINAL CODE MODERNIZATION
AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2006

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Criminal Code Modernization and Simplification Act of 2006.”

This measure revises the criminal code to update, simplify and consolidate many of the criminal provisions in Title 18 of the United States Code. It has been over 50 years since the criminal code was last revised. The existing criminal code is riddled with provisions that are either outdated or simply inconsistent with more recent modifications to reflect today’s modern world.

As my term as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee comes to a close, I am introducing this measure to begin the dialogue and process for rewriting the criminal code. It is my hope that this bill will trigger a dialogue and input from other interested parties to develop a more comprehensive re-write. Further, it is my hope that a careful review of the code will lead to even more of a reduction in the “federalization” of what many consider local crimes. I am well aware that federal prosecutions constitute only 7 percent of the criminal prosecutions nationwide. We need to ensure that the federal role continues to be limited and that the State and local offenses are not subsumed within an ever expanding criminal code.

Through the years, the criminal code has grown with more and more criminal provisions, some of which are antiquated or redundant, some of which poorly drafted, some of which have not been used in the last 30 years, and some of which are unnecessary since the crime is already covered by existing criminal provisions.

This bill cuts over 1/3 of the existing criminal code; reorganizes the criminal code to make it more user-friendly; and consolidates criminal offenses from other titles so that title 18 includes all major criminal provisions (e.g., drug crimes in title 21, aviation offenses and hijacking in title 49).

In redrafting the criminal code, I applied several drafting principles: (1) added a uniform set of definitions for the entire title; (2) revised the intent requirements to apply a consistent definition of intent in response to Supreme Court criticisms of intent requirements for criminal offenses; (3) eliminated excess language that confuses, or potentially complicates, use of a criminal statute; and (4) added new headings to make the code more user friendly.

I attempted to the extent possible to make these changes policy neutral; however, two general policy changes were made: (1) attempts and conspiracies to commit criminal offenses are generally punished in the same manner as the substantive offense unless specifically stated otherwise; and (2) criminal and civil forfeiture and restitution provisions were consolidated unless a more specific policy was adopted for a crime.

I wanted to take a moment to thank the Legislative Counsel’s Office and in particular Doug Bellis, the Deputy Counsel of that Office, who devoted substantial efforts to preparing this bill and should be commended for his extraordinary efforts.

I recognize that additional input from outside interested parties will be needed, and look forward to working with other Members, the Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department and other parties on this worthwhile project.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with appreciation that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). As a bipartisan, non-profit educational exchange organization, ACYPL serves a critical purpose in helping to ensure strong U.S. public diplomacy around the world.

ACYPL programs enhance understanding of political systems, cultures, and people by fostering relations between young political leaders. These international exchanges are an important strategy in a broader effort to ensure our nation’s security and the protection of U.S. interests abroad.

Through these exchanges young political leaders learn from each other and share their experiences. In fact, two of my own staff have participated in ACYPL programs, including a program to Egypt and a program to Tanzania and Uganda. These experiences have provided opportunities for them to share their views on democracy, foreign policy issues, and cultural differences—broadening their world views and building new international relationships.

I am also proud that my Congressional Office has hosted several young political leaders over the years. This September, my office hosted a young political leader from Egypt—Ms. Fatma Zaki-Khalil. Fatma is a staff member with the Badrawi Technical Bureau. Dr. Hossam Badrawi, a former of the People’s Assembly and Chairman of the Education Committee, has also hosted young American political leaders, including a staff member from my office, through ACYPL exchange programs in Egypt.

Thank you ACYPL. I look forward to continued partnerships in working to support cultural and political exchanges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2006 I missed roll-call vote No. 433, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this bill that intends to put an end to horse slaughter in this country for good. The practice of this purely export-driven market which involves the cruel treatment and killing of our horses for trade is unacceptable, and therefore I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of this bill that moves to end these practices.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6014

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, California’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provides water for millions of Californians and is a recreational and environmental treasure. In addition, it serves as a home, where generations of us continue to live and work.

The Delta, however, is also one of the most flood-prone areas in the world. Hurricane Katrina reinforced the need to do everything possible to protect the Delta. To do otherwise would risk tempting the same human and environmental disaster that devastated New Orleans. Simply accepting that the Delta will lean catastrophically is unacceptable.

Over the past two years, we have held productive hearings on protecting the Delta and have steered funding towards actual levee construction. Long-term studies are underway, but I worry that our federal and state agencies are studying levee protection to death and do not have a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan. The reality is hearings and long-term studies don’t protect Delta Residents and water users from the immediate threats that swollen waterways present.

That’s why I introduced H.R. 6014. Experts on the ground who work to keep the levees safe have told me that the most effective levee protection is performed through the California Levees Subvention Program. It’s a proven program with tangible results. While we continue to develop long-term strategies for protecting the Delta, funding this existing program will cut through bureaucratic red tape and get needed dirt and rock on the levees in a cost effective manner.

My bill is not a cure-all, but it is a bipartisan step in the right direction. It rightly forces the Bureau of Reclamation to funnel money to a proven program that will benefit the agency and the 22 million California water consumers who depend on reliable levees in the Delta.

The 2004 Jones Tract levee failure demonstrated that what happens in the Delta, does not stay in the Delta. Private levee failures can have a significant impact on federal agencies: The Jones Tract failure forced the Bureau of Reclamation to shut down its export water pumps to those south of the Delta for several days. The funding in my bill helps prevent future levee failures that could have far-

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote No. 495. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted “no.”

reaching impacts on the entire State. It is simply an ounce of prevention for a pound of cure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for considering this important and timely legislation. Studies and history have shown that levees in the Delta are vulnerable to breaks at any moment. We must act now to protect our communities and water supply and this bill does exactly that.

**TRIBUTE TO POINT MUGU,
CALIFORNIA**

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, California and its 60 years as a premier Navy missile research, development, test, and evaluation center.

Mugu beach is believed to be the site where Juan Cabrillo landed on October 10, 1542. Muwu was the capital village of the Chumash Indians located along the shores of Mugu Lagoon. Most of its early history centers around ranching, farming, and the famous Mugu fish camp.

In 1947, Congress appropriated funds to establish a permanent Navy presence here to develop a site where both missiles and pilotless aircraft could be tested. Since the mid-1940s, Point Mugu has had several Center Names, all with the mission to develop, test, and evaluate missiles and related systems.

Originally, on October 1, 1946, Point Mugu was named the U.S. Naval Air Missile Test Center, followed on August 1, 1949, as the Naval Air Station. On June 16, 1958, it obtained the Pacific Missile Range moniker and on January 7, 1959, it was named the Naval Missile Center. On April 26, 1975, Point Mugu became the Pacific Missile Test Center. On January 21, 1992, it became the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and Naval Air Weapons Station.

Today it is part of Naval Base Ventura County with the designation Naval Air Station, Point Mugu.

The main base complex at Point Mugu consists of 4,500 acres of support facilities and instrumentation equipment. Point Mugu maintains three runways to support range users and the numerous operational units assigned there.

Additionally, the Sea Range Operational Area comprises a 36,000-square-mile instrumented sea test range that can be expanded to 196,000 square miles. The sea range is supported by a deepwater port located at nearby Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island 60 miles off the coast.

Point Mugu is an integral part of the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, NAWCWPNS, the Navy's full spectrum research, development, test evaluation, and in-service engineering center for weapons systems associated with air warfare.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the military and civilian men and women who, over the course of 60 years, have dedicated themselves to the defense of the United States and have substantially contributed to the security of the United States and our allies.

CONGRATULATING JEEHYUN CHOI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to one of my constituents—Ms. Jeehyun Choi. Jeehyun, a resident of St. Paul, is one of six national winners of the Library of Congress's 2006 Letters about Literature competition. She is one of the two high school-aged winners.

Jeehyun, who will read her letter during the Letters about Literature national awards presentation at the National Book Festival on the National Mall on September 30, 2006, is an 11th grade student at Saint Paul Academy.

Jeehyun addressed her letter to Peter Hedges the author of *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*. In her letter she eloquently expressed her thoughts about the book and her ability to relate to the main character—Gilbert. The letter is a joy to read and will certainly inspire many to enter the world of Gilbert by taking time to read *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*.

I also would like to recognize those who support Letters About Literature—affiliate State centers of the book and Target Stores—a Minnesota company. These kinds of public/private partnerships expand opportunities for our youth and I appreciate their commitments.

Congratulations Jeehyun. It is my hope that you will continue to be inspired by literature and to share your inspiration with others.

years of successful service to children with disabilities and their families.

**TRIBUTE TO NEW VERNON
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, in the Township of Harding, Morris County, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent! On September 30, 2006 the good citizens of Harding Township and the surrounding area will celebrate the New Vernon Fire Department's 85th anniversary at their 54th annual auction.

New Vernon, in the early 20th century, was a small community within Passaic Township with about 300 scattered homes with no electricity or radio. The Postmaster and keeper of the general store owned a large coach with a long seat on each side, which he used to take groups on picnics and other outings. When someone heard of a fire, he hitched his team to the coach and took the available men to the site of the fire. In the absence of a water supply and pumps, the best they could do was to pass buckets of water from hand to hand. Residents were eager for a fire department. The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department was formally incorporated in 1921 with approximately 21 members along with the Ladies Auxiliary of approximately 35 members.

The all volunteer fire department has never received financial support through taxation. A large portion of the financial support in 1924 came from a carnival fundraiser, dinners and square dances; today, and for the past 54 years, an all-day auction, annual steak and lobster dinners, pancake breakfasts and soup contests have successfully raised a majority of the money needed to support the fire department. These events also are known to be opportunities for town residents to get together.

During the first 50 years of the department's history, the fire department responded to over 1,000 calls. In 1995, along with the First Aid Squad, they responded to more than 400 calls in that year alone.

Today, New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Noetzli and his 60 volunteer firemen respond within an area that includes over 1,000 homes and a major interstate highway. The number of members has grown from 21 to 60.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department on its 85 years of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

**A TRIBUTE TO ROMALLUS O.
MURPHY**

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and a person whom I admire greatly, attorney

Romallus O. Murphy of Greensboro, North Carolina. The meaningful accomplishments of Romallus Murphy have affected the lives of many people across the State of North Carolina and across this Nation. On October 14, 2006, this great American will be justly honored by the North Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, for his many meaningful years of remarkable service. At the Conference they will also announce a fitting tribute, the establishment of an Annual Continuing Legal Education Program bearing the name of Romallus Murphy. The yearly award will assist lawyers in refining their skills and renewing their dedication to honorable, steadfast service which has been the hallmark of his career.

Mr. Speaker, Romallus Murphy served as Chair of the Legal Redress Committee of the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP since the 1960s. Over the last half-century, he and those he has inspired have given invaluable counsel to clients and young lawyers alike who were and still are engaged in dismantling the old walls that have divided people of North Carolina along artificial lines of color and creed.

Romallus Murphy is a native of Houston, Texas. He attended college at Howard University in Washington, DC, and graduated in 1951. He briefly attended the School of Law at Howard University but finished his legal education at the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1956 where he was the only student of color.

Mr. Speaker, Romallus Murphy began his legal career in my home community of Wilson, North Carolina. He was the only African-American attorney in this eastern North Carolina community. As such, he was a role model to countless individuals. I attribute my desire to become a lawyer to the tremendous impression he made upon my young life.

Mr. Speaker, in 1957 the Wilson City Council changed its election procedure to require at-large elections and a provision requiring voters to vote for a full slate. Anything less than a full slate was considered a spoiled ballot. The purpose of these discriminatory changes in election procedure resulted in the Black candidate, Dr. G.K. Butterfield, being defeated.

In 1959, another Black candidate ran for a seat on the City Council but was required to run in the new at-large election system and be subjected to the full slate requirement. The candidate, Reverend Talmage A. Watkins, was soundly defeated and his defeat was directly attributable to the new elections procedure. In response, the community retained Romallus Murphy to bring a voting lawsuit against the City of Wilson. Mr. Murphy litigated the case through the state courts and eventually argued the case before the United States Supreme Court. Though unsuccessful, the case was part of the record that convinced the Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Mr. Speaker, Romallus Murphy served in the United States Air Force and was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. He was assigned to Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, South Carolina, Clovis Air Force Base, Clovis, New Mexico, and Japan.

Romallus Murphy served as President of Shaw College in Detroit, Michigan, for several years. He also practiced law in the capital city

of Raleigh, North Carolina, with renowned civil rights lawyer, Samuel Mitchell. He currently practices law in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he serves a community that is appreciative of his work.

In 1987, Romallus Murphy was legal counsel to the North Carolina State Conference of Branches for the NAACP. He was part of the legal team that forced the State of North Carolina to create electoral opportunities for Black lawyers to become Superior Court Judges. His lawsuit was the catalyst that forced the General Assembly to create majority black judicial districts. As a result of this effort, at least eight African-American judges were elected to the Superior Court bench.

Currently, Romallus Murphy is a practicing attorney in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is a member of Genesis Baptist Church. He is married to Gale Bostic Murphy and he has six children: Natalie, Kim, Romallus Jr., Wynette, Verna, and Christian.

Mr. Speaker, placing this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is a great personal honor for me. I ask my colleagues to join me and the delegates to the North Carolina Conference in paying tribute to this courageous attorney who has worked to foster and continue our Nation's founding principle—that all men and women are created equal.

IN RECOGNITION OF NASHVILLE'S
SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY
CENTER

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, Nashville has long been known as Music City. It is famous as the home of the Grand Ole Opry, the best place anywhere to hear the stars of country and bluegrass perform. Nashville is also the place to head if you want to kick back at a lively spot like Tootsie's Orchid Lounge for a night of sad songs and good times.

Now, Nashville has another reason to claim the title of Music City. It is home to a new symphony hall that is being heralded as a world class triumph. According to the Wall Street Journal, "the \$123 million, 1,860-seat concert hall is an architectural and acoustic gem and one of the most successful auditoriums built in a century."

Nashville's new Schermerhorn Symphony Center opened September 9th to great reviews from the media and the community. Praised for its elegant neoclassical design and its superb acoustics, the project also won fans because it was on budget and on time. But Nashville is truly proud of our new hall because it recognizes the extraordinary talent and dedication of a gentleman who led the Nashville Symphony for more than 20 years, Maestro Kenneth Schermerhorn. Under his leadership, the Nashville Symphony was transformed from an orchestra that too often struggled for funding and stability into one now recognized as among the best in the nation. And, equally important, Nashville became a city that celebrates music in all its genres. In keeping with the tone set by Maestro Schermerhorn, the new symphony hall will present performances that showcase music from classical to pops, cabaret, choral, jazz,

and blues and yes, even a country tune or two.

On Saturday, October 7th, the spirit of Maestro Schermerhorn will fill downtown Nashville. On this day, the new symphony hall that bears his name will open its doors to one and all for a day-long celebration of music and culture in true Music City style. On this one day, more than 600 musicians from the region will bring their talents to the stages and courtyards and many performance spaces that are part of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The Nashville Symphony will share the spotlight with the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the Belmont Bluegrass Ensemble, the Gypsy Hombres, Annie Selleck and the Tennessee State University Band, among others. Come early and stay all day. Whatever style of music you prefer, you will find it celebrated here at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, and that is just the way the Maestro envisioned it.

Saturday, October 7th will be a special day in Nashville. But in our city, and at Schermerhorn Symphony Center, we are proud to say every day is special because every day we celebrate what it means to be Music City.

TRIBUTE TO IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE NORTHWEST AND SOUTH SHORE CLEAN CITIES, INC.

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you to recognize Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and South Shore Clean Cities, Incorporated, as they join the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium in hosting the 2006 National Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Day Odyssey. They, along with other community leaders, will come together on Thursday, October 12, 2006, at the Westfield Shoppingtown in Hobart, Indiana to explore alternatives to powering cars and trucks with gasoline and diesel throughout many locations across Northwest Indiana.

The National AFV Day Odyssey began in 2002. The mission of the National AFV Day Odyssey, which is vital to the protection of our environment for future generations of our country and the world, is to create awareness of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. The first event reached more than 17,000 people at 51 sites nationwide. In 2004, nearly 25,000 people attended the 54 locations where the Odyssey events were held. Having continually grown in size and interest, this event will once again explore the environmental needs for AFV's in our country, and local participants will learn of alternative fuel options to protect the future of not only Northwest Indiana, but the rest of the nation as well.

On October 12, 2006, Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and South Shore Clean Cities, Incorporated will be educating participants on how alternative fuels can be part of the solution to America's environmental and energy needs. The day's events will include presentations, information, and games, as well as a special appearance by the Lindquist CNG

Race Team, a racing team that enhances the goals of National AFV Day by racing alternative fuel vehicles in high-profile races throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing and paying tribute to the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium, Ivy Tech Community College Northwest, and South Shore Clean Cities, Incorporated as they strive to provide the tools and education for protecting our local and national interests in securing both the future of our environment and our Nation's energy independence.

THE SENTENCING FAIRNESS AND EQUITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Sentencing Fairness and Equity Restoration Act of 2006," to restore uniformity to Federal sentencing and reaffirm Congress' commitment to protecting our Nation's children.

This legislation addresses the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), which invalidated the mandatory sentencing requirement of the Sentencing Guidelines (18 U.S.C. section 3553(b)(1)), and struck down the de novo standard for appellate review of any downward departures in 18 U.S.C. Section 3742(e), which was enacted as part of the PROTECT Act in 2003.

On March 13, 2006, the U.S. Sentencing Commission issued its report on Booker's impact on Federal sentencing. The Sentencing Commission's report shows that unrestrained judicial discretion has undermined the very purposes of the Sentencing Reform Act, and jeopardizes the basic precept of our Federal court system that all defendants should be treated equally under the law.

The Federal Sentencing Guidelines are now advisory in all cases, even in those where they can be applied without any judicial fact-finding. Federal judges are now able to impose sentences outside the prescribed ranges, thereby undermining the very purpose of the Sentencing Reform Act to "provide certainty and fairness in meeting the purposes of sentencing, avoiding unwarranted sentencing disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar criminal conduct."

The PROTECT Act ensured that appropriate sentences would be administered to sex offenders, pedophiles, child pornographers, and those who prey on our children. Thus, I am troubled that the Commission's Report shows that these fundamental sentencing reforms have been effectively eliminated. That is neither good nor acceptable for justice and public safety.

Most alarming is the dramatic increase in departure rates for sex offenses including sexual abuse of a minor, sexual exploitation of a minor, and possession or trafficking in child pornography. Downward departures increased for these offenses to levels that had not existed since enactment of the PROTECT Act in 2003.

The Sentencing Commission's report shows that in the last year there has been a six-fold increase in below guideline range sentences for defendants convicted of sexual abuse of a minor, a five-fold increase in below guideline range sentences for defendants convicted of sexual exploitation of a child, a 50 percent increase in below guideline range sentences for defendants convicted of sexual contact of a minor, trafficking in child pornography, and possession of child pornography.

The report also shows an increase in overall departure rates for nearly all Federal offenses across all Federal jurisdictions, including drug trafficking offenses, firearms offenses, theft and fraud offenses, and immigration offenses. These four offense types comprise 75 percent of all Federal cases annually. According to current sentencing data, the rate of downward departures has not improved.

Shortly after the release of the Booker report, I expressed my concern for the increase in departures rates, particularly for sexual offenses, and promised a legislative response. The Sentencing Fairness and Equity Restoration Act directs the courts to impose a sentence at the minimum of the guideline range up to the statutory maximum and reinstates de novo review for all downward departures. The act also requires the Attorney General to create and implement a new policy for the filing of motions for departure for substantial assistance and report this policy to Congress within 180 days of enactment of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am introducing this legislation to restore equity in Federal sentencing and to ensure that tough sentences are handed out to all defendants, including sex offenders.

THE SENTENCING FAIRNESS AND EQUITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short Title. This section provides that the Act may be cited as the "Sentencing Fairness and Equity Restoration Act of 2006."

Section 2. Reaffirmation of Intent of Congress in the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

Subsection (a). This subsection amends section 3553(b)(1) of title 18 to address the Supreme Court's holding in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005). The Booker court ruled that the Sixth Amendment applies to the federal Sentencing Guidelines and noted that the Sixth Amendment implications hinged on the mandatory nature of the Guidelines, which are dependent on judicial fact-finding. *Id.* at 232. In a separate opinion, the Court excised the provision in section 3553(b) that instructed the court to "impose a sentence of the kind, and within the range" provided by the Guidelines.

This subsection amends the first sentence of section 3553(b)(1) to instruct that the sentencing court may not impose a sentence below the minimum of the guideline range unless the court finds the existence of a mitigating circumstance that is not adequately addressed by the Sentencing Guidelines. The amendment also instructs that the court may impose a sentence above the minimum of the guideline range up to the statutory maximum sentence.

Subsection (a) replaces the mandatory provision excised by the Court with a requirement that the court adhere to only the minimum of the guideline range established by the Sentencing Commission. This requirement, however, is not mandatory because the court may still depart from the minimum of the range in certain instances.

Subsection (a) also reaffirms Congress' intent in the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984

that the maximum sentence a judge may impose is the statutory maximum rather than the Guideline maximum. The Booker Court reasoned that because section 3553(b)(1) required courts to adhere to the sentencing guidelines, the "maximum" sentence authorized by law was, in fact, the Guideline maximum and not the statutory maximum. Amended section 3553(b)(1) removes the mandatory requirement from the sentencing statute. Thus, the court is not bound by the Guideline maximum and may impose a sentence up to the maximum authorized by statute.

Subsection (a) makes identical revisions to section 3553(b)(2).

Subsection (b). This subsection amends section 3553(c) to conform with subsection (a). Section 3553(c) continues to require the court to state for the record its reasons for imposing a particular sentence. The amendment does not change the ability of the court to receive information in camera pursuant to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and requires the court to indicate for the record when such in camera information is received and relied upon for sentencing purposes. Finally, this subsection maintains current language regarding restitution and dissemination of sentencing transcripts.

Subsection (c). This subsection amends section 3742(e) of title 18 to re-establish the de novo appellate review standard for downward departures. In Booker, the Court also excised the de novo appellate review standard, which was enacted as part of the PROTECT Act, based upon its rationale that this section "contains critical cross-references to the (now excised) §3553(b)(1) and consequently must be severed and excised for similar reasons." *Id.* at 247. The Court, however, provides no nexus between the de novo appellate standard of review and the Sixth Amendment right to a jury for sentencing. Moreover, having excised the mandatory sentencing provision in §3553(b)(1), the cross-reference to that section in §3742(e) carries no Sixth Amendment implications. Section 3742(e) merely outlines the criteria appellate courts use to review sentences.

Subsection (c) reasserts Congress' intent to reign in the increasing rate of reduced sentences, particularly for sexual offenses, expressed in the PROTECT Act. Pursuant to this amendment, the appellate courts will continue to review sentences below the minimum of the range de novo while maintaining Booker's reasonableness standard for all other sentencing appeals.

Section 3. Uniform National Standards for Downward Departures for Substantial Assistance. A significant result of the Booker decision is the spike in downward departures for substantial assistance imposed by the courts in the absence of a government motion. Substantial assistance motions are filed in instances where the defendant has provided the government with information relating to another investigation or prosecution. In reviewing this increase in sua sponte departures, the committee has learned that the government's standards for these motions vary from district to district, creating the potential for disparate treatment of similarly situated defendants.

This section, therefore, directs the Attorney General to implement a uniform policy for departure motions for substantial assistance, including the definition of substantial assistance in the investigation, the process for determining whether departure is warranted, and the criteria for determining the extent of departure. The amendment instructs the Attorney General to report the policy to Congress within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

Section 4. Assuring Judicial Administrative Responsibilities are Performed by the

Judicial Branch. This section amends section 994(w) of title 28, which governs the reporting requirements of the federal district courts to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. This amendment simply clarifies that the reporting required by this section is to be completed by the judicial branch and may not be delegated to the executive branch.

CONGRATULATING PAUL PRIBBENOW

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations and warm wishes to Paul Pribbenow on his appointment as the 11th president of Augsburg College. Located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Augsburg College is a private liberal arts college associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Augsburg has a long and proud history of not only educating and preparing students, but also in engaging and strengthening communities in Minnesota, especially those that co-exist with and neighbor the Augsburg campus. Dr. Pribbenow, with expertise in issues related to philanthropy, non-profit management, and ethics, is uniquely prepared to continue to strengthen community ties. He holds a B.A. from Luther College in Iowa, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in social ethics from the University of Chicago. Before accepting the position at Augsburg, Dr. Pribbenow served as the President of Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to join with the students, faculty and staff of Augsburg in welcoming Dr. Pribbenow to Minnesota and to Augsburg College. I look forward to continued work with Augsburg under the leadership of Dr. Pribbenow in ensuring a strong partnership between the federal government and our institutions of higher education in providing access to all those who wish to pursue a higher education, while strengthening the economic and social well-being of our communities.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my views on H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, the Bush Administration established new procedures for war crime tribunals for terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The United States Supreme Court ruled 5–3 on June 29, 2006, that President Bush's military order in the detention and treatment of the Guantanamo Bay detainees exceeded his authority. Though the court did not dispute the President's authority to hold the petitioner as an “enemy combatant for the duration of hostilities,” it found that military tribunals convened to try detainees did not comply with the Uniform Code of Military Justice of the law of

war, as embodied by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

Because of the unique nature of the War on Terror, no current system exists for bringing detainees to trial, many of whom are individuals believed to have committed a serious crime and who may seek to further their cause through the murder of innocent civilians. It is important that the United States establish a judicial process for dealing with illegal enemy combatants and allow for the continued interrogation of detainees while following basic international agreements on humane treatment. H.R. 6166 accomplishes this. This legislation provides a framework through which we can bring enemy combatants to justice through an open military commission system that affords substantial due process. It represents a comprehensive approach to try accused war criminals while recognizing the unique national security situation the United States faces in the War on Terror. The commission system created by H.R. 6166 takes into account the concerns of the Supreme Court, as well as the input of intelligence officers and military lawyers in all branches of the armed services.

Prior to casting my vote for H.R. 6166, I voted for the Motion to Recommit, offered by Representative IKE SKELETON of Missouri, which would provide expedited judicial review of the statute's constitutionality and require the reauthorization of the legislation in three years. Specifically, the provision would provide for expedited review of a civil action challenging the bill's legality. A three-judge panel in the D.C. District Court would hear the action and the Supreme Court would review a judgment or order of the panel. Additionally, by requiring a reauthorization in 3 years, we give Congress the ability to carefully review how this statute is working in the real world. Unfortunately, the Skelton Motion to Recommit failed by a vote of 195–228.

While H.R. 6166 is certainly not perfect, it is a step in the right direction. It is essential that our government has the necessary intelligence to prevent future terrorist attacks on our Nation and our allies. As this legislation is implemented, it is important that the Legislative and Judicial branches provide vigorous oversight to ensure that no international laws regarding the treatment of detainees are violated in the name of security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2006 I missed roll-call vote No. 431 on the Goodlatte Amendment to the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503). Had I been present I would have voted against this amendment because it is impractical to expect that all the horses that would otherwise be slaughtered would be able to go to rescue facilities. These horses could be humanely euthanized, adopted by other owners or kept longer by their current owners. If passed, this amendment would have severely compromised the underlying bill which I support.

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

It is estimated that 3000 babies are born in the United States each year with a serious birth defect of the brain or spine called a neural tube defect. Spina bifida, the most common neural tube defect, is the leading cause of childhood paralysis. There are approximately 70,000 people in the United States currently living with this permanently disabling birth defect.

Spina Bifida can be accompanied by significant social, emotional and financial burdens. But with proper medical and family care, people affected by Spina Bifida can live productive lives with the help of braces and/or a wheelchair. The key to a better life for Americans who live with Spina Bifida is research and improved quality-of-life, and this goal must be a national priority.

Along with developing new methods for treatment and care, a critical effort must also be aimed at prevention. In response to research that showed the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 75% with the addition of folic acid in a woman's diet, the United States Public Health Service recommended that all women of childbearing years should take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent having a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect.

Based on this recommendation, I introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act, which was passed into law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This Act authorized a program within CDC to provide professional and public education for folic acid awareness.

The good news is that progress has been made in educating women about the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. However, the majority of women in this country are still not aware of the benefits of folic acid, and only 40 percent of women ages 18 to 45 take a daily vitamin with the recommended level of folic acid.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, reports that the rate of Spina Bifida in the Hispanic population is almost seven in 10,000 births, nearly 40 percent higher than the non-Hispanic rate. And tragically, Hispanic women continue to have the lowest reported folic acid consumption of any racial or ethnic group.

To that end, I am happy to report that Gruma—one of the world's largest producers of corn flour and tortillas—has begun researching and conducting product testing with a year-end goal of enriching with folic acid its corn products sold in the United States. Imported corn flours—unlike most wheat flour and cereal products—are currently not enriched with folic acid. This important voluntary action by Gruma has significant implications for improving the health and well-being of the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the role of the Spina Bifida Association. The Spina Bifida Association, SBA, is an

organization that has helped those affected by this debilitating disease for over 30 years and is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. With almost 57 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings families together to answer questions, voice concerns, and lend support to one another.

Together the SBA and various local SBA California chapters work tirelessly to help families living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children. I thank the local chapters of SBA, especially those in my State of California for all they have done and all that they will continue to do to advance the needs of the Spina Bifida community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the prevention of new incidences of spina bifida, as well as in the treatment and care of those individuals impacted by this serious birth defect. But there is still much to do. During this month of National Spina Bifida Awareness, we must commit ourselves to the goals of increased prevention, expanded health education, more thorough research, and improved quality of life for all those living with Spina Bifida.

HONORING CREATIVE BEGINNINGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Creative Beginnings, a South Florida organization dedicated to assisting women and children transition out of homelessness. Since its inception in 2000, Creative Beginnings has provided case management services on a one-to-one basis to provide homeless women with the support they need to foster growth, discipline, and self-commitment as they break the cycle of homelessness.

Every woman helped by Creative Beginnings undergoes an intensive personalized process aimed at helping them to assess, and care for, their own needs. The successful conclusion of this process entails reintegration into society. Counseling is offered throughout the process to develop and enhance independent basic life skills. These include work adjustment, job readiness training, and vocational rehabilitation to ensure that the transition out of homelessness is permanent. In addition to their own personal network, organizations such as the Salvation Army and local places of worship have offered their support in helping Creative Beginnings fulfill its goals. Through the tireless dedication of Creative Beginning's professional and caring staff, numerous homeless women and children have begun the path to happy, meaningful, and productive lifestyles.

My heart goes out to all the employees and volunteers at Creative Beginnings, but I would like to personally congratulate and thank Executive Director Teresita R. Terrón, Secretary Isabel Gonzalez-Jettinghoff, Treasurer Rose Marie Rojas Marty, and Rev. Fr. Jorge Bello for their supreme efforts at making Creative Beginnings what it is today.

The Village of Key Biscayne and the City of Coral Gables have already recognized Cre-

ative Beginnings for its commitment to homeless women and children. Creative Beginnings provides an integral service to our community, and plays an invaluable role in the lives of all who those who have been aided by their efforts.

The hard work and individual attention given to every woman is truly extraordinary and the entire South Florida community is truly grateful for their noble efforts. I congratulate Creative Beginnings for their work, and wish them continued success in helping individuals regain their rightful places in society.

HONORING CLINT BOLTE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint Bolte of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, who has been named "2006 Citizen of the Year" by the Borough Council and the Waters Award Committee. This distinguished award is given annually, in memory of the late Donald "Mike" Waters, to the person who most exemplifies the efforts and achievements in community service once performed by Waters throughout his lifetime.

The "Citizen of the Year" award was presented to Clint, a local businessman and principal of C. Clint Bolte and Associates, by Mr. Waters' widow, Jenny, and son, Don. They remarked that Clint has "carried on Waters' tradition of community service," just as Clint and Mr. Waters did while co-chairing a community spring cleanup campaign together some years ago.

While accepting the honor on September 18, 2006, Clint said that the award was "very much a surprise," and that he was incredibly grateful for the recognition. Clint also remarked that the late "Mike" Waters was "very much an individual of extraordinary faith who loved his family and was passionate about his community."

Clint Bolte, himself, has contributed endlessly to the betterment of the Chambersburg community, and Franklin County as a whole. Clint has worked through organizations such as the Chambersburg Club, the Rotary Foundation, the United Way, and the YMCA. To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Clint has been a part of would be nearly impossible. His involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable. Jenny Waters may have put it best, speaking about Clint Bolte, saying that he has selflessly dedicated himself to the Chambersburg community "just like 'Mike' did."

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the excellent efforts and achievement of two schools in the fourth district of Kansas.

Last Friday, I was notified that Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and Garfield Elementary School in Augusta have been named 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools. Schools that receive this honor are academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement.

The students, teachers, and administrators at Frances Willard and Garfield Elementary Schools are to be commended. Their dedication and hard work is evident and I am proud of their accomplishment. These two schools are excellent examples of how all students can exceed and achieve higher standards.

This is an incredible honor and truly shows the commitment to education in the Augusta and Ark City communities. I would also like to recognize the parents for the support of their children. Parental involvement in a child's education is crucial to his or her success.

As we begin another school year, I encourage students, teachers, administrators and parents in Kansas and around the nation to continue their efforts to close the achievement gap so all children can learn and succeed. We, as a nation, have to do more now to prepare these young people for their futures. I am confident that we will continue to see improvements each year and I hope to be honoring more schools next year.

Congratulations to Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and to Garfield Elementary School in Augusta for their outstanding achievement in earning the 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH KOREA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand up today on behalf of the people of North Korea.

A number of reports have detailed the horrific suffering of the people there—a suffering that makes China look like paradise. Those held in the prison camps in North Korea endure torture, forced abortions, and brutal deaths.

In early October, the Yoduk story musical will be performed in our area—this musical tells the story of the suffering in a North Korean prison camp, Director Jung, Sung-San is a North Korean defector himself, whose father died in one of the political prison camps.

Interestingly, the South Korean government did not want this musical produced in South Korea, but the director thought it was so important for the world to know the story of North Korea that he put up his own kidney as collateral for a \$20,000 loan to ensure the musical was produced.

Mr. Speaker, that a North Korean was willing to put up his own kidney to produce this story speaks to the gravity of the suffering in North Korea. The international community must get its head out of the sand and ACT to stop the terrible suffering of the North Korean people.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA).

As a cosponsor of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA) and having voted for its passage in the House on April 27, 2005, I remain committed to this important piece of legislation and hope to see it passed into law promptly. The Child Interstate Notification Act prohibits circumventing state parental involvement laws by transporting a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion and places additional responsibilities on the abortionist.

Not surprisingly, parental involvement laws are overwhelmingly supported by a significant majority of the American people. Parents desire to know Parent's rights and state's rights are being violated. Children are secretly being transported across state lines without the consent of their parents for abortions. Abortion clinics in states where there is no parental involvement law advertise their services in states which have parental laws in place. "No Parental Consent Required" one advertisement read.

Children should be protected. Transporting a minor across state lines in order to obtain an abortion without parental notification or consent is more than troublesome. Pregnancy isn't something to be taken lightly and teenagers should not be isolated in their decision making. Instead, their parents should be involved in their decision on whether to have an abortion. My home state of Kansas is one of the 22 states that require parental consent with 2 of those states requiring both parents to consent.

Parental notification laws are critical to protect the life and health of minors. Parents deserve to be informed about their daughter's abortion decision as they are the ones who would be responsible for paying any medical bills due to complications from an abortion. Parents must give their consent in order for their minor to obtain certain medical procedures including ear piercing and to receive aspirin at school yet they can acquire an abortion—a major medical procedure that could be fatal or result in complications without the consent of a parent? That is a dangerous exception that should be eliminated in all states.

The Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act is good legislation that will protect minors and inform parents. Today, I hope to see CIANA pass the House for the second time this Congress and be sent to the Senate without further ado. I ask my colleagues in the Senate to not hold up this bill and to pass the language as it is written.

I will vote in favor of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act today and encourage my colleagues to join me. I also encourage my colleagues in the Senate to promptly pass this piece of legislation so minors are better protected and parents are informed.

CONGRATULATING DR. JUDEA AND
DR. AKBAR AHMED**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Judea Pearl and Dr. Akbar Ahmed, co-recipients of the Purpose Prize. Drs. Pearl and Ahmed have been recognized for innovation and success in using their lifetime of experience for the greater good.

The Daniel Pearl Foundation, which Dr. Pearl founded following the tragic death of his son, Daniel, at the hands of terrorists in Pakistan, is dedicated to promoting cross-cultural tolerance and understanding through public dialogue and the training and support of journalists. Together with Dr. Ahmed, Pearl created the Daniel Pearl Dialogue for Muslim-Jewish Understanding, which holds dialogues around the world to frankly discuss contentious issues and provide different perspectives on the topics that are causing so much violence today.

The Purpose Prize was created in 2005 by Civic Ventures, a California-based non-profit organization dedicated to generating ideas and inventing programs to help society achieve the greatest return on experience. Over 1,200 adults age 60 and over competed for the five \$100,000 cash prizes and the accompanying benefits of publicity and support for their projects. The Purpose Prize aims to stimulate, recognize and support the entrepreneurial efforts of older adults who use their passion, smarts and experience to address serious social challenges. Unlike lifetime achievement awards, it seeks to reward new and creative efforts by older persons from all walks of life. Ultimately, the Purpose Prize will contribute to the transformation of our society's view of aging and lead to investments in America's greatest untapped resource: experienced and engaged older adults.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Drs. Pearl and Ahmed on receiving this prestigious award in its first year and I wish them continued success. I also commend Civic Ventures, The Atlantic Philanthropies, and The John Templeton Foundation, for their vision and generosity in creating this important stimulus for expanding citizen initiative for public good.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEDY KUGLER'S ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special occasion in the life of one of my constituents, Jadwiga "Hedy" Kugler. This year, Hedy celebrates her 50th year in the United States of America! And what a wonderful 50 years they have been for her and her family.

Hedy's life represents the quintessential American dream. At the age of 13, she left the comforts of her family's Paris apartment and

set sail for America on the SS United States with her parents Vincent and Maria Niziuk and her sister Marta. Although the family had very little at the time, they had grand dreams of a better life in America. Her very first glimpse of that dream was the Statue of Liberty, as her ship sailed into New York City on the morning of July 30, 1956.

But her journey did not end there. Shortly after clearing immigration, Hedy and her family boarded a train for the long trip to Los Angeles to meet the family's sponsor Wanda Wegrocka. Along the way, Hedy saw her first television show, "Queen for a Day," and had her first sip of Coca-Cola.

The family finally arrived in Los Angeles on August 4, 1956, and settled into a new apartment and new life on Ivar Avenue in the Hollywood Hills. These early years were an exciting time for Hedy, as she explored her new homeland and made lasting friendships that continue to this day. Hedy also took care to make the most of every opportunity that America provided. She graduated high school at Blessed Sacrament, and went on to earn a B.A. in Mathematics from UCLA. She then embarked on a career as a senior instructor for IBM, where she spent 30 years traveling the globe teaching application and systems programming to IBM clients. Now in her retirement, Hedy devotes much of her time to helping others, volunteering at a Kaiser hospital and serving as a Eucharistic minister at her local church.

Hedy has been married for 43 years to the love of her life, Bolek Kugler, and has two adult children, Christine and Andrew. She's now a proud grandmother too, or Baba as she is known to Ellie and Nate Kugler. I'm also proud to say that Hedy and her husband still live in the same Encino home that they bought nearly 35 years ago. Together, they continue to explore all corners of the world, from Argentina to Vietnam, Sydney to Krakow. Her adventurous spirit, born on the SS United States, continues to thrive and grow.

Fifty years ago, Hedy came to this country with a dream of a better life. She has turned that dream into a successful career, a lasting marriage, a vast circle of friends ITom around the country, and a family that loves her dearly. She is truly an inspiration to all those who know her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hedy on her 50th anniversary in the United States. May your future years in America be as full and prosperous as the last five decades.

IN RECOGNITION OF COOPERATIVES AND NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous role that our cooperative businesses play in our nation's economy and in the state of North Dakota. October is National Co-op Month, so it is fitting that we take a few moments today to recognize the value of cooperatives.

Cooperatives are businesses owned and democratically governed by their members—

those who buy their products or use their services—rather than by outside investors. This business structure provides valuable benefits to the co-op's member/owners.

North Dakota alone has over 250 farmer cooperatives and over 300 cooperatives total (including utilities and credit union cooperatives). These cooperatives contribute over \$1.6 billion to the state's economy, and personal income attributed to cooperatives is over 15 percent of North Dakota's total.

North Dakota's cooperatives directly employ over 9,000 people full-time and an additional 3,000 people part-time. Add in secondary jobs associated with these cooperative businesses, and over 50,000 jobs in North Dakota result from cooperatives.

The effects of cooperatives are not just felt in North Dakota, of course. Nationwide, cooperatives operating in every state in the nation pump more than \$200 billion into the economy and serve an estimated 130 million Americans. These cooperatives operate in virtually every industry, including agriculture, energy, financial services, food retailing and distribution, housing, healthcare, and telecommunications. They range in size from small storefronts to large Fortune 500 companies, employing more than 500,000 Americans with an aggregate payroll in excess of \$15 billion.

Cooperatives dedicate substantial resources to serving their communities beyond their core business functions. This includes charitable giving that assists the underserved and community development activities that generate jobs and income.

The theme for Cooperative Month 2006 is "Cooperatives, Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities." I urge my colleagues to join with cooperatives in their districts next month in celebrating the role of cooperatives in our economy and their value to their communities.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN DEHNKE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of socioeconomic background, receive an education that gives them the skills to achieve. Head Start, as developed in 1965, aims to address the educational, emotional, psychological, health, social, and nutritional needs of preschool-aged children from lower income families. Knowing how critical and beneficial this program is for so many families and their kids in western Wisconsin, I have consistently supported it.

Our local Head Start centers and leaders in western Wisconsin have served these students extremely well. One of the key components of the Head Start program is the quality of teaching it offers to its students. Without these teachers, the program could not succeed. Helen Dehnke of Mondovi, Wisconsin, embodies the devotion of many Head Start teachers. Helen has devoted 36 years of her life to Western Dairyland Head Start children and families.

Helen began her career as a Head Start parent volunteer in 1969 when her twins were

in the program. The following year, her hard work earned her the position of teaching assistant in collaboration with Mondovi Day Care, Western Dairyland Head Start, and the Mondovi School District. Understanding how important teacher quality is, Helen participated in professional development sessions and she earned her Child Development Credential in order to serve her students to the best of her abilities.

Helen's hard work has not gone without recognition. Both her students and their families are extremely grateful for her 36 years of dedication, as am I. Helen is a loving and nurturing teacher, who has learned to know her student's exact needs. She has dedicated her life to ensure that young children are able to learn in a healthy, supportive environment.

I congratulate Helen on her retirement and thank her for her life's dedication to Wisconsin children and families. It is because of her work, and the work of her colleagues, that 13,000 Wisconsin preschool-aged children are enrolled in Head Start. As a result, these children will gain an excellent education and acquire the skills necessary to succeed in life. I wish Helen all the luck and well-being in the future, and it is my hope that her work will inspire others to continue to advance teacher qualifications and skills and strengthen the cognitive development and literacy of Head Start students.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT H. RICHARDSON

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for his service to The Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Richardson joined The Texas A&M University System in October 1984 as Vice Chancellor for Engineering in the System, Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Engineering at Texas A&M University and brought together the University and the System's three engineering research and service agencies—the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service and the Texas Transportation Institute—to form an integrated Engineering Program.

Dr. Richardson encouraged interdisciplinary research programs and played a key role in the awarding of Texas A&M University's first National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center, the Offshore Technology Research Center.

From 1991 to 1993, Dr. Richardson served as Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, leading the development of a comprehensive long-range vision for the System, as well as implementing a major administrative restructuring.

During his 22 years with The Texas A&M University System, Dr. Richardson has shown innovative leadership in building strong academic and research programs and in so doing helped the College of Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute earn and maintain their outstanding national and international reputations for excellence.

I offer congratulations on his retirement and wish him and his family many years of future happiness.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TAIWAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 236, a resolution expressing Congressional support for a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan. As a cosponsor of this resolution, I join with over 65 of my colleagues in urging the Administration to begin these negotiations.

For more than 50 years, the U.S. and Taiwan have shared a close economic and security relationship resulting in more than 140 bilateral agreements. In 2005, trade between these countries totaled \$56.9 billion as Taiwan became the 8th leading trading partner of the U.S. while the U.S. was Taiwan's 3rd leading trading partner. The Bush Administration has shown its commitment to expanding free trade in the region by signing FTAs with Singapore and launching negotiations with Korea and Malaysia recently. Now it is time to start discussions with Taiwan on a FTA that will further strengthen this relationship.

A 2002 report issued by the U.S. International Trade Commission found various sectors of the U.S. economy would increase significantly if the U.S. entered into a FTA with Taiwan. While both the U.S. and Taiwan would benefit greatly from the elimination of trade and investment barriers, New York State stands to gain as well. Some of the largest U.S. companies whose headquarters are based in New York have invested in Taiwan. And over 300 Taiwanese companies specializing in computers, finance, and jewelry have invested in New York. In 2005 New York State exported over \$1 billion worth of products to Taiwan. The reduction of these tariffs will certainly increase exports to Taiwan and create more jobs in New York. Finally, this FTA will allow New York companies to use Taiwan as a gateway for selling its products to China and the entire Asia-Pacific region.

A FTA between the U.S. and Taiwan has already been endorsed by 23 state legislatures. This important agreement will expand and greatly enhance the already close relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, given these facts, I believe now is the time to begin negotiations on a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE IRWIN

HON. MICHAEL T. McCUAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McCUAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

THOSE AREN'T CROCODILE TEARS

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Those aren't Crocodile Tears!

Those are real! As it's for their great fine friend, such heartache they now feel!
As the Crocodiles all in prayer, throughout the world so prepare . . . for their hero to so kneel . . .

As this day our Hearts Lie Down Under, As The World and her Animal Kingdom have lost their great thunder, their fine son of wonder!

As The Lions they too so mourn, for this man of love so warm, their Savior . . . as they stop to ponder.

All the Animals are crying, as upon them their tears now lay lying

All because this their fine Hero, their True Champion . . . their True Friend lays dying

All of those sad elephant's ears are drooping, in the oceans . . . the whales, sad songs are crying!

But, Steve you will never be extinct, Forever in our hearts, in our souls, in our minds, in our memories, you'll live on as of you we so think!

With you, life was all it's crooked up to be . . . with your heart of happiness ever to us such joy did bring.

FULL OUT, from life you never sipped, but drank . . . as how a life should be lived as no doubt.

With the heart of a child, as you lived To So Save The Wild . . . showing us all what living is all about!

Because you loved and so cared, as with the World your Aussie heart of a lion so shared throughout.

You Steve, You Great Big Koala Bear . . . Our Teddy Bear of Love . . . A Ray of Light . . .

A Thing of Joy, Reaching For The Stars . . . What is Right! A Shooting Star, So Very Bright!

You thought you were just a bloke, I think not! . . . God, put you on this earth to bring your light!

To Teach Us!

To So Deep Inside, In All Of Our Hearts To So Reach Us!

To show us all the true meaning of love and life, husband & wife, child or crocodile, you beseeched Us!

Oh Crockeee, Oh how you showed us how life should be lived.

As to this our world, and her entire animal kingdom . . . Oh Crockeee, the gifts to her you'd give!

You are gone, but not forgotten . . . as forever and a day upon this earth in our hearts you shall live!

For once, you were The King of The Jungle . . .

But, more so . . . A Prince of Love and Peace . . . of kindness, of what it is in our world she so surely needs.

For on this day, with your loss in so many ways, all God's Children and his Animals now for you so bleed.

Because, to our world you never took . . . You Gave!

In your life, and most magnificent family . . . the meaning of love . . . you so portrayed!

As The World & her most beloved Animals you so fought for to save, as was your fine life's crusade.

Steve, today . . . you're reached the Top!

As an Angel in The Army of our Lord, fighting for the destruction of the Animal Kingdom to so stop!

The first thing you will do, is return to earth to that stingray who killed you . . . and let his heart not sob.

But, the hardest pain of all . . .

Is what all of us so saw, how much you loved your family and they so too you!

Knowing, that little girl and boy, and fine wife and loved ones, will together miss such splendid joy . . . You!

But, really you're not gone!
As they will carry you in their hearts from dusk to dawn!

Until, the years pass by . . . and together with tears in eyes . . . in Heaven you'll rejoin and will live on!

Those aren't Crocodile Tears!

Dedicated To A Most Magnificent Man . . . who taught all of The World's Animal Kingdom

A Messenger to all of us from Our Lord, about Love, Life and Living!

Crockeee . . . God Bless You Steve, May your Family find peace!

IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH RECOGNIZING PAQUITO D'RIVERA FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN JAZZ AND THE SECOND ANNUAL DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paquito D'Rivera who has been selected as Artistic Director for this year's Duke Ellington Jazz Festival. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we salute the festival's acknowledgement of the contributions made by Latino artists. Paquito D'Rivera is a world-renowned jazz instrumentalist who embodies the diverse soul of today's modern musician. His ability to fuse South American and Caribbean sounds with that of American jazz is creative, unique and inspirational to all of us.

Mr. D'Rivera's proclivity toward music was apparent at a young age. Raised in Cuba, his father was his music instructor. By the age of 10, he was performing with the National Theater Orchestra of Havana. He continued making his mark in Cuba, playing both the clarinet and saxophone with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra and co-founding the Orchestra Cubana de Musica Moderna and the group Irakere, a Cuban jazz band known for its mixture of Latin sounds and musical improvisation. Irakere impressed jazz enthusiasts across the world with its ground-breaking style, going on to win a Grammy in 1979 for Best Latin Recording.

So that he could fully express his musical talent, Mr. D'Rivera defected to the United States in 1981. With the assistance of fellow jazz musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, he began performing in New York City and released his first album Paquito Blowin in 1981 and Mariel in 1982. The success of these two albums launched him into the national spotlight. His career blossomed and in 1988, Mr. D'Rivera was invited to join the United Nations Orchestra to perform jazz fused with Latin rhythms and sounds.

Paquito D'Rivera is truly a diverse musician. With commissions as a classical composer, he continues to be involved in a wide range of projects and music. In 1989, he composed "New York Suite" for the Gerald Danovich Saxophone Quartet and "Aires Tropicales" for the Aspen Wind Quintet. In 1999, D'Rivera

participated in a series of programs in collaboration with Germany's Chamber Orchestra Werneck entitled "D'Rivera Meets Mozart". He continues to play with the Paquito D'Rivera Big Band and is an Artist in Residence at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For over a decade, Mr. D'Rivera has been the Artistic Director of the Festival International de Jazz en el Tambo in Uruguay. In 2003, Mr. D'Rivera received a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Music from the Berklee College of Music and made history when he became the first artist to win a Latin Grammy in both Classical and Latin Jazz categories. He has amassed seven Grammy awards to date and has over 30 solo albums. Additionally, his many solo performances include performances with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and the St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra. Internationally, he has performed with the London Royal Symphony, the Costa Rican National Symphony, and the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Paquito D'Rivera is a gifted writer and the author of his autobiography, "My Sax Life, a Memoir." In his autobiography, Mr. D'Rivera gives us a glimpse of the world through the eyes of a gifted jazz artist. Introduced to literature by his father, he also penned the novel "Oh, La Habana." In 2005 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

In January of 2005, Mr. D'Rivera celebrated 50 years in the music industry and 24 years in the United States. He continues to inspire jazz musicians in the U.S. and throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, during this Hispanic Heritage month, as we celebrate the valuable contributions Latinos make to this nation, we thank Mr. D'Rivera today for his brilliant work and tireless efforts to ensure that the Second Annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival continues to successfully bring jazz to the Nation's Capitol.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifices of our young men and women who are serving in the U.S. military around the world. A dear lady from my district, Mrs. Linda Smith, has two sons serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. During Sunday school at Vineville Baptist Church a few weeks ago, she made a presentation to the class that I think summarizes the courage and bravery of our soldiers around the world. I wish to insert her comments into the RECORD, so that people across the country can be aware of the great work, not only of our men and women, but also of their families back home.

When Mrs. Ann asked me to speak to the class today, I told her that I may cry. I hope I don't, but if I do, I hope you will understand.

I want people to understand why our country is at war and why not only my sons, but others are willing to go and fight.

When people hear that I have two Marine sons being deployed to the same place in

Iraq, they often comment that they didn't think the government could do that. I tell them that my oldest son was a drill instructor at Parris Island. When his term was up, he re-enlisted for a second time and asked to be in the same unit with his little brother. I am not the only Marine mom who has more than one son going to war. There are many of us.

Another comment that I often hear is that people don't think the government should deploy servicemen more than once. I say to them, "This is their job." That is like saying to a fireman you have already put out one fire, . . . therefore you shouldn't have to go to another fire and put yourself in danger.

My sons and all of the other servicemen and women want America to stand behind them in this war. None of them enjoy leaving their wives and children, their moms and dads, or friends. Believe me, it is very hard. But they know that they must go. Islamic extremists are dangerous, and they must be dealt with now. Militant Islam is just as much of a danger to our country and the world as other radical fascist governments in the past have been . . . such as Hitler's Germany, Russia's Stalin, or Lenin or Karl Marx. Militant Islam no more cares about their religion but only wants total control. Traditional Islam seeks to teach people to live according to God's will. Militant Islam aspires to create a new order, even if it means rewriting Islamic law to fit their desires. They have tortured and killed many of their own people to gain control. This is evil and evil can only be dealt with by force.

So where does this leave us as Christians? I have thought a lot about that as I pray for my sons. I very seldom pray for my sons without opening my Bible and reading as I pray. It is very important that I not take my relationship with Jesus for granted. I am grateful that both of my sons have a relationship with him as well.

I have learned to pray for our enemy. I pray that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to the truth. Unfortunately, I fear that many of them are so far into their rebellion against God that they have allowed their hearts to be hardened and they may never come to repentance and salvation. This breaks my heart, because I know that it breaks God's heart. In Ezekiel, it says that God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked.

I pray for my nation. I love her and her people. I pray for a revival and that those of us who claim the name of Jesus would truly come back to our first love and burn with a desire to serve God.

I pray for Israel, God's precious people. I pray not only for my sons but for all of the troops. My oldest son, Clayton, is a platoon Sgt. He called home one night a few weeks before they left for Iraq. Sensing something was wrong, I asked him what was wrong. My big, burly, tough son broke down and cried, "I just want my men to come home. They are so young. I have trained them the best I can. I just want them to come home." My son is 26.

My youngest son, Mark, is 20. He wants to marry his childhood friend that he grew up with at church. One night when he was home for a weekend, we heard him crying in his bedroom. My heart breaks and I cry out to God.

I never forget to pray for our President. It angers me when people complain and slander him. He makes mistakes but supporting him with our prayers is what he needs, not murmuring against him.

So if you ask me how you can help or support our troops, I would say first, to give thanks to God and praise him. Love him with all of your heart. Thank him for what you have. Thank him for the sweet young

men and women he has called to defend our nation and fight for what is right. Ask God to reveal himself to our troops . . . that his glory would shine. That many would see his glory . . . our enemies as well as our troops. That they would worship him. It is then that we will have peace and our boys can come home.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing I can add. May God bless the brave men and women fighting around the world for our freedom, and their families at home. And may God continue to bless America.

**HONORING ANDREA PICKENS OF
CEDAR CREEK LAKE**

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of Andrea Pickens, a model citizen of Cedar Creek Lake, Texas. Andrea has long dedicated herself to her community, supporting organizations including Mabank ISD, Trinity Valley Community College and the Youth Rodeo Organization. She has given her time and effort to her fellow citizens, particularly helping those most in need through civic work with the American Heart Association, the Council of the Blind, and one very dear to me personally, the American Cancer Society in Henderson County. Andrea also serves on the Board of Directors for the Kaufman Hospital District.

In addition to her dedicated hours of community service, Andrea also contributes immensely to improving the commerce and local economy of her community. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mabank Chamber of Commerce and the 1st State Bank of Athens while still finding the time to own and operate the new Tri-County Ford Dealership in Mabank with her husband Joe.

Andrea's work on behalf of the Cedar Creek Lake community has earned her a well deserved "Citizen of the Year" Award as well as a "Lifetime Service" Award. She has been an invaluable leader to the district, and through both word and example she has encouraged and fostered a communal mentality of public service and involvement.

Andrea Pickens has offered so much of her time and financial support to the causes that help to better our community. Her generosity and example is well known, and I thank her for being a blessing to the community.

On behalf of the citizens of Cedar Creek Lake and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize Andrea Pickens in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EDWIN ANTHONY ANDINO II

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class Edwin Anthony (E.J.) Andino II of Culpeper, Virginia.

On Sunday, September 3, 2006, PFC Andino, a member of the United States Army 1st Battalion 77th Armored Division, died while responding to a mortar attack against a U.S. Army camp in Baghdad. He had been awarded the Army Achievement Medal and was recently promoted to the rank of Private First Class. PFC Andino volunteered for 18 months of combat service and had only been in Iraq for a month before he was killed. Posthumously, he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for valor.

PFC Andino is remembered as an American hero who joined the Army to serve his country and to make his family proud. We are grateful for his service to our Nation and for his ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedom. I ask that you join me in offering our sincere condolences to the family and friends of PFC Andino at this most difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 28, 2006, I could not be present for votes because I was in Michigan to attend the memorial service of the spouse of one of my longtime staffers.

House rollcall vote No. 495—I would have voted "no" on the motion to order the previous question on H. Res. 1045. Voting "no" would have allowed the House to take up the following 5 bills: A bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; a bill to increase the minimum wage to 7.25 per hour; a bill to provide authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and people with disabilities; a bill to repeal the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed by the Congress and to expand the size and availability of Pell Grants; a bill to roll back tax breaks for large petroleum companies and to invest those savings in alternative fuels to achieve energy independence.

House rollcall vote No. 496—I would have voted "no" on the motion to order the previous question on H. Res. 1046. Voting "no" would have allowed the House to take up the following 5 bills: A bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; a bill to increase the minimum wage to 7.25 per hour; a bill to provide authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and people with disabilities; a bill to repeal the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed by the Congress and to expand the size and availability of Pell Grants; a bill to roll back tax breaks for large petroleum companies and to invest those savings in alternative fuels to achieve energy independence.

House rollcall vote No. 497—I would have voted "no" on the passage of the Martial Law Rule, H. Res. 1046, bypassing House rules that ensure that Members of the House have adequate time to review legislation before voting on it.

House rollcall vote No. 498—I would have voted "no" on the previous question on H.

Res. 1052, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5825, the Electronic Surveillance Act. Defeating the previous question would have allowed the House, immediately after the rule is adopted, to take up a bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

House rollcall vote No. 499—I would have voted “no” on H. Res. 1052, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5825, Electronic Surveillance Act. This Rules Committee reported out a closed rule, which allowed for no amendments and limited debate on a bill that has strong, bipartisan opposition.

House rollcall vote No. 500—I would have voted “yes” on Representative Thompson’s Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4954—SAFE Port Act. Mr. Thompson’s motion instructs conferees to agree to the Senate provisions to improve security for America’s rail, subway, buses and trucking systems; and to the Senate provisions to strengthen aviation security, secure the border, create a National Warning and Alert System, and provide first responders with post-disaster health monitoring. I was pleased this measure passed by a vote of 281–140, with all Democrats voting yes.

House rollcall vote No. 501—I would have voted “yes” on the Schiff/Flake/Harman/Inglis Motion to Recommit. The bipartisan substitute would update provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, to provide intelligence agencies more flexibility in emergency situations and less bureaucratic red tape when applying for warrants, while still requiring court orders for domestic surveillance of Americans. The motion to recommit failed by a vote of 202–221.

House rollcall vote No. 502—I would have voted “no” on final passage of H.R. 5825, the Electronic Surveillance Act. I strongly support giving our law enforcement and intelligence agencies the tools they need to fight terror. However, H.R. 5825 gives the President unnecessarily broad powers to eavesdrop on innocent Americans. The FISA court system has worked well for nearly 30 years—we should be expanding and reforming the existing system, instead of reducing judicial oversight and undermining our system of checks and balances.

House rollcall vote No. 503—I would have voted “yes” on H.R. 6143, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. While I understand that some States may lose funding under the new formula, I believe it is important to reauthorize this program that is critical to far too many Americans. I am hopeful that as the bill moves to the Senate, we can increase the overall funding level for the program so that Congress does not have to pick winners and losers in combating this terrible disease.

ANN RICHARDS’ PASSING

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, our country lost one of its most vibrant political forces—a woman of remarkable intellect, principle and—to be sure—wit. Regardless of who you were or whether you agreed with her politics, you could not help but

admire and respect Ann Richards for who she was and what she accomplished. She was one of a kind—and she was my friend.

The twelfth woman ever elected Governor in the United States and the first elected in Texas in her own right, Ann Richards was a trailblazer—a pioneer who never wasted a minute of her 73 years. Like few others, she was a force of nature—always pushing forward.

And whether she was raising her four children, teaching high school and college, working to elect women to the Texas Legislature when there were hardly any, or training women candidates and campaign managers, Ann Richards made opportunity real for women—something I learned for myself, when she came to Connecticut to help me highlight the issues important to the women in my community. There I saw firsthand how she understood that the political process was a powerful force for change.

But you did not have to be a woman or a student to admire and learn from Ann Richards. The secret to her success as simple as it was elemental. Indeed, as much as Ann Richards’s wit made people laugh, more importantly, she made people think. She challenged our society and believed we could always make it better, fairer, more just.

And Mr. Speaker, for someone so relentlessly quotable, no one will ever say that Ann Richards could not also walk the walk. During her campaign for Governor, Ann said she would be the face of “New Texas” and believed that government ought to reflect the diversity of its citizens. When she left office 4 years later, 46 percent of her appointees had been women, 15 percent were African-American, and one-fifth were Hispanic. And most importantly, her successors have since followed her example. “New Texas” is now the standard.

Ann Richards blazed a path taken now by women in all corners of society—in the well of the United States Congress and in Governor’s mansions in States like Delaware and Michigan. In corporate boardrooms and in homes all across America. And most of all, at Planned Parenthood, where her daughter Cecile not only carries on her mother’s irrepressible passion for women’s advancement—she builds on its very foundation. I cannot think of a legacy more fitting than that.

And so, Mr. Speaker, today we thank Ann Richards—for her fight, her tenacity and her special, unwavering sense of purpose.

We should all make such a mark so extraordinary.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID BAYLESS, SR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to David Bayless, Sr., of Denison, TX, a patriot, community leader, and dedicated husband and father, who passed away last December at the age of 80. David’s service to the Denison community spanned 46 years and included significant involvement in a variety of civic endeavors as well as a long and devoted relationship with his alma mater, the University of North Texas.

Born in Denton, TX, David enlisted in the Marine Corps while in college, completed Officer Candidate School in 1945 and served during the Korean conflict. He returned to Texas and became a leader in the Texoma area, serving as a member of the Denison City Council, president of the Denison Rotary Club, first president of the Denison Downtown Association, president of the Denison Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the board of the Texoma Medical Center, just to name a few of his civic affiliations. David also was involved with religious and charitable organizations as an elder of First Christian Church and president of United Way.

David also dedicated tremendous time and expertise to his alma mater. The University of North Texas benefited from his membership in the President’s Council, as well as his time spent as regent from 1991 to 1997, director of the UNT Foundation Board, and first president of his local Alumni Chapter, the Texas Eagles, which he founded.

His years of work and service brought him many honors, including the “Outstanding Citizen” award in 1978 and induction into the Grayson County “Business Hall of Fame” in 1998. In 1991, the University of North Texas honored David as its Outstanding Alumnus, and in 1999 UNT again honored him as a Distinguished Alumnus. David and his wife, Patsy, were honored with a bronze plaque on the “Wall of Honor” in the UNT Alumni Center, and Chestnut Hall, the new student health center at UNT, will name the rotunda in his honor.

David will be missed by family, friends, and all those in Denison and at UNT whose interests he championed through a lifetime of service. He is survived by his wife Patsy and two children, David, Jr., and wife Sharon of Pottsboro, Brandy Hewitt and husband Stephen of McKinney, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, David Bayless, Sr., was a great American and an outstanding civic leader whose legacy of service will be long remembered.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the International Tax Simplification Act of 2006. This bill is aimed at streamlining tax rules so that American companies doing business all over the world can be more competitive. In the last few years we have taken a number of important steps toward this goal and the bill I am introducing would continue this effort.

In the past one of our former colleagues, Amo Houghton of New York, introduced similar bills. Some of the provisions of this bill echo his legislation and build off of his efforts.

Many of the concepts related to the taxation of international business operations were written forty years ago and have remained frozen in time. The global business environment has changed dramatically since the early 1960s when American companies were the major

player in global business transactions. In the early 1960s, Western Europe was still recovering from the scars of World War II and the Asian business environment was just developing.

Today, our European and Asian competitors produce products and services of world-class standards and have consumers that demand the same. American companies must compete in these markets but are sometimes still bound by a tax code that presumes they are the only player on the field.

The American system of taxation—based on a “worldwide income” model—basically taxes all income earned by American companies both in the United States and abroad and then gives credits for taxes paid in other countries. Many other countries look only at income earned within its borders—based on a “territorial” model—but make certain exceptions for income earned abroad.

The tax departments of American companies are double and triple the size of tax departments of their foreign competitors. I believe there are more productive uses of corporate assets than complying with the arcane rules that make up our tax system.

At the House Ways and Means Committee, we've been taking steps to modernize the tax rules for American businesses working in the global business environment. We were also forced to change our tax code because of rulings by the World Trade Organization. Yet there remain dozens of places in the tax code that need work. The bill I am introducing is a first draft at this work. I am introducing it as the 109th Congress comes to a close and I invite those who are interested in these issues to work with me to either fine tune these provisions or find broader strokes to envelop wider solutions. I hope to reintroduce similar legislation early in the 110th Congress.

The bill I am introducing would get rid of some of the rules regarding the worldwide grab for revenue. The part of the tax code known as “Subpart F”, in particular requires that tax be paid on income earned in foreign countries where American companies are making goods and providing services as if that money were earned in this country. The presumption is that companies are just keeping money offshore so that they can avoid American taxes. But we know that American companies must engage in business activities such as making loans to finance the sale of their goods and that a temporary provision exists to allow companies to engage in this legitimate business activity without seeing their income taxed immediately. My bill would make this provision of the tax code permanent.

I'd also repeal the rules that require immediate taxation of American subsidiaries on the income earned when related subsidiaries do business with one another. The anti-deferral rules are meant to discourage parking money offshore and evading taxes but the rules as written punish American companies that try to work collaboratively with their subsidiaries. If a subsidiary in Germany is working on a project with a subsidiary in Brazil, that income should not be subject to immediate tax in the United States. American subsidiaries should be able to work together for sourcing products and services rather than being encouraged by the tax code to work with other companies. By having subsidiaries work together on sales and services projects, American parent companies should see higher growth and productivity.

I have had several companies request that I fix specific parts of the rules on sales and services income. Because the full repeal of these rules is likely to be scored as a big loss to the Treasury, I may have to whittle away at these rules bit by bit instead of taking one bold step. I would like to hear comments from the business community and tax lawyers on the full repeal of these rules as well as inviting comments and suggestions on more narrow approaches.

Another provision in this bill would make permanent a temporary provision that permits related American subsidiaries in other countries to make dividend, interest, rent and royalty payments between subsidiaries without being subject to current taxation in the United States. We've already decided that this is not a business activity that should be penalized and we should now take the step of making it permanent.

The foreign tax credit regime prevents double taxation of income in multiple countries. Because use of credits is restricted in some circumstances, credits are not always used in the year earned. My bill would double to 20 years the current 10-year carryforward period that sometimes causes credits to expire before they can be used. While this would virtually eliminate the expiration of credits, I would like to hear from companies that would instead prefer to have the ordering rules changed so that oldest credits would be used first.

The bill changes a simple threshold for when American subsidiaries abroad are subject to the Subpart F rules. The current \$1 million or 5 percent of income threshold, set generations ago, would be raised to \$5 million or 5 percent of income.

Another provision of the bill concerns how earnings and profits are reported. Publicly traded companies are required to file financial statements based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in the United States. My bill would permit American subsidiaries abroad to report their foreign earnings and profits based on GAAP rather than the American tax accounting rules of uniform capitalization.

The bill would accelerate the effective date of a provision of law that allows companies to allocate their interest expense as if all members of a worldwide group were a single corporation. This change would speed up the ability of companies to use a formula for allocating interest expenses.

Finally, this bill would repeal special rules on income from foreign oil and gas. American oil and gas companies need to explore and develop energy sources in other countries where oil and gas deposits exist. The provision would also repeal special tax rules that limit foreign tax credits for oil and gas companies, thus permitting underlying tax rules to apply.

The provisions of this bill generally focus on American corporations that have subsidiaries abroad. However, there are two other areas on which I invite comment for the next version of this bill. One is the inverse of this bill and concerns subsidiaries in America that have a parent company abroad. Global businesses know that having American operations is strategically important and I know that these businesses provide excellent jobs and contribute to American economic expansion. The other area on which I invite comment is individual taxpayer concerns regarding international taxation.

I want to thank several professional tax staffers who have helped to comb through many proposals and provided invaluable advice to me in drafting this legislation. They are: Marc Gerson from the Ways and Means Committee, Tom Barthold, Patrick Driessen, Tara Fisher, Chris Gerke, David Lenter, and Allen Littman from the Joint Committee on Taxation.

SEPTEMBER AS CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recognizing the organizations that have worked to promote fire safety and save young lives.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 295, which establishes September as Campus Fire Safety Month, is a vital part of our efforts to raise awareness about the importance of fire safety across the Nation. Along with the U.S. House of Representatives, 31 states, representing 61 percent of the population, have introduced proclamations and, as a result, many colleges and universities are holding campus fire safety training events during September.

There are several key organizations that are working tirelessly to promote the cause of fire safety and were instrumental in the introduction and passage of H. Res. 295. These include: The Center for Campus Fire Safety, Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Fire Chiefs Association, International Code Council, International Fire Marshals Association, National Association of State Fire Marshals, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and Underwriters Laboratories.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is a central focal point for campus fire safety issues and is led by a staff and Board of Directors of dedicated individuals: Edward Comeau, Michael Halligan, Shawn Kauffman, Timothy Knisely, Paul Martin, and Michael Swain.

The aforementioned individuals are to be commended for their commitment to protecting students and improving fire safety on our campuses.

Teaching our youth the importance of fire safety during their college years will help to protect them not only while they are in school, but for the rest of their lives. The fire safety lessons and skills they learn will be vital in helping to reduce the horrific death toll from fire which claims the life of almost 4,000 people every year in all occupancies across the Nation.

HONORING WENDY KOPP, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF TEACH FOR AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Wendy Kopp,

President and Founder of Teach for America, who was recently awarded the prestigious 2006 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education.

Ms. Kopp's steadfast commitment to education is evident in her deeds and actions for she truly embodies the ideal that a decent education is the key, not only to the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but also to building self-esteem. In short, education is the receptacle of hope and the door to the American dream.

Kopp's pursuit of educational excellence and equity led her in 1989 to propose the creation of Teach for America. She did this as her undergraduate senior thesis, and has spent the last 15 years working to sustain and further develop the organization. Teach for America is comprised of a national corps of recent college graduates who commit 2 years to teach in urban and rural public schools. Its mission is to help to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our country's most promising future leaders in this effort.

Today, more than 3,500 corps members are teaching in our country's neediest communities, reaching approximately 300,000 students. They join more than 10,000 Teach for America alumni who are already assuming significant leadership roles in education and social reform even though they are in their 20s and 30s.

Kopp serves on the board of directors of The New Teacher Project, and the advisory boards of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the National Council on Teacher Quality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Wendy Kopp for her devotion and hard work in the field of education, and wish to extend my congratulations and best wishes to her for much continued success.

CHICAGO: WORKING TO CREATE A 21ST CENTURY ENERGY POLICY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as the summer vacation season comes to a close and the winter heating season begins, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to consider the need for a serious investment in alternative energy policies. With global warming, unrest in the Middle East and stagnating wages that are stretched thin by high fuel bills, both the environment and our country stand to gain from increased and aggressive promotion of renewables and energy efficiency.

Important steps have already been taken by state and city governments to support the use of renewable energy sources. The Apollo Alliance, an organization that promotes policies which meet the concerns of green environmentalists and blue-collar workers alike, has cited Chicago, Illinois, as being one of several forward-thinking cities that has already acted to put numerous energy-efficient policies in place. Noted by the Alliance were Chicago's comprehensive solar power, environmentally-friendly public transportation, location efficient mortgages, and green roofs initiatives.

As what the Alliance calls a "model" solar-powered community, Chicago is working to

promote photovoltaic cells and has attracted the solar manufacturer Solargenix to the city; a facility that employs 15 people full-time and manufactures 30–40 solar collectors a day. Solar factories such as Solargenix's and a recently-built photovoltaic field which will be used to help generate electricity ("Solar Panels Could Power Backup Plant," Chicago Tribune, September 21, 2006) contribute to the city's already-installed 2 MW of solar power.

Illinois is one of the country's top five ethanol-producing states, and it is no surprise that Chicago has environmentally-friendly transportation policies as well. In addition to ethanol, the city is exploring another alternative: the hydrogen fuel cell. As Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. mentioned in their May 2005 industry report, fuel cell buses already run on the streets of Chicago. Such public buses are doubly efficient: decreasing the amount of cars on the road, as well as not producing any negative greenhouse gases themselves. The Apollo Alliance explains the Chicago Transit Authority takes its concerns for the environment even further, partnering with the Park District and 48 other municipalities to purchase green power. Commonwealth Edison, the awarded bidder, with the help of the Environmental Resource Trust (ERT), plans to sell "green tickets" certified by the ERT and to create a fund to further finance the resource and development of renewable energies with the proceeds.

Simply encouraging citizens to use public transportation can greatly decrease the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from a given city, no matter what fuel is used in such transportation. Chicago has found that location efficient mortgages (LEM), mortgages that allow the purchaser to take out greater amounts of money, borrowing against the future money he or she will save by using public transportation, are particularly efficient in this respect. To further promote such mortgages and energy efficiency, Chicago also offered the first 100 LEM borrowers a voucher for \$900 toward the purchase of an EnergyStar refrigerator or washer/dryer set.

Chicago's Department of Environment also participates in green city planning through the creation of the City Hall Rooftop Garden Pilot Project in 2000 as part of the EPA's Urban Heat Island Initiative. This green roof project helps alleviate Chicago's carbon emissions by requiring a certain percentage of roof space be allocated to green roofs. The program's pilot project, the City Hall's garden, has successfully dropped the temperature on the roof surface and the surrounding air temperature—lowering cooling costs and demand for electricity in the summer and providing insulation to reduce heat energy needs in the winter. Green roofs also improve air quality by absorbing and converting carbon dioxide, producing oxygen, and removing airborne particulates.

The Apollo Alliance has recognized the many steps that Chicago has taken to make our Nation energy-independent and environmentally-friendly. We need to build and expand on their success. We need a 21st century energy policy that uses wind power, solar power, biomass, and geothermal energy in our homes and businesses; and ethanol and hydrogen-driven vehicles on our streets. City planning must be rethought to prevent urban sprawl and encourage the use of public transportation. Chicago and other cities have

shown us that we can take a new direction on our energy and environmental future—it is time that Congress act forcefully to do so as well.

INTRODUCING THE HAWAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2006

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I am proud to introduce today. The Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2006 is the exact same language of HR 5851, reported out of the House Financial Services Committee on September 28, 2006.

The measure reauthorizes existing Native Hawaiian housing programs for five years and makes two adjustments to the program that will allow the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to help more Native Hawaiians whose incomes are equal to or less than 80 percent of the median income.

In 2000 Congress passed legislation authorizing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide block grants for affordable housing for Native Hawaiians through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The 2000 measure also authorized HUD home loan guarantees for low-income Native Hawaiians. Eligible borrowers include Native Hawaiian families, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and private nonprofit organizations experienced in planning and developing affordable housing for Native Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2006 reauthorizes these programs and adds a new provision authorizing loan guarantees for home mortgage refinancing. This introduces greater flexibility and allows families to take advantage of lower interest rates as millions of other American families have. The measure would also permit the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to issue bonds. This will allow the Department to service more low-income families without a large increase in appropriations.

This bill is about homeownership, this is not welfare or public assistance. It offers another tool for a family to provide for a basic need, housing. This is unbelievably important in Hawaii where land is scarce and the median home price on the island of Oahu is \$639,000 and the median condominium price is \$310,000. This measure will advance our efforts to address housing affordability in the islands.

I would like to thank the House Financial Services Committee, in particular Chairman MIKE OXLEY and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, who have been extremely supportive in dealing with the housing problems of Hawaii. I would also like to recognize my colleague from Hawaii, Congressman ED CASE, who, like Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK, is a cosponsor of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to help the residents of Hawaii and support this legislation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY REVEREND
JESSE JACKSON

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great civic leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

On October 8, 2006, Rev. Jesse Jackson will celebrate his 65th Birthday. Today, we the Congressional Black Caucus, pause to recognize this great leader in the area of civil rights.

Once an aide to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Jackson has been a political activist and public figure since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Jackson, a Baptist minister, is the founder of the non-profit organization Rainbow/PUSH.

He has several times been an unofficial U.S. envoy in diplomatic missions; in 1999 he helped secure the release of three American military prisoners from Yugoslavia. He has been a candidate twice for the Presidency of the United States and while unsuccessful made a tremendous impact on American politics, opening doors for many minorities to run for elected office.

Reverend Jackson is a role model who has touched the lives of many and his legacy will live forever. It is because of you, Reverend Jackson, that we can say "I am Somebody!" In this celebration of your life may you bask in the pride, love, and admiration of your family and friends, as well as give thanks for your happiness.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL LATINO
AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fourth annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day which will be October 15.

This day is a call to action to all Latinos to protect their lives and the lives of those they love by getting tested and learning about HIV.

Latinos continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, comprising over 20 percent of HIV/AIDS cases nationwide.

We all must work together to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in our families, communities, cities, states, nation, and around the world.

To do this we must not let differences in language and culture be barriers to providing access to preventative measures, healthcare and support services.

In my district, the AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County is a critical resource that works to prevent the spread of HIV and improve the lives of men, women, and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

They offer invaluable services to our community by providing food, transportation, housing, emergency financial assistance, kids and family programs, counseling, education and prevention services.

In honor of National Latino AIDS Day all of us need to renew our commitment to the fight to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT
LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RES-
TORATION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this week to praise passage of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. With an estimated 40 million people relying on the Great Lakes basin for jobs, drinking water, and recreation, the health of this resource is paramount and should remain a priority for Congress. Our Great Lakes constitute the largest body of freshwater on the face of the earth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you about a treasured spot in the Great Lakes—the north coast of Ohio. It is a true sapphire jewel, enjoyed by large communities of birders, sport and commercial fishermen, hunters and recreational boaters. And it is vital to life for every living creature in our region.

While the value of this treasure should be obvious to all, it is undeniable that the resources it provides remain threatened. This is a region whose wildlife populations are under attack by invasive species like the Gobe, Asian Carp and Zebra Mussel and where encroaching sprawl constantly jeopardizes the region's priceless wetlands. Without addressing the social and human costs posed by these problems, we face an incalculable menace of inaction—a menace that this week, this body took a step to fight.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that I wish to praise passage of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act is not because this bill solves all the longstanding problems that our Great Lakes face, but because it serves as one step in the journey toward restoring the integrity of our lakes. The bill authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Service for grants of up to \$12 million per year and gives legal authority for the Fish and Wildlife Service to receive \$2 million per year. These funds will be used to implement recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration that are consistent with water quality, fisheries, and wildlife agreements.

Though the House has taken a tremendous step towards restoring the Great Lakes by passing this bill, we must not rest. Instead, we must continue on with the next steps, taking up the additional priorities of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration not addressed in this bill. Let us find the will to expand the Ottawa and Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuges. Let us preserve more wetlands for the migrating birds that pass through the Great Lakes. Let us stop the flow of invasive species in the ballast water of transport ships. Let us celebrate victory for the crown jewel of our refuge system by fully funding the grant programs that we have just authorized.

Mr. Speaker, we are the only species with the capability of precipitating the wholesale extermination of other species; but, through compassion and conviction, we are also capable of protecting the things we treasure. We are unique in our ability to affect the fate of the planet, but also unique in our ability to predict those effects and to change our ways in light of what we foresee.

So now, let us take this one moment to appreciate the importance of passage of the

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. I would like to thank the many friends who made passage of this bill possible and ask them for the strength to continue the battle in restoring the Great Lakes to the pristine beauty that we can all foresee.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006—BILL SUMMARY

Summary: This bill would reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, a program first enacted in 1990 and again in 1998. This bill ensures that both fish and wildlife is included throughout the bill and ensures that this Act is consistent with the goals of Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

Fish & Wildlife Grants: The bill reauthorizes the state and tribal grant program. Under this bill, grants will be used to restore fish and now wildlife in the Great Lakes. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service would award grants based on the recommendations of the Great Lakes states and tribes. Grants must be consistent with water quality, fisheries, and wildlife agreements as well as the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The grants would be authorized to receive up to \$12 million per year.

Fish & Wildlife Regional Projects: The bill authorizes up to \$6 million each year for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to undertake projects that have a regional benefit to fish and wildlife. Under this new authority, the Service would undertake projects based on the recommendations of states and tribes.

Studies and Reports: The Fish & Wildlife Service will submit a report to Congress in 2011 that describe the fish and wildlife grants that have been awarded and the results of those grants.

Under this bill, the Service will provide updated information through a public access website to the states and tribes on what grants have been awarded, priorities proposed for funding in the budget, and actions taken in support of Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

The bill calls upon the Service to complete the overdue 2002 Report on actions taken under this Act, which was called for under existing law, to be released by June of 2006.

Fishery Resource Offices: Maintains Fish & Wildlife Services Offices, which were authorized in 1990, and the Offices have the same operational duties. The offices are authorized to receive \$2 million per year.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSWOMAN
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES FOR 25
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my friend and our colleague, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, for her 25 years of service to the people of Ohio. The residents of the 11th Congressional District, the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as all Americans, are fortunate to have such a tremendously dedicated Representative.

A woman of courage, integrity, and passion, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES is the first African American woman elected to the U.S.

House of Representatives from Ohio, as well as the first to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee. During her tenure, she has led the charge to make quality healthcare and education available for all. Additionally, she has fought tirelessly for working people, having introduced the Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, the Campus Fire Protection Act, and the courageous "Count Every Vote" Act.

I have been honored to stand with Congresswoman TUBBS JONES in representing Cleveland for the past 8 years. The Congresswoman's dedication to the city is unmatched. She fought tirelessly to help not only save more than 1,000 Cleveland jobs with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, when it was nearly shut down, but to add an additional 475 jobs. And when proposals were issued to eliminate 700 jobs in Northeast Ohio at the NASA Glenn Research Center, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES helped lead a charge that crossed party lines, and was successful in preserving this critical part of Ohio's economy.

Throughout her public service career, family has always remained her top priority. She was a giving wife to her late husband, Mervyn L. Jones Sr. for 27 years, and is the proud mother of their son, Mervyn L. Jones II. Still, her dedication to public service has not wavered. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was elected judge of Cleveland's Municipal Court in 1981, and later served on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County. From 1994 to 1999, she worked as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is truly an honor to recognize the most distinguished, Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for 25 years of public service to the city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and all Americans whom she now serves. Her successes are testaments to hard work and dedication to the people she works so diligently to serve: her constituents. There is no other person I would rather have the privilege of working with in representing Cleveland than STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and few that I admire more.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GHELETA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Gheleta who is retiring after more than three decades of service as Executive Director of the Service League of San Mateo County, California.

Elizabeth Gheleta joined the Service League of San Mateo County in 1968, and in the ensuing 38 years she has worked tirelessly to improve the correctional system and provide opportunities for the incarcerated to create change in their lives. She became Executive Director in 1978, when funding cuts under California's Proposition 13 threatened to close the Service League's doors. Under her leadership, the Service League has grown into a highly respected non-profit organization with strong community ties, 25 permanent staff and over 500 dedicated volunteers. They provide a myriad of services that have helped rebuild

the lives of thousands of County inmates, their children and their families.

Elizabeth Gheleta has been responsible for the development and expansion of in-jail programs to help inmates learn how to function better once they are released, increasing their chances of successful reentry into the community. In addition to religious services, she has helped initiate hundreds of educational and self-improvement programs which focus on transition, substance abuse recovery, personal responsibility, permanent housing and family life skills. Today, Service League employees and volunteers provide more than 800 such programs every year. Under Ms. Gheleta's leadership, the Service League has also developed four residential facilities for former inmates and launched programs to assist the children and families of inmates, especially during the holidays. Ms. Gheleta's vision of improved inmate services has resulted in highly effective programs that are the gold standard for correctional systems nationwide.

Elizabeth Gheleta has earned the highest respect of her colleagues, her community, and every individual and family to whom she has devoted her career. Because of her leadership, tenacity, creativity and belief in others, thousands of former inmates and their families have reintegrated into society and have become responsible and productive members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to honor my friend Elizabeth Gheleta, her extraordinary career and her extraordinary achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her because she has bettered the soul of our community as well as our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE RORY FORRESTAL

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I am proud to rise in recognition of an American patriot and good friend, Detective Rory Forrestal, for his many outstanding contributions to the Suffolk County Police Department on Long Island. On behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I thank Detective Forrestal for his extraordinary service and accomplishments over the past 20 years that have earned him several decorations, the respect and admiration of his fellow officers, and the gratitude of Suffolk County's residents.

A graduate of St Joseph's College, Detective Forrestal has proven his courage and commitment to Long Island's residents time and again. While fighting crime and keeping Long Islanders safe during his tours in the department's narcotics and general services divisions, he compiled an impeccable service record. Many of my constituents may recall when he was one of two Suffolk police officers who helped a woman deliver her baby at her home in Mastic Beach, only a few hours after the hospital misdiagnosed her labor pains and released her.

As a veteran and expert investigator, Detective Forrestal was selected by the department in 1999 to help launch the computer crimes unit when criminal use of the Internet by sexual predators along with other forms of cyber-

fraud and exploitation expanded dramatically. Performing what some might consider a tough and unpleasant job, he has conducted this important job with tenacity, success, and steadfast resolve. His hard work and diligence have directly resulted in several arrests and protected countless children from cyber-predators. I was very grateful when he attended an Internet workshop that I hosted for parents last year.

Among several prestigious decorations, Detective Forrestal has been awarded the Suffolk County Police Department's Detective of the Year for 1998; the Suffolk County Detectives Association Hawkins Award for investigative excellence in 1998; the Parents for Megan Law Champion for Children Award in 2004; and the Department of Justice Prosecutors Award in 2005.

Today, Detective Forrestal is an instructor at the Suffolk County Police Academy and a guest lecturer at schools as well as parent and professional advocacy organizations. His knowledge and expertise, particularly in the area of computer crimes, are always appreciated and well received. His continuing dedication to protecting children from Internet predators is a tremendous comfort to parents in our community and will ensure that our sons and daughters are protected to the maximum extent that our Government can provide.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I thank Detective Rory Forrestal for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in the years ahead. He is a shining example of what we look for in our police officers and other public servants, and I am proud to honor and represent him in this chamber.

BROOKLYN CENTER HIGH SCHOOL BAND PLAYS AN AMAZING, GRAMMY-WINNING TUNE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today with an uplifting story of a high school band from the Third Congressional District of Minnesota.

Christine Porter, the Director of the Brooklyn Center High School Band, has done amazing things with the band and in the process has touched the lives of numerous young people and their parents. And the entire Brooklyn Center community has rallied around these inspirational students with an uplifting melody of support and encouragement.

The band program was in jeopardy when Chris Porter took over and turned the program around. Now, the band has received high praise from many places—including the Grammys! In fact, they received their Grammy right here in the Nation's Capital at the Grammy Enterprise Signature School Award at the "Grammys on the Hill" event.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Director Porter and one of her talented musicians, Chanel Chatham, who were in Washington for the event.

Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center High School Band program, which serves many students from disadvantaged families, was in disarray and far short of instruments, funding and

teachers when Ms. Porter took over. She took immediate steps, such as finding music students from the University of Minnesota to teach the band members. And she reached out to the community, and the community responded.

Mr. Speaker, the crescendo of support started with the Brooklyn Center Rotary Club, which saw the problem and marched forward. Under the leadership of "Mr. Brooklyn Center," Phil Cohen, past Rotary President Carrie Engh of Bremer Bank Brooklyn Center and current President Frank Slawson of American Express Financial Planners, the Rotary Club contributed \$10,000.

The Lions Club also made financial contributions and the Brooklyn Center Business Association held a golf tournament to help the band. And the Brooklyn Center Taxpayers Association pitched in, too. The people of Brooklyn Center have really come together to support the band.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Porter's inspired leadership and the band's hard work resulted in the Grammy Foundation personally delivering the \$15,000 Grammy Enterprise Award to the band at Brooklyn Center High School!

Chris Porter and Chanel Chatham received a well-deserved standing ovation. The tremendous outpouring of affection and support for the band made it all worthwhile!

The story of the Brooklyn Center High School Band even brought tears to the eyes of singer Kelly Clarkson, who was a guest of honor at the event. The story reminded Clarkson of her own high school band, and the story has warmed all of our hearts.

From the trombones to the tubas, the Brooklyn Center High Band is truly playing a joyful tune! There was a lot of hard work that went into this masterpiece.

Thank you, Chris Porter and the wonderful Brooklyn Center High School Band, for bringing so much great music into our lives and the lives of young people. You have all showed us that hard work, creativity, talent and the right instruments can make a beautiful song!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5631,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF
HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

The Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007 funds our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, among many other things. It is very similar to the Defense Authorization bill that I supported in the Armed Services Committee and on the House floor.

The bill provides \$447.6 billion in funding, including \$70 billion in emergency funds to support military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This grand total represents about 55 percent of the entire Federal discretionary budget. Overall defense spending has risen 40 percent since September 11th and is more than currently being spent by the rest of the world combined.

Appropriating \$70 billion for the so-called bridge fund is realistic and necessary, be-

cause we must support our men and women in uniform, but I also believe the Administration must begin to take responsibility for the full cost of the war in Iraq and consider these costs through the regular appropriations process. There is no "emergency" here—we know that since this bridge fund would take us only halfway through fiscal year 2007, we should be expecting another request before the year is over. With total costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan crossing the half trillion dollar point after passage of this bill, the American people deserve greater candor from the Administration about both the predictable costs as well as the anticipated benefits of our undertakings in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although I don't agree with the "emergency" designation, I'm pleased that the conferees saw fit to increase the bridge fund levels to include \$17.1 billion to replace and refurbish Army equipment. This is the amount General Schoomaker testified that the Army needed in fiscal year 2007 to fully fund its reset program. It's true that even with this funding, the Army will still need tens of billions of dollars over the coming years for equipment rehabilitation and recapitalization—but this is an important start. The bridge fund also includes funding for Marine Corps equipment and body armor as well as \$549 million to cover costs of the enhanced insurance and death gratuity benefits.

I am pleased that the conference report fully funds military pay, benefits, and the pay raise of 2.2 percent for the base force. It also includes language that I advocated for prohibiting funding for permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

I remain concerned about rising costs of weapons systems that have yet to be fully funded, such as the Future Combat Systems and missile defense program, among others. A recent report from the Department of Defense identified 36 major weapons systems as having significant cost overruns. And yet Congressional Budget Office projections are that we'll need to increase defense budgets by 17 percent per year simply to sustain the current force structure and weapons programs. And this is happening at the same time that operations and maintenance and personnel costs—as well as training and recruiting costs—are rising.

So Mr. Speaker, this conference report is not perfect. It does not solve or attempt to solve some of these looming budget problems. But overall, it deserves to pass and I urge its approval.

CONGRATULATING VINCENT D.
MURRAY ON RECEIVING THE
HAROLD W. McGRAW, JR. PRIZE
IN EDUCATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vincent D. Murray, who will receive the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Mr. Murray has been the principal of Henry W. Grady High School in Atlanta, Georgia since 1991.

Mr. Murray has been chosen for the prestigious 19th annual award for his leadership in transforming his inner-city public school into a higher achieving institution in which graduation

and college-going rates consistently have risen above the district and state averages.

Sixty-six percent of Grady High students are African American and 44 percent qualify for free or reduced price lunch. When Murray joined Grady High, more than a third of all freshmen were held back and repeated their freshmen year. The student body's passing rate on the Georgia graduation test was below the statewide average.

Mr. Murray has been consistent in his efforts and focused on innovative reform. The result is that today, four out of every five graduates go directly on to college or university, including Ivy League institutions. Average scores on the graduation test, SAT and Advanced Placement exams exceed district, state and national averages. Graduation rates have risen 38 percentage points for African-American students (to 84 percent), 26 points for economically disadvantaged students (to 86 percent) and 25 points for white students (to 97 percent). As a result of Murray's success in transforming Grady High, the U.S. Department of Education recognized him in 2000 with the Department's Title I Distinguished School Award. In 2006, the governor of Georgia named him a High Performance Principal, a top honor in the state.

Mr. Murray has a bachelor of arts degree in history and English from Morehouse College, a master of arts degree in early childhood education from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in psychology/learning disabilities from Boston University. He has pursued postdoctoral studies at Clark-Atlanta University and Georgia State University.

I salute Mr. Vincent D. Murray for his outstanding contributions to education. He has dedicated himself to improving education in this country and his accomplishments continue to make a difference.

URGING THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID TO RECONSIDER IVIG REIMBURSEMENT

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to a very important issue relating to medical reimbursement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement Act and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) created new reimbursement mechanisms for IVIG therapies. CMS's implementation of the MMA has resulted in reduced access to life-saving therapies for Medicare beneficiaries. CMS potentially closed the door to medical treatment when they issued the CY 2007 proposed rules for the physician fee schedule and the hospital outpatient prospective payment system, which, if implemented, would effectively limit IVIG treatment by not properly reimbursing providers.

IVIG is a vital medical service. It is a plasma-derived therapy tailored to the individual's diseases and treatment options to achieve optimal results. Nearly 10,000 Medicare beneficiaries are afflicted with primary immune deficiency (PID) which only responds to IVIG therapy. For many Americans there is no substitute for IVIG treatment.

More to the point, this treatment allows individuals to carry on normal daily-life activities. PID requires IVIG therapy every 3 to 4 weeks for the duration of an individual's life, but without such treatment the individual not only imposes additional medical costs on an already overburdened system, they cease to be active members of our society. Such an outcome is simply not acceptable. IVIG therapy is cost-effective and beneficial for the patient. As far as I am concerned, that should be enough to get CMS to rethink implementing any reimbursement change that has the potential to harm access and reduce medical outcomes.

In May of this year, thirty-five members of Congress, including myself, sent a letter to Secretary Leavitt of the Department of Health and Human Services expressing our concern over this matter and encouraged Secretary Leavitt to consider a payment adjustment, combined with product specific reimbursement. We also made clear that we would be open to any other mechanism he may have deemed suitable in order to resolve this patient access dilemma. Secretary Leavitt's response was, quite simply, inadequate. He failed to address our specific concerns or pose alternative remedies that would allow patients continued access to IVIG treatment.

I urge CMS to reconsider its actions in this case to ensure patient access to a necessary and legitimate medical treatment.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. SAVA SERBIAN SINGING FEDERATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in honor and tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the St. Sava Serbian Singing Federation, and the local St. Sava Cathedral choir in Parma, Ohio.

Vjajko Lugonja founded the Serbian Singing Federation in 1931. His legend continues to thrive in the voices of the singers today. On a local and national level, the Singing Federation's member choirs contribute their Serbian cultural heritage through song and music. In Ohio alone, there are six member choirs. The group also boasts the largest collection of Serbian music, contained in its library, featuring the work of 96 Serbian composers.

The Serbian Singing Federation also supports local high school seniors trying to afford college tuition through its Paul Bielich Scholarships, given to multiple students for general studies, as well as the Petar and Minnie Sekulovich Scholarship awarded to a young member of the choir who wishes to study music in college.

In celebration of its 75th Anniversary, the Serbian Singing Federation is hosting a concert this Saturday, September 30, which will feature not only its 40-member ensemble, but also guest choirs, including the Kosovo Men's Choir of Cleveland and the Hamilton Ontario Choir.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the last 75 years of diversity the St. Sava Serbian Singing Federation has brought to Northeastern Ohio. They are an in-

dispensable characteristic of Cleveland, and the Serbian community is one of the many groups that piece together this colorful city. By artistically perpetuating their culture through music, the choir offers a beautiful gift to all people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOX NEWS CHANNEL

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th anniversary of Fox News Channel, which in celebration will present live audience shows from various locations across the country, including a live broadcast on September 22, 2006 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Fox News Channel brings fair and balanced reporting to a national audience, and I am proud that they chose to broadcast live from one of Texas' and the Nation's premier institutions of higher learning, Southern Methodist University.

I would like to take this opportunity to express special recognition to Fox News Channel on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE W. WILSON GOODE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable W. Wilson Goode, 2006 recipient of the Purpose Prize, a new and exciting award by Civic Ventures that honors and promotes social entrepreneurs who are age 60 or older. Over 1200 people competed for five \$100,000 gifts, creating publicity and support for programs developed to address society's biggest challenges.

Wilson Goode, former Mayor of Philadelphia, left government in 1992 after earning a Doctorate in Ministry, and moved into the non-profit world. At age 62, he committed himself to helping the seven million children in America who have one or both parents in jail, on parole, or under state or federal supervision. Research shows that without intervention, 70 percent of these children are likely to follow their parents to jail. As Director of Amachi, Wilson Goode has championed a proven method of intervention, mentoring with a faith-based recruitment strategy. He has rallied pastors, particularly in the African-American community, to engage their members. Today, more than 240 programs in 48 states are connected with Amachi, and have helped more than 30,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to commend Civic Ventures, along with Purpose Prize, the Atlantic Philanthropies, and the John Templeton Foundation, for their vision and generosity in creating this important stimulus for expanding citizen initiative for public good. The Purpose Prize joins Experience Corps as an important innovation by Civic Ventures, a

nonprofit organization dedicated to generating ideas and programs to help society achieve the greatest return on the experience of older adults. I believe these programs will help transform society's view of aging, and lead to better investments in America's greatest untapped resource, which are experienced and engaged older adults.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Wilson Goode, and wish him continued success.

IN MEMORY OF MONROE SWEETLAND

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of Monroe Sweetland, along with my colleagues TOM LANTOS, ANNA ESHOO, and many other of Monroe's California friends.

The most important Oregonian most people have never heard of passed away earlier this month. Even though I knew Monroe would soon be leaving us, and even had quite a lucid farewell conversation with him shortly before, it's still hard to believe that he is gone.

Here's a man whose lifespan of active political life stretched from the Hoover administration to George Bush the second. Monroe engaged in every single important political debate of our times from economics to foreign policy to civil rights: He was in Indonesia, during the year of living dangerously; was one of the most powerful men in Oregon during the Truman administration as a Democratic national committeeman for a Democratic administration when every elected leader was Republican; and, he had tremendous influence on appointments and policy decisions from judicial appointments and personnel decisions to policy direction. He was a journalist, an educator, and a politician but most of all a passionate advocate for making the world a better place.

From the time I first met Monroe Sweetland as a college student directing Oregon's campaign to lower the voting age, he was a steady presence in my political life and development. He always provided me good, sound advice, gentle but firm encouragement and tremendous support.

He knew everyone who had made a difference in his party for three quarters of a century. Monroe earned the respect and affection of principled opponents, including Senator Mark Hatfield who defeated Monroe when they ran against each other for Oregon Secretary of State in 1956. It was great to hear and feel the respect these two Oregon giants had for one another, and one hopes that someday that can come back into fashion.

As recently as 1998, Monroe ran for the State Senate mounting a close campaign against Verne Duncan, a longtime incumbent. To the end, Monroe conducted his campaign, as his entire career, with civility and affection, being able to point out differences with precision and civility that made people feel good about politics.

Most of all, Monroe was tireless and effective. He was gentle and kind but resolute in

what he believed in. He was a fierce partisan fighting for his party, his candidates, and his country but never approaching, let alone crossing the line in the 37 years that I knew him. He was unstinting in his beliefs but never cruel or unkind in his judgments.

The sadness on his passing is tempered by the knowledge of his rich and full life and that thousands of Oregonians and people around the country are the better for his friendship and his life's work.

HONORING MR. CHARLES BARNES,
OF IDAHO, FOR HIS DISTIN-
GUISHED SERVICE TO THE PE-
OPLE OF IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a speech I have long dreaded but knew would one day come. It is a speech many of us in this body have had to deliver from time-to-time—one that none of us likes to give but one that is entirely necessary and right.

The speech I am talking about is one that announces the retirement of a trusted staffer and ally, someone who has worked with me since my election to Congress and served the people of Idaho's Second Congressional District with distinction, class, and a sincerity matched by none.

That staffer is a gentleman named Charley Barnes. Charley has worked in my Twin Falls office for the past 8 years handling all of my agriculture outreach efforts and working day-in and day-out with the farmers and ranchers of Idaho to make sure their Government is effectively serving them.

When I first got to Washington, I was immediately awarded a seat on the House Agriculture Committee. While this assignment was a great honor and of immense importance to the people of my district, it was not an assignment that played to my greatest expertise. So I knew from the start that I was going to need exceptional staff to guide me through my duties on the committee and the re-write of the farm bill. And thank god I had Charley Barnes by my side to help me out.

I am proud of the farm bill we produced in 2002 and believe it has been perhaps the best farm bill this Congress has ever written. While I can't claim that Charley wrote the farm bill, he provided advice and counsel to me that was critical to my work as a member of the committee.

But Charley's service to the Second District went well beyond the re-write of the farm bill, or preparing me for a few committee hearings.

When the farmers of Idaho's Second Congressional District were devastated by drought and disease, Charley was there to lend a helping hand and push his own boss to support disaster assistance payments that kept farmers out of bankruptcy and the economy of small, rural towns alive.

When the Federal Government mistakenly sprayed a product called OUST on private land, killing the sugar beets, wheat, and potatoes of Idaho farmers, Charley was there to witness the damage, organize the Idaho congressional delegation, and push the BLM and USDA to compensate farmers for their loss.

Idaho's farmers are still fighting this battle, but they have a great friend and advocate in Charley Barnes.

When the USDA tried to penalize Idaho's sugar farmers for their wrongful participation in a program for which they were told they qualified, Charley was there to argue against punishing these farmers. Charley made an impassioned defense of these producers, and in the end, Charley was proven right. USDA relented and Idaho's sugar farmers saw firsthand the value of a forceful advocate like Charley Barnes.

And when a farmer in my district is facing an appeal before the USDA over an issue where the farmer believes he had done nothing wrong, more often than not that farmer will see Charley Barnes attend that appeal, offer words of encouragement, and stand beside them for the duration of the hearing.

Charley Barnes doesn't see his work in my office as just another job. He sees his role in my office as an advocate for agriculture, an advocate for farmers and ranchers, an advocate for rural communities, and most importantly, an advocate for rural families.

Charley Barnes isn't just a congressional staffer, he's a farmer, a businessman, a husband, a father, and a very good friend.

Everyone who has ever met Charley Barnes is better off for having known him. The people of the Second District are better off for having been served by Charley Barnes. And I am a better Congressman today than I was 8 years ago because I had the good sense to hire, and learn from, Charley Barnes.

I know I speak for everyone in my office when I say that we are going to miss Charley's day-to-day presence in the office. But this is not goodbye, because we are going to be calling on Charley from time-to-time for some good advice, some constructive criticism, and a nudge in the right direction.

As he settles into retirement, and a well-deserved break from the daily grind of a long and distinguished career, I wish Charley well in all of his future endeavors and offer my sincere gratitude for all his hard work, great advice, and dedication to the people of Idaho.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUBBOCK
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lubbock Christian University on reaching the milestone of its 50th anniversary. LCU was established in 1957 with a mission to teach students the spiritual dimension of life, provide a quality education, and impart a system of values for living and for service to family, community, and church. This mission has led to a half century of striving for the best in education.

Lubbock Christian first opened as a junior college with F.W. Mattox as president, a new class of 110 students and was completely surrounded by farmland on the west side of Lubbock. In the fall of 1987, the college advanced to university status. Since this time, five presidents and numerous faculty and staff have contributed to the success of LCU. At one point, the faculty and staff sacrificed a month's

salary in order to provide financial assistance for the university.

Through the past 50 years, LCU has been able to achieve a stature worthy of great praise. The university now has more than 2,000 students, offers 34 bachelor's degrees and 10 master's degrees, more than 30 buildings, and a passion for changing lives by education and teachings from the Word of God.

Many things have changed in our world and in education over the past 50 years. To enable graduates to stay competitive in our ever-changing economy, our higher education system must be a key source for America's competitive advantage around the world. Lubbock Christian University is helping to make this idea a reality. Keeping Christian values at the forefront of their teachings will help to bring about great leaders for many years to come. I am proud to join the citizens of Lubbock in extending my appreciation for all the hard work of LCU's administration, faculty, staff, and past and current students. Our community would not be the same without the unparalleled contributions of the school.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK
HOVORE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sorrow to pay tribute to the life and memory of Franklin Thomas Hovore IV. Every once in a while, a person comes along who has the passion to explore the world, the ability to research the unknown, and the extraordinary capacity to teach what he has learned. Frank Hovore was such a man. Pursuing his life's passion in Ecuador on September 22, 2006, he died suddenly while studying beetles near the Amazon. He was 61 years old.

Frank was born on August 19, 1945 in El Centro, California. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and English at California State University, Northridge, in 1971, and later worked as an adjunct biology professor at his alma mater. Further advancing his education led Frank to the University of California, Los Angeles where he was a Ph.D. candidate in evolutionary biology.

Enthusiastic and dedicated to the study of insects, he also cared deeply about teaching others. Over 35 years ago, Frank began teaching children from a school bus parked at Placerita Canyon's Nature Center. He was instrumental in the creation of the center's education program, which now reaches over 10,000 schoolchildren a year. He trained docents, served on the center's foundation board, and was an active volunteer at the nature center until his death. Frank is credited with making the Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center one of the premier environmental education facilities in Southern California.

Long considered the world's authority on beetles, Frank published books and many papers on the subject. In addition, he was a scientific adviser on David Attenborough's 2005 acclaimed documentary series "Life in the Undergrowth" and provided his expertise on the movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom." Director Steven Spielberg recruited

Frank to trek to Central America to collect insects for the movie's famous cave scene.

Working as a park naturalist and natural-areas supervisor for the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation for 23 years, Frank managed resources and operations for more than 6,500 acres of county parkland, sanctuaries, and open space. For more than a decade, he also served on the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission's Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee where he provided astute insights, wise counsel, and excellent leadership.

Retiring from county government in 1994, he began Frank Hovore & Associates, a biological consulting firm that provided planning for parks, plant and animal surveys, environmental education, and habitat conservation plans. Consulting afforded Frank the time to travel widely for research on New World beetles deemed essential to forest ecosystems worldwide.

Frank will be remembered as an honest, curious, and caring man who was generous with his time and talents in order to protect the environment, to explore nature's mysteries, and to mentor others. His passing leaves a void in the lives of many people, but his legacy will live on forever through the contributions he made to the world as a scientist, educator, and environmentalist. Frank's greatest role, however, was as a father to his daughter, Holly, and to his son, Tom.

With his passionate love of nature, and keen intellect, Frank Hovore might have identified with Robert Frost when he said, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference." In an effort to understand the insect world, Frank often took the road less traveled. And he made a difference, a world of difference.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was excused from Washington on Thursday, September 28, 2006, to attend a funeral in Wisconsin. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes No. 495, No. 496, No. 497, No. 498, No. 499 and No. 500. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 495, No. 496, No. 497, No. 498, No. 499 and No. 500.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3525, the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006. This legislation reflects a bipartisan agreement developed by the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee to reauthorize

and improve important child welfare programs under our jurisdictions.

Other bills might attract more media attention, but few are more important. This agreement reflects our mutual interest in doing more to ensure children are protected from harm. To achieve this goal, the bill increases resources for activities and services that will help prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring. But it also involves spending more intelligently and with greater accountability the money we have previously committed for these purposes.

For example, we know from numerous reports and simple common sense that when caseworkers visit children in foster care, children are safer and more quickly placed in permanent homes. While most States agree that children in foster care should be visited at least once per month, there currently is no consequence for States that fail to meet that standard. Moreover, data suggest that most States can't even tell which foster children are visited and how often. Very simply, these children and the Federal taxpayers who support these programs deserve much better.

The Child and Family Services Improvement Act is designed to address this shortcoming by requiring additional accountability. Specifically, the legislation will require States to ensure that, within 5 years, they can document caseworker visits once a month to at least 900 percent of foster children.

This is a significant step in the right direction. This legislation requires States to increase child protection funding or risk losing Federal funds. That's the right structure—continue today's generous level of Federal support, but insist that States that don't make the grade contribute more of their own funds to improve these programs.

This agreement will also target \$145 million over the next 5 years for preventing and treating parental substance abuse, including involving methamphetamines. This is an issue of great concern to me because the State of California, its Central Valley region, and Kern County, which I represent, unfortunately have significant levels of methamphetamine production, use, and distribution.

The Child and Family Services Improvement Act is good policy; it not only targets increased resources for prevention, it also is fully paid for, which protects taxpayers. Thus, it is not surprising that numerous groups including Catholic Charities, the Center for Law and Social Policy, Lutheran Social Services, and the National Congress of American Indians, have endorsed this important legislation.

Finally, I would like to thank Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman WALLY HERGER and Ranking Member JIM McDERMOTT, and Senate Finance Committee Chairman CHARLES GRASSLEY and Ranking Member MAX BAUCUS for their hard work on this legislation. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and send it to the President's desk without delay.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, a bipartisan Congress took significant steps to break down the physical and societal barriers that for far too long kept disabled Americans from fully participating in all aspects of American life. Prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, commonly known as the ADA, disabled Americans were subjected to false stereotypes, experienced discrimination in almost all aspects of society, and were relegated to a form of second class citizenship.

The ADA changed this by restoring the full meaning of equal protection under the law and all the promises that our Nation has to offer. Through the ADA and its broad protections from discrimination in employment, State and local government programs and services, places of public accommodation and services provided by private entities, transportation, and telecommunication services, disabled citizens have experienced increased opportunities, higher graduation rates, higher employment rates and lower rates of poverty. Because of this landmark civil rights law, disabled American citizens no longer live in isolation but live as independent, self sufficient members of our communities.

However, beginning in 1999, through a trilogy of cases beginning with *Sutton v. United Airlines, Inc.*, the Supreme Court has slowly chipped away at the broad protections of the ADA and has created a new set of barriers for disabled Americans. An oversight hearing held by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution revealed that certain decisions of the Supreme Court have actually worked to exclude millions of disabled Americans from the ADA's protections, the very citizens that Congress expressly sought to include within the scope of the Act in 1990.

The impact of these decisions is such that disabled Americans can be discriminated against by their employers because of their conditions, but they are not considered disabled enough by our Federal courts to invoke the protections of the ADA. This is unacceptable.

The bipartisan legislation that I am introducing today will enable disabled Americans utilizing the ADA to focus on the discrimination that they have experienced rather than having to first prove that they fall within the scope of the ADA's protection. With this bill, the ADA's "clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination on the basis of disability" will be properly restored and the ADA can rightfully reclaim its place among our Nation's civil rights laws.

TRIBUTE TO MS. VIRGINIA DAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Virginia M. Day of Altoona, Pennsylvania, who will receive the 2006 John Riley

Human Relations Service Award on October 25, 2006. This distinguished honor is awarded annually by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission “to the person who has performed outstanding and meritorious service to [the] community through personal efforts by enhancing the dignity and worth of its citizens.” This award is given in memory of the late Big John Riley, who dedicated his time and efforts for the advancement of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Just as Big John Riley gave to the community during his time, Virginia Day too works tirelessly, in various capacities. As the Manager of Evergreen Manors, since 1983, Virginia has been working hard for companies like Improved Dwellings for Altoona, Inc. She has also been involved with organizations such as the YMCA, the Altoona Housing Authority, the City of Altoona with Community Education and Training Agency, and ENCORE court advocates for youth. Through her efforts, Virginia has helped improve the lives of the citizens of the Altoona community.

To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Virginia has been a part of would be nearly impossible. Her involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable and certainly in the spirit of the late Big John Riley. Miss Virginia Day has selflessly dedicated herself to the Altoona area, and we are all very grateful for her effort toward positive enrichment of the community, as she has certainly deserved this distinguished honor.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ASTRONAUT JOSEPH TANNER

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of NASA astronaut, Joseph Tanner for his outstanding service to his country in the name of space exploration, including his recent mission to the International Space Station on the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*.

Joseph Tanner was born in Illinois in 1950 and graduated from Danville High School in Danville, Illinois in 1968. He pursued a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Illinois graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon graduation, Mr. Tanner joined the Navy where he earned his pilot wings in 1975 before serving as an A-7E pilot with the Light Attack Squadron 94 aboard the U.S.S. *Coral Sea*. He finished his active service with the Navy as an advanced jet instructor pilot with Training Squadron 4 in Pensacola, Florida.

In 1984, Mr. Tanner began working for the NASA Johnson Space Center as an aerospace engineer and research pilot. His primary flying responsibilities involved teaching the astronaut pilots Space Shuttle landing techniques in the Shuttle Training Aircraft and instructing the pilots and mission specialists in the T-38. In addition to his flying duties, Mr. Tanner held positions as the aviation safety officer, the head of the pilot section, and the Deputy Chief of Aircraft Operations Division. In total, Mr. Tanner has accumulated an impressive no less than 8,862 hours in military and NASA aircraft.

Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in March 1992, Mr. Tanner reported to the Astronaut Office in August 1992 where he completed one year of initial training and worked in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory before being assigned to his first mission. Mr. Tanner also served as part of the Astronaut Support Personnel team at the Kennedy Space Center, supporting Space Shuttle launches and landings. Throughout his NASA career, Mr. Tanner has participated in four space flight missions.

The most recent space flight Mr. Tanner flew on was STS-115, the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*. *Atlantis* launched on September 9, 2006 with six crew members to continue construction on the International Space Station. The 12 day mission included several space walks to construct crucial components to ensure the future of the International Space Station, including the installation of two solar arrays to assist the station in generating power. Mr. Tanner performed two space walks on this particular mission, bringing his total number of space walks to seven. *Atlantis* landed in Florida at the Kennedy Shuttle Landing Facility on September 21, 2006 in the early morning. The Space Shuttle *Atlantis* accomplished its mission of delivering the first major new component to the International Space Station since 2002 and laid important groundwork for upcoming station construction.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the crew of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and especially to astronaut, Joseph Tanner.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP-ELECT MITCHELL G. TAYLOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bishop-Elect Mitchell G. Taylor. The Senior Pastor of the Center of Hope International and the Founder and President of the East River Development Alliance, Reverend Taylor has dedicated his life to serving his community, which includes Queensbridge Houses, the largest public housing complex on the North American continent, as well as the Ravenswood, Astoria and Woodside public housing developments. Reverend Taylor will be consecrated a Bishop in an Episcopal ceremony to be conducted next month in East Elmhurst, New York.

Reverend Taylor has rightly earned national renown for his work to improve the quality of life for residents of public housing. He is also the author of *Unbroken Promises*, a work offering an inspirational and optimistic message of trust, faith, and hope for a better future. As the Senior Pastor at the Center of Hope International, a non-denominational church founded by his father more than four decades ago, he has overseen the Center's Victory After-School program serving hundreds of school children and the Bread of Life Food Pantry, which has fed thousands of hungry families.

Reverend Taylor has been invited to deliver his inspirational message in lectures and speeches around the United States. Because of his leadership on issues involving public housing, he has been profiled in our nation's paper of record, *The New York Times*, and

dubbed the “Preacher in the Hood” by the CBS television network.

In order to more effectively serve his community, Reverend Taylor helped found the East River Development Alliance, or “ERDA”. Working in close collaboration with government officials, tenant groups, parent-teacher associations, houses of worship, nonprofits, and other community organizations, ERDA has scored remarkable successes in expanding economic opportunities for the 30,000 residents in the surrounding community. ERDA also offers financial literacy and home ownership programs, enhanced extracurricular activities for local youth, college preparatory classes, free GED and computer courses, and job training and placement initiatives. With Reverend Mitchell's leadership, a neighborhood coalition was formed that undertook a successful campaign to attract a bank to the community.

In addition to his extraordinary and selfless service to his community, Reverend Taylor is a loving family man dedicated to his wife Barbara and their two children Telisha and Mitchell, Jr. They live in the Long Island City neighborhood to which he has devoted himself, and which he has called home for forty years.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his meritorious and selfless service to his community, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Mitchell G. Taylor on his elevation to Bishop and in paying tribute to his enormous contributions to civic life.

HONORING MICHAEL PARENT
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Parent of Eureka, California, who is being honored for his contribution to one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Mr. Parent is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as “Democrat of the Year, 2006.” His commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mike Parent has had a long and distinguished career as an employee of the California Department of Forestry, serving as a Forestry Logistics Officer for over 29 years. During his tenure he helped to coordinate emergency response to wildland fires throughout the state. He was an exemplary employee and valued for his tenacity, organizational skills and commitment to duty.

Mr. Parent has exemplified the model citizen as an active volunteer and member of numerous local organizations. He served as President of the Fortuna Kiwanis Club and President of the Board of the North Coast Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eureka. He worked tirelessly for these organizations and helped to improve his community and the lives of many young people. He was also a member and served as chairman of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee for five years. During his tenure he re-energized the Committee's community activities and public events and helped to grow the membership.

Mr. Parent is a native of Ohio, the oldest of 14 children. He is married to Barbara Ellis and father to Adam Parent, Ryan Nichols and Kevin and Melissa Ellis. Though retired from state service, he continues to offer his logistical expertise for national disasters through the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to recognize Michael Parent for his leadership and commitment to his community and to the people of the state of California. I would like to add my voice to that of the Humboldt County Democratic Club in offering thanks to Mike for his hard work.

IN HONOR OF ANN RICHARDS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Ann Richards who passed away on September 14th. I had the pleasure to meet Ms. Richards on one of her visits to Minnesota. A true inspiration to others, she will be remembered for her leadership, strength, charisma and humor as well as her lifelong commitment to public service.

As a member of the Democratic Party, Ms. Richards began her political career as Travis County Commissioner from 1977 until 1981. In 1982, she successfully ran a statewide campaign for Texas State Treasurer and became the first woman elected to statewide office in 50 years. In 1988, Ms. Richards gained national attention when she delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

After two terms as State Treasurer, in 1990, Ms. Richards ran a successful campaign for Governor of Texas, and served as Chief Officer of the Lone Star State from 1991–1995. During her tenure as Governor, she worked tirelessly to eliminate gender barriers, revitalize the Texas economy, and decentralize control over education policy. She valued diversity, appointing the largest number of women and minorities to state boards and commissioners of any Texas governor up until that time. An idealistic, strong woman with a witty personality, Governor Richards connected with Texans and people across the United States.

Unfortunately, in 1994, she lost a close re-election for Governor against Texas baseball owner, George W. Bush. Following her term as Governor, Ms. Richards continued her dedication to public service. She was a senior advisor to the communications firm Public Strategies, Inc. in Austin and New York, as well as a senior advisor with a Washington, DC-based, international law firm. Ms. Richards also served on several corporate boards and taught classes at Brandeis University and the University of Texas-Austin.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to her four children, and eight grandchildren. Governor Ann Richards was a loving mother and devoted public servant. She will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Governor Ann Richards.

CONGRATULATING KENYA RAY FROM PROVISO EAST HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I express congratulations to Ms. Kenya Ray for her outstanding achievement in the area of screenwriting.

I also applaud the initiative by Scenarios USA and their collaborative partners, BET and the Kaiser Family Foundation, in creating a national story and script writing contest that attracted 500 youth across America who addressed issues dealing with the topics “What’s the Real Deal, on Growing Up in the Age of AIDS?”

I am filled with pride that one of my constituents developed the award-winning script—a story about three young women trying to survive and sustain themselves amidst an environment filled with danger and pain. I am anxious to read Kenya’s story about these three women creating and maintaining strong and lasting bonds with each other and members of their families. Our community needs real stories that show real heroes conquering adversity and having happy and healthy lives.

I also want to commend the village of Maywood for supporting this project and I look forward to professional film-makers shooting footage in the Maywood community. I am delighted that Kenya will work directly with professionals in making her script “come alive.” Furthermore, it is exciting to realize that Kenya’s feelings and perceptions will be seen on BET next February and will be shared with young people across America via Rap-It-Up curriculum kits promoted through cable in the classroom.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 46th anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. Among my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress are participating in the life of this community and the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Last year, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus signed a reciprocal Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Ship Boarding Agreement, which is aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Cyprus was the first EU member to sign this agreement.

Unfortunately, the commemoration of Cyprus’ Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that Cyprus continues to be illegally occupied by the Turkish military forces, in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation. I remain hopeful that an end to this division will be achieved.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law. Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world’s highest standards of living.

I also want to commend Cyprus for its critical support in helping citizens from many nations including the United States as they evacuated from Lebanon earlier this year.

The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

RECOGNIZING “COMCAST CARES DAY 2006” IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sixth annual Comcast Cares Day in Miami-Dade County on October 7, 2006. Several hundred dedicated Comcast employees and their families will join together to help the children of our South Florida community. Nationwide, over 30,000 Comcast employees will take part in hundreds of projects that are vital community service contributions.

This year, Comcast employees are donating their time to His House Children’s Home. This exceptional program cares for South Florida children who have been abused, exposed to drugs, or neglected by offering them a home environment. In addition, His House provides necessary counseling and health care. And His House provides these services to over 200 local children in foster care.

Comcast employees will use this day to spend time with the children in the residential program and perform needed upkeep and maintenance on the residential building and surrounding grounds. The dedication to service exhibited by local Comcast employees and their families should serve as an inspiration to all the residents of South Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this statement declaring October 7, “Comcast Cares Day 2006.”

RECOGNIZING GYNECOLOGIC
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 473, a resolution recognizing September as the seventh annual Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. I and 74 of my colleagues have co-sponsored this resolution. We firmly believe that raising public awareness, detecting gynecological cancers early, and educating women to the risk of reproductive tract cancers are powerful methods with which to combat this disease.

The Gynecological Cancer Foundation (GCF) seeks to promote these important goals by leading the Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month events and through the Foundation's work year-round. I commend the GCF for its efforts and accomplishments to date. I congratulate the GCF on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 27,000 of 71,000 women diagnosed with gynecological cancers succumbed to their diseases during 2002. Uterine cancer is the most common among women today. Ovarian cancer is the most deadly. Cervical cancer, for instance, was a leading cause of death for American women. But medical advances and early detection efforts during the last 40 years have significantly increased a woman's chances of surviving it. But a revealing 2005 GCF poll showed that 45 percent of American women could not name a single symptom common to gynecological cancers. Clearly, more must be done here.

Through awareness, early detection, education and better treatment we can make more progress toward increasing survival rates for women at risk for or diagnosed with gynecological cancers. The passage of H. Con. Res. 437 will help improve the rate of early detection of these cancers. The passage of H. Con. Res. 437 will also help to save lives. Lastly, the adoption of H. Con. Res. 473 will help bolster gynecological cancers education and research. Taken together, these actions will help researchers and physicians discover better treatments and ultimately a cure for these debilitating cancers.

Raising awareness and early detection coupled with better education and treatment programs for women who suffer from gynecological cancers is of particular concern to my constituents. Guam does not have an oncologist. Most oncology services are thousands of miles away in Hawaii or on the mainland. Adequate care and information regarding gynecological cancers are similarly inaccessible for women from other isolated or rural communities across America. They are at particular risk. We must do more to help them.

I was among thousands of people who stood at the Reflecting Pool on the West front of the U.S. Capitol to honor cancer survivors and mourn the loss of those who succumbed to the disease last week. Attendees were invited to light a candle in memory of survivors and victims of cancer. Each candle represented a person's battle, a family's grief, and a community's struggle. I memorialized Guam's cancer survivors and victims in this

way. This Ceremony of Hope was an emotional display of strength and optimism. But the sight of a sea of candles flickering before us was also a disturbing testimony to the loss and heartbreak associated with this dreadful disease.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 473. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the House Energy and Commerce Committee to report H.R. 1245, the Cancer Education and Awareness Act. H.R. 1245 enjoys the support of 256 members of this body. The bill is colloquially known as Johanna's Law, named in memory of Johanna Silver Gordon, who lost her life to a battle with ovarian cancer which was not diagnosed until it had reached an advanced stage. Johanna's Law would make education and outreach on gynecological cancers an ongoing effort and a national priority. The House should have an opportunity to vote on this bill. Together, H. Con. Res. 473 and H.R. 1245 would do much to raise awareness and improve early detection of gynecological cancers while facilitating better education and treatment programs for women who suffer from gynecological cancers.

COMMEMORATING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, July 4th each year, Americans young and old, of every ethnicity and political persuasion, unite in our celebration of our Nation's independence. We proudly stand and honor our democratic ideals and the liberty we all enjoy. It is a day to reflect on our shared history and remember those who have sacrificed their lives to ensure our freedom.

For the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, July 4th is just another day on the calendar. But on October 1st each year, they celebrate their independence, which was attained in 1960 after decades of British colonial rule.

I want to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Cypriot people on the 46th anniversary of their independence.

I also want to reaffirm the strong and enduring relationship between Cyprus and the United States. Over the past few decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Cypriots and Americans alike share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 46th Independence Day, I share the Cypriots' joy for and love of their nation, a prosperous and open society based on solid foundations. The celebration of this anniversary is an opportunity for the United States and Cyprus to draw closer together as we stand united in our resolve to fight the ongoing battle against terrorism and to promote the spread of freedom and democracy around the world. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. ELAINE MAR, SUPERVISOR OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER DNA IDENTIFICATION UNIT OF THE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent of mine, forensic scientist Elaine Mar. Ms. Mar is the retiring Supervisor of the World Trade Center DNA Identification Unit of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner [OCME].

For 4½ years, she has shown extraordinary leadership and made a commitment to public service far above and beyond the call of duty. She has remained fully dedicated to putting names to the innocent victims of 9/11 and allowing their return to their families so that they may be laid to rest with dignity and love. She has been the quintessential "behind the scenes" hero.

On the morning of September 11, Elaine was flying from New York's Laguardia airport to San Francisco, which was grounded in St. Louis as a result of the attacks that day. When she returned to New York she was detailed by the Medical Examiner to the lab, helping clear the decks of the rape and homicide case work that is the normal business of the OCME. But by late November, she was part of the team working to identify over 20,600 human remains of 2,749 people who died in Manhattan. By December, she was the lead supervisor of that team, and has continued in that role well into 2006.

Although I am told that she never sought managerial advancement, Elaine was a gifted leader under the most incredible of pressures. Many professional forensic scientists have left this project. Some have found the work so heartbreaking that they have left the profession altogether. Despite the staggering weight of her task, Elaine has always been wholly dedicated to the identification effort; for the first three full years she could almost always be found still at her desk at 11, midnight or 1 a.m. On more than one occasion, she worked straight through the night on a complicated DNA identification, surprising colleagues when they arrived in the morning. Elaine Mar has been the only person who has worked on identifying—quite literally—truckloads of fragmented human life for nearly the entire time since we were attacked.

Partly because of her humble approach to her responsibilities, only a few people appreciate how many of those killed have been identified solely because of Elaine Mar's faithful and steadfast commitment to the victims and their families. She has led her team by example, showing a professionalism and selfless citizenship that inspires those around her. On the few occasions where recognition for the work of her team has been given, she has put forward one of her subordinates to accept the thanks of a grateful city. However, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ms. Mar for all the work she has done for a grateful city and nation. I wish her well as she makes a new life for herself in Michigan.

HONORING GUY WILLIAM KAY OF NAPA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Guy William Kay on the occasion of his recognition by the Napa Chapter of the Sierra Club with the Earl Thollander Environmental Award. Mr. Kay is being honored for his contributions to environmental causes in the Napa Valley, and I would like to add my voice to those applauding his work as a steward of our natural resources.

Mr. Kay was born in New York and grew up in New Jersey. He attended Penn State University where he studied botany while finding time to win an NCAA championship as a runner. After a stint as a medic with the United States Armed Forces in Korea, Mr. Kay went to work for the Nestle Company, where his ability quickly garnered a move into operations management. He transferred to the Napa Valley in 1972 to direct the operations of the Beringer Winery, then newly acquired by Nestle.

Mr. Kay has been active in the Napa community for many years, and this has continued beyond his retirement from Beringer in 1993. Having served two terms as President of the Napa Valley Vintners' Association and as a City Councilman for my hometown of St. Helena from 1978 through 1984, Guy Kay has maintained his civic commitment through his seat on the steering committee for the Napa County General Plan.

Mr. Speaker, balancing economic development and the desire to preserve unblemished, natural spaces is a quandary all too familiar for residents of the Napa Valley. Mr. Kay has been working for many years to address this through his participation in the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa Valley. His vision and experience has been welcome as Napa County continues to develop. At the same time, he has channeled his love of bird watching into a project with the Audubon society surveying the activity of breeding birds, ensuring that their habitats are undisturbed.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Guy Kay for his contributions to the Napa Valley, and congratulate him on this recognition by the Sierra Club. His active participation in the life of Napa County is invaluable, and I know that he will continue to find roles from which to better our community.

EXTENSION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise today to support an extension of the Higher Education Act, and to express my concern for the dangerous direction in which this Congress has taken our country's college students and our nation's valued higher education system.

We should be voting on a bill today that would make college more affordable and make a higher education attainable for Americans. Today, we are once again voting on the sixth HEA extension—which maintains the status quo—despite skyrocketing college costs and cuts to student financial aid earlier this year. Our students and higher education system will have to continue to wait for legislation improving college access and affordability. This Republican Congress has failed to make access to higher education or our global competitiveness a priority. This became clear to me and the families of my District when Republicans voted earlier this year to cut \$12 billion from the student loan program—the largest cuts in the history of federal student financial aid and is further evidenced by the failure to move HEA to the top of the agenda.

The only good news is in this extension. The good news is that the current law that will be extended today is better than the Republican bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, H.R. 609, which does nothing to make college more affordable for students—the expressed purpose of the Higher Education Act. In addition, this extension includes provisions that will make it easier for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) to serve their students. I applaud these changes.

But more must be done for American students and their families. I support Democratic plans to provide substantive increases to the Pell Grant and to cut the student loan interest rates in half. As a cosponsor of the Reverse the Raid on Student Aid Act, I believe that Congress can be a better partner for students and families in making college more affordable. We must recommit federal resources to increase the purchasing power of the Pell Grant and to ensure student loans are affordable.

As I've stated in earlier extensions—today, this temporary extension is necessary, but I will continue to work to ensure that college students are not forced to bear the weight of this Republican Congress's irresponsible fiscal policies that have slashed student aid in order to pay for tax cuts that only benefit one percent of the nation's wealthiest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. LOIS BAUMANN AND THE MAYWOOD FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, each year the Columbia College Arts, Entertainment of Media Management Department pays tribute to those who support, the business of culture with its Arts Entrepreneurship award. The Maywood Fine Arts Association has been a unique entity for many years which offers an environment where children can develop skills and appreciation for the arts.

To develop and sustain what is essentially a grassroots cultural and arts group is no easy task and yet Lois Baumann has been able to generate community support sufficient to keep this effort alive and on course. She and her family have worked day in and day out, they have scrubbed, patched and painted, to make the center a great place. They have given of

their own time, energy and resources to make this program and to make this center work. I commend Ms. Lois Baumann and her family for making the Maywood Fine Arts Association a real program for Maywood and its surrounding communities.

RICHARD L. CEVOLI POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3187, a bill that would designate a post office located in East Greenwich, R.I., as the "Richard L. Cevoli Post Office." I thank my Rhode Island colleagues in the Senate for introducing this bill to honor U.S. Navy Commander Richard Cevoli, a life-long resident of East Greenwich who proudly served his country in World War II and the Korean War.

Richard Cevoli was born in East Greenwich, R.I. in 1919, and graduated from LaSalle Academy and Rhode Island State College, which is now the University of Rhode Island. In World War II, Commander Cevoli was awarded the prestigious Navy Cross for his bravery during the Battle of Leyte Gulf off the Philippines Coast in 1944. In addition to the Navy Cross, Commander Cevoli earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and eight Air Medals during his active flying career. He was also inducted into the Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame. Commander Cevoli died serving his country when his plane crashed during a training mission on January 18, 1955, leaving behind his wife, Grace, and three children, Steven, Carol, and Elizabeth.

I ask my colleagues to support S. 3187 so that all Rhode Islanders can be reminded of Commander Cevoli's duty to his country and his impressive accomplishments.

OXI DAY SPEECH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 66th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery.

For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory; it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

On October 28, 1940, a terrifying sound went up throughout all Greek cities and towns, the sound of sirens and klaxons announcing the invasion of Greece by the Nazis. Walls that before had echoed only with the tolling of church bells now reverberated with the din of alarms.

At a time when Europe was descending into the inferno of another world war, the people of

Greece did not panic. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized against the coming invaders and delivered their resounding “No!” to the Axis aggressors.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. If they had opened their gates to the invaders, much bloodshed and many deprivations might have been avoided. That brave generation of Hellenes, refused to submit to oppression, even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. They chose to fight and even to die so that their children and the children of other nations might live in liberty. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage.

Demonstrating poise under pressure, the heroes of that period fought against tyranny and delayed the Axis onslaught in the Balkan Peninsula. The Greek nation which said “OXI” contributed to the eventual downfall of the Fascist powers in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying “OXI.”

**FREEDOM FOR ALBERTO GIL
TRIAY CASALES**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alberto Gil Triay Casales, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Triay Casales is an independent journalist and the founder of the Estrella Solitaria information centre. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Triay Casales also bravely wrote articles every week describing the truth about the horrors of life under Castro. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Triay Casales became a target of the totalitarian regime.

Because of his commitment to exposing the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he was arrested on November 9, 2005. According to Reporters Without Borders, he was hospitalized after several heart attacks and then transferred back to the totalitarian gulag in December. His farcical “trial” took place on June 22, 2006, but he is still incarcerated in the gulag while he awaits the “verdict.”

Reporters Without Borders recently released this statement regarding Mr. Triay Casales, “We are also worried about the fate of Mr. Triay Casales, whose health is deteriorating. He has had several heart attacks and has high blood pressure. He also has a serious hip problem that could leave him disabled if it is not treated properly.”

I remind my colleagues that, under the Castro brothers’ totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with exactly this type of swift and brutal repression. This report indicates exactly how abominable the conditions are in the gulag. Mr. Triay Casales has had multiple heart attacks because of the inhumane conditions in the gulag, yet he continues to advocate for freedom.

Mr. Triay Casales is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press, democracy and the rule of law are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate peoples from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists such as Mr. Triay Casales are locked in dungeons for writing and publishing the facts about the nightmare that is the Cuban tyranny. My colleagues, we must fight for freedom whenever and wherever human beings are shackled by totalitarian dictators. We cannot allow peaceful pro-democracy activists to languish in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand immediate freedom for Alberto Gil Triay Casales and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005. I, along with 254 of my colleagues, have co-sponsored this important legislation since it was introduced in March of 2005. Support for this legislation will help ensure funding sources for further research and study of the environmental factors which contribute to the occurrence of breast cancer in both women and men remain available. It is as a result of this research that the causes of breast cancer will be determined. It is as a result of this research and other efforts that a cure will be found.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among American women. Sadly, one in every eight American women—an estimated 200,000 women this year alone—will be diagnosed with breast cancer according to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The American Cancer Society reports in “Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2005–2006” that 40,410 women lost their fights with breast cancer last year. More must be done to understand the causes of breast cancer. More must be done to find a cure.

On Guam, we have a disturbing shortage of oncology-related services. There is no radiology treatment center on Guam. Our only oncologist recently left our island. Cancer prevention and research are an even higher priority for the people of Guam in light of the challenges we face each day toward gaining better access to cancer diagnosis for those

who may be at risk, better treatment for those battling the disease, and better long-term care for those who are survivors.

A multi-faceted research approach based on a broad spectrum of causes ranging from genetics to environmental factors relating to breast cancer is needed. We will neglect a major aspect of treatment and possible future prevention if we do not support more funding for research on the impact of the environment on breast cancer.

We have an opportunity to further raise awareness for this disease next month by scheduling a vote on this bill. October 2006 will mark the 21st anniversary of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) has done excellent, life-saving work over the years educating women about early breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment. NBCAM continues its mission to reach out to women with several key messages. Most notably, NBCAM advocates for the importance of early detection through annual mammography screening for women over 40, or earlier for women at increased risk. I commend and fully support their efforts.

I am committed to help facilitate a better understanding of what causes breast cancer. I am committed to help find a cure. Passage of H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005 will help achieve these goals. I urge my colleagues to support floor consideration for H.R. 2231.

CELEBRATING “OXI” DAY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we often refer to the World War II generation as “the greatest generation,” not only because of their bravery in times of economic depression and war, but also because of their strength, their moral fortitude, and their commitment to advancing the cause of freedom both here and abroad. We celebrate the accomplishments of their generation and respect them for who they are and the lessons they impart, as we rightly should.

My primary purpose today, in addition to honoring our American World War II heroes, military and civilian alike, is to celebrate the courage of Greece’s “greatest generation,” those citizens who, on October 28, 1940, stood up to the Axis powers and said “no” to the spread of fascism and hate.

The significance of “oxi” day and what it meant to the outcome of World War II cannot be overstated. On that fateful day in October, the small, battered and courageous nation of Greece made a firm stand against the aggression of Italy and Germany. And by doing so, the people of Greece disrupted Nazi Germany’s war plans and ensured that freedom would live another day.

By October 1940, World War II had begun, and the Nazi regime already was operating in high gear. Under Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, German and Italian forces were threatening the whole of Europe. In fact, Hitler intended to eliminate British operations in the Mediterranean in order to weaken their ability to hinder German advances.

To achieve this objective, Hitler needed the Axis powers to strike British forces in Greece. By conquering Greece, Hitler hoped to gain access to the important connecting link with Italian bases in the Dodecanese islands, giving Italian forces a stranglehold on British forces in Egypt where they were already under attack. The defense of Egypt was vital to Allied positions in the oil-rich Middle East.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Ambassador in Athens issued an ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece and threatening Italy's declaration of war. Mussolini gave Prime Minister Metaxas only three hours to reply.

Mussolini obviously underestimated the resolve of the Greek people and their passion for liberty. In what has now become one of the most celebrated actions of World War II, Prime Minister Metaxas responded with the word "oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

This statement, which embodied the true spirit of the Greek people, demonstrated undeniable courage and strength in the face of imminent invasion by Italian forces. "Oxi" echoed the same devotion and love of country that Greek patriots exhibited during their war of independence against the Ottoman empire when they defiantly shouted "liberty or death." The Prime Minister's actions marked the beginning of one the world's most heroic efforts to combat tyranny and oppression. Knowing that Greece would not give in to its demands, Italy invaded.

Greece went into battle as the clear underdog. In addition to having a population seven times smaller than Italy, the disparity in the nations' armed forces was even greater. Italy enjoyed ten times the firepower of Greece in its army and navy and seven times the number of troops. Italy's command of the air gave Greece little hope of success. However, despite their lack of equipment and smaller numbers, the Greek army proved to be well-trained and resourceful. Within a week of the invasion, the Italian forces were suffering serious setbacks.

On November 14, 1940, the Greek army launched a counteroffensive and quickly drove the Italian forces back into Albania. By December, the Greeks had captured the town of Pogradec in eastern Albania, where the fighting continued for several months. It became very clear that the Greeks were not going to stand for defeat. In a last ditch effort to bring the skirmish to a close before they would be forced to ask Hitler to intervene, the Italian armed forces launched another assault on March 12, 1941. It took only six days for them to concede that German intervention was necessary.

Hitler ordered the German invasion of Greece on April 6, 1941, but it took the Germans five weeks to finally end the conflict. This delay proved critical to the outcome of the entire war. Italy's inability to capture Greece enabled the British to win major victories against Mussolini's forces in North Africa, solidifying their positions in the region.

This delay also contributed to the failure of the German Barbarossa campaign to conquer Russia. Because he was forced to capture the Balkans, mainly Yugoslavia and Greece, Hitler had to delay his plans to invade and capture the Soviet Union before the winter of 1941. The Greek resistance, both in Albania and in another famous battle in Crete, altered the

time table of the planned Barbarossa invasion by at least six months, proving a favorable development for Allied Forces.

Perhaps the most important effect the Greeks' unyielding stand had on World War II was guaranteeing that the Germans would not gain the advantage against the British. Although Germany had conquered much of Europe, Hitler's inability to decimate British and Russian forces early in the War would eventually prove fatal. Thanks to Prime Minister Metaxas saying "oxi" and inspiring the heroic Greek resistance, the war tide was permanently changed.

The Allies gained tremendous advantages by the stubborn and proud resolve of the Greek armed forces, but the Greeks themselves suffered loss and sacrificed much. Nearly one million Hellenes died during this time, roughly 14 percent of the population in 1940. And yet, the entire Western world, discouraged and fearful of the Axis powers and increasingly ugly war, were inspired by the Greeks' incredible victories. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill honored these acts of heroism, declaring that "Today we say that Greeks fight like heroes; from now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."

Mr. Speaker, "Oxi" Day continues to serve as an inspiration to all those in this world who cherish democracy and freedom. It marks defiance of fascism and ongoing commitment to doing what is right. As a Greek-American, I am proud to honor the memory of those brave patriots who fought for the freedom of their country and in so doing, helped secure it for the entire free world.

Today freedom-loving nations are battling a new enemy, not defined by nation but by hatred of freedom and love of fear and oppression. As we continue to fight the Global War on Terror, we should take a page from Prime Minister Metaxas and the Greek people and echo their resolute "no" to those who threaten liberty. By doing so, we honor the spirit of "Oxi" Day and all those who have sacrificed to defend freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR
GEORGE ONORATO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senator George Onorato, an outstanding New Yorker and a great American. For more than half a century, George Onorato has distinguished himself as a dedicated public servant devoted to his family, his State, and his country.

Senator Onorato is an accomplished and hardworking legislator who is well respected by his colleagues. After his election to the New York State Senate in 1983, he successfully sponsored legislation benefitting seniors, consumers, tenants, Medicare patients, the environment, and current and former members of the U.S. armed forces. George Onorato has held positions in Senate leadership since 1992, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Minority Conference, as a member of the Policy Committee of the Senate Democratic Conference, and as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Insurance. Because of his

leadership on issues affecting the environment and air quality, he was appointed Co-Chairman of the State Senate's Democratic Task Force on Energy & Conservation. Senator Onorato also serves on the Minority Task Force on Waterfront Development, a platform he has used to promote one of his most cherished goals, creating more affordable housing for the elderly and for moderate and low income New Yorkers. He is a past President of the Conference of Italian American Legislators.

In addition to his tenure in the State Legislature, Senator Onorato has distinguished himself in service to his country. He served in the United States Army, 118th Medical Battalion from 1950 to 1952, and was awarded a Presidential Citation. To this day, he remains a champion for veterans and their families as well as current members of the armed forces. As a member of the Senate Minority Task Force on Vietnam Veterans and the Acting Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Senator Onorato was a sponsor of legislation providing student aid to Vietnam veterans, and in 1997 introduced legislation to increase the level of such funding. He sponsored and supported legislation to help develop a data base for research on dioxin-related birth defects of children born to Vietnam veterans. In 2003, Senator Onorato was one of the founders of the bipartisan New York State Armed Forces Legislative Caucus, which he currently co-chairs.

Just as noteworthy as his dedication to public service, George Onorato is a devoted and loving family man. He is married to the former Athena Georgakakos. They have three adult children, Joanne, George and Janice, and six grandchildren. His wife regularly accompanies him to legislative sessions in Albany, where the two of them are a universally admired and inseparable couple.

Senator Onorato and his wife are equally devoted to their community. A lifelong resident of Astoria, Senator Onorato, is active in numerous civic organizations. Since 1972, he has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tamiment Regular Democratic Club, one of the largest and most prominent Democratic Clubs in our nation's greatest city. Senator Onorato has also served as a Democratic Leader of the 36th Assembly District since 1977.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his courageous wartime service to our country in the United States Army, to the people of the State of New York, and to his beloved family, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me to pay tribute to the enormous contributions to civic life made by the Honorable George Onorato.

HONORING SENATOR WESLEY
CHESBRO, CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATE, DISTRICT 2, HUMBOLDT
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize State Senator Wesley Chesbro of Arcata, who is being honored for his 32 years of public service to the people of California.

Mr. Chesbro began his long and distinguished public service as a member of the Arcata City Council in 1974, where he fought to protect the environment and to promote social justice. He served as a member of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors from 1980 to 1990, where he served with distinction as an effective and powerful advocate for local government, protecting California's coastline and northern California's water resources.

He served on many boards and commissions, was a founding member of the North Coast Environmental Center and the Arcata Community Recycling Center. His leadership role in advocating for community recycling led to his being appointed to serve on the State of California Integrated Waste Management Board for 8 years. His service resulted in many projects around the state that bear the imprint of his commitment to recycle, reuse and clean-up.

Senator Chesbro was elected to the State Senate in 1998 as the representative for the Second Senate District of California, which encompasses a portion of the state's North Coast and the North Bay counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, and Solano. During his tenure he has become a statewide leader in the area of healthcare, mental health and developmental disabilities; resource, fisheries and coastal protection; school facilities funding; and veterans' affairs.

A California native, Wes attended California State University, Humboldt and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco. He is married to Cindy Chesbro and is the proud father of Alan and Collin.

Senator Chesbro is being honored for his contribution to one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. He is being recognized for his outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as "Democrat of the Year, 2006." His active commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is an example for all of his many admirers.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Senator Wesley Chesbro for his contributions and service to our country.

HONORING 21 YEARS OF HEAT'S ON

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor "Heat's On," a partnership between Union Pipefitters and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association that has been helping those in need for 21 years.

Winters are cold in Minnesota, and home heating is a basic necessity. Over the past two decades, St. Paul Pipefitters Local 455, Minneapolis Pipefitters Local 539 and local contractors come together each fall to volunteer their skills and time to inspect and fix furnaces, flues and smoke alarms for low-income senior citizens and disabled homeowners. Thankfully, most of these visits turn up no serious problems. However, when inspections do not go smoothly, these professionals are able to provide the help needed.

Volunteers sometimes uncover major problems. On average, 10 homes out of the 400 homes inspected each year have furnaces that must be replaced, and many of these homeowners cannot afford the expense. This year, pipefitters and contractors have come together yet again to establish a fund to help these homeowners with the cost of furnace replacement.

Thanks to the outstanding Heat's On partnership, thousands of senior citizens and disabled Minnesotans have been able to remain safe in their homes. Just as important, they have a sense of relief knowing that their homes will be warm and comfortable as cold weather approaches.

I am proud to live in a community that cares—where union workers come together with small businesses for the good of our neighbors. This is a partnership that makes sense, which is why it has served as a model for other communities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commanding all of the volunteers from St. Paul Pipefitters Local 455, Minneapolis Pipefitters Local 539 and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association for 21 years of Heat's On.

TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND-CLIFFS
(CCI)

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important industry in my district that has been responsible for creating thousands of jobs in Michigan and for the settlement of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. On October 2nd, Cleveland-Cliffs, CCI, will celebrate the milestone of 50 years of iron ore pellet production and 500 million tons of iron ore pellets produced.

Even in its earliest days, Cleveland-Cliffs' history was characterized by pioneering risk-taking. Cleveland-Cliffs brought electrical power to Michigan's Upper Peninsula by introducing electric haulage equipment at the Cleveland Lake Mine in 1892. Cleveland-Cliffs created the first geological department for an iron mining company in the Lake Superior region in Ishpeming, Michigan in 1900. In 1910, the company built the region's first hydroelectric plant.

However, it was not until the middle of the 20th century that Cleveland-Cliffs made what is perhaps the company's most valuable contribution, iron ore pellets. In the 1940s, it became apparent that the iron ore of the Marquette area that Cleveland-Cliffs had relied upon were being depleted. While the Marquette Iron Range still had millions of tons of leaner ores, a method had not yet been invented for making this leaner ore usable in blast furnaces. Once more, Cleveland-Cliffs exhibited leadership and innovation. Partnering with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Cleveland-Cliffs researchers developed a technique for concentrating low-grade iron ore and pelletizing it to provide high-quality iron ore pellets for use in steel production in the company's blast furnaces.

In 1956, CCI put this innovative technique into practice, producing its first iron ore pellets at the Eagle Mills pellet plant near Negaunee,

Michigan, just west of Marquette. While these first pellets were crude by today's standards, the pellets could be used in the blast furnaces to make a high grade steel and they opened the way for the development of the pellet making operations of today.

The process of pelletizing low-grade iron ore revolutionized the iron ore business. Without this process, thousands of jobs in Michigan might never have been created and Marquette County would have missed out on billions of direct economic impact from these mines. Today, Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest producer of iron ore pellets in North America.

This year, Cleveland-Cliffs reached another historic milestone. Celebrating the 500 millionth ton total is an important tribute to not only the Cleveland-Cliffs company, but also to the working men and women who have kept the pelletizing and mining operations running smoothly and productively over the past 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, from the beginning of its operations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to its innovation of the iron ore pelletizing process to the present day, Cleveland-Cliffs has demonstrated leadership and a forward thinking trailblazing spirit. As this great company marks this important occasion, I would ask that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the past and present employees of Cleveland-Cliffs, CCI's entrepreneurial spirit, their steady growth, their innovations, and their contributions to the economy of the Great Lakes region.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE
MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5825, the "Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act."

Yet again, the Republican Majority has brought legislation to the Floor that disregards the rights of American citizens. H.R. 5825 would give the executive branch broad discretion to eavesdrop on Americans without judicial review or sufficient oversight from Congress.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, we have learned more and more about the secret programs run by this Administration that violated long-standing U.S. laws and policies. I know that we all agree that obtaining intelligence to prevent terrorist attacks is a high priority. However, innocent Americans should not have to worry that their phones have been tapped or their emails are being read.

It is a shame that the bill before us today leaves out the sensible provisions of the bipartisan Schiff-Flake-Harman-Ingels substitute which would require congressional oversight of surveillance programs, extends from 72 hours to seven days the amount of time allowed to initiate surveillance in an urgent situation before going to the FISA court for a warrant, and increase the speed of the FISA process.

We should be standing up for the Constitution today and not passing legislation that tramples all over it.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.

HONORING JUSTIN-SIENA HIGH SCHOOL OF NAPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Justin-Siena High School in Napa, California. Thousands of young men and women from Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties have benefited from the school's rigorous curriculum and commitment to developing outstanding citizenship in its students.

Justin-Siena High School was created in 1972 from the merger of Justin High School and Siena High School. Both schools were founded in 1966, Justin High School by the Christian Brothers and Siena High School by the Dominican Sisters. Justin-Siena has benefited from the spirit and guidance of both orders in the decades since it was created, and the ideals under which each school was founded have guided its faculty and students.

A strong tradition of academic excellence has been the foundation of Justin-Siena's status as a preeminent high school in Northern California. This has translated into success for the remarkable numbers of Justin-Siena's graduates who continue their educations at colleges all over the United States. Additionally, the school has made a notable effort to ensure that its students learn the value of service to others as part of their education, and this has been of great benefit to the Napa Valley. The back-to-back section football championships Justin-Siena High School won in 2004 and 2005 remind us that athletics are not being neglected either.

Justin-Siena High School has made an important commitment to opening the opportunities afforded by the school to students of all backgrounds. This determination to ensure an accessible and affordable education is an important indicator of the role this school plays in our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the 40th anniversary of Justin-Siena Catholic High School in Napa, California, and I congratulate the staff and students there. Justin-Siena has been a great asset to the Napa Valley and surrounding areas, and I expect it will continue educating fine young women and men for many generations to come.

CALLING ON THE SPEAKER TO BRING H. RES. 759 TO THE FLOOR FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the sexual enslavement of more than 200,000 young women and girls by the Japanese Imperial Army before and during World War II is one of the most ignored and overlooked violations of human rights and international law in the 20th Century. These women, euphemistically known as "Comfort Women," are now elderly and living their last years without a formal apology from the government that enslaved

them. We cannot allow these survivors to fade into history without the closure that would come from official recognition, which is why my colleague, the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SMITH, and I introduced H. Res. 759, calling on the Japanese government to formally acknowledge and take responsibility for its involvement in this unspeakable atrocity.

Our resolution has broad Congressional support with 55 bipartisan cosponsors, including a substantial number of Members from the International Relations Committee, and the Congressional Human Rights, Women's Rights, Asian Pacific American, and Korea Caucuses. Additionally, on September 13, 2006, the resolution was marked up in the International Relations committee by unanimous consent, and subsequently sent to the Speaker with an official request that it be considered on the floor under suspension of the rules. We have also seen an overwhelming response from the Korean American, Chinese American, Filipino American and Vietnamese American communities to the Speaker asking for the resolution to come before the entire House of Representatives. Amnesty International, as well as prominent Japanese-American Congressman and my close friend, MIKE HONDA, also strongly and vocally support H. Res. 759.

Mr. Speaker, it is beyond my understanding why H. Res. 759 has not been scheduled for floor consideration. There has been no visible controversy about the bill from Members of Congress.

Moreover, many of the bills also marked up in the September 13 International Relations Committee hearing have made it to floor and passed by voice vote. It is deeply disturbing that the leadership of this House is not interested in supporting human rights or reiterating the role of the Congress to oppose human trafficking and other similar atrocities that have occurred throughout the world. This is not a Japanese issue, this is not a Korean issue, this is not an American issue; this is an issue about human dignity. And it is a slap in the face to those who have worked so hard to bring the Comfort Women issue to light on the international stage and especially to those who have been directly or indirectly affected by sexual slavery for this resolution to die at the hands of the Speaker after it successfully completed all the necessary procedural steps and demonstrated broad bipartisan support.

I urge the Speaker in the strongest terms possible to allow H. Res. 759 to come before the full House under suspension of the rules before the end of the 109th Congress, so that we may once and for all put this issue to rest, and leave this Congress having made a strong statement in support of human dignity.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act.

Like many of my colleagues in the New York delegation, I strongly support the Ryan

White CARE Act and have supported its reauthorization in the past. These programs provide lifesaving medical care, drug treatment, and support services to over 535,000 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the nation.

Westchester County, in my congressional district has the highest number of persons living with HIV or AIDS of any New York State county outside of New York City. The services provided under the Ryan White CARE Act literally mean the difference between life and death for my constituents living with this devastating disease.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today will jeopardize these services for my constituents and countless other Americans in states that are at the epicenter of this crisis.

Under this bill, New York State stands to lose more than \$78 million over four years.

Despite what some say, the AIDS epidemic has not shifted—it has expanded. It simply makes no sense to pit regions of the country against each other by providing vitally needed services to one region at the expense of another.

My colleagues, rushing a bill through the House that will negatively impact the lives of so many individuals living with HIV and AIDS makes no sense. I am a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 6191, that would temporarily reauthorize the program for one year to allow Congress to continue to negotiate a compromise that would not unfairly result in drastically reduced funds for any state.

I urge the House leadership to immediately consider H.R. 6191 and urge my colleagues to vote against the bill before us.

S. 2562, THE VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2562, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

S. 2562 would raise the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and would increase dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans. Surviving spouses and children aged under 18 would be among those who would benefit from the compensation rate increase that would become effective on December 1, 2006. The increase in rates would be equal to the increase provided to Social Security recipients and is projected to be approximately 2.9 percent.

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, which passed the House of Representatives on June 27, 2006, I also strongly support the Senate version of the bill.

In recognizing the contributions that veterans have made to our country, it is vital that we provide compensation that reflects today's rising cost-of-living. Many of the approximately 60,000 veterans who reside in El Paso, Texas depend largely on government compensation for supporting their families. Increasing the compensation rates for veterans and their

families allows us to demonstrate our immense gratitude for those who have courageously served our country.

Mr. Speaker, nation's veterans and their service to our appreciation for their service to our country. I ask all my colleagues to join me in voting favorably on S. 2562.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 973, "Recognizing Financial Planning Week." I want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mrs. BIGGERT for introducing the resolution. I am cosponsor of this resolution because I believe that we must acknowledge the importance of financial planning for all Americans.

This resolution accepts the goal of financial planning as a tool to enable families and individuals to achieve their financial and life goals. It recognizes the relevance of financial planners, many of whom are essential to American individuals and families planning for their futures.

Sound financial planning must be integrated into any comprehensive life plan. Many of the financial instruments and investments require basic if not advanced financial planning to be used productively. Financial independence is a goal that I strongly advocate. Without financial independence it is impossible to function and to meet future challenges.

The Financial Planning Association has designated the week beginning October 2, 2006 as Financial Planning Week. The House officially recognizes the importance of financial planning and financial planners in the process, and this resolution embraces Financial Planning Week. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

ON THE DEATH OF SECOND LIEUTENANT EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, a young soldier from Prince George's County, MD, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice for our Nation in Iraq, saddens all of us.

And today, I want to pay tribute to this outstanding young American, as well as express my deepest condolences to her family, including her parents, Vicki and Daniel, and all of her friends and loved ones.

Second Lieutenant Perez of Fort Washington died on September 12 after a roadside bomb exploded under her Humvee. She is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq.

But she should not be remembered solely for how she passed from this life and into God's hands. She must be remembered for the outstanding and inspiring way in which she lived and those she touched during her 23 years.

Emily Perez was a trailblazer and a star in every sense of the word.

She rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. She became the first minority female command sergeant in the history of the U.S. Military Academy. And she excelled at everything from track to the gospel choir.

As the Washington Post reported, friends and family members nicknamed her "Kobe," after Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Kobe Bryant, because "everyone knew she could make the shots, in whatever she did."

Second Lieutenant Perez was best known for her tenacious leadership, first as a wing commander of Junior ROTC and then on the campus of West Point. She leaves behind a collection of young cadets inspired by her patriotism, as they prepare for military careers defending our Nation.

While incredibly strong willed, Perez also is remembered for her sensitivity to others, organizing an HIV/AIDS ministry in high school after family members contracted the virus.

Yet it was being a soldier that was Perez's true calling. She was born into a military family in Heidelberg, Germany, and knew from a very young age that she wanted to serve. After graduating from West Point, she was assigned to the Army's 204th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq in December.

One of her mentors, Roger Pollard, told the Post: "I clearly remember thinking that she would definitely be the first female president of this country."

Lost at the age of 23, we will never know what was in store for this extraordinary young woman. But one thing is certain: She heroically served her Nation in defense of our freedom, and we should all be proud of the full life she led in her short time here.

STATEMENT ON IOM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FDA REFORM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to my colleague's attention a New York Times editorial that comments on the recommendations by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for reforming the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The editorial contends that IOM has wisely called for a significant increase in financing and personnel to correct the imbalance between the funds and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the smaller resources available for post-market surveillance. The editorial also observes that, even when problems arise, the agency virtually has no authority to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe.

The IOM report, *The Future of Drug Safety*, confirms what many of us in Congress have been arguing all along—that FDA authority needs to be strengthened and that the agency relies too heavily on negotiations with industry. The recommendations outlined in the IOM report reflect the initiatives that many of us in Congress already have proposed, including: requiring post-market surveillance of drug products; requiring a moratorium on direct-to-

consumer (DTC) advertising; and eliminating conflict-of-interests involving members of FDA advisory committees.

This report provides independent verification that Congress must act to implement the changes that are needed at the FDA. Congress will have the opportunity next year to make an immediate impact when it considers the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA). Congress should strongly consider IOM's PDUFA recommendation that a portion of the user fees be diverted to specific safety-related performance goals.

I ask that the New York Times editorial be inserted in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 28, 2006]

PRESCRIPTION FOR A STRONGER F.D.A.

A prestigious advisory group has put its weight behind criticism that the Food and Drug Administration is pitifully weak when it comes to removing dangerous prescription drugs from the market. Last week, a panel appointed by the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, issued a slew of recommendations to strengthen the beleaguered F.D.A. as it struggles to regulate a huge array of medications whose ill effects sometimes show up only after years of wide use.

The institute's report, which was requested by the F.D.A., deplores the big imbalance between the money and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the much smaller resources for monitoring drugs after they are on the market. The imbalance results in part from the pharmaceutical industry's providing user fees that pay for expediting the approval process, but not for monitoring the aftereffects. Worse yet, even when it spots a problem, the agency has very little power to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe, which is seldom the case.

Although the nation is mired in budget deficits, the institute was wise to call for a large increase in financing and personnel for this crucially important regulator of public health. If Congress is too stingy to ante up more money, it should at least divert some of the drug industry's user fees to surveillance after a drug's approval.

The panel calls for the F.D.A. to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs that are truly new, not just copycats, at least once every five years. It wants the agency to be given explicit power to compel post-marketing studies and to impose fines, injunctions and withdrawals to enforce its decisions. In a departure from conventional wisdom, the panel also urges the F.D.A. to require that a substantial majority of the members of each of its advisory panels be free of significant financial involvement with companies whose interests might be affected. That undercuts the agency's claims that there are not enough experts without ties to the drug industry.

COMMENDING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP ONE OF SACRAMENTO ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Boy Scouts of America Troop One of Sacramento as they celebrate their 90th anniversary and ask all of my colleagues to join

with me in saluting the Scouts and alumni of Troop One.

Troop One was founded in 1916. It has a storied history and is widely known as the oldest continuously operating troop west of the Mississippi River. In the past 90 years, an estimated 1,500 young men have been members of Troop One, earning over 15,000 merit badges.

Not only is Troop One one of the oldest troops, it is also one of the most successful troops in the United States. Historically, only five percent of Boy Scouts nationwide achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Troop One, however, far surpassed that mark with an impressive 20 percent, totaling over 300 Eagle Scouts.

Over its 90-year history, Troop One has performed many community improvement projects: they repaired and restored the Old City Cemetery, constructed park benches throughout the city and landscaped numerous elementary, middle and high schools. The troop has a historic commitment to service and received an award for selling war bonds during World War One. These are just a few of Troop One's community service efforts benefiting Sacramento and the Nation.

This troop has also produced more than its fair share of local and national leaders. One of the most prominent alumni is the former Governor of California and Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Earl Warren. Chief Justice Warren's sons were both in Troop One when he was Governor of California and his wife opened the Governor's mansion for the troop's mother's meetings. One of its most active local leaders and troop alumni, George Morrow, has had twelve family members achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, carrying on the troop's strong family tradition.

Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America, Troop One of Sacramento, clearly has become a family and community tradition. Troop One has helped young boys develop into community leaders. For 90 years, the troop's service projects have helped shape and improve the Sacramento community, and I am confident the troop will continue its work in Sacramento for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Boy Scouts of America, Troop One of Sacramento, a happy 90th anniversary and continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANN SCHREIBER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Schreiber for her community leadership and efforts on behalf of the State of Nevada.

Ann is a founder of the Muddy River Regional Environmental Impact Alleviation Committee (MRREIAC). Through Ann, this community based organization has contributed greatly to the Overton and Moapa Valley, Nevada communities by eradicating tamarisk plants, a non-native species to the area. I applaud Ann today for all of her hard work and dedication to removing this Western lands nemesis.

In 1994, MRREIAC was established in order to protect the Muddy River, a spring fed river

that flows from the upper part of Moapa to Lake Mead. During its inception, MRREIAC grappled with ways to remove the tamarisk plants that encased the Muddy River and left this important water source for rural Nevada a dry bank. A single tamarisk plant can consume hundreds of gallons of water daily and their abundance throughout the West is a pervasive problem.

Without being formally educated on the process of how to remove this invasive species, Ann sought the assistance of Clark County, Nevada Power, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other various volunteer organizations. Through trial and error Ann and MRREIAC were able to successfully remove tamarisk plants which had once before choked out the native plant species. Today, water flows freely down the Muddy River and native species live and thrive.

I applaud Ann and MRREIAC for their initiative and for successfully employing inmates from the Indian Springs Correctional Facility. Not only did these inmates receive vital work skills, but they were able to contribute to the overall success of MRREIAC's initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ann Schreiber for her relentless dedication to her water conservation efforts and to the safety of her community and the State of Nevada. She is an example to all of how one person's dedication to a cause can create lasting change. I wish Ann all the best on her future endeavors.

HONORING SEYMOUR SIMON

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great and respected Chicagoan, Justice Seymour Simon, who recently passed away at the age of 91. Seymour was a dear friend of mine, and a passionate advocate for justice who exemplified all of the finest qualities of true public service.

Seymour was born on the 10th of August, 1915 in Chicago, IL. He attended law school at Northwestern University, graduating first in his class. He served his country in World War II and was honored with the Legion of Merit medal.

After his service in the Pacific, Seymour returned to his hometown to practice law and serve his community in elected office. He served two separate terms as alderman of the 40th Ward, from 1955 to 1961, and then from 1967 until 1974. From 1961 to 1967, Seymour represented all of Cook County on the Cook County Board of Commissioners, rising to board president in 1961. During his career Seymour also served as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division, as president of the Cook County Forest Preserve District and as a member of the Chicago Public Building Commission.

In 1974, he was elected to the Appellate Court, on which he served for 6 years. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1980. As a member of the Supreme Court, Justice Simon exhibited a moral drive that led him to dissent from the court's decision in many cases, and earned him the enduring admiration

of his colleagues and the people of Illinois.

Justice Simon was an adamant opponent of the death penalty and sided against the court in several decisions which were later reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court. In retirement, he continued to fight against inequities in the prosecution of Illinois death penalty cases. Former Governor George Ryan cited several letters from Justice Simon as a factor in his decision to impose a moratorium on all executions in the State of Illinois.

Seymour's life of public service was honored with numerous awards, among them an honorary doctor of laws degree from John Marshall Law School and the Northwestern University Alumni Association Award of Merit. Seymour passed away in Northwestern Memorial Hospital on September 26th after battling with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Seymour Simon was an inspiration to all who knew him, and I am honored to have considered him a friend and mentor. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and legacy of this great American.

HONORING DEBRA NAUMAN, CHAIR AND FOUNDER OF GIANT STEPS OF ILLINOIS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding woman whose commitment and passion for a great cause led her to accomplish a very good thing for her community and state.

The woman is Debra Nauman. The cause is educating autistic children. And the very good thing accomplished is a place called Giant Steps, Illinois.

When Debra's son Riley entered pre-school, she became concerned about the quality of education he would receive as an autistic child. But instead of becoming disheartened, Debra Nauman became inspired. She was determined to provide her son with an education that would facilitate his mental and physical progression.

Her resolve led her to Giant Steps, a school for children with autism, in Montreal, Canada. Here was a school that featured an environment that nurtured the autistic mind and provided therapeutic services. Here was what she was seeking for Riley. But here—Montreal, Canada—was a very long way away from her home and business in Illinois.

So when Debra sought such a school back home and couldn't find one, she founded her own.

Armed only with her tenacity and infectious enthusiasm, she recruited a board of directors, raised funds, rented space, hired personnel and opened the doors at Giant Steps, Inc. Illinois, an academic and therapeutic day school for children with autism spectrum disorders in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Giant Steps of Illinois, it is only appropriate that we recognize Debra Nauman. We celebrate her because, despite the challenges she faces as a single mom running her own business, she did not compromise when it came to

her autistic son and his needs. Debra recognized long ago that every child deserves an education that will help him or her progress in life. She continues to work tirelessly to improve Giant Steps of Illinois and expand its programs. In so doing, she has made a world of difference in the lives of so many autistic children and their families in Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Debra Nauman and congratulate her on Giant Steps of Illinois' tenth anniversary.

**A TRIBUTE TO ANNA M.
CABALLERO**

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Anna Caballero. Anna first moved to Salinas in 1982 and started a law office specifically to provide excellent legal representation for working people. She promptly became active in town, and due to her immense enthusiasm she was quickly recognized as a community leader. She served on the city council for seven years, including four years as Vice Mayor. In 1998 Anna was elected as the first female Mayor in the 126 year history of the city of Salinas, and has hence served four terms.

During her tenure as city Mayor, Anna was a driving force in improving life for the people of Salinas. Some of her most successful projects were the diversification of Salinas's economic base, improving the affordability of local housing, the redevelopment of historic downtown Salinas, and ensuring the permanent funding of the Salinas library. The key to her success was her innate ability to sit people down, get straight to the issue and have them reach a consensus. Furthermore, Anna used her talents to streamline the Mayor's office and develop partnerships with neighborhoods, parent groups, labor groups, school districts, local businesses and the greater Salinas community.

Anna's accomplishments in the community have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, Anna was honored with the "Athena" award for "entrepreneurial excellence" by the Salinas Area Chamber of Commerce, the most prestigious honor the Chamber can bestow upon a fellow businessperson. In 2000, the Monterey County Lawyers Association granted Anna the Justice Ribbon Award, the Association's highest award for members who bring distinction to the legal profession through commitment to public service.

Anna has continued to reach out to the community. She is an avid volunteer coach for local baseball and soccer teams. She works with the Mexican-American Women's National Association, "MANA", to raise scholarship money for young women continuing to higher education. Anna is also an Executive Director of the non-profit Partners for Peace, dedicated to developing multi-disciplinary partnerships, which share community resources to bring about community change.

Mr. Speaker, I rise once more to applaud Anna Caballero's many accomplishments. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate her on her successful ca-

reer, and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, due to a death in the family, I have requested and received a leave of absence. Since Monday, September 25, I have missed the following rollcall votes. I have noted how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll No. 471, September 25, H.R. 5059, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, "nay"; 472, September 25, H.R. 5062, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, "nay"; 473, September 25, H.R. 6102, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, "yea"; 474 September 26, H. Res. 1038, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 475, September 26, H. Res. 1039, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 476, September 26, H.R. 5092, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, "nay"; 477, September 26, H.R. 4772, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, "nay"; 478, September 26, motion, motion to resolve into secret session, "yea"; 479, September 26, S. 403, on passage, "nay"; 480, September 26, H.R. 2679, on passage, "nay"; 481, September 26, H. Res. 723, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, "yea"; 482, September 26, H. Res. 992, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, "yea"; 483, September 26, H. Res. 989, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, "yea"; 484, September 26, H. Res. 1017, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, "yea"; 485, September 26, H.R. 6164, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, "yea"; 486, September 26, H.R. 5631, on agreeing to the conference report, "yea"; 487, September 27, H. Con. Res. 483, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 488, September 27, H. Res. 1042, on ordering the previous question, "nay"; 489, September 27, H. Res. 1042, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 490, September 27, H.R. 6166, on motion to recommit with instructions, "yea"; 491, September 27, H.R. 6166, on passage, "nay"; 492, September 27, H.R. 5637, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, "yea"; 493, September 27, H.R. 6115, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, "yea"; 494, September 27, S. 2856, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, "yea"; 495, September 28, H. Res. 1045, on ordering the previous question, "nay"; 496, September 28, H. Res. 1046, on ordering the previous question, "nay"; 497, September 28, H. Res. 1046, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 498, September 28, H. Res. 1052, on ordering the previous question, "nay"; 499, September 28, H. Res. 1052, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 500, September 28, H.R. 4954, on motion to instruct conferees, "yea"; 501, September 28, H.R. 5825, on motion to recommit with instructions, "yea"; 502, September 28, H.R. 5825, on passage, "nay"; 503, September 28, H.R. 6143, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, "yea"; 504, September 29, H. Res. 1054, on ordering the previous question, "nay"; 505, September 29, H. Res. 1054, on agreeing to

the resolution, "nay"; 506, September 29, H. Res. 1053, on ordering the previous question, "nay"; 507, September 29, H. Res. 1053, on agreeing to the resolution, "nay"; 508, September 29, S. 8930, on passage, "nay."

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the decisive actions taken this week by the U.S. Congress to address the ongoing genocide and worsening humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

I am pleased that the House of Representatives has again passed H.R. 3127, The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006. The House originally considered this bill on April 5, 2006, but it took the Senate more than five months to pass it, finally doing so on September 21st. This important bill would block the assets and deny visas and entry to any individual (or family member) responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan. H.R. 3127 authorizes support for the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur. It prohibits U.S. assistance to a country in violation of U.N. Security Council embargo on military assistance to Sudan. It also urges a Security Council resolution supporting expanding the African Union peacekeeping mission. I look forward to the President signing this important measure into law.

The House has also considered and agreed to H. Res. 723 and H. Res. 992, both of which I am proud to cosponsor. These resolutions call on President Bush to take decisive action to respond to the ongoing crisis in the Sudan. In June, I joined with many of my colleagues to call on President Bush to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan. Appointing a Special Envoy would demonstrate to the international community that the United States remains engaged and committed at the highest level to bring peace to Darfur. In his address to the United Nations last week, President Bush announced his appointment of former United States Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios as Special Envoy. I welcome and applaud this move and remain hopeful that this high-level official will be able to bring the resources and focus of the U.S. Government to bear on this crisis.

As I have said before, for too long the world community turned its back to the ongoing genocide in the Sudan. But the actions of students, religious leaders, and concerned citizens in the United States and around the globe raised awareness about the horrors occurring in Darfur. I want to thank all who shared with me their concern about Darfur in town hall meetings, letters, phone calls, and e-mails over the last three years.

Today, the Congress is answering their calls for action. Passing these bills is an important step to ending the genocide and beginning to hold those who are guilty accountable—but it cannot be our only step. Our commitment to end this conflict and to the people of the region must not begin and end today. We must

remain focused and dedicated to ending the genocide and healing the wounds of a prolonged civil war. Justice must be served on those who perpetrated these heinous immoral crimes and we must help rebuild and restore the lives of the people who, through the grace of God, survive this hellish civil war.

After the systematic genocide of the Holocaust, we said never again. After the horrors of Rwanda and the Kosovo we committed ourselves to preventing genocide before it surfaced elsewhere. Sadly, we are to adding Darfur to this list. It is long past time for the United Nations to become involved in Sudan. The U.N. needs to deploy a robust and sizable international mission to end the genocide and then work to bring peace to the Sudan. President Bush was right last week to suggest that it may be time to override the objections of the Sudanese government in order to send international peacekeepers into Darfur. After his speech to the U.N., Bush said, “[T]here's genocide taking place in Sudan. . . . Now is the time for the U.N. to act.”

I call on the President to continue to push for action on this issue with world leaders, internationalize the response, and advocate in the United Nations to end the genocide in Darfur. I pray that the suffering will soon end, and that we will not soon forget our brothers and sisters in Africa.

STATEMENT ON H. RES. 759

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 759, a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of Japan should formally issue an apology for the sexual enslavement of young women during the imperial occupation of Asia and World War II. I am disappointed that this non-controversial resolution was not on the suspension calendar this week.

The dehumanization suffered by over 200,000 “comfort women” in Asia before and during World War II is one of the greatest and most averted tragedies of the 20th century. These women were ordinary and innocent civilians, ranging from young girls who had barely reached adolescence, to married women with children at home. These women shared in common, coercion into sex slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Equally disturbing is Japan’s modern and democratic government’s refusal to issue a formal apology for this atrocity. I believe these women deserve a clear and unambiguous apology and reparations from the Japanese government to recognize the fact that their personal dignity was ripped from them.

In 1999, when I served in the California State Assembly, I authored Assembly Joint Resolution 27, which called on Congress to urge the Japanese government to issue an apology for the victims of the Rape of Nanking, comfort women, and POWs who were used as slave laborers. The resolution was ultimately passed, and urged Congress to pass similar legislation.

Now, 7 years after the success of AJR27, I stand united with my colleagues in support of H. Res. 759. I commend my good friend LANE

EVANS for his tireless work on this issue, and I thank him for his courage and leadership. I look forward to carrying on his work and legacy after his retirement this year.

Given the wide bipartisan support for this resolution, as evidenced by its 55 co-sponsors; the endorsement of four major caucuses, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and the Congressional Caucus on Korea; and its non-controversial language and recent passage by Unanimous Consent out of the House International Relations Committee, I simply cannot accept that H. Res. 759 is too controversial or lacks the importance to be on the suspension calendar.

It is only right that we provide justice for the victims of the Pacific theater with the same fervor as we did for those in the European theater of WWII. Congress has a moral duty to shed light on this issue and pass H. Res. 759 in order to send a powerful message to the government of Japan, and I am disappointed that this resolution is being ignored.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must not politicize a resolution that will give some peace of mind to the comfort women and those who have worked so hard on their behalf. I sincerely hope that H. Res. 759 will be brought to the House floor under suspension of the rules. In the name of historical reconciliation and human rights, moving this resolution forward is the right thing to do. We must hasten the day when the comfort women achieve the justice they deserve at last.

HONORING GRANDPARENT- AND
OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED
HOUSEHOLDS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to honor the grandparent- and other relative-headed households who have sacrificed to care for our Nation’s children when the parents are unable to.

Across the country there are more than 6 million minors living in grandparent- or other relative-headed households. Regardless of the reason children enter relative care—death of a parent, neglect, abuse, military deployment or poverty—it is never the fault of the child. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for these children, keeping the children out of foster care while providing safe and stable homes, often at great personal sacrifice. Supportive programs like subsidized guardianship help children exit foster care into the permanent care of nurturing relatives.

In my state of Florida, 9 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, today I offer my formal acknowledgment and deepest appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our country and our Nation’s most valuable asset, our children. I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these everyday heroes.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF RELIGION
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the so-called “Public Expression of Religion Act of 2006,” H.R. 2679. This bill would send a chilling message to those who seek to uphold the Constitution and protect the religious liberty granted by the Constitution. Further, by denying aggrieved parties the existing remedies, this bill would embolden those who try to impose their religious beliefs on others to take additional risk and further violate the Constitution.

H.R. 2679 seeks to amend, for the first time, the Civil Rights Act of 1871, which is our Nation’s oldest civil rights law. This bill would fundamentally alter the way individuals seek redress from violations of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Worse, this bill is a solution in search of a problem.

What we are discussing goes to the very heart of one of the essential principles enshrined the Constitution and documents of the founding of America principles: the separation between church and state. Two of our Founding Fathers, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, spent almost 10 years debating this central issue in the Virginia State Legislature. Yet, today, the Republican Majority has allowed it to be debated only for a single hour on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Such an important change to the constitutional rights of Americans should receive thorough review by the House.

This legislation would bar parties who successfully assert their constitutional right to bring a case under the Establishment Clause from receiving attorney’s fees. Under the Civil Rights Attorney’s Fees Award Act of 1976, successful plaintiffs are awarded attorneys fees if their civil rights have denied by government officials. This remedy was intended to make the government think twice about acting in manner that would infringe upon constitutionally protected rights.

However, we are considering legislation that would strip a remedy for plaintiffs who assert that the government infringed upon their religious freedoms.

This legislation is opposed by the Interfaith Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Council of Jewish Women, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Union for Reform Judaism, National Partnership for Women and Families, National Woman’s Law Center, Secular Coalition for America, People for the American Way, Friends Committee on National Legislation and Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty.

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment protects all Americans from government endorsement of, or favoritism toward, specific religion, or any religion. Its protection extends only as far as it can be enforced, however. We limit the ability of citizens, churches, and other organizations to challenge the government at our own peril. The Establishment Clause was written not only to ensure

that people could practice religion as they saw fit, but also to prevent government from meddling in organized religion. Those who seek to expand religious expression by allowing the government to participating in it do great harm to the religious and non-religious.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARMANDO PEREZ

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the life and contributions of a tremendous community advocate, Armando Perez.

For over 30 years, Armando Perez was an outspoken advocate who championed the rights of the Lower East Side's poor and working class. Armando was the co-founder, and Artistic Director of CHARAS/EI Bohio Cultural and Community Center—a building in our community which recently received landmark status as it embodied the spirit of the neighborhood's history of organizing and grassroots activism—largely due to the work and dedication of Mr. Perez.

Armando was a true champion and leader within our community. Not only was he a Democratic district leader for his neighborhood, but he was also a tireless community activist on multiple fronts. Armando can be credited with helping to lead the fight to preserve the character and history of the Lower East Side—and succeeding.

Those that had the honor of working alongside Armando, and knowing him on a personal level, remember him for both his strong sense of honesty and for his humor. Many were inspired by the feelings of trust he instilled in others, the passion he had for the pursuit of justice, and the encouragement he offered to all in fighting for the betterment of our community.

Mr. Perez spent his lifetime helping others, especially the poor and working class. His commitment, contributions and leadership are now engrained in the Lower East Side. In honor of Armando's work and dedication to our community, a local street, E. Ninth, will be renamed for him. This is a small token of appreciation for all that Mr. Perez gave to our community—but one that will be recognized for generations to come, keeping his memory alive and vibrant throughout our neighborhood.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the life and contributions of Armando Perez—a true, champion.

CONGRATULATING JAMES T. CASSIDY, MD, ON HIS MEDICAL CAREER AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the career of a great Missou-

rian, a physician who has practiced for years in my home town of Columbia, MO. He literally wrote the book on pediatric rheumatology, and has provided outstanding health care over a distinguished medical career. He is being honored at the Cassidy Symposium at the University of Missouri School of Medicine on October 7, 2006.

Dr. Cassidy is an outstanding pediatric rheumatologist, well-known nationally and internationally. He has been a leader in the field of rheumatology for over 40 years and a founding member of many of the subspecialty organizations.

Dr. Cassidy was born in 1920 in Oil City, PA, and received both his undergraduate and medical education at the University of Michigan. He completed 2 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy and 7 years in the Naval Reserve. He returned to the University of Michigan to complete his residency in Intellectual Medicine and a rheumatology fellowship in the Rackham Arthritis Research Unit under the mentorship of Drs. Roseman and Johnson. He went on to the faculty in 1963 and worked his way up the ranks, becoming Professor of Intellectual Medicine and Pediatrics in 1974. In 1984 he was recruited as Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE, and then 4 years later as professor in the Department of Child Health and Internal Medicine and Chief of Pediatric Rheumatology at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He became emeritus in 1996 and continued to staff his arthritis clinics until this year.

He is a Diplomate of both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics and their respective rheumatology sub-boards.

He has received many honors and awards including Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, Excellence in Education Award from the University of Missouri SOM, National Service Citation from the Arthritis Foundation, and Master of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR). He is a member of a number of prestigious organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American College of Rheumatology, the British Society of Rheumatology, the American Pediatric Society and the Society of Pediatric Research.

He has served the academic and the rheumatology community admirably with service on numerous committees including as a Founding Member of the Council on Pediatric Rheumatology of the ACR and Chair of the Academic Pediatric Rheumatology Blue Ribbon Committee, the BOD of the Arthritis Foundation and the first Executive Committee of the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization, and Chair of the Executive Committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Through Dr. Cassidy's efforts, the Missouri Department of Health established the Juvenile Arthritis Care Coordination Program in 1993 to help families obtain family-centered, community based, coordinated care for children diagnosed with juvenile arthritis.

Along with Drs. Brewer and Kredich, he was instrumental in the development of the Subboard of Pediatric Rheumatology and the acceptance of educational training programs in Pediatric Rheumatology by the American Council of Graduate Medical Education.

He has published over 150 manuscripts and book chapters and is the founding author of

the "Textbook of Pediatric Rheumatology" now in its fifth Edition and the leading textbook in the field. He is a frequent invited speaker, having addressed audiences all over the world.

In summary, he is the consummate academician and a founding member of pediatric rheumatology as a recognized subspecialty. He is a great American, he has treated my constituents and their children with dedication and sympathy, and I am grateful they have brought his distinguished career to my attention. I congratulate Dr. Cassidy on his many successes, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING CAROLYN TATE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Tate, UAW Retired Workers International Representative, was born in Freeport, Illinois, on June 23, 1945. Only daughter of James and Vinnie Arnold she also has three brothers, James Arnold, Jr., Columbus, Ohio, David Arnold, Cincinnati, Ohio and Eddie Arnold, Oakland, California. Carolyn moved to Oakland, California in 1958. She met and married Bennie Tate, Jr. in December 1964, and had three children, Steven, Karen, and Tracy Tate. She has one grandson Steven M. Tate and a second grandson on the way.

Carolyn attended Berkeley High School, Berkeley California, and graduated in June of 1963. Continued her education by attending Merritt College, Oakland, California, and received her Associate in Arts Degree, Liberal Arts Studies in June 1980. Being aware of the importance of continuing her learning experience in 2001 Carolyn was accorded senior status at Cal State University, Long Beach, where she intends to pursue a B.A. Degree in her new role as a retiree.

Carolyn's work and professional experiences are quite interesting to follow. In her search for short term employment she interviewed with General Motors Part Depot in September 1973. Interesting to note, that job led to 33 years of service with the UAW and General Motors. Her plant closed and she relocated to Sparks, Nevada in 1980. She immediately became involved with UAW Local 1262 and became the Financial Secretary of the Local and held that elected position for 12 years. In 1988, she implemented the first V-CAP check-off drive in the GM facility which Tripled Local 2162's contributions to the UAW's V-CAP regional program.

Remembering having heard UAW President Walter Reuther's old saying that there was a definite connection between the ballot box and collective bargaining, she decided to become very active in the Democratic party of Nevada. During the party activities led her to hold various positions which included Washoe County Registrar from 1986 to 1992. It was in Nevada that Carolyn, not only became an extremely active UAW Local Union officer, but she also began to be more deeply involved in community activities making her a committed activist for social change. In 1989, UAW leadership noticed this active Local union official and was appointed by Vice-President Stephen P.

Yokich, as the UAW quality network representative.

Having shown a quick grasp of the make up of UAW activities, she was recommended for an appointment to the International Staff by Region 6 Director Bruce Lee. Upon that recommendation in August 1992, UAW President Owen Bieber appointed her to the International Staff and was relocated to the UAW headquarters in Artesia, California. Her first assignment was an International Organizer, and shortly thereafter there was an opening in the UAW Retirement Workers Department and she was assigned to that position where she spent the last 14 years. In that capacity, Carolyn coordinated and implemented UAW senior activities, programs, political action, lobbying events and all Get Out to Vote/registration Drives in California, Nevada, Oregon, Arizona and Washington State for over twenty-seven thousand UAW Retirees. Under Director Jim Wells leadership, since 1995, she elevated Region 5—West Retiree's to holding the number one title for UAW V-CAP fundraising drives.

Carolyn Tate's experiences as a working mother, union organizer, international representative, dedicated community activist, and political action and lobbying activities, make her an outstanding model for others, male and female, to follow and emulate. She has proven that in spite of obstacles that one faces in life, one can always strive to improve oneself by sticking to it and giving service to others.

HONORING NEELY MOODY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Mr. Neely Moody, who until recently, served as Inspector General of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

Throughout his 43 years as a public servant, Mr. Moody has distinguished himself as a dedicated leader, one who faced challenges with determination, persistence and balance. This was true early in his 20-year U.S. Air Force career, and remained true throughout his 23-year DIA career.

From the time of his March 2003 appointment as DIA Inspector General until his retirement, Mr. Moody capably led the Office of the Inspector General in promoting the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of DIA and defense intelligence programs and operations.

Prior to his appointment as DIA Inspector General, Mr. Moody served as the Chief, Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, where he effectively led the effort to develop and implement DIA employment opportunity, and diversity management policy and procedures. During his tenure as Chief, Personnel Security Division, DIA, he effectively managed the agency's personnel security program and promulgated Director of Central Intelligence personnel security policies within the Department of Defense.

During his military career, Mr. Moody served in diverse career specialties of security, counterintelligence, law enforcement, munitions maintenance, aircraft maintenance, and special investigations. He distinguished himself

throughout his active duty career, including in his final assignment as a Chief in the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Mr. Moody's service to our nation has been recognized for his service and achievements in a host of ways. He is the recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, the DIA Director's Award for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Director of Central Intelligence's Meritorious Unit Award and the NAACP Award of Recognition for EO, Affirmative Action, and Public Service. His military service recognition includes the USAF Meritorious Service Medal and Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Moody is widely respected as leader, mentor and confidant. He has made a difference to countless individuals in the Intelligence Community and military. Moreover, he is admired for his commitment to continuing to make a difference in the lives of others in his retirement endeavors.

Mr. Moody's lifelong dedication and selfless service to our nation are an inspiration to all. I am proud to honor him on this day which also marks the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act.

For years, reports have indicated that minority-serving institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities have produced the majority of African American scientists and engineers.

These colleges and universities have created a strong pipeline of technical excellence among minority populations.

Young African American and Hispanic students, rising through the ranks and full of promise, see role models in the professors and scientists with whom they interact at these institutions.

The absence of consistent role models is a major contributing factor of why underrepresented minorities have faced challenges in increasing their numbers in our high-tech domestic workforce.

The Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act would establish a program at the National Science Foundation to award grants to such institutions to provide educational instruction in digital and wireless network technologies.

If enacted, the bill would also help minority-serving institutions strengthen their digital and wireless infrastructure and would also give them an opportunity to provide input for how grant proposals would be reviewed and evaluated.

One other nice point about the bill is that it encourages partnership formation between the institutions and third parties by requiring a matching recipient contribution of 25 percent of the federal assistance amount.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that minority serving education institutions are extremely valuable in supporting our domestic minority workforce.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Hispanic-, Alaska Native-, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; tribally controlled colleges and universities; and others tend to have a substantial high-need student population and deserve our support.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote for its passage.

IN MEMORY OF JIM WADE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute today to one of my best friends from childhood, Jim Wade of Dallas, TX, who passed away in May at the age of 85. Jim and I grew up together in Rockwall, TX and shared many wonderful times over the years. He was a great patriot who was devoted to his family, his State, and his country.

Jim attended Rockwall High School, studied at the University of Texas and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1943. He served his country in General George Patton's 3rd Army in England, landing on Utah Beach in July 1944. His service in France, Luxembourg, Germany, and Czechoslovakia earned him five battle stars as well as a Bronze Star Medal for individual bravery for relief efforts of Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge. Jim's later service included tours in China and Taiwan before he resigned with the rank of major.

Jim lived in Denver, San Antonio, and Beeville and returned to Dallas in 1959 to begin a long and distinguished career with New York Life Insurance Company. Jim and I shared an interest in public service and served together in the Texas State Senate. He also served in the Texas House of Representatives.

Jim was the last of 11 children born to Henry Wade and Lula Wade, all of whom preceded him in death. Jim followed in the steps of his father, the late Henry Wade, who was a longtime County Judge of Rockwall County, and in the steps of his brother, the late Henry Wade, Jr., famous Dallas District Attorney for many years, and along with the late Faires Wade, the late Ney Wade, the late Reese Wade, the late Mart Wade, and the late Joe Wade, all former criminal District Attorneys of Rockwall County, with Joe Wade also a longtime District Judge of Bee County. As they graduated from law school, the father would get them elected County Attorney and make the incumbent son move out of office to make room for the latest law school graduate. They were all successful lawyers, and Jim gave some good years to Dallas County as their State Senator. Four other family members, sisters Carrie, Nona and Lillian, and brother Dr. Colquitt Wade also were successful in life and active in politics.

Jim was devoted to his family and served his country and State with pride and dignity. His many leadership positions brought him respect, but his friendships brought him admiration. He enjoyed the relationships he cultivated with friends at the Dallas Country Club, where

he was a member, as well as at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church, where he worshipped. He was an extraordinary businessman, civil servant, family man and friend.

Jim was married for 50 years to Madeline Hopkins, who preceded him in death in 1994, and is survived by his son Kirk and wife Laura of Chestertown, MD; son Bart and wife Mary Sue of Dallas and their sons Reese and Roby; and daughter Chris Bartlett and husband Tim of Colorado Springs. He was married to Sara Lees Glover from 1995 until her death in 2001, and for the last three years of his life was married to Stephanie May. He also is survived by stepdaughter Valerie and her husband Roger Smith, stepson Bill Glover and 5 step-grandchildren.

Jim thrived on competition—from being a star runner on our high school track team, to running for public office, to playing to win on the tennis court. We ran track together at Rockwall High. Jim was a great end for the Rockwall Yellow Jackets football team. He also ran the high hurdles and had a better time on the dirt track at Rockwall High, around a curve, than the state champion, the late Mal Kutner of Woodrow Wilson High in Dallas. We all went to SMU's stadium with Jim to watch him challenge Kutner at the district track meet. We were positive that he would surprise Kutner and set a new state high hurdles record. Jim never forgot—nor did I—his jumping the starter's gun three times and being disqualified. I always thought of that last great line in the poet John Greenleaf Whittier's poem, Maud Muller, "For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been!'" Jim would have surely beaten Kutner, who went on to football fame as an All-American end for The University of Texas.

In his last months Jim battled pneumonia and cancer and defied the predictions of his doctors to make it back home. As his son Bart said in his eulogy, his Dad never once believed that he would not make a recovery, not be able to walk again, or not make the next baseball game of one of his grandsons. He never lost his determination, never lost hope and never lost his good disposition despite the circumstances. That is the Jim Wade we loved and will always remember.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory and in honor of this great American and my good friend—Jim Wade. He will be truly missed.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTA
HOLLOWELL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, rise today to honor Roberta Hollowell of Santa Rosa, California, who passed away on August 10, 2006, after a two-year battle with cancer. We know that, though she has left this earthly plane, she will be continuing her work as a feminist activist elsewhere. Hers is the kind of voice that will never be silenced, and her spirit lives on in the many she inspired.

Born 77 years ago in Brooklyn, NY, Roberta moved to California as a teenager when her father took an engineering job in the Bay Area. She graduated from UC Berkeley (where she met her husband Ellis Hollowell) and later earned a master's degree from Mills College. The couple had three children before divorcing in 1962.

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In 1962 Roberta and the children moved to Sebastopol and later to Santa Rosa. At that time, Roberta began teaching English at Healdsburg High School, a position she held for 23 years.

As an activist, Roberta was a leader and member in many organizations, and as a retired teacher, education was one of her passions. She was active in the California Teachers Association (CTA), National Education Association (NEA), the Sonoma County Educators Council, and the Healdsburg Area Teachers Association. Other affiliations included National Organization for Women, Sierra Club, NAACP, Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, and California State Democratic Central Committee.

Her union work and liberal politics probably started as a family trait, but Roberta blazed her own path and was a mainstay of the Sonoma County Democratic Party. Throughout her life she was active till in a host of issues that benefited from her skills and contacts.

But it is Roberta's personal contacts and example that we remember the most. Stories told at her funeral attest to her unique ability to bring others into the fold. She insisted that since we all have voices we should use them. Her humor and warmth as well as her determination, leadership, and sense of organization were all key to her success. And fond nicknames, like The General and La Jefa, were also marks of respect.

Roberta was very proud of her wonderful family. She is survived by her daughter Mardi, her son Tom, grandchildren Ryan and Danielle, and great-granddaughter Melody Ann. Her son David preceded her in death in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored to have been counted among Roberta Hollowell's many friends. We will miss her support and inspiration and will carry her legacy with us.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTA
HOLLOWELL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, rise today to honor Roberta Hollowell of Santa Rosa, California, who passed away on August 10, 2006, after a two-year battle with cancer. We know that, though she has left this earthly plane, she will be continuing her work as a feminist activist elsewhere. Hers is the kind of voice that will never be silenced, and her spirit lives on in the many she inspired.

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ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE
MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5825, the Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act.

I believe that President Bush's secret warrantless wiretapping program was a violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and violated the civil rights that make this country so strong and respected. Once this program was unveiled, the Administration's response was not to change the program to comply with American law but to change American law to comply with this program. As a result, we have the bill before us—legislation that would make truly far-reaching changes to FISA and will have alarming consequences for democracy and civil liberties.

H.R. 5825 expands the definition of "electronic surveillance" to include Americans' international emails and phone calls. It authorizes the warrantless electronic surveillance and physical searches of Americans' emails and phone calls for 60-days after an "armed attack" or 60 days before and after an "imminent attack" against the United States. Those

60-day periods can be indefinitely renewed. Moreover, “imminent attack” is defined as an “attack likely to cause death, serious injury, or substantial economic damage.” What is “substantial economic damage?” This definition is so sweeping that hacking into a computer could fit. This bill also strips all courts of jurisdiction over surveillance cases, preventing anyone from seeking redress for illegal or unconstitutional electronic surveillance.

All of us want to be protected from terrorists, but we can protect our Nation without expanding the FISA law so broadly that innocent people can be spied on by their own government without reasonable justification, trampling on our civil liberties. The FISA law already has measures that take into account the need for emergency surveillance, and the need for urgency cannot be used as a rationale for going around America’s law. FISA allows wiretapping without a court order in an emergency; the court must simply be notified within 72 hours. The government is aware of this emergency power and has used it repeatedly.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is a Nation built upon its adherence to the laws. And no one—not even a U.S. president—is above the law. Our system of checks and balances must be maintained if American democracy is to be preserved. I urge all of my colleagues to vote “no” to H.R. 5825.

TRIBUTE TO B. MONROE HIERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant and Southern gentleman. Mr. B. Monroe Hiers is retiring as the attorney for the City of Bamberg, South Carolina, a post he has held for more than forty years.

Monroe Hiers was born on October 15, 1923 in the town of Ehrhardt, South Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Hiers. In 1943, he graduated from Wofford College and went on to serve three years as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his military service, Mr. Hiers returned to school and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina in 1948.

For more than 55 years, Monroe has practiced law in Bamberg, and for many of those years served as the city’s attorney. During that time, he worked with five different mayors. The current mayor, Alton McCollum, calls Monroe, “the essence of a Southern gentleman.”

Monroe Hiers has also devoted his spare time to his community. He has served more than 50 years as the Bamberg County Veterans Service Officer. He is the past president of the Bamberg Chamber of Commerce; past president of the Men’s Garden Club; and a past director of the Bamberg County Red Cross. For many years, he has been the vice president, director and attorney for Bamberg’s Home Federal Savings and Loan Association, and has been honored by the CFISC for promoting “Community Financial Institutions Business in South Carolina” for 40 years.

He currently serves as Adjutant of the Bamberg County American Legion Post #39, and is a past commander of the Post. He has

helped many students’ participation in the American Legion Oratorical Contests, Boys State, and the American Legion Baseball Team.

Perhaps his greatest loyalty lies with the Lions Club. Monroe has been recognized by the organization for 50 years perfect attendance, and was selected for the Lion of the Year Award in 1973-74 for his outstanding service. He is a past president of South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, for which he prepared the first Constitution and By-Laws, and made the application for the first Charter of the South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, Inc. He has also served as a past president of the South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Association, Charitable Services.

Monroe was District 32-B’s Governor and a 100 percent District Governor, in addition to several other positions he held with the Lions organization. He also organized two Lions Clubs in Swansea and the Seven Oaks area of Columbia. His extraordinary dedication to the Lions Club won him the honor in 2004 of being named to the South Carolina Hall of Fame for District 32-B.

Monroe is a man grounded by his faith and his family. He is married to Eugenia Crosby of Lodge, South Carolina, and the couple has two daughters, one grandchild and one great-grandchild. For over 50 years, he has been teaching adult Sunday school at both Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church in Ehrhardt and Trinity Methodist in Bamberg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me congratulating Mr. Monroe Hiers for his extensive service to his community. He has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to serving others through his profession and his community involvement. I am confident the City of Bamberg and the State of South Carolina will continue to benefit from his extraordinary commitment even as he officially retires. On this occasion, I offer my best wishes and Godspeed.

HONORING TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND EDUCATION ADVOCATE DR. ROBERT D. HUNTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Robert “Bob” Hunter for his 50 plus years of public service in the state of Texas and his devotion to higher education.

Dr. Hunter’s commitment to educational institutions, the millions of collegiate students and potential students in the state of Texas make him more than worthy of this recognition. Dr. Hunter has displayed a loyalty to higher education that few can match. He served 10 years as Executive Vice President for the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas non-profit organization. Dr. Hunter coordinated the passage of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant that made attending the university of your choice a reality for thousands of disadvantaged students. As an advocate of education he has served on numerous boards and committees, including being appointed by then Governor of Texas, Dolph

Briscoe, to the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education.

After serving in the Navy as a Security Aide to two Admirals in the South Pacific, Dr. Hunter returned home to Abilene, TX. He began work at his Alma Mater, Abilene Christian University where, before his retirement in 1993, was named Senior Vice President. In recognition of his diligent work to further higher education, Bob has received Honorary Doctoral degrees from many highly regarded institutions, including: Pepperdine University, Texas Wesleyan College, University of St. Thomas, McMurry University, Hardin-Simmons University, Austin College, and Abilene Christian University. Currently Dr. Hunter is serving his 10th term as a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

An asset to the state of Texas and its higher education system, Dr. Hunter has consistently served without want of recognition. However, today I commend him for his diligent public service efforts in furthering higher education.

IN HONOR OF LYNETTE AND FRANKIE BISCONTI

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, Lynette Bisconti is a courageous young woman who rejoiced when she discovered she was pregnant, only to soon learn she had breast cancer. Six physicians told her to terminate the pregnancy. Thankfully, she ignored the advice of these physicians and delivered a healthy baby boy. Her inspiring story is set forth in the attached excerpt from a recent national magazine article.

[From the Family Circle Magazine Oct. 2006]

“WE FOUGHT BACK”

(By Sandra Gordon)

Lynette was overjoyed late in 1997 when she learned she was pregnant. But a month later that happiness turned to heartache. After having surgery to remove what was presumed to be a benign cyst on her left breast, she was told she had cancer. “The doctors said that the hormones my body was producing would likely fuel the cancer, and that I had to terminate the pregnancy immediately to save my own life,” she says. Lynette spent the next few days wrestling with the dilemma of what to do and at the same time began to experience bleeding that made her think she might be miscarrying.

When she went in for an ultrasound, the obstetrician told her, “This little guy is hanging on.” Lynette’s mind was made up in that moment. “My heart leapt,” says Lynette. “I knew that no matter what, no matter how bad it got, my baby and I would get through this together.”

Biggest hurdle: Finding physicians who respected her decision. Three weeks after her diagnosis Lynette had a mastectomy. “The lab report was bad. I had an aggressive cancer that had spread to several lymph nodes. I was told that if I went ahead with chemotherapy, which was the next step, my baby might die or be brain damaged.” Six other physicians she consulted said the same thing: She had to terminate her pregnancy and get into chemotherapy immediately. “I left every visit crying,” she says.

After a truly agonizing first trimester, Lynette got a referral from a family friend that

led her to the Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA), in Zion, Illinois, which was 75 miles from her home in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. "At the CTCA I met doctors and medical personnel who treated me with respect and compassion."

Advice to others: If you're not getting the answers you want, keep searching. While going to see more than six doctors may seem crazy, it might be necessary, says Lynette. She was not satisfied until she found a place that would treat her the way she wanted to be treated. She decided to go with fractionated-dose chemotherapy (smaller doses of chemo over a greater length of time), which was considered gentler for both her and her unborn baby. "They also allowed me to refuse antinausea medication and steroids, to avoid exposing my baby to those drugs," she says.

Life goes on: Lynette gave birth to a healthy baby boy on August 31, 1998. "When I held Frankie for the first time, I just thought, 'We did it!'" Frankie continues to thrive and Lynette has been in remission for eight years now.

CREDIT RATING AGENCY REFORM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend and revise my remarks made on September 27th regarding S. 3850, the Credit Rating Agency Reform Act of 2006. I submit the attached statement by Brian Carroll in Vol. 232 Number 186 of the Legal Intelligencer.

[From the Legal Intelligencer, Sept. 26, 2005]

ENRON SCANDALS SPUR PROPOSED CREDIT RATING LEGISLATION

(By Brian Carroll)

The regulatory legacy of Enron, WorldCom and other major accounting frauds remains a work in process. Credit rating agencies, such as Moody's Investor Services Inc., Fitch Inc. and the Standard and Poor's Division of the McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. (S&P), issued favorable credit ratings of WorldCom bonds just three months before it declared bankruptcy and, more disturbing, Moody's and S&P favorably opined on Enron bonds four days before its bankruptcy. The unexpected collapse of these issuers cost investors billions of dollars. This raised the question: Why did credit rating agencies issue favorable bond ratings that did not appear to accurately reflect the likelihood of these bankruptcies?

While the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 fundamentally recast the statutory responsibilities of chief executive and financial officers, audit committees and auditors, it took a different tack when it came to credit rating agencies: Section 702(b) mandated that the Securities and Exchange Commission study the role of credit rating agencies in securities markets. While acknowledging this study, Bucks County Congressman Michael G. Fitzpatrick, R-8th District, has introduced the Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act of 2005, aimed at increasing competition among credit rating agencies while extending SEC oversight authority. This article reviews the role of credit rating agencies and compares the SEC's approach to credit rating agency regulation with Fitzpatrick's proposed legislation.

CREDIT RATING FIAT

Some credit rating agencies have enjoyed an enviable position. Demand for certain agency services is statutorily guaranteed—no less than dozens of federal, state and foreign government statutes, including securities, banking, higher education finance, and housing and community development statutes, mandate creditworthiness ratings by credit rating agencies that qualify as a 'nationally recognized statistical rating organization' (NRSRO). Innumerable private contracts, such as loan and merger agreements, and more than 20 SEC rules require use of NRSRO services.

NRSRO credit ratings have significant consequences. For example, Rule 2a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 sets a minimum credit rating benchmark for certain money market fund investments. An issuer's failure to meet that benchmark renders the security ineligible for money market investment. Many regulations set mandatory threshold credit rating benchmarks. From an issuer perspective, there is generally an inverse relationship between the credit rating an issuer's debt instrument receives and, the rate of interest the issuer will pay on the borrowing. Finally, institutional and individual investors rely on credit ratings in making investment decisions.

The SEC, through its staff, controls the supply of NRSROs by staff determinations of whether to issue what is called a 'No Action' letter, to provide assurance to a credit rating agency that its ratings can be considered those of an NRSRO without the SEC initiating an enforcement action. The SEC staff began issuing No Action letters in 1975, as part of the agency's efforts to clarify the application of its broker-dealer Net Capital Rule. At present, only three NRSROs have staff No Action letters: Moody's, S&P and Fitch Inc., with the first two capturing nearly 80 percent of the market.

Under this process, a credit rating agency requests the SEC staff conduct an informal inquiry to determine whether the agency is qualified. If satisfied, the SEC staff issues a No Action letter to a credit rating agency, effectively designating it an NRSRO. Once the letter is issued, an NRSRO registers as an adviser pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (Advisers Act).

According to the SEC's Report on the Role and Function of Credit Rating Agencies in the Operation of the Securities Markets, as required under Section 702(b) of Sarbanes-Oxley, some NRSROs consider their registration as an adviser to be voluntary. Similarly, other NRSROs assert that Advisers Act requirements to retain and produce to the SEC certain books and records are inapplicable because they operate as journalists under the protection of the First Amendment.

Some support for this position is found in *Lowe v. SEC*, where the U.S. Supreme Court in 1985 ruled that a publisher of investment materials fell within the Advisers Act exclusion for publishers. In 1999's *Jefferson County School District No. R-1 v. Moody's Investors Services Inc.*, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held that Moody's was not liable for allegedly materially false bond ratings, based in part on finding that Moody's was functioning as a journalist and therefore entitled to First Amendment protections. Further supporting the NRSROs' argument, in 2004's *Compuware Corp. v. Moody's Investors Services Inc.*, the Eastern District of Michigan held that Moody's qualified for protection from discovery requests under New York's Shield Law. Although the case law in this area is less than settled, there is support for this position.

In addition to potential constitutional protections, the SEC has granted NRSROs relief

from potential civil and SEC enforcement liability. For example, Rule 436(g)(1) under the Securities Act of 1933 provides that an NRSRO's credit rating appearing in registration statement is not considered part of the statement for purposes of, among others, Section 11 of the Securities Act, a strict liability provision applicable to experts who participate in preparing a security's registration statement. Violations of this section are commonly alleged in shareholder class action suits. In another vein, SEC Regulation Fair Disclosure excludes credit rating agencies from prohibitions on receiving non-public information from issuers. Although this section covers all credit rating agencies, it most commonly would benefit agencies retained by issuers, i.e. NRSROs.

The SEC has wrestled with the issue of how to define an NRSRO. As early as 1994, the SEC issued a concept release requesting comments on a wide range of NRSRO issues, including how they should be defined. In 1997, the SEC issued a proposed rule that would have defined NRSRO, which was not adopted. In January 2003, the SEC submitted its Section 702(b) report to Congress. In April 2003, the SEC issued another concept release calling for comments on, among other things, how to define an NRSRO. In 2005, the SEC issued another proposed rule reviewing the SEC approach to the issue. It is currently pending.

The current proposed rule would define an NRSRO as a credit rating agency that issues publicly available credit ratings (meaning at no cost) and is generally accepted by financial markets as credible and reliable. Some comments on the proposed rule question whether requiring only free public credit ratings would discourage investors, as opposed to the issuer of the security, from paying for credit rating services. More importantly, the SEC recognizes that some view the 'generally accepted' requirement as creating a 'chicken and egg' barrier to entry where an agency has to first obtain NRSRO-like status before meeting the SEC's definition of an NRSRO.

Given the applicable case law, limitations of the Advisers Act and the No Action letter process, the SEC has questionable authority to conduct any follow-up oversight of NRSROs, such as requiring them to maintain certain books and records, conducting examinations or, when appropriate, instituting enforcement actions. On this issue, former SEC director, division of market regulation, and current Commissioner Annette L. Nazareth testified before Congress that without taking a formal position, '[the] Commission believes that to conduct a rigorous program of NRSRO oversight, more explicit regulatory authority from Congress is necessary.'

PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION

On June 28, Fitzpatrick addressed the House of Representatives in support of his bill by arguing that two NRSROs currently dominate the ratings market, with SEC approval, which creates 'an uncompetitive marketplace, stifles competition from other rating agencies, lowers the quality of ratings and allows conflicts of interest to go unchecked.' Consistent with this rationale, his Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act of 2005, H.R. 2990, is designed to achieve two primary objectives: decrease regulatory barriers to credit rating agencies qualifying as an SEC approved statistical rating organization, a new designation to replace NRSRO; and increase SEC statutory authority to oversee approved credit rating agencies.

Under H.R. 2990, a credit rating agency must meet only two requirements to be considered a statistical rating organization and eligible to register with the SEC. First, under the new definition of statistical rating

organization, an agency must have been in the business of primarily issuing publicly available ratings at least for the most recent three consecutive years. Here, 'publicly available' is defined as certain ratings disseminated via the Internet for free or a fee. This provision permits both issuer and investor financed ratings to qualify.

Second, H.R. 2990 requires that an agency employ either a quantitative or qualitative model in determining its publicly available ratings. This provision permits agencies that rely on purely analytic measures for determining a credit rating, as opposed to interviews with the issuer's senior management. Notably, there is no 'generally accepted by the financial markets' component to this definition, eliminating the 'chicken and egg' barrier.

Fitzpatrick's bill would amend Section 15 of the Exchange Act by creating a public registration procedure for becoming a statistical rating organization. As part of the procedure, an eligible agency must disclose how it handles potential conflicts of interest and misuse of non-public information, as well its methodologies for determining credit ratings. If denied, the agency could appeal the SEC's decision to the circuit courts.

Under H.R. 2990, a registered statistical rating organization must also maintain policies and procedures aimed at preventing conflicts of interest, anticompetitive practices and misuse of nonpublic information. Recent events underscore the importance of these continuing requirements. For example, the report describes one anti-competitive practice known as notching—refusing to rate or lowering the rating of some securities unless the issuer permits the agency to rate other securities. Also, the report notes concerns over agency pressure on issuers to purchase other agency services, presumably to stay in its good graces. Finally, in SEC v. Marano, et al, the SEC alleged that employees of S&P's Financial Rating Services violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 by engaging in insider trading on material nonpublic information obtained through employment at S&P.

Perhaps most important, Fitzpatrick's bill would provide the SEC with statutory authority under the Exchange Act to require statistical rating organizations to maintain certain books and records, conduct examinations and, when appropriate, institute enforcement actions against the SRO itself. This type of SEC oversight already applies to brokers, dealers, municipal securities dealers, transfer agents and clearing agents under existing provisions of the Exchange Act. Consistent with this requirement to register under the Exchange Act, H.R. 2990 prohibits a statistical rating organization from registering as investment adviser and reliance on existing No Action letters concerning NRSROs.

CONCLUSION

In light of the history of this issue, H.R. 2990 would, if enacted, go a long way toward strengthening the SEC's authority to oversee this key area of our securities regulation scheme while reducing the SEC's role in deciding who is qualified to perform credit ratings. With this legislation, the SEC would be in a better position to challenge industry assertions of constitutional protection. Some of these legal questions may be resolved sooner, for a recent newspaper article reports that New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has subpoenaed credit rating documents from Moody's as part of an investigation into insurance industry practices.

Brian Carroll is a CPA and Special Counsel to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the Philadelphia District Office. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commiss-

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THE CONGRESS ON WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his vision and commitment that made possible the recent Congress on World and Traditional Religions. It was a historic event. The remarks recently by Pope Benedict XVI, quoting medieval text, and the fierce reaction in the Islamic world underscore the need for an open and candid discussion, as occurred in Astana.

At this year's forum, there were 43 delegations from 20 countries, including 43 representatives of Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and other distinguished leaders. Though not all religious viewpoints may have been represented, the gathering had an impressive roster of participants—notably UNESCO Secretary General Koichiro Matsuura, United Nations Deputy Secretary General Sergei Ordjonikidze, participated as well as NGOs dedicated to religious freedom issues. Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, past Archbishop of Washington, D.C. was among the delegates attending the event from the United States.

The Second Congress on World and Traditional Religions convened at a time when the world is beset with conflict, regrettably much of it rooted in religious strife.

At some point, religious leaders, and the governments who represent them, must rise above their differences, be they ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, by seeking God's will as the best means of achieving peace and reconciliation in the world. And make no mistake, seeking common ground and mutual respect should not be viewed as a license for censure of thought or speech. Every human being has an inalienable right granted by God to believe as he or she chooses and to freely express that belief, whether as an act of worship or persuasion. Our common ground becomes soggy if we lose the ability to advocate for our viewpoint, while making sure we give due respect and deference to the viewpoints of others.

President Nazarbayev, who is in Washington, D.C. this week at the personal invitation of President George Bush, and Speaker Nurhay Abikayev, Chairman of the Secretariat of the Congress, are to be commended for organizing this very important event.

Mr. Speaker, though we may all have different ways to express or define what freedom of religious expression and worship means, we all agree that each individual must have the right to worship freely without intrusion of the government. Therefore, I commend gatherings such as the one that took place in Astana, Kazakhstan earlier this month, and I commend the country of Kazakhstan for hosting this event and believe many worthwhile and much needed issues were raised and discussed.

I would also like to have included in my remarks the text of the Declaration of the II Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

DECLARATION OF THE II CONGRESS OF LEADERS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

We, the leaders of world and traditional religions, gathered at our Second Congress in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan:

Building on the success of the First Congress, which took place in the city of Astana on 23-24 September 2003 and engaged internationally recognized world religious leaders in an important initiative of inter-religious dialogue; wishing to help strengthen mutual understanding between cultures, religions and ethnic groups which form the basic components of world civilizations, and aiming to prevent conflicts based on cultural and religious differences; acknowledging that religion, having always been a fundamental element of human life and society has, at the beginning of the new century, assumed a significant new role in establishing and preserving peace; recognizing the great responsibility held by religious leaders for spiritual teaching and advocacy on behalf of current and future generations, and their vital role in establishing a spirit of mutual respect, understanding and acceptance in the face of new challenges; underlining the unique character of every religion and culture, and considering cultural and religious diversity to be an important feature of human society; expressing concern about increasing inter-religious and interethnic tensions in the world deriving from the exploitation of religious and national differences as a justification for violence which causes suffering to innocent victims; stressing that extremism and fanaticism find no justification in a genuine understanding of religion and that the vocation of all religions demands the refusal of violence and appeals to respect and peaceful co-existence with peoples and religions; believing that the difficulties in inter-religious and intercultural relations are related both to a fundamental imbalance in international politics, economics, social, humanitarian and information resources, and to the manipulation of religion for political ends; discussing and debating the above-mentioned concerns within the main theme of the Congress—"Religion, society and international security" in the context of two special blocs.

I. "Freedom of religion and recognition of others";

II. "Role of religious leaders in enhancing international security";

Appeal to people of all religions and people of good will across the globe, and:

Call upon them to abandon enmity, discord and hatred; and embrace common respect and generosity, recognizing the reality of cultural, religious and civilizational diversity; declare our determination together to tackle and ultimately eliminate prejudice, ignorance and misrepresentation of other religions by placing particular focus on what religions hold in common as well as what distinguishes them; condemn all forms of terrorism on the basis that justice can never be established through fear and bloodshed and that the use of such means in the name of religion is a violation and betrayal of any religion that appeals to human goodness and dialogue; reject all false inventions and wrongly created stereotypes about the violent nature of religions and attempts to attribute terrorism to any particular religion; call upon all to work together to address and eliminate all causes of terrorism, thus promoting human flourishing, dignity and unity; declare our rejection of any form of pressure or violence to convert followers of one religion to another; reaffirm the pivotal role of education, youth policy and cultural

activity for understanding, solidarity and social cohesion.

We also call upon the global community, international and regional organizations, states and governments all over the world to:

Actively support the process of intercivilizational dialogue; exert sustainable efforts towards creating a culture of peace, strengthening its principles as a firm basis of international politics and the life of all people; work to establish a more fair world, to consolidate international law and justice, and to implement UN resolutions and signed international agreements, and to find effective means of establishing peace and security all over the world; heed the voices of victims of oppression and terrorism and use all means to seek a just settlement of the existing conflicts, thus addressing the grievances that nurture violence; reject totally the development, production and possession of weapons of mass destruction and promote the strengthening of non-proliferation regimes; respect and protect the sanctity of religious symbols and places and take appropriate measures.

Based upon the abovementioned, we, the leaders of world and traditional religions, resolved to:

Take concrete collective measures for encouraging and highlighting positive perceptions of inter-religious relations by organizing joint meetings, seminars and addresses in the mass media, the Internet and other places of influence; strongly promote inter-religious tolerance among younger generations to make them more devoted to dialogue and encourage them to recognize universal values; integrate questions of the dialogue between civilizations and religions into curricula at all educational levels with a view to helping young people to respect and understand religious and cultural difference without hostility; use our spiritual influence, authority and resources to further establish peace, security, stability and contacts between each other in order to make a combined contribution to the prevention and resolution of disputes among different religious communities; offer our experience and best efforts to governments and people or groups and powers involved into conflicts in order to assist them in easing tensions, forming where appropriate joint delegations to conduct negotiations with them; commit to make efforts to promote and realize the goals stated in this Declaration, and to assign the Congress Secretariat to propose a plan for the best possible translation of these recommendations into reality; conduct the Congress of religions on a permanent basis and hold the third Congress of the leaders of world and traditional religions in 2009. For the Secretariat to present proposals on time and place of the next forum; bring to the attention of the General Assembly of the United Nations the conceptual and practical role performed by the Congress in promoting dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions and its considerable achievements in interreligious understanding, inviting support for the further activity of the Congress.

THE EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT OF 2006

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Eastern New Mexico

Rural Water System Act of 2006. This is companion legislation to a bill being introduced today by Senator DOMENICI and Senator BINGAMAN.

This legislation is very similar to H.R. 4623, which I introduced during the 108th Congress. It contains, however, slight revisions that were suggested during hearings held both in the House and the Senate in 2004. There has long been a recognized need for a reliable and safe supply of potable water for eastern New Mexico.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the recognized need goes back to the late 1950's when the New Mexico Legislature and Interstate Stream Commission authorized the construction of a dam on the Canadian River, thus establishing the Ute Reservoir. Soon after construction, numerous Congressionally-authorized studies were conducted to explore the feasibility of a project that would utilize the Ute Reservoir as a reliable water supply for communities in eastern New Mexico. Finally, in the late 1990's, several communities, concerned about the increasingly urgent need, came together to begin planning for the development of a regional water system.

Out of those meetings came the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Authority. The ENMRWS, as it is known, consists of six communities and two counties in eastern New Mexico. This Authority has expeditiously and effectively finalized the studies and planning necessary to move forward with this project.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we build upon the efforts of the citizens of eastern New Mexico who have both proven the critical need and completed the necessary steps that must form the basis for a project of this magnitude. This project is not new and the need for water is becoming increasingly more urgent. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help provide a positive, long-term solution to a pressing water need in the rural West.

HONORING PAM BALDWIN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my thanks and best wishes to Pamela Baldwin, a lawyer who served in the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, CRS, for many years, and who, like me, is now retiring.

Pam's title at CRS was Legislative Attorney, and her specialty was environmental law, and it often seemed that her specialty was all of environmental law. She was a trusted advisor to the Congress, in general, and to me and my staff, in particular, on a dizzying array of issues—the National Environmental Policy Act, endangered species, wilderness and public lands, oil and gas drilling, forestry, mining, and coastal land use.

And she worked on all of these issues the same way—painstakingly, tirelessly, drawing on deep knowledge and with an unwavering dedication to objective analysis. She knew both the theory of law and how it was being applied in practice by federal agencies. And she could discuss complex and abstruse legal

matters in a way that even a Congressman could understand.

In short, in a time of deep partisan and ideological division, Pam was exactly the kind of expert we needed—someone who knew the facts and was willing to state them, no matter how much pressure she faced to do otherwise. And she was always willing to make herself available, on a moment's notice, seven days a week, to help inform the policy process. That's not an exaggeration. In fact, Pam had been hoping to retire for several months already, but had been asked to stay on. My staff made sure to take full advantage of the extra time and kept her busy during these recent months.

She did all of this with unfailing good humor, a wry sense of the world, and a constant ability to be surprised but not thrown by what might turn up in legislation.

Pam played an invaluable role at CRS, and the Nation is better for it. This is not the time to list the number of questionable provisions that might have made it into law if not for Pam's analysis, but they are many. Not just the Congress, but the Nation, owes her a debt of gratitude. My staff and I will miss her greatly, but we will remember what we have learned from her. I wish her the best in retirement.

WEST END FIRE COMPANY #3 100TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor West End Fire Company #3 as its members and community celebrate the Company's 100th anniversary.

The West End Fire Company #3 of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania was established as a result of the disastrous Preseverance Knitting Mill fire of 1906. The community's leaders decided that they could no longer rely on outside help in time of emergency and needed to create their own company. On October 16, 1906, the West End Fire Company was formed.

This Company has transitioned from using a barn and horse-drawn fire equipment to its first official hose cart donated by the Phoenix Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company No. 1. The original members of the Company were able to pull together funds to purchase its first lot and, within 2 years, a fire house made from Chester County limestone was established on the corner of W. Bridge Street and Pennsylvania Ave. The Company continued to grow, adding an ambulance service in 1917, and finally incorporating female firefighters into service in 1985. The West End Fire Company #3 is to this day on cutting edge of safety by constantly adding new equipment, training new members, and providing Phoenixville with countless hours of community service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the West End Fire Company #3 of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania as they celebrate its 100th anniversary and in extending best wishes and heartfelt congratulations for 100 years of exemplary community service and volunteerism in protecting the lives and property of Phoenixville area citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT GREEK HOLIDAYS APPROACHING: CYPRIOT INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GREECE'S "OXI DAY"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Oct. 1, we will celebrate Cypriot Independence Day, and at the end of October, the 28th, we will remember Greece's "Oxi Day," commemorating the Greek decision to reject and resist occupation by the Axis Powers in 1940 during World War II. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and reflecting on these special days in Greek and Cypriot history.

Greek pride and bravery during the independence struggle in the 1820s forged the first successful war for self-determination in the modern era. This Greek example has fired the imagination of oppressed peoples ever since, including the Jews whose struggle for liberation resulted in the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Both Jews and Greeks over the years have had to supply in brains and pluck what they lacked in numbers.

Ever since throwing off the yoke of dictatorship in 1974, the Greek people have been one of Europe's amazing success stories. Greece entered the European Economic Community and never looked back. Today it is a model of growth and prosperity, and for more than three decades it has been a vibrant paragon of the gift it gave the world so long ago, democracy.

Since 1974 the little nation of Cyprus has suffered immensely. All the more remarkable then that Cyprus has taught the world the lesson of how to endure difficult circumstances with uncommon grace, dignity, strength, and commitment to humane values. Notwithstanding the horrors 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees suffered in 1974, Cyprus remained a democracy, and it rebuilt itself into the prosperous European Union state of today. Cyprus did not wallow in self-pity, as so many other nations have in similar circumstances. Cyprus did not flaunt its refugees or make them a spectacle for political propaganda purposes.

Former Foreign Minister Iacovou once told me a powerful anecdote in this regard. He said that, in the wake of the war, one Cypriot official wrote a memo to President Makarios urging that the refugees be kept in camps with only the most basic of amenities; this, he said, would create a weight on the conscience of the world and would boost the Greek Cypriot case in the court of international opinion.

But President Makarios was too wise for that. He wrote back that the worst thing Cypriots could do is to compromise the well-being of our own people for the sake of propaganda; that, he said, would only heap indignity upon their suffering and would be a derogation of the government's obligation to its own. In almost no time, Cypriot resourcefulness had achieved the rehabilitation of the refugees, and refugee neighborhoods were virtually indistinguishable from others, at least to others. Cypriots long for the healing of their nation, but they lead creative and productive lives every single day.

Thanks to Makarios's far-sightedness, Cyprus is today a dynamic and thriving European state, instead of a benighted third-world backwater. Would that the Palestinians had had a

Makarios of their own, instead of an Arafat. How different the Palestinian refugee situation might be today.

I stand second to nobody in my desire to see a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus crisis and to see the breathtaking island of Cyprus fully re-united under one government. I also deeply respect the efforts my good friend Kofi Annan made toward that end. But first and foremost I am a democrat—and I mean, in this case, with a lower-case "d". On April 24, 2004, the Greek Cypriot people democratically rose up—virtually with one voice—and rejected the Annan Plan. The international community must give that decision its fullest respect, and it must draw the obvious implications. When 75% of the people say "no," the fault lies with the drafters, not the people.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, I was honored with the Mordechai Frizis Award. This honor is named after the Jewish Greek hero from Chalkis who was the first high-ranking Greek military officer to give his life in defense of freedom against the Axis powers in 1940.

As the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to Congress, I saw first-hand the atrocities of that time. I lost my family, and my wife lost most of her family. Many others lost their lives and their families.

Over 55 million people died in World War II, including Mordechai Frizis. Had brave and selfless people like Frizis not fought against the evils of the Hitler regime and even been willing to die for our freedom, the outcome could have been even worse. We are much in the debt of the Morodohai Frizis's of the world.

The indigenous Jewish communities of Greece represent the longest continuous Jewish presence in Europe. Tragically, these communities were almost completely destroyed during the Holocaust. Greece lost at least 81 percent of its Jewish population during the Holocaust. 60,000 to 70,000 Greek Jews perished, most of them at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Only 8,000 to 10,000 Greek Jews survived. The number would have been even smaller, had it not been for the Greek people who were unwilling to cooperate with German plans for their deportation, and Greek resistance groups who battled the Axis occupiers to save Greece and the Jews living there.

The Frizis Award contains the soil of Greece, the U.S., and Israel. All three countries have deep meaning in my life, and the connection between the three is even more important. I thank the Greek, and of course the Cypriot, people for their great contributions not only to the world, but also to me personally, and to my wife. We and the entire world are better for these contributions.

The fact that Mordechai Frizis was the first Greek killed in the first successful battle against the fascists in World War II has an overpowering symbolism for the world and for me personally. The onslaught of the fascists was, in fact, an assault on the very values that Hellenic and Jewish civilizations represent, particularly the joint commitment of our cultures to ethics and honest rational discourse. As we face a war on terrorism today, once again Jewish and Hellenic values are at the barricades facing the barbarians and their totalitarian, violent ideology. Once again, it is our fierce commitment to what we know is right, our conviction that the barbarous cannot be allowed to win, and our courage that will see us through.

Mordechai Frizis was a man—a Greek, a Jew, and, from what I've read, a brilliant and

highly capable officer. But circumstances have endowed him with so much more, with near-mythical status. For Mordechai Frizis is a metaphor for all that Greeks and Jews have suffered, all that we have triumphed, all the values that we would not compromise and that we have insisted that the civilized world embrace.

That is why I was deeply honored and grateful to receive the Frizis award, and that is one reason why the Hellenic world has my enduring friendship and support.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating our Greek and Cypriot friends as we all remember the October 1st Cypriot Independence Day and Greece's "Oxi Day" on October 29.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA PRYOR

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable lady and tremendous public servant who hails from the quaint town of Condon, Oregon—Laura Pryor. For as long as I can remember, folks in Gilliam County have fondly referred to her as "Judge Pryor" as she is the chief steward of the county. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as we thank Judge Pryor for the countless contributions she has made to Gilliam County and the state of Oregon during 19 years of public service.

Born and raised in San Diego County, Judge Pryor rode her horse to school up until the second grade. Her childhood instilled in her a love for the rural countryside and rural way of life. Over 30 years ago, as her California community began to develop and be paved, Laura decided to move her four children to Oregon to avoid the urban sprawl in preference for a country setting where neighbors still offer their help without thinking about it. After briefly serving at the Oregon Department of Economic Development, she met a third-generation wheat farmer, married him and moved to his hometown of Condon, population 750. Within two years, the governor appointed her to fill a vacant seat on the county commission. Gilliam County is one of seven in Oregon where the top official is titled "county judge," and has responsibility over some judicial functions in addition to chairing the county commission. Laura has been ably steering Gilliam County from the judge's seat for 19 years.

Mr. Speaker, Gilliam County is in the heart of the Columbia Plateau where the economy is largely agrarian and the towns are quietly settled away from the main thoroughfares. With a population of approximately 1,900, the county encompasses nearly 1.6 square miles for every person. The county courthouse sits 250 miles away from the state capital in Salem, and nearly 3,000 miles from our nation's capital here in Washington, D.C. The region needs an effective and assertive voice to be heard, and Judge Pryor has delivered just that the past two decades.

It is through Laura's first-hand experiences in life and in representing rural Oregonians that she became such a strong advocate for farmers, ranchers, and small business owners

in small and rustic communities all across the West. Judge Pryor has worked tirelessly at the state and federal level to ensure attention to basic services such as education and health care in small towns. She's worked hard to maintain funding for county roads while promoting and encouraging economic development and commerce within the county.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the joy to work closely with Laura on numerous issues through the years, and know well the deep devotion she brings to her job each and every day in representing her fellow citizens in Gilliam County. It is this devotion that propelled a county effort to construct a Grain Quality Lab that has enabled area wheat growers to become more competitive in the global marketplace by enhancing quality and productivity. I was honored to help her in this endeavor, and will be visiting this topnotch facility next month. She has also been a strong proponent for renewable energy efforts and has worked to locate wind farms within the county for an additional tax base and source of revenue.

While it is very difficult to choose Judge Pryor's most memorable accomplishments, many would say it has been her successful effort to unite rural Oregon as one voice. Laura's leadership among her elected peers led to the establishment of the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, which joins government officials with residents from all across the vast territory of eastern Oregon in advocacy for rural issues. Her efforts ultimately led to the creation of the Office of Rural Policy, which was established by the state of Oregon to examine how state policies impact rural communities and act as an advisory branch to the state legislature and the governor.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks illustrate but a few of the tremendous accomplishments Judge Pryor has made during her distinguished career. I appreciate my colleagues joining me today in congratulating Judge Laura Pryor, an extraordinary lady and great American. I wish Laura and her husband, Earl, many years of continued happiness and success.

SAFETEA-LU AMENDMENTS ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD a letter from me to Speaker HASTERT regarding H.R. 5689, making technical corrections to SAFETEA-LU

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2006.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On June 28, 2006 the House passed H.R. 5689, making technical corrections to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA: LU). Yesterday, I introduced a bill that revises H.R. 5689 to incorporate changes that the Senate has asked us to include (H.R. 6233). These changes are necessary to ensure that all policies, programs and projects embodied in last year's long-term highway, transit, and highway safety authorization bill are implemented as intended by the Congress.

On September 14, 2006 the House passed H.R. 1000, instituting a new standing order of the House with regard to earmarks in authorization, appropriations, and tax measures. H.R. 1000 provides that, in order to consider a bill, the committee of jurisdiction must list all earmarks included in the bill and committee report along with the names of Members requesting the earmarks.

The bi-partisan bill that I introduced yesterday has not been reported by the Committee, so there is no report or list of earmarks. In reading the standing order, I concluded that the requirement that a list appear with this bill does not apply because the point of order described in section 1(c) of H.R. 1000 does not lie against a bill considered under suspension of the rules. I intend to move to suspend the rules of the House to pass H.R. 6233.

This bill does not increase the amount of funding that is designated for projects in SAFETEA: LU. There are changes to the descriptions of projects that are currently in SAFETEA: LU and there are some projects to replace projects in SAFETEA: LU that cannot be executed or implemented. In this correction bill, however, the total amount of funding designated for projects is identical to the amount that was designated in SAFETEA: LU.

Where this bill does provide funding (which is offset by a rescission of contract authority), the legislative sections providing such funding do not meet the earmarking definition, because no entity is named as the intended recipient of the funds. Where this bill does designate specific entities, or amend underlying project designations in SAFETEA: LU, it does not provide new funding. In addition this bill provides for no new outlays. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has scored the bill as reducing contract authority by \$4 million over five years.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman

IN HONOR OF JOHN SIMPSON

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Simpson on the occasion of his retirement from public service. John has worked as Director of Constituent Services and Senior Issues in the office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer since January 2006. Prior to this position, Mr. Simpson served as Director of Constituent Services for then Assemblymember Scott M. Stringer on the Upper West Side of Manhattan since 1993. John has assisted hundreds of constituents throughout Manhattan in landlord-tenant disputes, consumer issues, and every other problem in the spectrum.

Mr. Simpson came to work in government after 40 years in private industry at the Hallen Construction Corporation where he worked after serving our country. He served in the United States Air Force from 1951-1955 and was recognized officially for Superior Efficiency as the Head of the Morning Report Unit.

On the Upper West Side, Mr. Simpson is a leader in our community. He is an active member of the Church of the Blessed Sac-

rament on West 71st Street, where he is a co-leader in one of the soup kitchen teams. He is also a Vice Chairman of Community Services and member of the Board of Directors of the Ansonia Democratic Club. In 1999, the West Side Spirit named Mr. Simpson a "Hero of the West Side" for his work towards social justice.

For his commitment to his community and his City, it is my privilege to congratulate John Simpson on his distinguished record of service and his retirement.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 973, and the goals and the ideals of Financial Planning Month. I am proud to say that I am an original co-sponsor of this bill, and a member of the Financial Literacy Education Caucus.

I would first like to start by thanking my colleagues Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. Hinojosa for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be paying more attention to financial literacy in this country, and to making sure our constituents have the tools to be responsible consumers, good savers and savvy investors.

An estimated 40 percent of Americans say they know only some, a little or not much, about how to manage their finances and only 10 percent of college students have had financial education in high school.

And yet, everyday life requires an increasing knowledge of banking and finance. The average American family spends \$200,000 to raise a child to the age of 18, but the overall savings in this country barely breaks above 1 percent.

Prices for basic essentials—for health care, housing, schooling—are all skyrocketing. How are our families going to pay for it all if they aren't saving?

I am pleased that the Congress is voting to pass this financial planning awareness resolution at this time. Next week, I will be hosting the banking and finance portion of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Summit.

Financial literacy education is such an important topic that I have chosen to make it the focus of our summit. During our discussion, we will talk about "best practices" in financial literacy education.

It is essential that our citizens develop the tools of good financial management. These are the tools that will allow them to build wealth to enrich their families and communities.

They are also the tools that will protect them from fraud and exploitation, and help them be more responsible with their finances. This is not just important for individuals and their families, it is important to our nation as a whole. Less debt, more savings and more investment will be the foundation of our future economic success.

Once again I thank my colleagues for bringing H.R. 973 to the floor and urge its passage.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to S. 3930, the Military Commissions Act. I oppose this bill because I stand strong for our troops. I stand strong for the Constitution. I stand strong for the values that have made our country, the United States of America, the greatest country in the history of the world. I oppose this legislation because it is not becoming a nation that is strong in its values, confident of its future, and proud of its ancient heritage.

Mr. Speaker, let us be crystal clear: All Americans, and Democrats especially, want those responsible for 9/11 and other terrorist acts to be tried fairly and punished accordingly, and we want those convictions to be upheld by our courts.

Democrats want the President to have the best possible intelligence to prevent future terrorist attacks on the United States and its allies.

Democrats agreed with the President when he said “whether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice brought to the terrorists, justice will be done.” But Democrats understand that justice requires the Congress to establish a system for trying suspected terrorists that is fundamentally fair and consistent with the Geneva Conventions.

We should abide by the Geneva Conventions not out of some slavish devotion to international law or desire to coddle terrorists, but because adherence to the Geneva Conventions protects American troops and affirms American values.

S. 3930, the compromise before us, includes some improvements that I strongly support. For example, evidence obtained through torture can no longer be used against the accused. Similarly, the compromise bill provides that hearsay evidence can be challenged as unreliable.

Perhaps the most important improvement over the bill passed by the House is that accused terrorists will have the right to rebut all evidence offered by the prosecution. As is the case in the existing military justice system, classified evidence can be summarized, redacted, declassified, or otherwise made available to the accused without compromising sources or methods. This change to the bill goes a long way toward minimizing the chance that an accused may be convicted with secret evidence, a shameful practice favored by dictators and totalitarians but beneath the dignity of a great nation like the United States. As Senator JOHN MCCAIN said: “I think it’s important that we stand by 200 years of legal precedents concerning classified information because the defendant should have a right to know what evidence is being used.”

However, I am concerned that there is reason to believe that even with this compromise legislation, this system of military commissions may lead to endless litigation and get struck down by the courts. Then we would find ourselves back here again next year, or 5 years from now, trying to develop a system that can

finally bring the likes of Khalid Sheik Mohammed to justice. Why would we want to give terrorist detainees a “get out of jail free” card when we can avoid that by establishing military commissions that work. As currently written, the compromise bill has provisions that could lead to the reversal of a conviction.

Specifically, the bill contains a section that strips the federal courts of jurisdiction over habeas corpus petitions filed prior to the passage of the Detainee Treatment Act last December on behalf of detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

Mr. Speaker, nine former federal judges were so alarmed by this prospect that they were compelled to go public with their concerns: “Congress would thus be skating on this constitutional ice in depriving the federal courts of their power to hear the cases of Guantanamo detainees. . . . If one goal of the provision is to bring these cases to a speedy conclusion, we can assure from our considerable experience that eliminating habeas would be unconstitutional.”

Mr. Speaker, common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention requires that a military commission be a regularly constituted court affording all the necessary “judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.” Notwithstanding the provision in the House bill asserting that the military commissions established therein satisfy this standard, the fact is that many other nations will disagree. Simply saying so does not make it so. Moreover, they may well be right. Consider this, Mr. Speaker:

The compromise allows statements to be entered into evidence that were obtained through cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and lesser forms of coercion if the statement was obtained before passage of the Detainee Treatment Act last December.

To provide limited immunity to government agents involved in the CIA detention and interrogation program, the bill amends the War Crimes Act of 1996 to encompass only “grave breaches” of the Geneva Conventions. U.S. agents could not be tried under the War Crimes Act for past actions that degraded and humiliated detainees. The bill also limits any use of international law such as the Geneva Convention in interpreting the War Crimes Act.

Mr. Speaker, what is sometimes lost sight of in all the tumult and commotion is that the reason we have observed the Geneva Conventions since their adoption in 1949 is to protect members of our military. But as the Judge Advocate Generals pointed out, the compromise bill could place United States service members at risk by establishing an entirely new international standard that American troops could be subjected to if captured overseas. As Rear Admiral Bruce McDonald testified: “I go back to the reciprocity issue that we raised earlier, that I would be very concerned about other nations looking in on the United States and making a determination that, if it’s good enough for the United States, it’s good enough for us, and perhaps doing a lot of damage and harm internationally if one of our servicemen—or women—were taken and held as a detainee.”

What’s more, Mr. Speaker, the Geneva Conventions also protect those not in uniform—special forces personnel, diplomatic personnel, CIA agents, contractors, journalists, missionaries, relief workers and all other civilians. Changing our commitment to this treaty could endanger them, as well.

We can fix these deficiencies easily if we only have the will. What we should do is recommit the bill with instructions to add two important elements: (1) expedited constitutional review of the legislation; and (2) a requirement that these military commissions be reauthorized after 3 years.

Under expedited review, the constitutionality of the military commission system could be tested and determined quickly and early—before there are trials and convictions. And it would help provide stability and sure-footing for novel legislation that sets up a military commissions system unlike anything in American history.

Such an approach provides no additional rights to alleged terrorists. All it does is give the Supreme Court of the United States the ability to decide whether the military commissions system under this act is legal or not. It simply guarantees rapid judicial review.

Second, any system of military commissions to deal with detainees should be required to be reauthorized in 3 years. There are several good reasons for requiring Congress to reaffirm its judgment that such tribunals are necessary:

The Military Commissions Act of 2006 is a far-reaching measure that implements an entirely new kind of military justice system outside the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It has many complex provisions.

This legislation has been rushed to the floor. It has numerous provisions that are still poorly understood by many in Congress. By requiring a reauthorization in 3 years, we give Congress the ability to carefully review how this statute is working in the real world.

Providing for a reauthorization in 3 years is the best way to ensure congressional oversight. This reauthorization requirement will allow Congress to evaluate the effectiveness of the military commission provisions and decide whether they need any modifications in the future.

The reauthorization requirement in the Patriot Act has worked well—compelling Congress to review how various provisions in the Patriot Act have worked. As a result of congressional review, important modifications in the Patriot Act were signed into law in January 2006 when 16 provisions were reauthorized.

Mr. Speaker, even Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee admitted that the only way Congress was able to get information out of the Justice Department about the operation of the Patriot Act was that Congress had to reauthorize it—similarly, the only way Congress will be able to perform proper oversight on military commissions is this similar requirement that the program must be reauthorized. The reauthorization requirement is a critical tool in Congress’ ability to hold the administration accountable and review the military commission program’s performance.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot recall being asked to render final judgment on a matter of such scope, consequence, and moment in so short a period of time with such a sparsely developed legislative record. Now is not the time to rush blindly forward. Rather, now more than ever, it is important to take our time and make the right decision and establish the right policy. And the right policy is not to jettison the Geneva Convention.

We should not try to redefine the Geneva Convention. We should not do anything to alter our international obligations in an election-year rush. We cannot use international

law only when it is convenient and expedient. Our commitment to the Geneva Conventions gives us the moral high ground. This is true in both a long war against radical terrorists and a war for the hearts and minds of people from every religion and every nation. If we compromise our values, the terrorists win. As Senator McCANN has said: "This is not about who the terrorists are, this is about who we are."

The United States was one of the prime architects of the Geneva Conventions and other international laws. Our goal was to protect prisoners of war in all kinds of armed conflicts and insure that no one would be outside the law of war. Coming shortly after World War II, they knew the horrors of war but they still chose to limit the inhumanity of war by establishing minimum protections of due process and humane treatment, even for those accused of grave breaches of the Conventions.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has the finest military in the world. Our Nation also deserves to have the finest military justice system in the world. I oppose S. 3930 because it departs significantly from the tried and true procedures established in the UCMJ.

The United States has long served as the model for the world of a civilized society that effectively blends security and human liberty. When we refuse to observe the very international standards for the treatment of detainees, which we were so instrumental in developing, we provide encouragement for others around the world to do the same. Our British allies have demonstrated that these traditional principles can be adhered to without distinguishing the ability to provide for the security of its citizens. We must do likewise.

Mr. Speaker, the treatment and trials of detainees by the United States is too important not to do it right. In the words of Jonathan Winthrop, often quoted by President Reagan, "for we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us." Let us act worthy of ourselves and our Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to this legislation. But I do not stand alone. I stand with former Secretary of State Colin Powell. I stand with former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs John Vesey. I stand with the 9/11 Families Opposed to Administration Efforts to Undermine Geneva Conventions. I stand with the retired federal judges and admirals and Judge Advocate Generals.

The bill before us is not the right way to do justice by the American people. I therefore cannot support it and I urge my colleagues to reject it. We have time to come up with a better product and we should. The American people deserve no less. The eyes of the world are upon us. Let us act worthy of ourselves.

MELANIE LOMAX

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to announce the untimely passing of my good friend Melanie Lomax.

The City of Los Angeles, California, and our Nation have lost one of the strongest advocates for civil rights. Attorney Melanie Lomax was a dedicated leader and committed fighter for the rights of the poor and voiceless.

When Melanie witnessed injustice towards others she spoke out vociferously regardless of who was involved. She was especially determined to hold the LAPD accountable for acts of excessive force and brutality while serving as President of the Los Angeles Police Commission.

Bright, articulate and focused, Melanie, goddaughter to former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, never wavered in her mission to help others. She felt deeply and emotionally about defenseless people and often found herself isolated while fighting unpopular causes. But she would always forge ahead in the cause of justice.

Melanie's untimely death is a substantial loss to all of us. It is hard to imagine anyone else stepping into the void she leaves with the same gusto, vigor, and fervor. She will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise to congratulate one of our key democratic allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—as it prepares to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of its independence on October 18.

Azerbaijan is one of the United States' leading allies on the war against terrorism, with the distinction of being among the first to offer our nation unconditional support; providing airspace and airport use for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. And, Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq. Though bilateral cooperation on terrorism issues between the United States and Azerbaijan predates September 11, 2001, our relations were strengthened following their immediate, and heretofore unwavering, support against the war on terrorism.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including the UN, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and NATO's Partnership for Peace program. Regionally, Azerbaijan works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. GUAM was created as a political, economic and strategic alliance in order to collaboratively address common risks and threats and thereby strengthen the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a standout nation among the South Caucasus countries, with a population of 8 million people and an ambitious economic policy. During the last decade Azerbaijan has been implementing structural reforms and adopting numerous laws and legislative changes, paving the way toward further integration with the global economy. The nation has been moving toward a more diversified economy to achieve sustainable growth and to meet the social and development needs of its population.

Diversification of the economy and ensuring the development of non-oil sectors is a priority

for the government. This policy includes implementation of projects and programs that create favorable conditions for development of private entrepreneurship, attracting investment in non-oil sectors, creating new jobs, evaluation of potential industries and markets and development of infrastructure in the regions.

The last 15 years of independence has not been without challenges, but the country has grown stronger with each new challenge it faces. Let us today commend the Republic of Azerbaijan on their forthcoming 15th Anniversary celebrations. And, let us also commit ourselves to their continued development as a global partner against the terrorism, toward economic growth, diversification of energy resources, and strengthening stability and security in the region.

A BLUEPRINT FOR LEAVING IRAQ NOW

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, former Senator George McGovern and William R. Polk, founder and director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago, have co-authored a new book, *Out of Iraq*, that is being released in October 2006 by Simon & Schuster.

I would like to share with my colleagues an excerpt published in the October edition of Harper's Magazine.

THE WAY OUT OF WAR

(By George S. McGovern and William R. Polk)

A BLUEPRINT FOR LEAVING IRAQ NOW

Staying in Iraq not an option. Many Americans who were among the most eager to invade Iraq now urge that we find a way out. These Americans include not only civilian "strategists" and other "hawks" but also senior military commanders and, perhaps most fervently, combat soldiers. Even some of those Iraqis regarded by our senior officials as the most pro-American are determined now to see American military personnel leave their country. Polls show that as few as 2 percent of Iraqis consider Americans to be liberators. This is the reality of the situation in Iraq. We must acknowledge the Iraqis' right to ask us to leave, and we should set a firm date by which to do so.

We suggest that phased withdrawal should begin on or before December 31, 2006, with the promise to make every effort to complete it by June 30, 2007.

Withdrawal is not only a political imperative but a strategic requirement. As many retired American military officers now admit, Iraq has become, since the invasion, the primary recruiting and training ground for terrorists. The longer American troops remain in Iraq, the more recruits will flood the ranks of those who oppose America not only in Iraq but elsewhere.

Withdrawal will not be without financial costs, which are unavoidable and will have to be paid sooner or later. But the decision to withdraw at least does not call for additional expenditures. On the contrary, it will effect massive savings. Current U.S. expenditures run at approximately \$246 million each day, or more than \$10 million an hour, with costs rising steadily each year. Although its figures do not include all expenditures, the Congressional Research Service listed direct

costs at \$77.3 billion in 2004, \$87.3 billion in 2005, and \$100.4 billion in fiscal year 2006. Even if troop withdrawals begin this year, total costs (including those in Afghanistan) are thought likely to rise by \$371 billion during the withdrawal period. Economist Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, a former assistant secretary of commerce, have estimated that staying in Iraq another four years will cost us at least \$1 trillion.

Let us be clear: there will be some damage. This is inevitable no matter what we do. At the end of every insurgency we have studied, there was a certain amount of chaos as the participants sought to establish a new civic order. This predictable turmoil has given rise to the argument, still being put forward by die-hard hawks, that Americans must, in President Bush's phrase, "stay the course." The argument is false. When a driver is on the wrong road and headed for an abyss, it is a bad idea to "stay the course." A nation afflicted with a failing and costly policy is not well served by those calling for more of the same, and it is a poor idea to think that we can accomplish in the future what we are failing to accomplish in the present. We are as powerless to prevent the turmoil that will ensue when we withdraw as we have been to stop the insurgency. But we will have removed a major cause of the insurgency once we have withdrawn. Moreover, there are ways in which we can be helpful to the Iraqis—and protect our own interests—by ameliorating the underlying conditions and smoothing the edges of conflict. The first of these would be a "bridging" effort between the occupation and complete independence.

To this end, we think that the Iraqi government would be wise to request the temporary services of an international stabilization force to police the country during and immediately after the period of American withdrawal. Such a force should itself have a firm date fixed for its removal. Our estimate is that Iraq would need this force for no more than two years after the American withdrawal is complete. During this period, the force could be slowly but steadily cut back in both personnel and deployment. Its purpose would be limited to activities aimed at enhancing public security. Consequently, the armament of this police force should be restricted. It would have no need for tanks or artillery or offensive aircraft but only light equipment. It would not attempt, as have American troops, to battle the insurgents. Indeed, after the withdrawal of American troops, as well as British regular troops and mercenary forces, the insurgency, which was aimed at achieving that objective, would almost immediately begin to lose public support. Insurgent gunmen would either put down their weapons or become publicly identified as outlaws.

We imagine that the Iraqi government, and the Iraqi people, would find the composition of such a force most acceptable if it were drawn from Arab or Muslim countries. Specifically, it should be possible under the aegis of the United Nations to obtain, say, five contingents of 3,000 men each from Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. Jordan and Syria might also be asked to contribute personnel. If additional troops were required, or if any of these governments were deemed unacceptable to Iraq or unwilling to serve, application could be made to such Muslim countries as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. Other countries might be included if the Iraqi government so wished.

It would benefit both Iraq and the United States if we were to pay for this force. Assuming that a ballpark figure would be \$500 per man per day, and that 15,000 men would be required for two years, the overall cost would be \$5.5 billion. That is approximately 3 percent of what it would cost to continue

the war, with American troops, for the next two years. Not only would this represent a great monetary saving to us but it would spare countless American lives and would give Iraq the breathing space it needs to recover from the trauma of the occupation in a way that does not violate national and religious sensibilities.

The American subvention should be paid directly to the Iraqi government, which would then "hire" the police services it requires from other governments. The vast amount of equipment that the American military now has in Iraq, particularly transport and communications and light arms, should be turned over to this new multinational force rather than shipped home or destroyed.

As the insurgency loses its national justification, other dangers will confront Iraq. One of these is "warlordism," as we have seen in Afghanistan, and other forms of large-scale crime. Some of this will almost certainly continue. But the breakdown of public order will never be remedied by American forces; it can only be addressed by a national police force willing to work with neighborhood, village, and tribal home guards. Ethnic and regional political divisions in Iraq have been exacerbated by the occupation, and they are unlikely to disappear once the occupation is over. They are now so bitter as to preclude a unified organization, at least for the time being. It is therefore paramount that the national police force involve local leaders, so as to ensure that the home guards operate only within their own territory and with appropriate action. In part, this is why Iraq needs a "cooling off" period, with multinational security assistance, after the American withdrawal.

While the temporary international police force completes its work, the creation of a permanent national police force is, and must be, an Iraqi task. American interference would be, and has been, counterproductive. And it will take time. The creation and solidification of an Iraqi national police force will probably require, at a rough estimate, four to five years to become fully effective. We suggest that the American withdrawal package should include provision of \$1 billion to help the Iraqi government create, train, and equip such a force, which is roughly the cost of four days of the present American occupation.

Neighborhood, village, and tribal home guards, which are found throughout Iraq, of course constitute a double-edged sword. Inevitably, they mirror the ethnic, religious, and political communities from which they are drawn.

Insofar as they are restricted each to its own community, and are carefully monitored by a relatively open and benign government, they will enhance security; allowed to move outside their home areas, they will menace public order. Only a central government police and respected community leaders can possibly hope to control these militias. America has no useful role to play in these affairs, as experience has made perfectly clear.

It is not in the interests of Iraq to encourage the growth and heavy armament of a reconstituted Iraqi army. The civilian government of Iraq should be, and hopefully is, aware that previous Iraqi armies have frequently acted against Iraqi civic institutions. That is, Iraqi armies have not been a source of defense but of disruption. We cannot prevent the reconstitution of an Iraqi army, but we should not, as we are currently doing, actually encourage this at a cost of billions to the American taxpayer. If at all possible, we should encourage Iraq to transfer what soldiers it has already recruited for its army into a national reconstruction

corps modeled on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The United States could assist in the creation and training of just such a reconstruction corps, which would undertake the rebuilding of infrastructure damaged by the war, with an allocation of, say, \$500 million, or roughly the cost of two days of the current occupation.

Withdrawal of American forces must include immediate cessation of work on U.S. military bases. Nearly half of the more than 100 bases have already been closed down and turned over, at least formally, to the Iraqi government, but as many as fourteen "enduring" bases for American troops in Iraq are under construction. The largest five are already massive, amounting to virtual cities. The Balad Air Base, forty miles north of Baghdad, has a miniature golf course, 2 PXs, a Pizza Hut, a Burger King, and a jail. Another, under construction at al-Asad, covers more than thirteen square miles. Although Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated on December 23, 2005, that "at the moment there are no plans for permanent bases. . . . It is a subject that has not even been discussed with the Iraqi government," his remarks are belied by action on the ground, where bases are growing in size and being given aspects of permanency. The most critical of these are remote military bases. They should be stood down rapidly. Closing these bases is doubly important: for America, they are expensive and already redundant; for Iraqis, they both symbolize and personify a hated occupation. With them in place, no Iraqi government will ever feel truly independent. It is virtually certain that absent a deactivation of U.S. military bases, the insurgency will continue. The enormous American base at Baghdad International Airport, ironically named "Camp Victory," should be the last of the military bases to be closed, as it will be useful in the process of disengagement.

We should of course withdraw from the Green Zone, our vast, sprawling complex in the center of Baghdad. The United States has already spent or is currently spending \$1.8 billion on its headquarters there, which contains, or will contain, some 600 housing units, a Marine barracks, and more than a dozen other buildings, as well as its own electrical, water, and sewage systems. The Green Zone should be turned over to the Iraqi government no later than December 31, 2007. By this time, the U.S. should have bought, or rented, or built a "normal" embassy for a considerably reduced complement of personnel. Symbolically, it would be beneficial for the new building not to be in the Green Zone. Assuming that a reasonable part of the Green Zone's cost can be saved, there should be no additional cost to create a new American embassy for an appropriate number of not more than 500 American officials, as opposed to the 1,000 or so Americans who today staff the Green Zone. Insofar as is practical, the new building should not be designed as though it were a beleaguered fortress in enemy territory.

Withdrawal from these bases, and an end to further construction, should save American taxpayers billions of dollars over the coming two years. This is quite apart from the cost of the troops they would house. America should immediately release all prisoners of war and close its detention centers.

Mercenaries, euphemistically known as "Personal Security Detail," are now provided by an industry of more than thirty "security" firms, comprising at least 25,000 armed men. These constitute a force larger than the British troop contingent in the "Coalition of the Willing" and operate outside the direct control—and with little interference from the military justice systems—of the British and American armies. They

are, literally, the “loose cannons” of the Iraq war. They should be withdrawn rapidly and completely, as the Iraqis regard them as the very symbol of the occupation. Since the U.S. pays for them either directly or indirectly, all we need to do is stop payment.

Much work will be necessary to dig up and destroy land mines and other unexploded ordnance and, where possible, to clean up the depleted uranium used in artillery shells. These are dangerous tasks that require professional training, but they should be turned over wherever possible to Iraqi contractors. These contractors would employ Iraqi labor, which would help jump-start a troubled economy and be of immediate benefit to the millions of Iraqis who are now out of work. The United Nations has gained considerable knowledge about de-mining—from the Balkans, Afghanistan, and elsewhere—that might be shared with the Iraqis. Although cleanup will be costly, we cannot afford to leave this dangerous waste behind. One day’s wartime expenditure, roughly \$250 million, would pay for surveys of the damage and the development of a plan to deal with it. Once the extent of the problem is determined, a fund should be established to eradicate the danger completely.

These elements of the “withdrawal package” may be regarded as basic. Without them, Iraqi society will have little chance of recovering economically or governing itself with any effectiveness. Without them, American interests in the Middle East, and indeed throughout the world, will be severely jeopardized. These measures are, we repeat, inexpensive and represent an enormous savings over the cost of the current war effort. Building on them are further actions that would also help Iraq become a safe and habitable environment. To these “second tier” policies we now turn.

Property damage incurred during the invasion and occupation has been extreme. The World Bank has estimated that at least \$25 billion will be required to repair the Iraqi infrastructure alone—this is quite apart from the damage done to private property. The reconstruction can be, and should be, done by Iraqis, as this would greatly benefit the Iraqi economy, but the United States will need to make a generous contribution to the effort if it is to be a success. Some of this aid should be in the form of grants; the remainder can be in the form of loans. Funds should be paid directly to the Iraqi government, as it would be sound policy to increase the power and public acceptance of that government once American troops withdraw. The Iraqis will probably regard such grants or loans as reparations; some of the money will probably be misspent or siphoned off by cliques within the government. It would therefore benefit the Iraqi people if some form of oversight could be exercised over the funds, but this would tend to undercut the legitimacy and authority of their government, which itself will probably be reconstituted during or shortly after the American occupation ends. Proper use of aid funds has been a problem everywhere: America’s own record during the occupation has been reprehensible, with massive waste, incompetence, and outright dishonesty now being investigated for criminal prosecution. No fledgling Iraqi government is likely to do better, but if reconstruction funds are portioned out to village, town, and city councils, the enhancement of such groups will go far toward the avowed American aim of strengthening democracy, given that Iraqis at the “grass roots” level would be taking charge of their own affairs.

We suggest that the United States allocate for the planning and organization of the reconstruction the sum of \$1 billion, or roughly four days of current wartime expenditure; After a planning survey is completed, the

American government will need to determine, in consultation with the Iraqi government (and presumably with the British government, our only true “partner” in the occupation), what it is willing to pay for reconstruction. We urge that the compensation be generous, as generosity will go a long way toward repairing the damage to the American reputation caused by this war.

Nearly as important as the rebuilding of damaged buildings and other infrastructure is the demolition of the ugly monuments of warfare. Work should be undertaken as soon as is feasible to dismantle and dispose of the miles of concrete blast walls and wire barriers erected around present American installations. Although the Iraqi people can probably be counted on to raze certain relics of the occupation on their own, we should nonetheless, in good faith, assist in this process. A mere two days’ worth of the current war effort, \$500 million, would employ a good many Iraqi demolition workers.

Another residue of war and occupation has been the intrusion of military facilities on Iraqi cultural sites. Some American facilities have done enormous and irreparable damage. Astonishingly, one American camp was built on top of the Babylon archaeological site, where American troops flattened and compressed ancient ruins in order to create a helicopter pad and fueling stations. Soldiers filled sandbags with archaeological fragments and dug trenches through unexcavated areas while tanks crushed 2,600-year-old pavements. Babylon was not the only casualty. The 5,000-year-old site at Kish was also horribly damaged. We need to understand that Iraq, being a seedbed of Western civilization, is a virtual museum. It is hard to put a spade into the earth there without disturbing a part of our shared cultural heritage. We suggest that America set up a fund of, say, \$750 million, or three days’ cost of the war, to be administered by an ad-hoc committee drawn from the Iraqi National Museum of Antiquities or the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, the British Museum, the World Monuments Fund, the Smithsonian Institution, and what is perhaps America’s most prestigious archaeological organization, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, to assist in the restoration of sites American troops have damaged. We should not wish to go down in history as yet another barbarian invader of the land long referred to as the cradle of civilization.

Independent accounting of Iraqi funds is urgently required. The United Nations handed over to the American-run Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) billions of dollars generated by the sale of Iraq petroleum with the understanding that these monies would be used to the benefit of the Iraqi people and would be accounted for by an independent auditor. The CPA delayed this audit month after month, and it was still not completed by the time the CPA ceased to exist. Any funds misused or misappropriated by U.S. officials should be repaid to the proper Iraqi authority. What that amount is we cannot predict at this time.

Although the funds turned over to the CPA by the U.N. constitute the largest amount in dispute, that is by no means the only case of possible misappropriation. Among several others reported, perhaps the most damaging to Iraq has been a project allocated to Halliburton’s subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root as part of a \$2.4 billion no-bid contract awarded in 2003. The \$75.7 million project was meant to repair the junction of some fifteen pipelines linking the oil fields with terminals. Engineering studies indicated that as conceived the project was likely to fail, but KBR forged ahead and, allegedly, withheld news of the failure from the Iraqi Ministry of

Petroleum until it had either spent or received all the money. Despite this, KBR was actually awarded a bonus by the Army Corps of Engineers, even though Defense Department auditors had found more than \$200 million of KBR’s charges to be questionable. There would seem to be more greed than prudence in the repeated awards to Halliburton in the run-up to the war, during the war itself, and in contracts to repair the war damages. Especially given that Vice President Dick Cheney was formerly CEO of Halliburton, the U.S. should make every effort to investigate this wrongdoing, prosecute and correct it, and depart from Iraq with clean hands.

The United States should not object to the Iraqi government voiding all contracts entered into for the exploration, development, and marketing of oil during the American occupation. These contracts clearly should be renegotiated or thrown open to competitive international bids. The Iraqi government and public believe that because Iraqi oil has been sold at a discount to American companies, and because long-term “production-sharing agreements” are highly favorable to the concessionaires, an unfair advantage has been taken. Indeed, the form of concession set up at the urging of the CPA’s consultants has been estimated to deprive Iraq of as much as \$194 billion in revenues. To most Iraqis, and indeed to many foreigners, the move to turn over Iraq’s oil reserves to American and British companies surely confirms that the real purpose of the invasion was to secure, for American use and profit, Iraq’s lightweight and inexpensively produced oil.

It is to the long-term advantage of both Iraq and the United States, therefore, that all future dealings in oil, which, after all, is the single most important Iraqi national asset, be transparent and fair. Only then can the industry be reconstituted and allowed to run smoothly; only then will Iraq be able to contribute to its own well-being and to the world’s energy needs. Once the attempt to create American-controlled monopolies is abandoned, we believe it should be possible for investment, even American investment, to take place in a rapid and orderly manner. We do not, then, anticipate a net cost connected with this reform.

Providing reparations to Iraqi civilians for lives and property lost is a necessity. The British have already begun to do so in the zone they occupy. According to Martin Hemming of the Ministry of Defence, British policy “has, from the outset of operations in Iraq, been to recognize the duty to provide compensation to Iraqis where this is required by the law. . . . [B]etween June 2003 and 31 July 2006, 2,327 claims have been registered” Although there is no precise legal precedent from past wars that would require America to act accordingly, American forces in Iraq have now provided one: individual military units are authorized to make “condolence payments” of up to \$2,500. The United States could, and should, do even more to compensate Iraqi victims or their heirs. Such an action might be compared to the Marshall Plan, which so powerfully redounded to America’s benefit throughout the world after the end of the Second World War. As we go forward, the following points should be considered.

The number of civilians killed or wounded during the invasion and occupation, particularly in the sieges of Fallujah, Tal Afar, and Najaf, is unknown. Estimates run from 30,000 to well over 100,000 killed, with many more wounded or incapacitated. Assuming the number of unjustified deaths to be 50,000, and the compensation per person to be \$10,000, our outlay would run to only \$500 million, or two days’ cost of the war. The number seriously wounded or incapacitated might easily

be 100,000. Taking the same figure as for death benefits, the total cost would be \$1 billion, or four days' cost of the war. The dominant voice in this process should be that of Iraq itself, but in supplying the funds the United States could reasonably insist on the creation of a quasi-independent body, composed of both Iraqis and respected foreigners, perhaps operating under the umbrella of an internationally recognized organization such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or the World Health Organization, to assess and distribute compensation.

In the meantime, a respected international body should be appointed to process the claims of, and pay compensation to, those Iraqis who have been tortured (as defined by the Geneva Conventions) or who have suffered long-term imprisonment. The Department of Defense admits that approximately 3,200 people have been held for longer than a year, and more than 700 for longer than two years, most of them without charge, a clear violation of the treasured American right of habeas corpus. The number actually subjected to torture remains unknown, but it is presumed to include a significant portion of those incarcerated. Unfortunately, there exists no consensus, legal or otherwise, on how victims of state-sponsored torture should be compensated, and so it is not currently possible to estimate the cost of such a program. Given that this is uncharted legal territory, we should probably explore it morally and politically to find a measure of justifiable compensation. The very act of assessing damages—perhaps somewhat along the lines of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission—would, in and of itself, be a part of the healing process.

America should also offer—not directly but through suitable international or nongovernmental organizations—a number of further financial inducements to Iraq's recovery. These might include fellowships for the training of lawyers, judges, journalists, social workers, and other civil-affairs workers. Two days' cost of the current war, or \$500 million, would ably fund such an effort.

In addition, assistance to "grass roots" organizations and professional societies could help encourage the return to Iraq of the thousands of skilled men and women who left in the years following the first Gulf war. Relocation allowance and supplementary pay might be administered by the Iraqi engineers' union. Medical practitioners might receive grants through the medical association. Teachers might be courted by the teachers' union or the Ministry of Education. Assuming that some 10,000 skilled workers could be enticed to return for, say, an average of \$50,000, this would represent a cost to the American taxpayer of \$500 million. Roughly two days' cost of the war would be a very small price to pay to restore the health and vigor of Iraqi society and to improve America's reputation throughout the world.

We should also encourage the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and similarly established and proven nongovernmental organizations to help with the rebirth of an Iraqi public-health system by rebuilding hospitals and clinics. One reason for turning to respected international organizations to supervise this program is that when the CPA undertook the task, funds were squandered.

At last count, some seventeen years ago Iraq possessed an impressive health-care infrastructure: 1,055 health centers, 58 health centers with beds, 135 general hospitals, and 52 specialized hospitals. Many of these facilities were badly damaged by a decade of sanctions and by the recent warfare and looting. If we assume that fully half of Iraq's hospitals and health centers need to be rebuilt,

the overall outlay can be estimated at \$250 million, one day's cost of the current war. Equipment might cost a further \$170 million. These figures, based on a study prepared for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals project, throw into sharp relief the disappointing results of the American "effort": one American firm, Parsons Corporation, has been investigated for having taken a generous "cost plus" contract to rebuild 142 clinics at a cost of \$200 million; although the company put in for and collected all the money, only twenty clinics were built.

Estimating the cost of staffing these facilities is more complicated. Theoretically, Iraq has a highly professional, well-trained, reasonably large corps of health workers at all levels. Yet many of these people left the country in the years following the 1991 war. The Iraqi Health Ministry has estimated that about 3,000 registered doctors left Iraq during the first two years of the American occupation. Hopefully these workers will return to Iraq once the occupation and the insurgency have ended, but even if they do so, younger replacements for them need to be trained. The UNMDG study suggests that the training period for specialists is about eight years; for general practitioners, five years; and for various technicians and support personnel, three years. We suggest that a training program for a select number, say 200 general practitioners and 100 advanced specialists, be carried out under the auspices of the World Health Organization or Médecins Sans Frontières, especially given that some of this training will have to be done in Europe or America. Even if the estimated cost of building and equipping hospitals turned out to be five times too low, even if the American government had to cover the bulk of salaries and operating costs for the next four years, and even if additional hospitals had to be built to care for Iraqis wounded or made ill by the invasion and occupation, the total cost would still be under \$5 billion. It is sobering to think that the maximum cost of rebuilding Iraq's public-health system would amount to less than what we spend on the occupation every twenty days.

The monetary cost of the basic set of programs outline roughly \$7.25 billion. The cost of the "second tier" programs cannot be as accurately forecast, but the planning and implementation of these is likely to cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$10 billion. Seventeen and a quarter billion dollars is a lot of money, but assuming that these programs cut short the American occupation by only two years, they would save us at least \$200 billion. Much more valuable, though, are the savings to be measured in what otherwise are likely to be large numbers of shattered bodies and lost lives. Even if our estimates are unduly optimistic, and the actual costs turn out to be far higher, the course of action we recommend would be perhaps the best investment ever made by our country.

Finally, we as a nation should not forget the young Americans who fought this war, often for meager pay and with inadequate equipment. As of this writing, more than 2,600 of our soldiers have been killed, and a far greater number wounded or crippled. It is only proper that we be generous to those who return, and to the families of those who will not.

That said, we should find a way to express our condolences for the large number of Iraqis incarcerated, tortured, incapacitated, or killed in recent years. This may seem a difficult gesture to many Americans. It may strike them as weak, or as a slur on our patriotism. Americans do not like to admit that they have done wrong. We take comfort in the notion that whatever the mistakes of the war and occupation, we have done Iraq a great service by ridding it of Saddam Hus-

sein's dictatorship. Perhaps we have, but in the process many people's lives have been disrupted, damaged, or senselessly ended. A simple gesture of conciliation would go a long way toward shifting our relationship with Iraq from one of occupation to one of friendship. It would be a gesture without cost but of immense and everlasting value—and would do more to assuage the sense of hurt in the world than all of the actions above.

HONORING HOWARD HANFT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine who has dedicated significant personal time towards helping mentor and lead young people in his community. Howard Hanft, or "Howie" as he is known locally, has led the West Branch Little League for 21 years.

As President of the West Branch Little League, Howie has helped grow the league tremendously. Today, the league serves 588 Ogemaw County youngsters who play on 46 teams. Under his leadership, the league has built five new fields, bringing the total number of fields to seven. Five of those fields are under lights and groomed with irrigation, which speaks to the sophisticated care the league puts into its fields for the players.

Howie's efforts to build a world class little league program have yielded big results for the West Branch Little League. In 2005, West Branch sent four teams to the state championship finals—two teams of girls and two teams of boys. The boys' senior league clinched the state title and finished second in the national regional playoffs, one game away from the Little League World Series. This year, the same team won the state championship and the regional playoffs qualifying them to play in the Big League World Series in Easley, South Carolina. At the end of the World Series, Howie's team was ranked 11th in the world, truly an astounding accomplishment. What is equally impressive is that this group of young men won the state championship in a division that generally has 17–18-year-olds. Howie's team is comprised of 16–17-year-olds.

I congratulate Howie and his players: Pete Jackson, Troy Lambert, Rickie Dodridge, Curtis Lyons, Kyle Wangler, Matt Faiman, Calvin Page, Aaron Kihn, Ryan Bragg, Robbie Goulette, Kyle Weber, Anthony Betancourt and Mike Noffsinger. I also salute the team's manager Mark Weber and coaches Mark Dodridge, Sr., Mark Dodridge, Jr. and Mike Noffsinger, Sr.

However, Howie's record of success goes beyond wins and losses. Thanks to the superior facilities that were built under Howie's leadership, West Branch had the honor of hosting the minor-league state tournament for 9- and 10-year-old boys last year. In hosting the tournament, West Branch organized major parties and giant picnics for teams visiting across the state. Some have described the celebrations that Howie organizes in conjunction with tournaments as a "carnival." As several local residents in West Branch have noted, Howie's hard work benefits not only the local little league players, but also the West Branch area economy.

Howie's deep connection to the sport of baseball goes back to his childhood. When he was only 8 years old, Howie began playing little league baseball. During high school, Howie umpired younger kids while also working as a game announcer. Howie took a break during his freshman year of college from coaching and umpiring. However, every year after that, he returned to coach and assist whenever he was needed.

In 1988, Howie became President of the West Branch Little League. The West Branch community has benefited from his leadership, commitment and passion for baseball ever since. Running a baseball program with nearly 600 participants is both labor-intensive and expensive. Howie has therefore had to spend a great deal of time raising money and recruiting volunteers. All of the money and manpower that Howie is able to marshal comes from the local community. In many ways, Howie's efforts have helped rally the West Branch community together, engaging local citizens and local businesses to support the town's baseball tradition.

Mr. Speaker, little league baseball is a uniquely American tradition. For over 100 years, American towns, villages and communities have come together during the summer to watch young people partake in America's pastime. Howard Hanft has helped continue and strengthen that great tradition in part of my district. I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and thanking him for these accomplishments.

THE KIKA DE LA GARZA
COURTHOUSE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague from Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, for his work in getting the McAllen courthouse named for my dear friend, our former colleague, Kika de la Garza.

It is fitting that after a long and distinguished career as a lawmaker, the McAllen courthouse, which dispenses justice in the Rio Grande Valley, will bear the name of the former Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Kika de la Garza was instrumental in passing many of the laws under which many people will be judged.

The former Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee is a son of South Texas and a man who understood completely the unique culture of the Rio Grande Valley and the culture of Capitol Hill.

While his expertise was in agriculture, Chairman de la Garza made a legendary lesson of how food was integral to our military warfighters. He famously asked the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee so long ago, "How long can a submarine stay under water?"

After listening to a long and detailed discourse on the capabilities of submarines from the Armed Services Committee Chairman, Chairman de la Garza responded, "That's not right, sir. A sub can only stay under water as long as the food supply lasts."

Kika de la Garza is a giant in the history of the United States Congress, of South Texas

and in the hearts of all of those of us who know and love him. It is a fitting tribute that this courthouse will bear the name of Kika de la Garza.

BATTLE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG
TRADE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you my pride and deep gratitude for a group of people who have truly made a difference in our battle against the illegal drug trade that threatens the very fabric of American society.

As you know, Mexican drug cartels have recently been operating large scale marijuana growing and processing operations in our National Forests, National Parks, and Bureau of Land Management lands. Growing marijuana and conducting illegal drug activities on our public lands is nothing new. What is new is the extremely large scale of the operations, the heavily armed growers, and the aggressive resistance toward law enforcement. With assault rifles and booby traps, these criminals, the majority of whom are in this country illegally, are fearlessly intent on protecting a collective enterprise that grosses billions of dollars each year. They have made parts of our public lands, traditionally used for recreation and hunting, unsafe to visit.

Because of sophisticated growing techniques which employ drip irrigation, chemical fertilizers, and lethal pesticide compounds, these operations inflict serious damage on the environment. Furthermore, these operations are intertwined with the trade and manufacture of other illegal drugs such as meth, heroin, cocaine, and ecstasy.

Mr. Speaker, these criminal operations are attracted to public lands not only because of their remote locations, but also because our federal land agencies have very small law enforcement forces. They were never designed to combat crime on such a massive scale. Who then can draw a powerful line in the sand and both force the invading cartels away from our public lands and protect the public from them and the scourge of drugs they produce?

In my district, this challenge has been taken up by a coalition of local law enforcement professionals who have voluntarily formed task forces large enough to disrupt these enormous operations and send a message that such criminal activity will not be tolerated. They have let the cartels know with certainty that they will pay dearly if they operate in our back yard.

To challenge such a formidable criminal enterprise, it takes intelligence, bravery, and an unselfish sense of purpose. I have witnessed all of those characteristics displayed in exemplary fashion in southern Oregon and northern California. In the past few weeks, a task force of over 175 people and 19 agencies, led by Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters and Siskiyou County Sheriff Rick Riggins, dealt a telling blow on the cartels' illicit activities on our public lands.

In a series of well-timed and meticulously executed raids on both sides of the Oregon/California border, this amazing group of dedi-

cated individuals eradicated 27.6 tons of marijuana from our public lands in a matter of a few days! They removed well over \$320,000,000 from the drug trade and forcefully sent the message to the cartels that they will not be able to do business as usual in southern Oregon and northern California.

Mr. Speaker, it is not hard to imagine the work and commitment involved in assembling so many able and dedicated people from municipal, county, state, and federal agencies. With no single law enforcement agency large enough to handle the task, these dedicated law enforcement professionals and volunteers formed to combat a common enemy that was dealing massive amounts of drugs and creating mayhem on our forest landscape. Driven by sense of duty, respect for the law, and a commitment to protect the public, they got the job done.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud and appreciative of what these outstanding people have done for us. I know that all of my colleagues join me today in saluting their stellar performance. We are honored to extend to them the gratitude of our entire nation.

Please join me in congratulating these agencies and individuals for a job well done. We owe them so much for their sacrifice and dedication.

Jackson County Sheriffs Office, Jackson County Search and Rescue, Jackson County Narcotics Enforcement Team (JACNET), Siskiyou County Sheriffs Office S.W.A.T., Douglas County Sheriffs Office D.I.N.T., Klamath Falls Police Department S.W.A.T., Josephine County Sheriffs Office, Shady Cove Police Department, Bureau of Land Management, Law Enforcement Section, United States Forest Service, Law Enforcement Section, Oregon State Police, SWAT and MRT Units, US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.), Drug Enforcement Agency, Medford Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, S.W.A.T., Portland Police Bureau, S.W.A.T., Jackson County Fire District #3, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

PERRY PARKS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of my very good friend and colleague, Perry Conrade Parks, Jr.

Perry Parks was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1908, to Professors Perry C. Parks, Sr. and Sophia Parker Parks on the campus of Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. The family moved to East Chicago, Indiana, where Perry attended school.

Perry Parks later attended Tennessee State College and transferred to Wiley College in Marshall, Texas where he lettered in four sports (football, basketball, track, and tennis) and graduated in 1934.

After graduation he joined his family in Los Angeles and took a job as a social worker for the California State Relief Administration. Soon after establishing himself in California, he married his college sweetheart, Artemisia Stilwell.

Perry Parks later worked for the Federal Postal Service, from 1936 to 1971. He was a founding member of the United Public Workers CIO, as well as an organizer of the National Alliance of Postal Workers. He was in the forefront of the struggle to implement a merit system in employee evaluations and promotions. He was also a champion of equal opportunity for women.

He filed the first successful anti-discrimination claim against the Los Angeles Post Master for failure to promote him to Supervisor. His discrimination claim paved the way for equal employment opportunities for people of color, leading to the appointment of the first African-American Post Master in Los Angeles.

Perry was an ardent warrior in the pursuit of fairness, inclusion, and representation in the civic process. He stood on the front line of the civil rights movement in the 1960s as an early organizer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Southern California. Mr. Parks served as Vice President of the Barrio Defense Committee, President of the South Central Welfare Planning Council, and a board member of the Los Angeles Urban League and United Civil Rights Committee. He was a founding member of the Brotherhood Crusade.

After his retirement, Perry Parks continued to serve his community as Field Representative for Congresswoman Yvonne B. Burke and Assemblywoman Teresa Hughes.

Perry Parks was a proud army veteran of World War II and a devoted member of Holman United Methodist Church. He is survived by his two sons, Perry C. Parks III and Henry Stilwell Parks; his two sisters, Lucy Hamilton and Carrie Jones, all of Los Angeles; his grandsons, Perry C. Parks IV of Atlanta, Georgia, and Oren Callan Jeffries of Los Angeles; nieces Patricia Parks White, Frances Jones Taylor, Muriel Jones Parker of Los Angeles and a host of other devoted relatives and friends.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Child Custody Protection Act. The text of the bill that we are considering is quite similar to the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, which the House considered in April of last year and I opposed. It is yet again another attempt by Congress to try to interfere in the personal health decisions of young women.

The question of whether or not to have an abortion is one of the most difficult decisions any woman can face. Some issues cannot be legislated and I believe that this is one of them. Reproductive health care is a personal matter that should be left to individuals, their doctors, and their families without interference from the government.

This bill will force mature young adults who have sought help from individuals other than their parents—including grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings and clergy members—to act alone in a time when loving support is needed. I believe that adolescents should be

encouraged to seek their parents' advice and counsel when facing a difficult decision. However, the government cannot mandate healthy family communication where it does not already exist. We need to encourage our youth to seek the counsel of individuals that they do trust and that will advocate for their best interests and not encourage them to go through this difficult process and draining procedure alone.

Not only does this bill discourage our youth from seeking adult counsel, this bill will also put the health of young women in jeopardy. A provision of this bill seeks to delay the abortion process by demanding that doctors go through a detailed and complex scheme to notify a parent. Doctors who do not comply and conduct an abortion before this notification will face fines and federal criminal penalties.

I would guess that my colleagues on both sides of this issue agree that having an abortion should be the last option for an adolescent. But it is a reality that young women are going to continue to have to make life-altering decisions regarding their bodies regardless of restrictions the federal government places on them. Taking away the support of responsible adults in whom teens trust is not the way to stop abortions.

I have consistently opposed legislation of this type because I want to make sure that we protect young women who are facing unintended pregnancies by providing them with assistance from adults they trust. I certainly prefer an open dialogue between parents and teens, so that a hushed, last-minute decision is not necessary. Unfortunately, parental consent is not always a viable option and teens will still make decisions that are difficult for any woman regardless of age. By passing this legislation, we will force trusted adults to turn their backs on their nieces, sisters and granddaughters and we will also be turning our back to the young women of this Nation.

Instead of debating a measure that will impose federal punishments on family members and doctors who assist young women who are making difficult choices and considering another measure that attempts to fix a symptom, we should be having a constructive dialogue that gets at the root of this issue.

This bill is an injustice to young women across this Nation who need all the support that they can get. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation because it will severely harm young women at one of the most important times in their lives.

HONORING MR. GERALD (JERRY) BELANGER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator in my district who has done laudable work to ignite a new sense of patriotism among his students.

Mr. Gerald (Jerry) Belanger serves as the principal of Gaylord Middle School. He has led a distinguished career in education. Mr. Belanger's first job in the field was as a school teacher in a preschool classroom. While his stint as a preschool teacher was short lived—lasting only 3 weeks—he was at least admired by his students for his guitar-playing ability.

Mr. Belanger then moved into a direction better suited to his abilities. He taught 6th grade for 5 years at Pearson Elementary School in inner city Flint before becoming the assistant principal and ultimately the principal of Gaylord Middle School.

It was at Gaylord Middle School that he began the current middle school Veteran's Day program. For the past 10 years, on every Veteran's Day, the Gaylord Middle School and its student council have organized a tribute to America's veterans. The day begins with a morning reception in the school cafeteria, followed by a program in the school gymnasium where students and faculty honor the sacrifices of America's veterans. Mr. Belanger has worked hard to ensure that veterans in the community attend the event so that his students have an in person opportunity to demonstrate their appreciation for veterans' sacrifice. When the tribute began 10 years ago, 20 veterans participated. Today, as many as 200 veterans attend the Veteran's Day event. By encouraging his students to host this tribute, Mr. Belanger has helped draw the Gaylord community together, while also helping to inspire patriotism in each class of students that passes through Gaylord Middle School.

Mr. Belanger also makes patriotism a daily priority at Gaylord Middle School. Through the daily Pledge of Allegiance, playing of the national anthem and events throughout the year, Mr. Belanger has worked to instill respect, love and loyalty to our country among the young people attending his school.

Mr. Belanger is a fine example of how ordinary citizens can demonstrate exceptional patriotism in their community. Although Jerry never served in the armed forces, his father, Frank, served in the National Guard during the Cuban Missile Crisis and two of his uncles were in the Army Reserve during that difficult part of our Nation's history. Another of Mr. Belanger's uncles served with U.S. Marine Corps for 4 years. These family members instilled in him a deep love of history and government and a profound sense of pride and respect for all of our nation's military men and women.

Now that he is married with a 3-year-old son, you will often see Jerry with his son Patrick at local Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, seeking to pass on to his own son the same pride and deep respect for the armed forces and the same love of country.

Mr. Speaker, as our brave men and women serve abroad in today's conflicts, all of us are reminded of the importance of recognizing, honoring and remembering the sacrifices of the heroes of the past. Mr. Jerry Belanger has found a way to ensure that in his corner of the world, young people are introduced to these important values early on. For that, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting him.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "LIGHTS ON AFTER-SCHOOL!"

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day in support of H. Con. Res. 478, supporting the goals

and ideals of the Lights On Afterschool! program. According to the Afterschool Alliance's survey, 14.3 million children are left alone and unsupervised after school. Lights On provides children with a safe place to go after school and promotes healthy opportunities for growth and learning.

I believe that after school programs provide vital services to our youth and we must make a commitment to continue to fund these programs. Communities and schools can help by promoting after-school programs that engage teenagers in a thoughtful and safe manner. Encouraging high school students to join after-school clubs, sports teams, and band or chorus also gives teenagers purposeful extra-curricular activities that diminish their chances of causing trouble in their community.

Our children deserve the very best chance to succeed in a turbulent global community, a world where economic competitors grow more numerous and powerful everyday. To ensure American leadership in the future, children today must be afforded comprehensive education and enrichment through well-funded schools and after-school activities.

There are many after school programs that are benefiting the children of my district. The Trenton After School Program has been serving our community for over 20 years. It not only provides our children with a safe place to go after school, but also provides culturally enriching programs including arts education.

Lights On provides children with fun, educational, and entertaining activities when the school day ends. I am proud to rise in support of this resolution.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE
MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5825, the Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act. Since the President's illegal domestic wiretapping program became public, I have called for greater oversight and Congressional involvement to ensure that we can provide our intelligence agencies with the tools needed to fight terrorism while protecting essential civil liberties of Americans. The bill before us today does not meet those standards.

As a member of the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees, I am fully aware of the dangers posed by those who wish to harm Americans, and I have strongly supported efforts to make our nation safer. However, the Bush Administration has not explained to my satisfaction why powers available under existing law cannot meet the needs of the war on terrorism. For example, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) already permits the warrantless surveillance of communications under certain limited circumstances. Nevertheless, the Bush Administration did not use those emergency powers and instead chose to expand the authority of the National Security Agency (NSA). The President's decision to expand domestic surveillance, while notifying only a handful of legislators, does not constitute Congressional

consent and is a danger to our established Constitutional system of checks and balances.

I would have been receptive to modifications to FISA that preserved the vital oversight through the creation of the FISA court system. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 5381, the Lawful Intelligence and Surveillance of Terrorists in an Emergency by NSA (LISTEN) Act, introduced by the ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Harman. This legislation would mandate that all monitoring of calls, email records and phone records be carried out in accordance with FISA and further asserts that the 2002 authorization for the NSA domestic surveillance program outside of FISA was not within the Bush Administration's authority.

Instead, this legislation gives the President broad authority to continue his domestic surveillance program without approval from the FISA court. It uses judicial and Congressional notification as a substitute for legitimate oversight, and it establishes such broad justifications for surveillance that the Administration will have almost unlimited ability to continue its past practices with little to no changes. Disturbingly, it also removes an important protection of current law that requires the government to certify that its warrantless surveillance of foreign agents would not intercept the communications of U.S. citizens.

Once again, the President has sought to expand his own authority at the expense of Americans' civil liberties, and Congress has willingly abdicated its oversight authority. I urge my colleagues to vote against this measure so that we can find a better way to crack down on terrorist who would do us harm while safeguarding the rights of Americans.

TRIBUTE TO PICTURED ROCKS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, which celebrates its 40th anniversary as a National Lakeshore this year. This pristine part of my district was the first unit of the national park system authorized as a National Lakeshore.

Pictured Rocks derives its name from the 15 miles of colorful sandstone cliffs northeast of Munising, Michigan. These cliffs, some approaching 200 feet in height, have been naturally sculptured into shallow caves, arches and formations that resemble castle turrets, and human profiles. Anyone who has visited the splendid 42 miles of the Lakeshore knows that the park offers spectacular scenery of the hilly shoreline speckled with natural archways, waterfalls, and sand dunes.

Congress wisely designated Pictured Rocks a National Lakeshore to preserve for future generations' enjoyment a significant portion of the diminishing shoreline of the United States. Today, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore continues to provide inspiration and recreational enjoyment for residents of northern Michigan, as well as for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to enjoy the area's natural splendor every year. The refreshing waters in summer, the beautiful palette of fall,

the serene atmosphere of winter and the renewal of life in spring are all unique at Pictured Rocks.

As Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore celebrates this anniversary, it is also appropriate to mention former Congressman Raymond F. Clevenger. His hard work and dedication to the conservation and economic improvement of this area played a major role in the creation of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Before his election to Congress, Mr. Clevenger made establishing a National Lakeshore on Lake Superior a top priority of his campaign. Once elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, he introduced legislation, H.R. 8678, to establish a National Lakeshore. On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 89-668, creating the nation's first National Lakeshore at Pictured Rocks.

Thanks to the efforts of Congressman Clevenger, more than 73,000 acres of beaches, cliffs, waterfalls, and forests, as well as the wildlife that resides there, have been preserved. In recognition of former Congressman Raymond Clevenger's efforts, I will be working to see that the Miners Castle Information Station at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore be known as the "Raymond F. Clevenger Visitor Information Center at Miners Castle."

Mr. Speaker, our nation is blessed with countless natural resources and wonders. Those of us from northern Michigan and from the Upper Peninsula take great pride in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. I would ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in observing this historic anniversary and in pledging our continued support for the preservation of this beautiful and historic park.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES
MODERNIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2006

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the "Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Modernization and Reform Act of 2006," H.R. 5029. This bill would effectively gut the ability of the ATF to shut down rogue gun dealers who ignore or undermine federal law by selling guns to criminals. It literally protects the worst of the worst.

We should be doing more to ensure that our communities are safe, by getting guns out of the hands of criminals. That is why we should make sure federal authorities have all the tools they need to go after criminal gun dealers.

Yet, this bill would substantially undermine the ATF's ability to revoke federal firearms licenses and shut down corrupt gun dealers who have repeatedly violated the law. By redefining the burden of proof for violations of existing federal gun laws, this bill would make it essentially impossible to sanction, prosecute, or revoke the federal firearms license of corrupt gun dealers.

The vast majority of gun dealers are honest hard-working business owners who play by the rules. Yet, their compliance with federal law is tarnished by the few gun dealers who

are more interested in making a profit than following the law or protecting our children. Statistics show that 60 percent of guns used in crimes can be traced back to just 1% of the Nation's 80,000 gun dealers. This means that a tiny percentage of criminal gun dealers are responsible for the bulk of guns used in the crimes that terrorize our communities. Yet, this legislation makes it harder to shut down these criminal outliers.

In 2003, the ATF issued only 54 notices of license revocation to shut down rogue gun dealers. That represents .06 percent of all gun dealers. Under the proposed legislation, this small group of dealers would be allowed to stay in business, and pay only a minor fine.

This bill would also weaken the record-keeping requirements that gun dealers must follow currently. This would allow criminal dealers to hide their illegal sales and missing firearms. Rather than being required to properly maintain their gun sale records, this legislation would simply allow them to keep such records in a box or a storage room, and would make it very difficult for the ATF to investigate and uncover dealer violations.

I oppose this flawed legislation. I believe strongly that the ATF needs the authority to prosecute and eventually revoke the licenses of corrupt and criminal gun dealers. I am not alone in this view. This legislation is also opposed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, The American Bar Association, The Major City Chiefs, the International Brotherhood of Police, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, The Violence Policy Center, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Former Director of the ATF Rex Davis, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this dangerous bill.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6143, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006. While I fully support this program and believe we must do everything we can to assist those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, H.R. 6143 will destabilize established systems of care and will be devastating for New York. While the HIV/AIDS epidemic has expanded, more than 1/2 of all people living with AIDS in the United States reside in just 5 States: New York, California, Florida, Texas, and New Jersey. Under this bill's flawed formula, 3 of the highest prevalence States, including New York, will lose significant funding. New York City predicts a possible \$17.8 million loss in the first year of implementation of this bill and potential increasing losses in each of the remaining 4 years of the reauthorization. In total, New York State expects losses of up to \$78 million in the first 4 years of reauthorization. Of course, New York is not opposed to other regions of the country receiving more funding, but it

should not be at the expense of New York. Instead, we should increase the authorization of appropriations for the program so that we do not pit states against each other.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill so that the Committee can find a compromise that will not result in reduced funds for anyone State.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I support changing current law on electronic surveillance to remove obstacles to vigorously fighting terrorism, and I believe we can do so in a way that protects the constitutional rights of our citizens. This bill attempts to strike the right balance, but it has serious flaws that could and should have been corrected—and because of those flaws, I cannot support it as it stands.

I believe the American people should know that on this very important subject, for the most part, we are being asked to legislate in the dark. It is only because of leaks to the news media that we became aware that after the terrorist attacks of 2001 the administration decided not to follow the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, with regard to a new, wide-ranging surveillance program.

Since it became public, that decision has been controversial and has been challenged in the courts, but the administration has consistently maintained that this surveillance program is lawful—although it has been less consistent in its reasons for reaching that conclusion.

Like many of our colleagues, I have found some of their arguments strained and far from fully convincing.

Nonetheless, I do think it makes sense to further revise FISA to reflect both the latest technology and the realities of the current threats to our country. And events since the revelation of the administration's decision not to comply with FISA have made it clear that there is a definite need for better oversight by Congress, which can occur only if we require more reporting by the executive branch.

So, I react favorably to some points made by this bill's author and supporters in support of the way it addresses both of these concerns. They point to provisions described as designed to update FISA's definition of electronic surveillance to make it technology neutral as well as those they say are intended to enhance congressional oversight not only of electronic surveillance, but also of U.S. intelligence and intelligence-related activities generally.

While these positive aspects of the bill are encouraging, they are unfortunately overwhelmed by the bill's more serious defects.

Overall, this legislation goes very far toward making warrantless surveillance of communications here in the United States the rule rather than the exception and toward allowing the executive branch to conduct electronic surveillance of telephone calls and e-mail in the United States without adequate, meaningful oversight.

The bill makes sweeping alterations to the current definition of "electronic surveillance" and how to define an "agent of a foreign power." The bill redefines the term "surveillance device" in a way that would allow the government to conduct unregulated data retention and data-mining operations on all the information collected through the warrantless surveillance that this bill authorizes.

My concerns about these provisions are shared by others, including former Representative (and former House Republican leader) Dick Armey, as expressed in a September 26th letter in which he says:

The explosion of computers, cameras, location-sensors, wireless communication, biometrics, and other technologies is making it much easier to track, store, and analyze information about individuals' activities. Unfortunately, the legislation may promote additional government intrusions into individual lives by exempting such data mining from requiring court orders . . . It is not evident that such legislation will necessarily prevent the next terrorist attack. But . . . failure is unlikely to lead to a halt in federal data mining. Instead, it will probably just spur the government into an ever-more furious effort to collect ever-greater amounts of personal information on ever-more people in a vain effort to make the concept work. We would then have the worst of both worlds: poor security and a vast increase in the information about individuals collected by the government that would destroy Americans' privacy and threaten our freedom.

I also am concerned that while the bill would explicitly allow essentially unlimited surveillance in the event of an "armed attack" a "terrorist attack," or an "imminent threat of attack," those terms are not adequately defined. I think this means that there is an unacceptably large chance that these sweeping exceptions would give the Executive Branch unlimited authority to conduct surveillance whenever and however it prefers.

These concerns are heightened by the fact that the bill does not include an explicit reaffirmation of the principle that FISA, including the revisions that would be made by the bill, is the exclusive means for conducting electronic surveillance in the United States. Such a provision would help make sure that every president—now and in the future—complies with the law.

This is not a theoretical matter, because the Bush administration has never indicated that it will comply with FISA—even as it would be revised by this bill, which was proposed by a member of his party and has the support of that party's leadership here in the House of Representatives. Indeed, the Bush administration has indicated it will appeal the recent decision of a federal judge that its ongoing surveillance program—which the administration candidly says does not comply with the current version of FISA—is illegal.

That was one of the reasons I voted for the motion to recommit, which would have added language to reiterate that FISA is the exclusive means by which domestic electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes may be conducted, unless Congress amends the law or passes additional laws regarding electronic surveillance. It also would have made clear that the Authorization for the Use of Military Force, AUMF, passed after the 9/11 attacks and that was the basis for our military actions in Afghanistan—a measure I supported—does not constitute an exception to that rule.

If the motion to recommit had been adopted, the result would have been to approve an alternative version of the legislation so it would update FISA to provide intelligence agencies more flexibility in emergency situations and less bureaucratic red tape when applying for warrants, while still requiring court orders for domestic surveillance of Americans.

That better alternative would have extended from 72 hours to 7 days the amount of time allowed to initiate surveillance in an urgent situation before going to the FISA court for a warrant. This authority can be used to thwart imminent attacks.

The alternative also would have made clear that foreign-to-foreign communications are outside of FISA and don't require a court order, and would have provided that a FISA order for electronic surveillance shall continue to be in effect for the authorized period even if the person leaves the United States. It also would have removed redundant requirements in the application process and made other changes to streamline the FISA process, including adding judges to the FISA court while authorizing that court, the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the NSA to hire more staff for the preparation and consideration of FISA applications and orders. And it would have made clear that in addition to a "declaration of war by the Congress," an "authorization for the use of military force, AUMF," can also trigger the FISA "wartime exception" for purposes of allowing 15 days of warrantless surveillance.

I think that alternative had the best features of this bill without its defects. Unfortunately, it was not adopted and those changes were not made.

As a result, I do not think this bill as it stands should be approved. But while I cannot support it tonight, I recognize that it is not being sent to the president for signing into law. Instead, if it passed tonight it will go to the Senate, where it will be subject to further debate and revision.

My hope is that if it does pass tonight, and the legislative process continues, the result of that process will be a revised version that will deserve enactment.

RECOGNIZING CRESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Crestwood Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1956, Crestwood Elementary School has committed itself to lofty standards of academic and extracurricular excellence. Over the years, as the Springfield area has expanded and diversified, Crestwood has followed the community's example.

In 1950, the Springfield area consisted of nothing but woods and a few farms and houses. Edward Carr bought much of the land and in 1950 started to build the first planned community in northern Virginia. He gave some land to the community for the school and the first community pool was built here because of

the land he donated. The area grew slowly, with few community resources. Little League was started in 1955. There were no schools here until 1956. All of the school children had to go out of the area. In those days, Springfield was the outermost edge of the Washington area.

Since its inception, Crestwood Elementary has been an integral part of the Springfield, Virginia, community. Originally costing \$595,585, when the school was constructed there was one telephone booth per street, milk and bakery items were delivered weekly to residents, and the primary mode of transportation was the train. Over the past 50 years, the Crestwood community has become a very progressive community in the heart of the Springfield area and educates hundreds of students each year. With the addition of the Family Resource Center, Crestwood is a true community school working with parents and children building a better future for the entire Crestwood community.

The mission of Crestwood Elementary School is to offer each student the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to be successful students and productive members of society. The staff envisions a school where academic excellence is paramount, the arts are celebrated, cultural and linguistic diversity is honored, and all learners meet their personal academic goals. Over the years ethnic and cultural diversity have brought a unique spirit to the school, as it continues its commitment to academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Crestwood Elementary School faculty and staff for the immeasurable contributions they have made to the community by shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. I congratulate the school on its successes over the last 50 years and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished institution, as well as the committed faculty and students.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KENNETH MAHAL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Mr. Kenneth Mahal for his outstanding service to his community and to his country.

Ken is a retired architect who is licensed to practice in 50 States, District of Columbia, Virgin Islands and the United Kingdom. He has a wealth of academic experience, having graduated from the University of Minnesota, the Architecture at Chicago Technical College, and the Harvard International Business School in Vevey, Switzerland. Ken has also served in the military during War II as a fleet radar countermeasures director on aircraft carrier USS *Ticonderoga*.

At age 30, Ken served as a volunteer to the Bloomington Planning Commission, where he served as vice chairman for 6 years. During his tenure with the planning commission, Bloomington, Minnesota, won the Best Cities Award twice. Because of his insistence for strong zoning, a strategic piece of land was

saved until the world renowned Mall of America was built there.

As former C.E.O. of Ellerbe Architects and Engineers, the 8th largest firm in the U.S., Ken developed sales and marketing of architectural and engineering services, creating the first professional firm in this field. The firm developed sales projection marketing plans, which computerized fee projections.

Ken also owns L.K. Mahal & Assoc., a consulting firm specializing in concept design to real estate search. The firm provided full service design and construction oversight, plus served as a consultant to the Children's World Day Care centers and franchise project development. For 25 years, the firm represented the University of Notre Dame. Some other clients include the NIH Medical Center Washington, DC, Mayo Clinic as well as assisted in the UNLV Medical Center expansion project.

Presently, Ken is president of the Nevada Seniors Coalition, NSC, and writes a monthly column for Vegas Voice. As president, Ken focuses the organization's efforts on local growth issues such as air, water and traffic concerns. NSC also works on State and national issues for seniors, their children and grandchildren, enhancing the conditions of our senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor my good friend Mr. Kenneth Mahal for his steadfast commitment to his community and to his country. I wish him luck with all of his future endeavors.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, as we consider passage of H.R. 6166, we stand on the verge of undermining our Nation's own moral standard, and risk further eroding the moral authority we have already jeopardized with our unilateral action in Iraq. H.R. 6166 must be defeated.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former Secretary of State Colin Powell has written that the kinds of proposals included in H.R. 6166 add to the worldwide doubts of "the moral basis of our fight against terrorism" and "would put our own troops at risk." Nearly all of the military's top attorneys have publicly expressed strong opposition to the proposals, saying that they not only go against the historical standards of conduct we have previously followed, but that the acts of torture and coercion are actually counterproductive, and in fact damaging, to the ability of our military to fully fight terrorism.

It has been said that we must develop new ways to fight the enemy we now face, that the enemy confronting us does not care for human life and therefore we must not be restrained by unclear or antiquated laws. And Mr. Speaker, there is some truth to that. We do need to pass legislation that will provide the President with a tough and fair system of military commissions that will ensure swift prosecution of terrorists and protect our men and women in uniform. However, we must do so within the boundaries of our own standards

and values. Not those of the enemy. In the meantime, if we continue to defile our international agreements by blatantly disregarding them, it will only mean our profile abroad will continue to suffer, potentially to the great detriment of our men and women in uniform, and ultimately to our goal of successfully defeating our enemy.

I would ask my colleagues, and I would ask the American people, do we really believe that we must betray our moral standard in order to defeat our enemies? We are fighting a different enemy, one espousing a radical ideology and using blatant violence as a vehicle to achieve its goals. But I do not believe for one second that this means our adaptation and our military strategy against this new enemy must include torture. Nor should it include a subversion of some of our most precious judicial protections. Tragically, and outrageously, H.R. 6166 includes both of these.

H.R. 6166 must be defeated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRAZO-
SPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Brazosport Independent School District, located in my home county of Brazoria, has received a \$458,369 Smaller Learning Communities Program grant from the Department of Education. The Smaller Learning Communities Program promotes academic achievement through the creation or expansion of small, safe, and successful learning environments in large public high schools to help ensure that all students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to make successful transitions to colleges and careers.

Brazosport High School will use the Smaller Learning Communities Program grant to build on past efforts by implementing and expanding successful strategies and activities. Among the projects the grant will help Brayosport High School implement are extensive development activities for the faculty and staff, advisory periods, accelerated curriculum, after-school classes, ninth grade transition activities, and task force committees.

Brazosport High School's project goals include: (1) increasing the academic performance of all students and reducing the gap in achievement among students of different racial and economic backgrounds; (2) ensuring that the Smaller Learning Communities are environments where students feel safe, known, supported and motivated to succeed; (3) and ensuring that students attain the strong academic knowledge and skills necessary for a successful college career.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the same commitment to education excellence that enabled Brazosport Independent School District to obtain this grant will enable the school to achieve all of its goals. I am therefore pleased to extend my congratulations to Brazosport Independent School District for obtaining a Smaller Learning Communities Program grant.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAURA LONDONO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Laura Londono of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Ms. Londono has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Londono has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Laura Londono, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE AD COUNCIL AND WCPX-TV FOR THEIR PRO BONO ADVERTISING OF POSITIVE INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the Ad Council and WCPX-TV for creating a program and using valuable airtime to improve the quality of life for people in my Congressional District and wherever the influence of their work can be felt.

I also commend the Ad Council for being the stimulus behind this action.

I am pleased to know that for more than 60 years the Ad Council has marshaled the pro bono resources of the advertising agency and media communities to deliver thousands of inspirational messages for the American people. I am indeed pleased to know that during 2005, the media donated an unprecedented 1.8 billion dollars in free airtime and space.

My hat is off to Mr. Tony Cannata, Business Manager, WCPX-TV and Ms. Peggy Conlon, President and CEO, The Advertising Council Inc.

I commend them both for this very effective collaboration and look forward to their continuous work.

IN HONOR OF MISS ALLIE DIETZ

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special young lady, Miss Allie Dietz. She continues to impress me with her courage and her determination to fight diabetes, which she has suffered from since she was just five years old. She is now twelve.

I have come to know Allie over the years at different events throughout my state—Juvenile

Diabetes Research Foundation Galas, Children's Congress, Walk for a Cure, the fight for stem cell research and many others. She has told me her stories of low and high blood sugars, she has shown me how she pricks her fingers and takes her insulin and she has always demonstrated a positive attitude through it all.

Most of all, I am proud to call her my friend. Recently, we shared the podium at an event at Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children, and it is safe to say that Allie stole the show! Allie is surrounded by loving parents and two wonderful younger sisters who share her joys, her sadness and her hope for a cure. That is why I will continue to fight for a cure for diabetes—through efforts like increased research funding, an expanded federal embryonic stem cell research policy, legislation to address racial disparities in minorities and ensuring patients have access to care.

I know Allie will go far in life, and it is our job as Members of Congress to ensure that she has help along the way. I am hopeful that Congress will begin to make diabetes more of a priority, as it has become a national epidemic. We need to lead the fight for a cure for Allie and all of the other diabetes patients suffering throughout the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE REECE SCHOOL OF NEW YORK CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reece School of New York City, which has been dedicated for 58 years to serving children who are intellectually capable but emotionally fragile and vulnerable. The oldest such special-education school in Manhattan, the Reece School has grown in size and stature from its founder's home to a new facility on the Upper East Side. On October 26, it will recognize a significant donation by officially naming its state-of-the-art building.

The Reece School was established in 1948, in the home of Ellen Reece, as a response to the needs of children who were incapable of functioning in a traditional school setting. Today, it serves 90 students, from Manhattan and all 5 boroughs, who reflect the diverse communities of the City of New York. They represent middle- and lower-income families who care deeply about their children's future but lack the ability to pay privately for services beyond those offered by the school community. These families depend on Reece for the intellectual and emotional support that allows their children to progress and function as independently as possible. They rely on Reece for services that many other special-education schools are unable to provide.

Over the years, the Reece School has grown out of Ellen Reece's home, out of its longtime Carnegie Hill location, and into a new home at 25 East 104th Street. For years, it has worked hard to be an integral part of its community. It has made its space available to several community groups, and has partnered with several community agencies and public schools to help improve the quality of life of Reece students and, in fact, of all children in the community.

Thanks to a \$12 million loan through Industrial Development Agency Bonds, Reece was able to emerge from its somewhat-cramped Carnegie Hill quarters and into a facility of unprecedented size and technology in July 2006. On October 26, the Reece School will officially name its new building the Elise M. Besthoff Building of the Reece School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to the children and families of New York City made by the Reece School.

**HONORING CHARLES L. FALLIS
UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS
NARFE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles L. Fallis, who is retiring from his post as president of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) after 4 years.

Mr. Fallis' more than 35 years of public service to the Federal Government began when he joined the U.S. Navy and served in both World War II and the Korean War. He commenced his Federal civilian service in Cincinnati, Ohio as a substitute railway mail clerk PFS Level-5. Rising through the Postal Service, Mr. Fallis was promoted to the rank of Regional Assistant Postmaster General, Eastern Region, which included the states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

A Postal Inspector for 13 years, Fallis conducted complex criminal investigations, apprehended many scores of postal law violators, presented investigative evidence and testimony in U.S. Courts and audited and inspected major post offices. As Regional Assistant Postmaster General he was in charge of regional operations, oversaw construction of multi-million dollar post offices, directed a large staff, and held oversight responsibility for annual budgets of over \$1 billion.

Mr. Fallis has been a NARFE member since 1985, first as an active participant in his local chapter. He then went on to serve two terms as First Vice President and two terms as President of Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 in Roanoke, Virginia. In addition, Mr. Fallis was active in the Virginia Federation of Chapters where he served multiple terms in the positions of Area Vice President, Vice President, and Federation President.

Mr. Fallis participated in NARFE activities at the national level as well, serving as chairman of the Resolutions Committee at the 1996 National Convention in Houston. He then served two terms as NARFE National Treasurer and two terms as NARFE National President.

His tenure at NARFE has proved successful in preserving benefits for retired and active Federal employees, and the addition of a visual and dental benefit to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP).

Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Fallis and his wife Betty raised four children.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Charles Fallis and

congratulating him on his retirement after a distinguished career.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARL E.
LOVELL**

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carl E. Lovell, who succumbed to cancer on Thursday, September 21, 2006.

Carl served the people of the City of Las Vegas and the citizens of Nevada in a number of profound ways. He was widely recognized during his professional career as the youngest City Attorney in the Nation for the City of North Las Vegas and the youngest elected City Attorney in the Nation at age 28, for the City of Las Vegas. After starting his own firm in 1970, Carl became very active in the international arena for Estate and Asset Protection Planning, even representing the United States in international trade and law talks with Beijing, China in 1987 and tried cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Carl was very involved in a number of civic organizations. He was a founding member and President of the Nevada Donor Network, Vice President and Director of the Southern Nevada Better Business Bureau, Chairman of the the National Consumer Affairs Committee for the National City Attorneys Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Carl E. Lovell. His professional success and philanthropic efforts should serve as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO WBBM-TV

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, congratulating WBBM-TV and the Advertising Council for their collaboration to communicate important messages to residents of the Illinois 7th Congressional District and the Public-At-Large.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that WBBM-TV has been singled out by the Advertising Council Inc., for its outstanding display of public service through the pro-bono placement and airing of Public Service Announcements.

I am also pleased to note that for more than 60 years, the Ad Council has marshaled the resources to deliver thousands of inspirational messages to millions of people. These messages have dealt with under-age drinking, childhood obesity, early childhood development, obesity and urging parents to use booster seats.

Mr. Speaker, this collaboration has produced very positive results and I take my hat off to Mr. Joseph Ahrn, Vice President and General Manager of WBBM-TV and Ms. Peggy Conlon, President and CEO of the Advertising Council, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, this collaboration and its results are a prime example of what can happen

when two well-meaning and well-run business entities team up for the public interest, good things happen.

IN HONOR OF 2006 LILLY REINTEGRATION AWARD HONORS CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS, INC.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Connections Community Support Programs Inc., a Delaware non-profit organization providing housing, treatment, and support services to persons living with and recovering from mental health and substance use conditions, homelessness, and HIV/AIDS.

Connections Community Support Programs was selected as the First Place Winner of the 2006 Lilly Reintegration Award for Housing, from Eli Lilly and Company. This is also the 10th anniversary of Eli Lilly and Company presenting this award that recognizes outstanding achievements made by mental health organizations.

This national award honors efforts to improve services and decrease the stigma of mental illness. Connections Inc. is particularly proud of its housing programs, specifically the development of supportive housing for people with low-incomes and special needs. The creation of more than 300 units of affordable housing for this target population is highly commendable.

Connections mission from its genesis in 1985, has been to provide a comprehensive array of community-based treatment, support, housing and rehabilitation services for people recovering from and living with mental health and substance use conditions, homelessness and HIV/AIDS. The State of Delaware greatly benefits from the services and programs Connections offers at nearly 30 locations in all three Delaware counties.

Congratulations to Connections Community Support Programs, Inc for being recognized for their dedication and hard work. I am confident they will continue to provide this valuable service to our community and make a difference in the lives of their patients.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO
CHRISTOPHER TANTILLO**

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Christopher Tantillo of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Mr. Tantillo has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Tantillo has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program

have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Christopher Tantillo, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING GUY GABALDON

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to all U.S. service members and veterans for their service and dedication to our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we would like to pay special tribute to service members and veterans of Hispanic decent who have served with pride, valor and distinction since the revolutionary war.

In particular, we want to recognize World War II veteran Guy Gabaldon, who passed away recently. Born in Los Angeles, California on March, 22, 1926, Mr. Gabaldon grew up in Boyle Heights. He died on August 31, 2006 in Old Town, Florida. Mr. Gabaldon is an excellent example of the dedication that Latinos in uniform have demonstrated while providing the highest service to our country.

As a child, Marine Private First Class Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon, befriended and eventually moved in with a Japanese American family. When the U.S. entered WWII, Gabaldon joined the Marines, and served as a mortar crewman and scout observer. Through his familiarity with the Japanese language and culture, Mr. Gabaldon gained the distinction of capturing more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of U.S. military conflicts.

While serving in Saipan, he received a Silver Star for obtaining vital information and capturing more than 1,000 enemy personnel in the face of direct fire. PFC Gabaldon was able to persuade the weakened Japanese soldiers to surrender, in spite of their orders to fight. His commanding officer and fellow Marines nominated him for the Medal of Honor. He was awarded the Silver Star, which was elevated to a Navy Cross in December of 1960.

Mr. Gabaldon and the more than one million Latino service members and veterans deserve our gratitude and admiration. They have always been an integral part in the fabric of our military. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Gabaldon, and all of our nation's Latino service members and veterans.

HONORING DR. RICHARD P. HALLION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard P. Hallion, who is retiring as Senior Adviser for Air and Space' Issues at the Directorate for Security, Counterintelligence and Special Programs Oversight at the Pentagon. His distinguished career and record of achievement reflects selfless commitment to our country.

Dr. Hallion graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970, and completed the Kennedy School of Government's National Security Studies Program in 1993. His career spanned a variety of offices, including the working at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Air Force Centennial Flight Office, and the National Air and Space Museum. His experience and education has afforded him the opportunity to author numerous articles and books on the evolution and history of airborne warfare. Tirelessly, Dr. Hallion continues to write to this day.

Dr. Hallion has been recognized numerous times for his hard work and dedication to military aviation. In 2005, he received the Annual Award of the Conference of Historic Aviation Writers, and was recognized as a Distinguished Lecturer and Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He has received similar recognition from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the Aviation Space Writers Association, the Air Force Association and the Air Force Systems Command.

His contributions to the Air Force will be missed as he moves on to new and exciting opportunities. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Richard P. Hallion and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR JACOB BIRNBAUM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, with the approach of International Human Rights Day on December 10, I would like to take this opportunity to chronicle for the national record the life and work of a remarkable human rights activist, Jacob Birnbaum of New York. It is interesting to note that he was actually born on December 10, 1926. As December 10, 2006 will mark his 80th birthday, it is entirely appropriate that his work should be portrayed in the RECORD of the Congress of the United States.

Jacob Birnbaum's immediate family fled the Nazis and settled in the United Kingdom. In 1946, following the end of World War II, the 19-year-old Jacob Birnbaum devoted several years to providing relief for younger survivors of the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian systems. From the young Polish Jews who managed to exit the USSR after the war, he became familiar with the iniquities of the Soviet system. This early experience fueled his later passion to mobilize American Jewry in the drive to rescue Jews from the oppression they faced in the Soviet Union.

In the mid-1950s and early 1960s, he became involved in assisting people from the disintegrating Jewish communities of North Africa caught up in the struggles of their host countries for independence from France.

Thereafter, traveling the United States, he decided to create a national student spearhead to activate the grassroots of American Jewry. Settling in New York in 1964, he set up his first student committee; then he concentrated on building a student core at Yeshiva University. Finally, he called a national

founding meeting at Columbia University on April 27, 1964, followed by a large student demonstration four days later on the Soviet holiday May Day in front of the Soviet UN Mission. The authoritative Center for Jewish History has listed the demonstration as the beginning of the public struggle for Soviet Jewry. Mr. Birnbaum named the new organization Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ).

Throughout the rest of the 1960s, under his direction, the Student Struggle continued working full time in response to the oppression of Soviet Jewry.

As we know, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led to the imprisonment of Soviet Jews behind the Iron Curtain. Jewish culture, Jewish religion and Jewish communal life were forcibly extinguished under the Soviet regime, which also indulged in numerous anti-Semitic manifestations. Even after Stalin's death, the Soviet kingdom of fear abated only slightly. The Cold War effectively continued to cut off the Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe from their co-religionists in the West.

Nevertheless, expressions of outrage began to accumulate in the early 1960s, with a few pioneers leading the way. In April, 1964 the major Jewish organizations met in Washington, DC and an American Conference on Soviet Jewry was established. The same month, Mr. Birnbaum created the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry for the purpose of fashioning a student spearhead to "mobilize a tidal wave of public opinion." (First SSSJ Handbook)

After the mass arrests of young Jewish dissidents on June 15, 1970, and after the Lenin-grad Trial of December 1970 with its death sentences, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry was created. The Greater New York Conference, under the direction of the young activist Malcolm Hoenlein, initiated the profoundly important Solidarity Day marches, modeled after Birnbaum's Jericho, Redemption, and Exodus Marches and rallies of the 1960s. Mr. Hoenlein is now the Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Of great significance was the creation in 1970 of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, a coalition of non-Establishment regional groups, under the chairmanship of Dr. Louis Rosenblum, with whom Mr. Birnbaum had worked for many years.

Mr. Hoenlein has publicly stated that he considers Mr. Birnbaum "the father of the Soviet Jewry movement." Similar statements have been made by other major public figures such as Dr. Meir Rosenne, who worked closely with Mr. Birnbaum in the early formative period 1964-1967. Dr. Rosenne later became Israel's Ambassador to France and then to the United States. Sir Martin Gilbert, the official British historian of Winston Churchill, has made a similar statement.

In May, 1965, Mr. Birnbaum was the first to testify before a Congressional Committee on the importance of utilizing economic leverage on the Kremlin. When the late Senator Henry Jackson initiated the legislation which finally resulted in the passage of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in 1975, Mr. Birnbaum worked closely with the director of Senator Jackson's office, Dorothy Fosdick, and, of course, Richard Perle, who played a major role in the initiation and development of the legislation.

The idea of placing economic pressure on Communist states to increase emigration

played a key role in softening up the Kremlin regimes to make possible the Soviet Jewry demand to "Let My People Go." For the first time, there was legislation to put teeth into the previous congressional humanitarian resolutions.

From 1976 to 1986, Jacob Birnbaum conducted annual Most Favored Nation campaigns, based on Jackson-Vanik, to pressure Romania to increase emigration and release prisoners. He testified annually before both Senate and House committees.

In the latter 1970s, Mr. Birnbaum enlarged his Soviet Jewry strategy. He expanded the slogan "Let My People Go" by adding "Let My People Know" (their heritage). The Kremlin had pulverized Jewish religious, cultural, and community life, and, in the 1960s, the Soviet Jewish resistance underground began to generate Jewish self-education cultural, religious, and Hebrew-speaking groups. Mr. Birnbaum conducted numerous campaigns for their protection, enlisting the aid of many Christian religious denominations. These efforts reached a high point when he organized and led a delegation of the Synagogue Council of America to meet with the Deputy Secretary of State and the Department's Human Rights Director, Warren Zimmermann, in September, 1985.

Mr. Birnbaum's vision was partially realized with Malcolm Hoenlein's Solidarity Rallies in New York, and, finally, by the great national rally in Washington on December 7, 1987 on the eve of Gorbachev's meeting with President Reagan.

Finally, in 1990, the Kremlin conceded and permitted a mass emigration which now totals two million (one million to Israel and one million elsewhere, mostly to the United States). This was no small accomplishment, and many people played a role in making it happen.

In addition to the courageous work of Mr. Birnbaum, tribute ought to be paid to the pioneers and the national organizations which fought so strenuously for the liberation of Soviet Jews.

The pioneers and the national organizations that Mr. Birnbaum asked me to publicly acknowledge for their support in this noble effort include:

Morris Abram, U.S. human rights commissioner; Dr. Moshe Deeter, the scholar whose research fueled the early movement; Justice Arthur Goldberg; the distinguished theologian Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Heschel; Senator Jacob Javits; NASA scientist Dr. Louis Rosenblum of the Cleveland Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism; and Elie Wiesel, whose book "The Jews of Silence" was so influential.

Furthermore, Mr. Birnbaum recalls the important roles played by colleagues in the following national organizations:

Agudath Israel of America; Center for Russian Jewry with Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, of which he is the founder and national director; Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations; Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, whose founding director was Malcolm Hoenlein; International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews, founding chairman Morris Brafman; Senator Jacob Javits; Nehemiah Levanon, Israel Liaison Bureau for Soviet Jewry; the Lubavitcher Hasidic movement; National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Honorable Richard Maass, founding chairman; National Community Relations Advisory Council; Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, founding chairman

Dr. Louis Rosenblum; and Ambassador Dr. Meir Rosenne.

Following the collapse of the Soviet regime, Mr. Birnbaum spent a substantial part of the 1990s in combating anti-Semitic manifestations in former Soviet Central Asia, mostly in Uzbekistan, intervening via the State Department and enlisting Malcolm Hoenlein's aid in engaging the Uzbek Ambassador in Washington.

In his 80th year, Mr. Birnbaum continues to support groups engaged in the Jewish education of former Soviet Jews and their children.

For all of these reasons, the House of Representatives ought to honor the life and six decades of public service of Jacob Birnbaum and especially his commitment to freeing Soviet Jews from religious, cultural, and communal extinction. He is a true hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FREEDOM ACT OF 2006

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the International Women's Freedom Act of 2006. This legislation establishes an Office of International Women's Rights within the State Department headed by the appointed Ambassador at Large, and additionally, would create a United States Commission on International Women's Rights. The positive links between the empowerment of women and effective and sustainable development are very clear and this legislation would seek to protect women's rights by channeling U.S. security and development assistance to countries that are not found in gross violations of women's rights. According to the World Bank, when men and women are equal within a society, not only do the poor move more quickly out of poverty, but economies flourish and familial well-being is enhanced. I believe that all people, regardless of gender, should have the power to shape their lives and participate in their communities without the fear of oppression. When given the tools they need, such as education, access to employment, land, and economic assets, and the opportunity to contribute to civic life, women and girls improve their situation in society and have a positive impact on society as a whole. By annually reviewing the status of women's rights in each country and designating countries of particular concern, more succinct policy recommendations can be made to the President, the Secretary of State and the Congress.

In 1998, Congress created a Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the bill I am proposing today is modeled after it. According to news reports, the Commission on International Religious Freedom has made substantial progress towards expanding religious freedom in Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan. We require the State Department to issue reports on battling international bribery, religious freedom, and narcotics control, among many others. Creating a report on the status of women's rights is vitally important to assuring the rights of women worldwide.

COMMEMORATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 275th anniversary of Prince William County, Virginia.

Prince William County, Virginia, was created on March 25, 1731, from territory that had been part of Stafford County and King George County. It is named for Prince William Augustus, 1720–1765, Duke of Cumberland, and a son of King George II, who became Captain-General of the British Army.

In 1608, Captain John Smith and his party rode a barge along the Potomac River and stopped in Prince William County on their way from Jamestown. They were the first Europeans recorded in this area. Doeg Indians, Algonquin speakers, lived in villages along the Potomac. The Souian-speaking Manahoac people lived in the Piedmont region. By trading with the native tribes, Captain Smith and his men were able to obtain enough food to sustain themselves and the settlers they had left behind in Jamestown. Native American settlements disappeared from the county by the beginning of the 18th century.

The first English settlement in the Northern Neck of Virginia, the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, took place about 1643 in what is now Northumberland County. The first land patent in what is now Prince William County was taken out in 1653 by Thomas Burbage. After successive divisions, Prince William County reached its current outer boundaries in 1759. Manassas and Manassas Park were established as independent cities in 1975.

Prince William County, located 20 miles southwest of the Nation's Capital, is a perfect place to live, work, play, and raise a family. With a desirable location, highly educated work force, nationally recognized schools, and pro-business environment, Prince William County has it all.

Prince William is the second largest county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Prince William school system is one of the finest in the Nation. It is the State's second largest school system, with Internet access in every classroom. Prince William County offers a highly educated workforce—with more than 50 percent of adults holding a college degree. The county is swiftly becoming a major source of northern Virginia's highly educated labor pool. Prince William County is the new center of business opportunity in Metropolitan Washington.

In 2006, Prince William County will host a year-long celebration with special events to honor this momentous anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the citizens of Prince William County on the occasion of their 275th anniversary. I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of this great county, and in wishing for its continued prosperity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
“MICK” GILLINS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael “Mick” Gillins for his exemplary service in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, LVMPD.

As a 19-year veteran of the Las Vegas Metro Police, Mick has a long history of admirable service and is a hero in the very essence of the word. In September, 1989, Mick arrested a suspect that had stolen military explosives that were intended to go to gang members. For this, Mick received a “Job Well Done” citation from the LVMPD. In January, 1992, Mick was nominated by the LVMPD for the American Legion Police Post #55 “Outstanding Officer of the Year” award; although he did not win this award, he was given a letter of Commendation from then Sheriff, John Moran.

Mick’s dedication and service has affected countless lives; most noticeably on December 27, 1991 when he saved a drowning child’s life by administering CPR. When Mick arrived on the scene, the child was clinically dead; but due to Mick’s expertise the child was revived and suffered no brain damage. For his heroism, Mick received the “Exemplary Service Award” from the LVMPD, the “Life Saving Award” from Mercy Medical Services, and the “Community Service Award” from the Las Vegas Fire Department.

Recently, Mick was injured in the line of duty. On May 23, 2006, Mick was finishing up a traffic stop when he was struck by a car while sitting on his motorcycle. He sustained a broken left leg and two bulging disks in his lower back. The driver of the car that struck him was charged with driving under the influence, and toxicology reports indicated that she had more prescription drugs in her system than prescribed.

I also worked personally with Mick during my time as a Nevada State Senator. Mick spent a number of sessions at the Legislature for the LVMPD and the PPA, lobbying on behalf of his fellow officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Michael “Mick” Gillins. His commitment to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and to the Las Vegas Community has improved countless lives. I applaud his dedication and I wish him a speedy recovery.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE
SHEEHAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Danielle Sheehan of Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Sheehan has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation’s Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Sheehan has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leader-

ship potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Danielle Sheehan, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

WHY CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE A
CLOSER LOOK AT RUSSIA’S WTO
ACCESSION PROCESS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as Congress leaves for the upcoming November elections, I would like to raise an issue that will gain more attention over the next few months—a U.S.-Russia bilateral agreement on Russia’s membership in the World Trade Organization. As someone who is watching the U.S.-Russia WTO negotiations very closely with a keen interest in the outcome, I think it is important to acknowledge the obstacles that remain. While a successful U.S.-Russia WTO agreement can be imagined, the reality of the current situation is that both sides are still apart on key issues. I urge my colleagues to keep a watchful eye on these negotiations, which will have important consequences for U.S. industries, workers and consumers.

Some say Russia has made progress in its actions, commitments and negotiations with the United States over the past year. However, both countries were unable to meet the goal of concluding WTO talks at the July Group of Eight meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. The new goal for the completion of negotiations is when Presidents Bush and Putin meet at the November 2006 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Vietnam.

The United States and the global community will ultimately benefit when Russia becomes a member of the World Trade Organization. Although Russia’s economy in a developing stage in many respects, its economic progress since the end of the cold war and potential for growth are positive trends. The complete integration of Russia into the global economy is an important step that will help Russia and its trading partners. It will also help to support the continuation of positive U.S.-Russia relations.

However, at this stage, significant obstacles to Russia’s WTO accession remain and must be addressed. Russia’s behavior in a number of areas and its lack of concrete commitments on important issues is contrary to the spirit of free trade and the WTO and must be reversed. In essence, the WTO is a set of rules and commitments and a forum for dispute resolution, factors that make it fundamentally different than most international organizations with extended bureaucracies. In this manner, these rules and commitments must be honored if the WTO is to have any meaning whatsoever.

Russia is failing to uphold standards that many in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere believe are essential for WTO accession. The area of intellectual property is a prime example.

Due in large part to Russia’s failure to enforce its anti-piracy and intellectual property protection laws, 421-2 of my House col-

leagues joined me in passing a resolution in December 2005 (H. Con. Res. 230) that called on Russia to provide adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, or it risk losing its eligibility to participate in the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program and to ensure that intellectual property is securely protected in law and in practice to demonstrate that it can meet international commitments like the WTO.

Earlier this year, House Ways and Means Chairman BILL THOMAS (R-CA) and Ranking Democratic Member CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) as well as Senate Finance Committee Chairman CHARLES GRASSLEY (R-IA) and Ranking Member MAX BAUCUS (D-MT) co-signed a letter to President Bush stating that they will not support Permanent National Trade Relations for Russia unless Russia takes definitive action to address current issues.

In the energy sector, the Russian government’s interference in the market and de facto renationalization of selected assets calls into question its commitment to free and fair trade. The Council on Foreign Relations, task force on Russia listed a number of disappointing trends in Russia’s energy market, including “the revocation of longstanding Exxon Mobil licenses for the Sakhalin natural gas fields and the destruction of the Yukos Oil company as part of a reassertion of state control over the energy sector.” The report also mentioned the cut off of natural gas supplies to Ukraine in response to its pro-western orientation. With U.S. oil and natural gas prices reaching record highs, it is very important that we develop a tough, but open, energy trade policy with Russia.

The United States remains concerned about access to the Russian banking, financial services and insurance markets, all of which are substantially restricted for foreign companies. The U.S. is advocating on the opening of bank branches, but Russia has repeatedly insisted that foreign banks be required to open a full subsidiary, not a branch, when entering Russia. In the insurance industry, Russia does not allow foreign insurance companies to underwrite and reinsure mandatory forms of insurance, including motor vehicles, health and government institutional insurance. Before Russia passed legislation in late 2003 to expand foreign ownership to 25 percent, the EU had considered the Russian insurance industry essentially closed.

According to the President’s 2006 Trade Policy Agenda and 2005 Annual Report, the U.S. remains concerned about market access for poultry, pork and beef in the wake of a June 15, 2005 agreement with Russia. The issue of how the agreement is being implemented, specifically questions that a U.S. quota could be used by other countries, is currently under discussion.

The United States is currently in the midst of its bilateral negotiations with the Russian Federation to agree to Russia’s membership and participation in the World Trade Organization. The United States is one of only a few nations remaining that must conclude a bilateral WTO agreement before Russia formally accedes to the WTO.

As this process continues, it is critical that Congress consider Russia beyond specific commercial issues and commitments on trade issues. Congress should consider that Russia’s is regressing in its movement towards a more democratic society and free market

economy because both issues have important ramifications for our trade relationship.

As a member of Congress who serves on the House Judiciary and International Relations Committees and Chairs the Energy and Resources subcommittee of the Government Reform Committee, I am engaged in the formulation of policy on intellectual property, U.S. foreign policy, and energy issues. Therefore, I see the U.S.-Russia trade relationship from a variety of perspectives. I also see the important relationship between market and democracy trends and Russia's WTO accession process.

I urge my colleagues to pay attention to these larger trends, some which are disturbing, as you consider Russia's progress on WTO negotiations with the United States and the eventual consideration of the Jackson-Vanik legislation and granting of PNTR to Russia. Russia must be held accountable under a WTO agreement that protects free and fair trade.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I an exchange of letters between DON YOUNG and RICHARD POMBO for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2006.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have reviewed the text of H.R. 5681, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006, and believe that the Committee on Resources has a jurisdictional interest in provisions in this important legislation dealing with fisheries. Specifically, we have identified a provision dealing with the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fishery in the Northern Region of the management plan.

Recognizing that the House of Representatives has a dwindling number of legislative days left before the 109th Congress adjourns, I will forego seeking a sequential referral of H.R. 5681. Waiving the Committee on Resources' right to a referral in this case does not waive the Committee's jurisdiction over any provision in H.R. 5681 or similar provisions in other bills. In addition, I ask that you support my request to have the Committee on Resources represented on the conference on this bill, if a conference is necessary. Finally, I ask that you include this letter in the Congressional Record during debate on H.R. 5681 when it is considered by the House of Representatives.

I appreciate your leadership on this bill and I look forward to working with you on H.R. 5681.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 27, 2006.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman, Committee on Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: Thank you for your letter expressing the jurisdictional in-

terest of the Committee on Resources in H.R. 5681, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006. The Committee on Resources has a recognized claim to jurisdiction over the conversion to catcher processor provision that is included in this bill as proposed to be considered under suspension. I appreciate your agreement to allow this measure to proceed under suspension and to waive further consideration.

I understand that your agreement to allow this bill to proceed under suspension is conditioned upon our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation, or your decision to waive further consideration, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Resources over provisions of the bill that are in your jurisdiction. I also understand that this waiver does not affect the right of the Committee on Resources to have its members named as conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate on this bill.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation in allowing the conversion to catcher processor shares provision to move on H.R. 5681. This issue impacts only fisheries in Alaska.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO HUMBOLDT VETERANS "WALL OF HONOR"

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to one town's effort to remember all of its veterans from the Civil War to the current War on Terror. Remembering the brave men and women of our military is something we should all strive to do in some fashion.

Humboldt and Humboldt Township is a small community in north-central Illinois. Thirty-five miles south of Champagne and nine miles north of Mattoon, Humboldt and Humboldt Township revolve around agriculture and farming. The 1,300 people of Humboldt Township, including the 500 that live in the town of Humboldt, define the essence of hard-working Americans.

The citizens of Humboldt Township are embarking on a remarkable memorial to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces. Next month the "Wall of Honor" will be on display at the Humboldt Township building. This tribute will honor veterans from the Humboldt area dating back to the Civil War and continuing to the present day. There will be hundreds of pictures mounted on the walls and articles of interest will be displayed on tables.

While Humboldt may not be large, their contribution to the U.S. military has been great. Humboldt residents have served during times of peace and times of war. When needed, they have heeded the call of duty and traveled far from home to defend the United States. They have triumphed at Vicksburg during the Civil War, flown bombing missions over the Pacific in World War II, rescued fellow soldiers as the U.S. engaged in the Korean War, courageously served in Vietnam, liberated a country held hostage during the Gulf War, and fought in the War on Terror and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, during this time when the military is so important to the United States, it is

gratifying to see local communities make efforts to remember those that have dedicated their lives to protecting this nation. I congratulate the citizens of Humboldt and wish them the best.

HONORING FAIRFAX CITY'S VFW POST 8469

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of VFW Post 8469, and the veterans whose dedication and service to this country are a remarkable testament to the past and present character of America's servicemen.

On October 7, 2006, Fairfax City's VFW Post 8469 will celebrate its 60th anniversary. This Veterans of Foreign Wars Post includes members who have served their country in several foreign conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and most recently Iraqi Freedom. It is the history of this fine group of patriots that is celebrated. And history tells a tale.

Sixty years ago Fairfax was a bucolic little southern county. There were only two high schools. The Fairfax County Police Department had only six officers. Most of the young men who went off to war in the preceding 5 years knew each other, as did many of their families. They generally left for war at different times and typically served in different units, spread all over the globe.

These soldiers saved the world and then they returned to an America that had radically transformed in their absence; specifically, to a county poised on the verge of a period of unprecedented growth. The only thing that had changed more than their world was the soldiers themselves. The returning soldiers, in the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, "[had] shared the incommunicable experience of war . . ." This theme, and the reality of their circumstance, helped to underscore the necessity for a place and a venue where the veterans could find comradeship, work for the common good of the community, their fellow veterans, the widows and orphans, and to remember their fallen.

Mr. Speaker, today VFW 8469 is blessed with the presence of four of the 108 charter members of our Post from October 1946. All members of VFW 8469 stand on the shoulders of these and other giants.

The Charter Members named VFW 8469 the "Blue and Gray Post", in honor of the area's famous 29th Infantry Division and in recognition of the healing power of a post-Civil War poem titled, The Blue and the Gray, by Francis Miles Finch. The first verse of which reads:

"By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled, [the
Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River]
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead: [Arlington
Cemetery]

Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the one, the Blue,
Under the other, the Gray."

All Americans owe an unfathomable debt to our American soldiers who have taken up

arms in defense of our lives and our freedom. As I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of VFW Post 8469, I believe it appropriate to conclude with the remarks of Floyd Houston, a member of VFW Post 8469.

“These young veterans need us as much as we need them. We must never forget our past—these giants who built what we have today and we must always keep faith with our values as we press into the future—support to veterans, their survivors, our community, and honoring our dead. May God continue to bless this Post, this county, this country, and may we never be at a loss for heroes such as these.”

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN RINALDI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend John Rinaldi, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career with the City of Henderson, Nevada. John is an outstanding example of a dedicated and supportive community-minded person that I have the privilege of representing in the Third Congressional District.

John joined the City of Henderson in October 1989 as Property Manager and City Surveyor and was promoted in July 2004 to Manager of the Office of Property Management and Redevelopment in the City Manager's Office. He formerly directed the City of Henderson's real estate interests; administered the sale, purchase, and lease of property for public use and city-initiated enterprise projects; and oversaw the Redevelopment Agency's efforts in three separate districts: Downtown, Tuscany, and Cornerstone.

John graduated from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture—Landscape Design. John is a registered Water Rights Surveyor in Nevada and a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in Nevada, California, and Oregon. He is a published author of several articles on land surveying and an instructor, presenting papers at national conferences, classes and seminars.

In addition to his academic success and accomplishments, John is also a member of several organizations such as the Urban Land Institute, International Right-of-Way Association, American Public Works Association, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and the Nevada Association of Land Surveyors. John is also a graduate of the 1998 Clark County Leadership Forum.

John has allowed these experiences to strengthen his philosophies and ideologies of community, integrity, and professionalism to strengthen his moral code and leadership abilities. John is well regarded for possessing a strong moral character which has guided him successfully through his years of public service to our community. His commitment and passion for building a better Nevada reflects the type of person that he is.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend John Rinaldi. He has worked tirelessly for the last 17 years on behalf of the residents

of the City of Henderson, and I applaud his efforts and dedication. I wish him the best in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAXWELL BAIN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Maxwell Bain of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Bain has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Bain has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Maxwell Bain, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KATY ELEMENTARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Katy Elementary School, of the Katy Independent School District, is among the 26 Texas schools that have recently received the Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools award.

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes outstanding public and private schools that are either academically superior or have demonstrated dramatic and consistent gains in student achievement. The Department of Education selects Blue Ribbon Schools based on nominations submitted by the states. My colleagues may be interested to know that every school nominated by Texas received a Blue Ribbon Schools award.

Schools can be nominated for a Blue Ribbon Schools Award if at least forty percent of their disadvantaged students show dramatic improvement over three years on state tests in reading or English language arts and mathematics. Schools whose student bodies rank in the top ten percent on state tests in reading or English language arts and mathematics may also be nominated for a Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

In addition to these two criteria, Blue Ribbon Schools must meet Adequate Yearly Progress requirements in reading or English language arts and mathematics, must not have been identified as a “Persistently Dangerous” school within the last two years, and must comply with other Department of Education requirements.

Katy Elementary's designation as Blue Ribbon Schools is a tribute to the schools' teachers, administrators, and other employees' dedication to providing students with a quality

education. It also is a reflection of the students and parents' commitment to the pursuit of educational excellence. I am therefore pleased to offer my congratulations to Katy Elementary School for being one of the 26 Texas schools designated as Blue Ribbon Schools by the Department of Education.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONALIZED HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud today to introduce the Personalized Health Information Act, which I hope will be a step in helping us redesign America's health care system.

Our health care system today delivers some of the best care in the world, but can hardly be described as the best health care system. We spend more than 50% more on health care per capita than other industrialized nations, and yet our health outcomes are much worse. We all know the burden that health care costs are putting on America's families and businesses.

Many of us have extolled the potential of information technology to begin transforming health care. I.T. can unlock data that is trapped in paper, catch human errors, help providers deliver the latest evidence-based medicine, improve public health, reduce duplication and administrative costs, and provide new research capabilities. I.T. is by no means a silver bullet, but it is a tool that can be used to reorient health care, so that—finally—the system delivers the right care to the right people at the right time, as efficiently as possible.

I've introduce other bills on this subject, and House and Senate negotiators are currently trying to work out a compromise health I.T. bill, but this bill today is a new approach. Those other bills, mine and others', have generally focused on the challenges of putting technology in providers' hands and building the related infrastructure. That goal is critical, and we pursue it vigorously. But it also is long-term.

I believe that there are other, parallel steps we can take that can begin harnessing the power of technology to improve health outcomes and efficiency right now. And I think we can do so in a way that will begin changing the dynamics around health I.T. in a way that makes the longer-term goals more attainable.

Web-based, consumer-controlled patient health records, PHRs, have been recognized by many to have great potential. After all, a PHR that contains a person's basic demographics, insurance information, and a current medications list would be extremely valuable, even if it contained nothing else. That PHR would mean every provider would have important basic information at the point of care. It would cut down on medication errors, and streamline administration.

The problem is that while many organizations offer PHRs, few people actually use them. The Personalized Health Information Act is designed to jump-start the use of PHRs.

This bill seeks to use the doctor-patient relationship to make the PHRs of value to the patients. Right now, most individuals see PHRs

as a lot of work with little benefit. If doctors begin using them with patients, however, the patients can get something out of them. So this bill will ask doctors to use PHRs to replace those dreaded clipboards when patients come to the office. If physicians do that, PHRs become more attractive. The patient can take ten minutes to put their information into a PHR, and use it with any doctor. If their doctors use them, the person will never have to fill out another clipboard again.

Even better, the PHR can be a communications channel between doctor and patient. The physician, or other entities like the person's health plan or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Heart Association, can send messages to the patient. For example, the patient can receive a reminder that she is due for a mammogram, or her prescription needs to be refilled. If physicians are willing, many PHRs can be used to allow e-consults and online scheduling as well.

If we can bring a critical mass of consumers into PHRs, it could create a strong consumer demand for health I.T. that could dramatically accelerate adoption. And polls show that consumers do want the capabilities that PHRs provide. For example, a recent Wall Street Journal poll found that approximately three-quarters of respondents said in each case that they would like to be able to email their doctor, to schedule appointments online, to receive test results electronically, and to receive electronic reminders. Unfortunately, fewer than ten percent can do any of those things right now.

Once physicians begin tapping into this pent-up demand by offering to use PHRs, I believe large numbers of patients will enroll. And conversely, as patients begin using PHRs, they will want their physicians to do so as well. Banks initially paid customers to use ATMs, but now they compete on how many ATMs they have and the functionality of their online banking offerings. Similarly, once health care consumers begin seeing the convenience and benefits of information technology, providers will want to be able to meet that demand. In this way, widespread use of PHRs could help give providers the incentive to make the investments in electronic medical records and other information technologies.

PHRs carry the potential for significant health and efficiency gains by changing patient behavior. Research shows that when patients receive reminders and other messages, they better comply with prescriptions, preventive care, and other health care recommendations. When that happens, patient health improves, and it also brings financial benefits to health plans, purchasers, and pharmaceutical companies. Everyone wins.

The Personalized Health Information Act would tap the value-added of PHRs by creating a public-private PHR Incentive Fund to pay physicians and other providers an incentive of at least \$2 for every patient with whom they use a PHR. The doctor simply needs to use the PHR in lieu of the clipboard, ensure that the patient's medications list is updated after the appointment, and use the PHR for communicating with the patient in appropriate circumstances. These requirements would be carried out by office staff and put minimal burden on doctors. Medicare would contribute \$2 to the Fund for each beneficiary enrolled, and private plans, drug and device manufacturers, and other private parties could do the same.

To qualify physicians for the payment, PHRs will need to meet certain minimum standards. They need to be entirely in the control of the individual, and will have to guarantee the portability of the data, so that the individual can take the information at any time. They'll have to meet interoperability standards and privacy and security standards. The PHR will also need to be able to send patient-specific messages in appropriate situations. Partners in the Fund would be able to have messages sent to patients with whom they have relationships via the PHRs, with strong safeguards to ensure that the messages are independently verified to be objective, accurate, and relevant to the patient. Absolutely no marketing or solicitations would be permitted. The individual must have the right to opt out of these messages, either entirely or from particular sources, at any time. In addition, the bill creates a Consumer Protection Board to ensure that these standards are met.

By paying incentives to physicians from a public-private fund, the Personalized Health Information Act captures the value that PHRs can create while tapping the strongest force in health care: the doctor-patient relationship.

This bill is not a silver bullet, Mr. Speaker, and will not solve all of the challenges inherent in moving from a 20th century pen-and-paper system to a digital system for the 21st century. But it can inexpensively and quickly give millions of consumers and physicians a stake in that transition.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Edward Fotsch, who has done much to develop the ideas underlying this bill and has helped pull together feedback and input from physicians, consumer groups, payers, pharmaceutical companies, and others. I also need to express a debt of gratitude—again—to former Speaker Newt Gingrich and David Merritt at the Center for Health Transformation, who have been unlikely but terrific allies in the quest for, as Speaker Gingrich would say, a 21st century intelligent health system.

There are too many Americans who are being let down by a health care system that is unable to consistently and efficiently deliver the world-class care that it is capable of. I hope that this legislation will bring us one step closer to the health care system we need and deserve.

PUGHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pughtown Baptist Church as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. In 1856, citizens from Spring City, Pennsylvania gathered at the banks of the French Creek to baptize six men and women, thereby officially forming the Pughtown Baptist Church. From that day forward, the Church has been in its original building at 780 Pughtown Road, South Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Church congregation is focused on preserving their history while expanding the community's knowledge of the Church to its neighbors. The Church holds an annual community

picnic where members spend a day of fellowship and, additionally, this year the congregation reached out to the needy by sending a mission group to Ocean Spring, Mississippi, an area hit hard by last year's Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Pughtown Baptist Church as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. I am sure that this active and energetic congregation will continue to bring hope, faith, and aid to both Chester County communities and other communities in need for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING LOUIS COSTANTINO, SR.

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued employee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Louis Costantino, Sr. This year marks his 26th year of service to the Capitol and the House of Representatives. Mr. Costantino was born in a house on New Jersey Avenue, just a couple of blocks from the Capitol and it has always been an integral part of his life. Growing up on Capitol Hill he has fond memories of playing in the halls of the Capitol as a child. There is no wonder that he grew up to be one of our Chamber's finest gate keepers.

For years he has taken up his post outside the main entrance to the chamber—"the same door the president comes in for his State of the Union address," he will quickly tell you. He first began his career with the House of Representatives in 1980 with the Office of the Doorkeeper and he currently works for the Sergeant at Arms. Mr. Costantino has the deepest respect and admiration for our institution and all of its Members. He truly loves his job and the people around him.

Mr. Costantino has been struggling with cancer for the last two years, and I am happy to report that he has won that struggle. His physician, Dr. Kressel, this week gave him the good news. This was what his wife Doris, his children Eydie, Lou and Amy, his first grandchild Bella and his friends everywhere had long waited for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we congratulate Mr. Costantino on his 26 years of service to the House of Representatives and that we wish him continued good health.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK SUBLETT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a true hero and patriot who passed away on Wednesday evening, September 27th. A pioneer for African-Americans everywhere, Frank Sublett was one of 13 men who broke the Navy's color barrier in 1944. Dubbed the "Golden 13," these men bravely stood up in the face of racism in the Armed Forces and

entered Naval Training Station Great Lakes, Illinois. In February 1944, Frank became one of the first 13 African-American commissioned naval officers. The Golden 13 scored higher on standard tests than their white counterparts and went on to serve with distinction and fight the Nazis in the Atlantic and the Japanese in the Pacific. Frank Sublett continued to serve until the war ended in 1945.

When I first met Frank I was inspired by his story. And when I learned that he and other members of the World War II Black Navy Veterans were raising money to build a memorial honoring African-American Navy veterans from World War II, I wanted to help. I am saddened that Frank Sublett will not be standing next to me when we dedicate the memorial in North Chicago on Veterans Day. I hope that this monument to the courage of Frank and his comrades in arms will inspire young people to dedicate themselves to public service, whether in the military or as a civilian.

I want to offer my condolences to the Sublett family, especially to Frank's wife, Susan. Frank will be missed, but the memory of the Golden 13 will live on.

RECOGNIZING MARUMSCO HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Marumsco Hills Elementary School as it prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the Woodbridge area was starting its suburban growth. Most of the land surrounding the school was developed by Cecil D. Hylton. His major projects included Marumsco Village (1954), Loch Lomond (1958), Westgate (1961), Marumsco Acres (1961), Marumsco Hills (1961), Marumsco Woods (1962), and Dale City (1965).

In June 1963, the citizens of Prince William County approved a bond proposal for \$7,000,000 for school construction. In April 1964, Cecil D. Hylton and his wife Irene deeded 12 acres in Section 2 of the Marumsco Hills subdivision to Prince William County Schools. Marumsco Hills Elementary School was constructed by the Whyte Construction Company in 1964 for a contract price of \$442,631.67.

The school was designed by architect Earl Bailey. This particular plan was called the Bailey plan and was in a barbell design with circular pods on either end of a rectangular section. Eight other schools in the county were constructed in the same design. The classrooms surrounded an open court with each room opening onto the court.

It was first occupied by pupils for a full day of school on November 25, 1964. The dedication ceremony was held a year later on December 14, 1965. Dedication speakers included Stuart Beville, the Superintendent of Prince William County Schools. The school address at that time was 1005 Page Street. In 1966 a six-room addition was constructed, which now houses first grade and kindergarten classrooms. In 1984, the pods were enclosed,

creating 5 new rooms. In 2005 another two-rooms were added to the previous addition.

The school originally housed 1st through 6th grade students. In 1966, the county school system made major changes, moving 6th graders to the middle school level. In 1973 kindergartners were added to the elementary schools. In the 1974–1975 school year, 720 students were enrolled here. That year there were 74 kindergartners and 193 fifth graders. Today Marumsco Hills Elementary School currently has 406 students.

Since its establishment in 1966, Marumsco Hills Elementary School has committed itself to lofty standards of academic and extra-curricular excellence. Over the years, as the Prince William area has expanded and diversified, Marumsco Hills Elementary School has followed the community's example.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Marumsco Hills Elementary School faculty and staff for the immeasurable contributions they have made to the community by shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. I congratulate the school on its successes over the last 40 years and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished institution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EXPEDIA.COM

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Expedia.com, the world's number one online travel provider, for their business and service contributions to the tourism and travel industry.

Expedia delivers consumers everything they need for researching, planning, and purchasing a whole trip. The company provides direct access to one of the broadest selections of travel products and services through its North American Web site, localized versions throughout Europe, and extensive partnerships in Asia. Serving many different consumer segments—from families booking a summer vacation to individuals arranging a quick weekend getaway, Expedia provides travelers with the ability to research, plan, and book their comprehensive travel needs. Expedia-branded Web sites feature airline tickets, hotel reservations, car rental, cruises, and many other in-destination services from a broad selection of partners.

Expedia.com provides more than 25 million travelers per month the opportunity to research, plan and book their own travel accommodations. Travel opens our minds and hearts to different cultures, places and people. As Mark Twain wrote: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it solely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

In this Nation, travel and tourism is vital to our health and well-being as a strong and vibrant economy. It is the 1st, 2nd or 3rd largest employer in 29 states and Washington, DC, thereby creating 7.3 million travel-generated jobs. October 23, 2006 marks the 10-year anniversary of Expedia.com, an innovative online

travel company which maintains significant operations centers in Las Vegas with over 300 employees; I congratulate Expedia.com as one of the world's leading online travel providers with 25 million visitors to its site monthly and for its efforts to broaden this exciting, valuable industry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Expedia.com. Over the past decade, Expedia.com has made significant contributions to the travel and tourism industry, the economy of my state, and the overall travel experience.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL TANTILLO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Michael Tantillo of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Mr. Tantillo has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Tantillo has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Michael Tantillo, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

SALUTING THE NATION'S TOP BLACK COLLEGE RADIO STATION: FISK UNIVERSITY'S WFSK-FM

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very special organization in my hometown of Nashville, WFSK-FM, the radio station of Fisk University. Fisk is recognized nationwide for its outstanding academic programs as well as the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers—a group we recently honored here in Congress with the introduction of a special Congressional Resolution. Now, Fisk is also celebrating another outstanding accomplishment. WFSK-FM was just named the Nation's top black college radio station in the annual awards from Black Press Magazine and the Historical Black Press Foundation.

WFSK-FM broadcasts from its home on the campus of Fisk, but it informs and entertains a growing audience throughout the Middle Tennessee area. On air since 1973, WFSK has long been recognized for its diverse and innovative programming. The current format reflects the diversity and interests of the greater Nashville area. Music programs showcase smooth jazz classics, reggae, Haitian, African and gospel, as well as vintage funk and soul recordings. Public affairs programming includes in-depth news reporting, talk shows

that focus on issues of concern to the community, and features on art and culture events. According to Sharon Kay, General Manager at WFSK for the past year, the station prides itself on offering the community "an opportunity to hear shows and events from a cultural perspective and viewpoint that is unique in this marketplace."

On October 6, WFSK will kick off a major fund-raising effort with a non-stop, 48-hour on-air celebration of their heritage and their commitment to future growth. Under Sharon Kay's direction, WFSK is undertaking a major renovation and expansion, with plans for a new transmitter and new antennae, as well as upgraded digital equipment. I am honored to be joining the entire team at WFSK, as well as other community leaders and music professionals, for this important event.

WFSK is a powerful and important voice in Nashville. I am proud to salute them on their latest achievement, being named the Nation's top black college radio station. And I wish them continued success with their upcoming fundraising event and in the years to come as they expand their presence in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
REPEALING TWO UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND PATERNALISTIC
FEDERAL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation repealing 2 unconstitutional and paternalistic federal financial regulations. First, this legislation repeals a federal regulation that limits the number of withdrawals someone can make from a savings account in a month's time without being assessed financial penalties. As hard as it is to believe, the Federal Government actually forces banks to punish people for accessing their own savings too many times in a month. This bill also repeals a regulation that requires bank customers to receive a written monthly financial statement from their banks, regardless of whether the customer wants such a communication.

These regulations exceed Congress's constitutional powers and violate individual property and contract rights. Furthermore, these regulations insult Americans by treating them as children who are unable to manage their own affairs without federal control. I urge my colleagues to show their respect for the Constitution and the American people by cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING REV. WAITSTILL AND
MARTHA SHARP FOR SAVING
LIVES DURING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce legislation today paying tribute to the Reverend Waitstill and Martha Sharp, the couple who fought genocide.

On September 14, 2006, a ceremony was held at the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. honoring the Reverend Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha, as they became the second and third Americans to be added to the honor roll of 21,000 "righteous" gentiles, or non-Jews, whose efforts saved countless lives during the Holocaust.

Also, on September 14, the Washington Post wrote an article about the Sharps, calling them "The Couple Who Fought Genocide," and I would like to share with my colleagues excerpts from that article:

As the Nazis marched across Europe in 1939 and 1940, a Unitarian minister from Massachusetts and his wife rushed into the coming Holocaust to save Jews and other refugees, including scores of children. When they set out for Europe in January 1939, Germany had seized the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and refugees were flowing across the continent. The American Unitarian Association asked numerous ministers to go to Europe before Waitstill, 37, and his social worker wife, Martha, 33, agreed.

Prague, Czechoslovakia was home to one of the world's largest Unitarian congregations, which was helping refugees of all stripes—Jews, trade unionists, political dissenters, and others. The Sharps arrived to lend a hand in February 1939, and one month later, the city was occupied by the Nazis.

On March 15, 1939, the day the Germans took Prague, Martha Sharp guided an anti-Nazi leader to asylum at the British Embassy. A few days later, the Reverence Waitstill Sharp arranged for a member of the Czech parliament to be smuggled out of a hospital morgue in a body bag. The Nazis soon closed the Sharps' office and threw their furniture into the street. But the couple stayed another five months and got out just ahead of the Gestapo.

On their second foray to Europe, in mid-1940, they worked in Marseilles, France and helped smuggle people across the Pyrenees into neutral Portugal. One of their close collaborators was Varian Fry, a 32-year-old New York editor who devoted himself to saving European intellectuals and was the first U.S. citizen placed by Yad Vashem on its "Righteous Among the Nations" honor roll, which includes Oskar Schindler and Raoul Wallenberg.

Since the Sharps burned most of their records to keep them out of Nazi hands, no one knows how many lives they saved. Their grandson, Artemis Joukowsky III of Boston, estimates they helped 3,500 refugees in Prague, though it is unclear how many survived. In Marseilles, they pioneered routes that hundreds used to escape.

Marianne Scheckler-Feder of Laguna Hills, California, has a fuzzy but enduring memory of Martha Sharp, reinforced by a fading black-and-white photograph taken on a sun-dappled street in the French port of Marseilles. "I remember a figure, she was a very, very elegant lady. Kind of serious and very concerned. You looked up to her, she demanded respect," said Scheckler-Feder, now 79.

Thousands of refugees from across Europe had flocked to Marseilles in hopes of gaining passage abroad, only to be interned in work camps when France surrendered to Germany in 1940 and the Nazis set up a collaborationist government in Vichy. Scheckler-Feder was 12. She was one of three Jewish sisters, nearly identical triplets who had fled with their parents from Vienna, a bare step ahead of the Nazis.

Marseilles was the end of the road, the end of hope—until they met Martha Sharp. She pestered Vichy officials to issue exit visas for 29 children, including nine Jews. With al-

most as much difficulty, she persuaded the State Department, which was rife with anti-Semitism, to let the children and 10 adults into the United States.

Scheckler-Feder and her sisters traveled by train to Lisbon and sailed in December 1940 aboard the *Excambion*, a ship stripped of all furnishings except sleeping bags, blankets and pillows to accommodate as many passengers as possible. Their parents eventually followed.

Scheckler-Feder has no doubt that were it not for Martha Sharp, her family would have perished: "What she did is outstanding, it will never be forgotten."

Mr. Speaker, this bill is the House companion to S. Res. 562, which was introduced in the Senate by Senators CHAFEE, REED, KENNEDY and KERRY. I am very proud to introduce this bill with the esteemed ranking member of the House International Relations Committee, Congressman TOM LANTOS, and the other House members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, Representatives CANNON (UT), CANTOR (VA), LATOURETTE (OH) and WAXMAN (CA), along with the Members of the House congressional delegations representing Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution paying tribute to this courageous husband and wife team and to pass this legislation in the coming weeks before the 109th Congress permanently adjourns.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
PLAN YOUR VACATION DAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit a resolution that would support the goals and ideas of a National Plan Your Vacation Day.

I have introduced this resolution today because I believe that vacations play an important role in creating a lifetime of memories that may be shared between individuals, friends, and families. Furthermore, travel opens our minds and hearts to different cultures, places and people. As Mark Twain wrote: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it solely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

Travel is vital to our health and well-being as a strong and vibrant economy. The southern Nevada area is one of the top American and international tourist destinations. The city of Las Vegas has earned a reputation as the convention capital of the world. In 2005, the city hosted 22,154 conventions, attended by some 6.2 million people. In fact, two-thirds of every dollar spent in the State of Nevada is a product of the tourism industry.

With the advancements in technology, making travel arrangements to visit Las Vegas or other destinations has never been easier. In fact, in this new broadband world, where businesses need not be built on brick and mortar, we have seen a transformation and evolution to online commerce. For example, October 23, 2006 marks the 10-year anniversary of Expedia.com, an innovative online travel company which maintains significant operations

centers in Las Vegas with over 300 employees; I congratulate Expedia.com as one of the world's leading online travel providers with 25 million visitors to its site monthly and for its efforts to broaden this exciting, valuable industry.

Congress should encourage American workers to benefit from their hard work by taking time to travel and creating memories that will last a lifetime. It is for these reasons that I take great pleasure in asking my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideas of a National Plan Your Vacation Day.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARCUS MORABITO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Marcus Morabito of Littleton, CO. Mr. Morabito has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Morabito has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Marcus Morabito, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

THE LEGION OF DOOM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this week Seven-Eleven stores are telling CITGO to hit the road. Now, Hugo Chavez has no one to thank but himself.

CITGO is owned by his Venezuelan government and after last week, when Chavez called President Bush the devil and an alcoholic then railed on capitalism, Seven-Eleven revealed it was choosing to use American gasoline distributors. It's a good lesson in that thing we like to call capitalism.

Whether Seven-Eleven's decision is business or political, I am happy that they made it. Americans are sick and tired of foreign regimes, their tirades, and their threats at the U.N. and around the world.

President Bush, long ago, targeted his Axis of Evil. An axis broken when U.S. soldiers pulled Saddam Hussein out of his hole in the ground, deep in Iraq. However, these recent fist banging rants have made it all too clear that we face more than just 3 enemies around the world. We are facing an entire "Legion of Doom."

Their caustic club is headed by the forked tongue Chavez. He's a man who only recently had his most memorable international tantrum,

filled with slurs, lies and outbursts about the U.S.

The former leader of the Legion of Doom, Fidel Castro, has health problems as severe as his country's economic issues. After decades of bad policies, he still manages to throw stones at the U.S. while his people are starving on Cuban streets. Now he's recruited Chavez to finish his dirty work.

The legion under Chavez's leadership counts among its members: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, Kim Jong II of North Korea, and their instigating intern, the drug smuggling Evo Morales of Bolivia. He's the world leader who brought a coca leaf to the U.N. to extol the virtues of the cocaine plant and run down the U.S. for our anti-drug policies. Perhaps his drug smuggling act was all in the hope that his stunts will someday allow him to be a big boy member of the legion.

These new younger Legion of Doom members have nuclear ambitions on their mind. Take for instance Kim Jung II of North Korea. After feuding for years over nuclear power to supposedly improve the lives of his people, he finally just decided to take matters into his own hands. He got down to the nuclear business he really wanted—making missiles. Apparently that will help his ailing countrymen more than hot water or electricity.

Just to prove he'd been diligently developing Missiles, he waited until July 4th of this year to test their range. They came up short, instead of flying high they fell into the Sea of Japan. No one is sure if he was attempting to threaten the U.S., Japan or South Korea, or just show how many missiles he has.

That series of missile launches then prompted another member of the Legion of doom to test the boundaries too. Now Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is demanding the same so-called civil nuclear program. He insists he is not trying to make nuclear bombs, but nuclear power.

Just like Kim Jong II, no one believes him. His lack of credibility could be due in part to the way he's freely discussed his wish to wipe Israel off the face of the planet and his denial that the holocaust ever happened. This is the same man who is accused of holding U.S. soldiers hostage after taking over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979. He's also accused of supplying Iraq with the IEDs that kill American soldiers everyday.

As if all of that wasn't enough, he also ensures his country gives tens of millions of dollars a year to Hezbollah. That's the terrorist group that killed more Americans than any other before 9/11. Other signs of his intentions came from a recent interview where Iran's leader didn't deny having suicide bombers ready to strike the U.S. and Britain.

His speech last week was that of a terrorist. That's what he and fellow members of the Legion of Doom are all about. They are committed to terrorizing those who want to be free, those who want democracy and those who wish to crush the very tyranny these men rely on.

Make no mistake, when we are fighting a war on terror, we're fighting members of the Legion of Doom. That is just the way it is.

A TOTAL FORCE GI BILL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues' support of legislation that has been introduced to enhance, improve and modernize veterans' education and training programs. Specifically, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 6250, a bill introduced by Dr. VIC SNYDER of Arkansas, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Nearly 62 years have passed since congressional enactment of the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944", commonly known as the "GI Bill of Rights", by all accounts a landmark legislative accomplishment. Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the "Montgomery GI Bill" (MGIB), another critically important legislative measure which has been credited for the creation of the middle class in America.

Now, the time has come to develop a "Total Force GI Bill for the 21st Century." For education and training benefits to remain a relevant recruitment, retention and readjustment tool, we must ensure that VA's education and training programs reflect the current manner in which individuals earn and learn in today's competitive marketplace.

A "Total Force GI Bill" must also reflect today's military force structure. Clearly, we all recognize the total force policy of our military includes increased activation of the National Guard and Reserve forces. Like no other time in our history have citizen-soldiers sacrificed so much and served with such distinction as they currently do in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since September 11, 2001, nearly 500,000 National Guard and Reservists have been activated, and approximately 40 percent of the troops currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are citizen-soldiers. These patriots have earned and deserve high quality education and training benefits, to be used even after they separate from military service. The "Total Force GI Bill" proposal would organize all MGIB programs within a single area of Federal law and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It would allow members of the National Guard and Reserves to use their education benefits after they separate from military service, for up to a period of 10 years.

I want to work in a bipartisan fashion to improve and modernize the MGIB so that it better reflects current trends in education and vocational training programs. The VA's Advisory Committee on Education and the Partnership for Veterans Education—a group made up of traditional veterans and military service organizations, as well as higher education advocates, all have endorsed the provisions of H.R. 6250. I believe this legislative proposal deserves careful consideration, and I pledge to work to pass the funding needed to support these improvements.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4830, BORDER TUNNEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2006; FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006; AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6095, IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4830, the Border Tunnel Prevention Act.

We need to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our country. The Border Tunnel Prevention Act is one positive step toward preventing criminals from entering our country unnoticed and illegally. This law creates new penalties for anyone using a tunnel to smuggle people, drugs or weapons into the United States. This effort is another tool for law enforcement and border security to begin to address illegal immigration and to aid in their efforts to keep our communities safe.

I have heard numerous times from Minnesota law enforcement agents about illegal drugs that pass through the Twin Cities on a regular basis, much of it originating south of the border and intended for the U.S. or Canada. While our law enforcement has made progress in shutting down meth production in the U.S., 80 percent of this dangerous drug comes from “superlabs” in Mexico. No legislation can entirely stop the flow of illegal drugs into our country, but this bill will add increased provisions to punish those who smuggle drugs into the U.S.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4830 today as a first step in what I hope will be a comprehensive effort to address immigration reform and the challenges law enforcement faces in keeping our communities and our country safe.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDREW WATSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Andrew Watson of Larkspur, Colorado. Mr. Watson has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Watson has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Andrew Watson, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN IVERSON

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marilyn Iverson, the Chief Operating Officer of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). She is retiring after more than 34 years of service to our men and women in uniform. Ms. Iverson has been an exceptional leader and has played a key role in lifting AAFES to new levels of excellence in providing service members and their families with quality products and services. I am proud to honor Ms. Iverson for her superb accomplishments and outstanding service to Army and Air Force military communities around the globe.

Marilyn Iverson began her career with AAFES in May 1971 and held many positions before becoming the Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 2002. During fiscal year 2005, AAFES revenues reached \$8.7 billion worldwide and are expected to exceed \$9 billion during fiscal year 2006. During her tenure AAFES generated more than \$793 million in direct support for the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs that are so highly valued by military members and so critical to combat readiness.

After a number of visits to Iraq and Afghanistan and other locations where U.S. forces are deployed, I have been most impressed with her efforts to provide unparalleled support to our deployed military with operations at 120 exchange facilities in 13 countries including many austere and hazardous locations. Under her leadership, AAFES also achieved a steady growth in sales, invested in a record 93 major construction projects on military installations, and developed a program to hire and develop a more diverse workforce.

Our men and women in uniform have benefited from Ms. Iverson's unfailing work ethic, outstanding professionalism, and superb leadership. Her efforts have enabled our military leaders to provide essential quality of life programs and service to our deployed soldiers and the families they leave behind. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank her for her service to our country and wish her well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JEAN DUCKETT

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Jean Duckett.

Ms. Duckett served as the Deputy Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG) within the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and retired on March 3, 2006 after 39 years of distinguished Federal service. More than half of her career was dedicated to the Medicaid program at CMS, and I rise in honor of her service.

Ms. Duckett served as a champion for people with disabilities and long-term illness to live meaningful lives in the community. She

worked tirelessly to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries received effective and high quality services. Most recently, her skillful and seasoned insight was of great assistance to the Energy and Commerce Committee during the development of home and community-based care legislation, including the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration that was passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Ms. Duckett can be proud that her work on this legislation will have a significant impact on the lives of many people with disabilities and enable them to live and work in the community.

Ms. Duckett started her career in the Social Security Administration working the graveyard shift as a secretary so she could attend college full-time during the day. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and then went on to earn a Master's degree in Social Policy while still working full-time and raising two children with her husband. Using this education and her experience, she worked her way up into the CMS management team as the Director of the Division of Benefits Coverage and Payment in DEHPG within the Center for Medicaid and State Operations and eventually became the DEHPG Deputy Director. She provided national leadership in increasing care options for individuals with disabilities by assisting states and others stakeholders in designing financially sound Medicaid programs that emphasize long-term services and supports that foster choice and opportunity for full participation in community life, including independent living, economic self-sufficiency and recovery for individuals of all ages.

Ms. Duckett served as a pioneer in helping states provide alternatives to institutional settings. She is part of the foundation upon which the home—and community-based service (HCBS) program in CMS has been built. The HCBS program was created in 1981, and she contributed to the development, approval, and implementation of each of the approximately 290 home and community based programs operating throughout all 50 states today. The wealth of knowledge she developed will continue to benefit individuals with disabilities and long-term illnesses across the country every day.

Ms. Duckett's expertise was invaluable and extensive, and her commitment to serving individuals with disabilities and long-term illness served as a model for people that worked for her. She provided an infallible sense of public service, and she always put other people first. Her contributions will be carried on as further steps are taken towards improving or maintaining the ability of individuals to contribute to society in a setting of their choice, averting deterioration in individuals' functional status, and reducing the likelihood that individuals with disability and the elderly will need institutional care.

On behalf of the million plus people living in the community of their choosing instead of an institution, who may never know who she is, or how directly and fundamentally her work impacted them, I sincerely hope that you will join me in recognizing and thanking Mary Jean Duckett for her dedication and service to the Federal Government, and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5825, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question. This do-nothing Republican Congress plans to adjourn without taking action on the issues facing American families. It is outrageous that instead of addressing our national security and economic security, Republicans are focused on scoring cheap political points that benefit special interests, further divide this country, and put us at greater risk.

Families—not big oil companies—need relief from the economic squeeze most are facing. This year we see the cost of health care, energy and education going up while wages stagnate. Our economic growth depends on an investment in our future and on recognizing that hard working, middle class Americans are the engine of our economy. It is also outrageous that 5 years after the tragedy of September 11, Republican leadership has failed to make the necessary investment in Homeland Security, preferring instead to continue to provide unaffordable tax cuts to corporations.

Democrats have proposed 5 actions that this Congress can take that will make a real difference in the lives of families.

This Congress should not adjourn without increasing the minimum wage. Republicans voted to increase our pay by \$31,600 this year but have refused a pay raise for the 15 million hardworking Americans making the minimum wage.

We must allow the Federal Government to negotiate for best price for pharmaceutical drugs on behalf of American seniors, persons with disabilities and taxpayers. This will significantly lower the cost of drugs, providing for resources that we use to fill the doughnut hole and finally provide the comprehensive coverage our seniors have been fighting for.

In order to ensure our global competitiveness, Congress should reverse the raid on student aid by replacing the \$12 billion cut earlier this year to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest.

This summer gas was over \$3 dollars a gallon. And while we are feeling some relief now, clearly it is temporary. At the same time, oil and gas companies are enjoying record profits at the expense of the American taxpayer. It is time that this Congress insist on an energy plan that benefits families and decreases our dependence on foreign oil. Lets roll back tax breaks for Big Oil and invest those dollars in alternative fuels.

And to keep America safe, Republicans should stop blocking the full implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and commit the resources necessary to secure our borders, ports, airports and chemical facilities. Instead of simply scaring Americans with talk of a terrorist attack, Democrats want to take real steps to keep American families safe.

Mr. Speaker, America needs a new direction. By voting against the previous question I am voting for initiatives that will promote economic growth and provide real security. I urge

my colleagues to reject the politics of cynicism and fear and to work together to move this country forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, I inadvertently voted “no” on rollcall 503, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. Please let the record reflect that I enter an “aye” vote on this rollcall.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
KELIHOALANI MITCHELL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelihoalani Mitchell of Aurora, CO. Ms. Mitchell has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation’s Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Mitchell has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Kelihoalani Mitchell, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 403.

S. 403 makes it a Federal crime for anyone other than a young woman’s parent to take her across State lines for an abortion unless the parental notification and involvement requirements of her home State have been met. In States without a current parental notification law, the Federal law applies. This legislation also requires a physician to notify, in person, the parents from another State about a medical procedure the doctor will be performing.

I will continue to work to do more to reduce abortion, but this is the wrong approach. Criminalizing health care providers and clergy while further victimizing young women who are already facing major challenges will not reduce abortions, will not reduce teen pregnancy, and will certainly not help to protect young women in this country. It is unfortunate that this legislation does not contain a judicial bypass process for young women who cannot, through no fault of their own, discuss this issue with their parents, as in cases of abuse or incest. This

bill even criminalizes a victim’s support network, the grandparents, aunts and uncles, adult siblings, religious counselors, and other trusted adults whom a young woman might turn to for help in this time of crisis. It also requires doctors to know the notification laws in all 50 States or face criminal penalties. S. 403 undermines Minnesota’s authority, forcing all States to comply with and enforce other States’ laws.

This legislation is opposed by a wide variety of individuals and organizations including physicians, public health experts, women’s organizations, religious groups, and think tanks. Simply put, S. 403 imposes significant barriers to young women’s emotional and physical health. The reality is that marginalizing and isolating these vulnerable young women will not protect them in their time of need, but rather force them to seek risky and unsafe ways to terminate their pregnancy. Instead, we must do more to support families and to work to reduce unwanted pregnancies through comprehensive education, adoption assistance, and family planning.

Mr. Speaker, S. 403 is a dangerous bill, harmful to those young women most in need of help. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation, which poses a serious threat to young women’s access to safe reproductive health choices.

THE R.S. 2477 RIGHTS-OF-WAY
RECOGNITION ACT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce “The R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way Recognition Act.” I am introducing this legislation to advance the dialogue on an issue very important to my constituents and many other stakeholders, particularly in the western United States.

R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way were originally granted by the 1866 Mining Law. However, in 1976 with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act or FLPMA, the R.S. 2477 statute was repealed while grandfathering in existing claims. Since the passage of the FLPMA and its repeal of R.S. 2477, a long-standing dispute regarding these grandfathered claims has persisted with the validity of these rights-of-way remaining in doubt.

The purpose of my bill is to remove this cloud, once and for all, by declaring that State and local governments hold valid rights-of-way for all public roads that were documented on government maps and photographs at the time the FLPMA’s grandfather clause was enacted.

Everyone must clearly understand the scope of this legislation. It does not establish new claims or to provide a method by which any party may to build roads or improvements on claims not valid under FLPMA. Instead, this legislation intends to reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of State and local governments to the rights-of-way that Congress intended they retain when passing FLPMA.

Thus, any attempt to construe this legislation as an endeavor to create a system of superhighways through public lands is just plain

wrong. This bill draws from the landmark decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit concerning the nature of an R.S. 2477 right of way, the meaning of unreserved federal land for R.S. 2477 purposes, and the principles governing the creation, nature, extent, use and maintenance of R.S. 2477 public roads.

Supporters of this legislation should keep in mind that the bill I am introducing today is not the conclusive end this controversy. Today's introduction marks the start of a dialogue that I hope leads to a comprehensive solution and eventually a victory for all the stakeholders; a victory that protects our public lands, the rights of property owners, and the legitimate interests of Federal, State, and local governments.

As we close the 109th Congress, let us each strive to work together to solve some of our most divisive public lands issues. Doing so requires engaging all parties through dialogue, creativity and persistence so that we may find common sense solutions that will meet the needs of the American public.

OCTOBER 3RD PROCLAIMED
“SCIENCE DAY”

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important role science plays in our society. Today, October 3, has been proclaimed “Science Day” by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt along with various mayors throughout southern Missouri.

“Science Day” is important because American innovation depends upon a strong foundation in the sciences. Statistics indicate the United States is falling behind other nations in science education. Japan, China, and South Korea produce more engineering graduates than the United States. Twenty years ago, the United States, Japan, and China each graduated a similar number of engineers. South Korea at the time graduated roughly half as many engineering graduates. By the year 2000, China increased engineering graduates by 161 percent, Japan effected a 42 percent increase and South Korea increased graduates by more than 140 percent. Meanwhile, the number of U.S. engineering graduates declined 20 percent. If this trend continues, by 2010 more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers in the world will live in Asia.

Science and technology-related employers continue searching overseas to find qualified engineers and scientists because our Nation is simply not producing enough graduates in the engineering and science disciplines. “Science Day” aims to bring attention to this problem and encourage action among parents, teachers and community members.

Science not only offers economic and advancement opportunity, it is also fun and exciting. Inside and outside the classroom, science offers an awe-inspiring window into the origins, workings and future of our physical world. By engaging students in this intriguing subject, parents and teachers foster exploration and enable them to reach their academic potential.

I commend this effort to raise awareness of the importance of science educators. I want to

thank the staff at KFVS News for their efforts in promoting the recognition of “Science Day.” By partnering with educators and community leaders, KFVS News has organized events and competitions designed to challenge students and emphasize the importance of science. On “Science Day,” I join Missouri’s community leaders in challenging our Nation’s parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members to do a simple science experiment with their children, to honor science teachers in their community and to recognize scientific contributions and their important roles in the future of our country.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support for House Resolution 973—recognizing Financial Planning Week. Now more than ever, working families need the tools and resources to make sound financial decisions.

American families are struggling with financial burdens—from growing student loan and credit card debts to increasing interest rates. Flattened wages and negative savings rates mean that too many families have to choose between sending their children to college and saving for retirement.

The financial situation for most American families is grim. In fact in 2005—for the first time since the Great Depression—the personal savings rate of Americans was negative. Americans have depleted their savings to pay off debt and to simply make ends meet. This is a dangerous trend for Americans that must be reversed.

That is why financial planning is more critical than ever. Americans need the tools and resources to know how to save for a variety of life opportunities and situations—including retirement, college, starting a new business, and buying a first home. Many families simply need assistance with budgeting for everyday needs. I commend the financial institutions that have included in their business models financial planning assistance for their customers. These institutions help to strengthen the economic situation for our communities and families.

What is unfortunate is that this Republican Congress has done little to provide relief to struggling families. Instead, families are being squeezed—flat wages, increased costs of health care, skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, and double digit college tuition increases. In nearly every aspect of life, American families are faced with financial burdens and tough budget decisions.

Congress could benefit from better financial planning—America deserves a Government that knows how to model good budget decisions. Unfortunately, this Republican Congress has led our Government into a negative savings rate—spending and borrowing more than our Nation can afford—while passing budgets that benefit the Nation’s wealthiest while short-changing hardworking, middle class families.

Today, I rise to support this important resolution. I will continue to work to support legis-

lation that will encourage working families to save for their futures and to ensure that working families have the resources to make sound budget decisions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
STATEMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the Hispanic community and to the important contributions Hispanics make to America. Today the Hispanic-American community numbers some 43 million, is the fastest growing ethnic group in our country, and plays a vital part in our nation’s economy, culture, and politics.

That’s why I’m so proud in Congress to be a member of both the Hispanic Working Group organized by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and of the Tri-Caucus, which is the collection of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the Asian Pacific American Caucus that advocate for the Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a thriving and accomplished Latino community in the 9th Congressional District of California, where the contributions of Latino members of the community are stronger than ever.

For example, throughout the past 37 years, the Spanish Speaking Citizens’ Foundation has empowered our community and improved the quality of life for many through an enormous range of services. Each year the foundation assists 12,000 members of the community through providing vital social services as well as enhancing opportunities for leadership development and civic participation.

Jovita Solis, the foundation’s Citizenship Coordinator, came to the United States when she was quite young and has made a tremendous difference in our community. Jovita routinely volunteers her time at numerous community events to encourage and assist many permanent residents to become naturalized citizens. Jovita has an indomitable spirit that was tested when her brother was murdered only 3 years ago. Jovita came out of her brother’s death with a purpose to make our community safer and to help our youths turn away from violence and crime. Jovita has spearheaded many youth initiatives to help our young people stay in school and encourage their pursuits in the arts and sports.

Another community leader creating a better world is Arnaldo Garcia. Arnaldo is the Enforcement and Justice Program Coordinator at the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), based in Oakland, California.

The NNIRR is a national organization that serves as a forum to share information and analysis, to educate communities and the general public, and to develop and coordinate plans of action on important immigrant and refugee issues.

Arnaldo works to promote a just immigration and refugee policy in the United States and to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants

and refugees, regardless of immigration status. Arnoldo and the National Network bases their efforts in the principles of equality and justice, and seek the enfranchisement of all immigrant and refugee communities in the United States through organizing and advocating for their full labor, environmental, civil and human rights. Arnoldo recognizes the unparalleled change in global, political and economic structures which has exacerbated regional, national and international patterns of migration, and emphasizes the need to build international support and cooperation to strengthen the rights, welfare and safety of migrants and refugees.

Mr. Speaker, Individuals in my district are the motivating force behind the remarkable organizations that promote civic engagement among Latinos in the 9th Congressional District. Leaders like Marta Higuera, a Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action field representative, helps BOCA fulfill its mission of creating a coalition of interfaith congregations throughout the city of Berkeley. Marta's leadership has been instrumental in having BOCA meet the needs of the Latino community. She persuaded the Berkeley High School English Language Learners program to translate forms and documents into Spanish for parents. In addition, Marta has organized immigration town halls and fundraisers to support our community members who are in most need.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the achievements of outstanding Hispanic Americans—like Jovita Solis, Arnoldo Garcia, and Marta Higuera—we know that celebrating the Hispanic community for just one month not enough. All Latinos deserve a real opportunity to achieve the American Dream, whether they have been here for generations or just arrived to our shores. Hispanic dreams and values are undoubtedly American dreams and values.

REGARDING THE “ACCOMPLISHMENTS” OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am so glad my colleagues on the other side of aisle feel that they can look the American people in the eye and say “we have done enough for you this session in Congress, we have earned a vacation. It is high time for us to adjourn.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me translate what the Republicans are actually saying: “We choose rather to go on vacation then to attend to the needs of the American people.”

It seems the Grand Old Party's leadership had a grand old time this year, deciding to recess after having spent the fewest number of days in session in our lifetime.

Pitifully, in comparison to the typical American worker who spends approximately 247 days a year laboring, Congressional members will have worked less than 100.

Mr. Speaker this is not simply a “do nothing Congress” as so many of my colleagues have said before me. This is just as much a “do nothing right Congress.”

And the American people understand this reality all too well. Remarkably, a recent CBS

News/New York Times poll found 75 percent of voters can't name one thing Congress has accomplished this session.

Well my friends, I can't really either. Republican priorities rolled out this session were strictly those that helped them advance politically. They chose to fritter away scarce time debating frivolous proposed constitutional amendments banning flag burning and gay marriage instead of real issues Americans at home are concerned with.

As we end this session, Republican leadership has only passed 2 of the 11 required spending bills—quite a feat when you consider that both chambers of Congress are of the same party.

If this Congress were a school, students here would certainly receive an “F.”

The list of their failures reads like a laundry list almost too long for me to recount right now:

In a gross display of negligence, Congress has failed to enact an annual budget this year.

Even though for nearly a decade the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant, Congress this year has again failed to negotiate a pay raise for working class Americans. And Congress also failed to negotiate deals on vital tax breaks for college tuition costs or research and development tax credits for businesses.

In response to the profusion of the Republican culture of corruption this year, Republicans have decided to do . . . zilch. Add Congressional failure to enact lobbying reform this year to the list.

Congress has failed to achieve health insurance reform and failed to finalize nuclear negotiations with India.

In response to sky high gas prices, increased signs of global warming and even President Bush's admission that America is far too reliant on foreign oil, Congress has failed to produce a real energy plan this session. Congress packs its bags to go, refusing to mandate higher levels of fuel efficiency standards or propose incentives for consumers or product makers to utilize alternative energy sources.

Congress leaves while nearly 12 million undocumented workers are hiding in the shadows of our society. After all the hype and rhetoric of passing an immigration bill, no true immigration reform has been realized this Congress.

Is the list of things left undone too lengthy, too repetitive, and too tiresome? Am I boring this Congress? There are still many more demonstrations of what little progress this Congress has made.

And what little has been done has been done badly! Important bills are being rushed through to secure a Republican majority in the next Congress. The latest example being the tyrannical anti-terror law, allowing Congress to reinterpret international law to authorize torture. A law that despite its name, nonetheless makes our troops less safe, leaves our Nation unprotected, and successfully damages our international credibility.

Of all the bills that have actually passed this Congress, how many of them have actually improved the lives of Americans?

What do have to show our constituents back home in our districts? An unstable economy, ridiculously high health care costs and gas prices, a loss in life abroad and a loss of our basic freedoms here at home.

More than 5 years after 9/11, numerous reports have shown that the war on Iraq is hurting our Nation in the war against terrorism. Our borders still remain exposed and our first responders still lack adequate resources to respond to either another 9/11 or another Katrina.

While we spend approximately \$2 billion a week on defense, Osama bin Laden is still alive and well, and Al Qaeda is resurging in Afghanistan stronger than ever before. Iraq is engulfed in sectarian violence and civil war and has become the breeding ground for a new generation of terrorists.

The war in Iraq has stretched our resources and troops thin, leaving us exposed to potential global terrorists and nuclear threats from nations such as Iran and North Korea.

Americans, I insist that you ask this question to yourself before you go to the ballot box this November:

What has the Republican Congress done for me these last 2 years? If you can not think of a single thing, you are not alone. Please think of a new Congress that would attend to your priorities here and overseas before you select your next elected official.

THE SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6061. This bill will not improve U.S. national security and will clearly not provide for meaningful immigration reform.

I voted against the construction of a fence spanning our entire southern border in December, when the House unfortunately passed H.R. 4437, the Border Security Act of 2005. It is disappointing that the Republican leadership has chosen to spend the time debating a provision that has already passed the House, rather than go to conference and pass comprehensive immigration reform that will protect American workers and secure our borders. This House should be addressing issues like raising the minimum wage, providing health care and quality education to every child in America, and ensuring that our State and local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to keep our streets safe. Not rehashing a border fence provision that has already been voted on in the last 12 months.

Once again, I strongly believe that Congress needs to work to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our citizens. However, this bill is inadequate and clearly will not begin to address the complicated issues regarding immigration reform. Even the small effort authorized in this bill—a 700-mile fence along our southern border with Mexico—is not fully funded. Nor does this legislation contain the resources necessary to increase the number of border security agents. This is nothing other than an election year ploy to use a serious issue that affects workers, immigrants, and our communities as a scare tactic.

America deserves immigration reform that will work. The Republicans have had months to appoint a conference committee and work out the differences between the President's approach and the bills put forward by the

House and Senate. Clearly, the majority is not truly interested in solving this problem.

I hope my colleagues will oppose this bill and will join me in urging Republicans to get serious about this issue and to focus more on the security of this country than the security of their jobs.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE AT BABI YAR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 65th anniversary of the massacre at the Babi Yar ravine near Kiev, Ukraine. On September 29, 1941, German occupying forces ordered the city's Jewish population to assemble at the ravine. The Jews complied, assuming they would be placed in a ghetto.

Instead, they were herded together and ordered to strip. Nazi machine gunners then systematically and brutally cut them down. That first day more than 33,000 Jewish men, women, and children were put to death. As the war continued, more mass slaughters occurred at Babi Yar; by the end, more than 100,000 people are thought to have been murdered there.

We mourn the tragic deaths of these innocent people at Babi Yar, along with the 55 million who perished in other places, during the Holocaust and World War II, as a result of the brutal and sadistic policies of Adolf Hitler.

To prevent future genocides, we must dedicate ourselves to the promotion of human rights for all people. Humanity should never again have to suffer through such a nightmare.

As the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress, I am firmly committed to this effort. Since early 2004 I have been working to draw the world's attention to the genocide that is occurring in Darfur, Sudan. The international community must act now to safeguard innocent lives in Darfur, as I noted in a September 26 Financial Times op-ed piece—which I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—and in legislation that passed the House this week (H. Res. 723). This resolution calls on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, and particularly to protect civilians.

Unfortunately, while the world community in general has been quick to condemn the genocide, mobilization in support of the Sudanese civilians has been slow. Evidently, the world needs reminding that the genocide in Darfur, like the Holocaust before it, is not just a local crisis. It is a crisis for all humanity and obliges all of us to act with urgency. Words without deeds trivialize the lessons that humanity professes to have learned from the Holocaust, and they betray the people of Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to reflect on the tragedy currently occurring in Darfur, and to recommit themselves to making every effort to end such global outrages.

[From the Financial Times, Sept. 27, 2006]

WE MUST MOBILIZE PRESSURE AND FEAR TO
SAVE DARFUR

(By Tom Lantos)

History will regard the situation in Darfur, Sudan, as an African holocaust if the international community fails to protect innocent lives. The African Union's decision late last week to extend its mandate in Darfur has bought just three more months for the rest of the world to persuade Sudanese leaders not to start another round of slaughter. Khartoum still refuses to agree to let United Nations peacekeepers take over from the AU troops when they go home.

The U.N. Security Council voted last month to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers to replace the AU troops; the Sudanese government immediately rejected that resolution and announced that the AU had no authority to transfer its mission to the U.N. Then Sudan began to fan out more than 30,000 of its troops, allegedly to bring peace and stability to Darfur and to protect civilians.

Imagine if Hitler had offered to "protect" Europe's Jews. As a Holocaust survivor, I cannot think of a more despicable act than to have Khartoum send soldiers—who have raped and slaughtered thousands and displaced 2 million people—to "protect"—civilians.

Evidence is mounting that the Sudanese government is positioning air and ground forces to complete the genocide in Darfur that began 3 years ago. There is ample reason to fear a full-scale and imminent onslaught against civilians.

The U.S. government declaration calling the situation in Darfur genocide and a growing international civilian movement raised the expectations of the helpless. But we have failed to galvanize sufficient global commitment to protect victims of genocide. The May 5 signing of the Darfur peace agreement seemed to offer a ray of hope that the darkest days were behind the innocent men,

women and children of Darfur. But that agreement is now on the verge of collapse because of resurgent violence.

The international community must put actions behind its now myriad words and commit to civilian protection by supporting the transition of the AU mission to the U.N. NATO must also broaden its support to the AU through this perilous and crucial transition to a U.N. peacekeeping mission that should deploy with or without the consent of the Sudanese government.

The past few years have shown that two things move Khartoum—pressure and fear. After September 11 2001, the thugs in the government there feared the consequences of harbouring Osama bin Laden and his terrorist cohorts, and they began to co-operate in the war against terrorism.

We must now mobilize those two powerful factors in the interest of civilian protection in Darfur, hold Khartoum's leaders accountable for the atrocities that continue to take place and make sure that Darfurians can return safely to their homes.

Whether to end genocide in Darfur is not a choice for Khartoum to make; it is a requirement to avoid not only international condemnation and isolation, but also an imposed civilian protection regime. I was proud to author a resolution calling on George W. Bush, the U.S. president, to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, with a specific emphasis on civilian protection (H. Res. 723).

If Khartoum continues to reject the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, an imposed civilian protection regime in Darfur should be the priority of the AU, the U.N., NATO, the European Union and the U.S. government. I will continue to push for the immediate deployment of Nato assets as part of a transitional operation to stop the atrocities while the U.N. forces are deployed.

If Khartoum persists in pursuing genocide, I support military action to neutralize those military forces employed by Sudan to attack civilians or to inhibit peacekeepers from their deployment. Khartoum must be made to understand that there will be severe consequences for a further genocidal assault on the people of Darfur. Its reaction to the Security Council resolution authorizing a peacekeeping operation is no surprise. Neither is its attempt to bully the AU into submission by issuing an ultimatum for the union to reject the U.N. resolution or leave Darfur.

Evidently, the world needs reminding that the genocide in Darfur is not just an African crisis. It is a crisis for all humanity and obliges all of us to act with urgency. Words without deeds betray the people of Darfur.