

been spent on all stem cell research over the past six years.

Much of this research, like the amniotic fluid stem cell research, is without the ethical dilemma, and has simply proven to be more effective.

Researchers have expended years of time and energy trying to develop a single treatment or cure for any disease from embryonic stem cells to no avail; and actually finding adverse consequences like tumors at the implantation site. But adult stem cells have already provided us with treatment options for 72 diseases. Adult stem cells have shown a real return on the American people's investment.

We have seen results from adult stem cells and should continue to support and subsidize progress in this field. And, as I mentioned a moment ago, there is a new option in the form of amniotic stem cells which has already shown great promise and even more success than embryonic stem cells.

The face of this debate has already changed in the short time since it came before us last summer; and while this latest discovery provides hope, it should also act as a warning. A warning that we cannot make rash decisions which cost not only federal dollars, but also human lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENA BITTER,  
RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 THOMAS  
JEFFERSON AWARD

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 12, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Rena Bitter, a Dallas native and a Foreign Service officer currently serving as Consular Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, for winning the 2006 Thomas Jefferson Award presented by American Citizens Abroad (ACA).

This honor is extended to State Department employees who have displayed exemplary service to the American community overseas. ACA founded this award to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, America's first Secretary of State and third President. They described Jefferson as "the quintessential Overseas American" who lived outside the new republic for many years while helping to secure its independence and promote its political, economic and national security interests. In a similar manner, Rena serves our country today as Jefferson once served.

Rena entered the Foreign Service in 1994 having previously served in Mexico City, Mexico; Bogota, Colombia; and London, England. After spending a year with the British Foreign Office, Rena served as Chief of the Non-immigrant Visa Unit at the American Embassy in London. During an assignment in Washington, DC, Rena served as a Special Assistant to former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Rena received additional leadership awards while serving both at the American Embassy in London and the office of the Secretary of State.

Currently in Amman, Rena has a wide range of responsibilities. She not only assists American citizens living and working in Jordan, but supports David Abell (co-winner of

this award) and his co-workers at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. Rena's dedicated efforts provide for the needs of our fellow citizens in very difficult times. As a testimony of her dedication to Americans overseas, one of her supervisors once wrote that "If my grandkids were to find themselves in trouble, I would hope it would be Rena, or someone like her, who would be available" to help them.

I wish Rena Bitter all the best, and I thank her for her dedicated service to the American citizens overseas.

### HONORING ATHALIE RANGE

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 12, 2007*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 15th, Americans in my Congressional district of South Florida and across the nation will gather to celebrate the birth, the life, and most importantly, the dream of civil rights pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While Dr. King's dream has yet to be fully realized, he reminds us that "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

In reflecting upon the words of Martin Luther King Jr., I am reminded of the many members of the South Florida African-American community who led the struggle for equal rights, most notably the late Athalie Range—a civil rights advocate and dedicated civil servant.

As the president of the Liberty City Elementary PTA in 1953, Athalie Range launched an unprecedented fight against the dismal conditions and lack of resources available to students attending local segregated schools. Steadfast in her conviction, Athalie went before the all-white school board, demanded immediate improvements—and got them.

In 1966, Athalie became the first African-American to serve in the Miami Commission, where she fought to improve her community's local infrastructure, reduce crime and poverty, and expand local government services for minorities. In the 1970's Athalie continued to break ethnic barriers when she served as the head of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, and then appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the National Railroad Passenger Corp.

Athalie also guided the careers of many prominent members of the South Florida African-American community including former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, with whom I had the pleasuring of serving with in the House of Representatives.

Athalie's passing this November was a tremendous loss to our community, a community she loved so much.

During her decades-long career, Athalie brought about tremendous and positive change, while opening doors for our community, and leading an example for others throughout the Nation.

As Americans and citizens of humanity, we owe a debt of gratitude for leaders such as Athalie Range and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for their invaluable contributions to democracy, equality, and freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE COLLECTION OF FEDERAL OIL, CONDENSATE, AND NATURAL GAS ROYALTIES ACT OF 2007"

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 12, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing the "Study of Ways To Improve the Accuracy of the Collection of Federal Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Royalties Act," which was H.R. 6368 in the 109th Congress." I am pleased to be joined by Representatives HINCHEY (D-NY) and GRIJALVA (D-AZ) in introducing this legislation. On May 7, 2006, the Washington Post reported allegations that American taxpayers are being shortchanged by oil and gas companies in the royalties that they are paying to the Federal Government ("Firms Harvesting Energy from Public Lands May Owe U.S."). Jack Grynberg, a plaintiff in a false claims action against seventy-three energy and pipeline companies, was featured in the article. Based on his expertise, the legislation I am introducing asks the National Academy of Engineering to conduct a study regarding improving the accuracy of collection of royalties on production of oil, condensate, and natural gas under leases of both onshore and offshore Federal lands and onshore Indian lands.

These valuable resources are owned by the American people, who should be fairly and accurately compensated. I believe that this study would prove invaluable in accomplishing this important goal and will tell us if there is a problem, including the extent of the problem, with the collection of royalties from Federal lands and Indian lands.

### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WOODY

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 12, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and distinguished career has come to an end. Robert Woody retired as Fire Chief of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on January 3, 2007, after 32 years of service.

Robert Woody earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Southwest Missouri State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science from Drury College. Mr. Woody began his career as a firefighter in 1975 and after 4 years of service was promoted to driver. On February 20, 1983, he was promoted to crew chief where he served as a positive role model to many young firefighters. In 1999, after serving 8 years as assistant fire chief, he was promoted to fire chief where his leadership is to be commended. Under Mr. Woody, the Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department received the "Fire Department of the Year: Northwest Region".

Mr. Woody was a member of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs, Firefighter's Association of Missouri, Professional Fire and Fraud Investigation Association, and the Pulaski County Fire Chief's Association. He was

honored with a Superior Performance Award in 1980, a Commander Award for Civilian Service in 1988 and 1999, a Special Act of Service Award in 1991, the Superior Civilian Service Award in 1992, and a Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1996.

Madam Speaker, Robert Woody is a valuable member of his community and his leadership will be greatly missed. Mr. Woody plans to travel with his companion, continuing farming, teaching Fire Science and Safety with Missouri's Division of Fire Safety, and spending time with his two sons, Andy and Adam. As he begins the next phase of his life, I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking Robert Woody for his service to the Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department and wish him well as he begins his retirement.

STEM CELL RESEARCH  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, no single action this Congress could take would have a more profound, more life-affirming impact than allocating federal funds for biomedical scientists to conduct research with human embryonic stem cells. Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, brain and spinal cord disorders, diabetes, cancer—at least 58 diseases could potentially be cured through stem cell research. Diseases that touch every family here in America and throughout the world.

And Mr. Speaker, I stand here as someone who understands the promise of biomedical research all too well. Having been diagnosed with ovarian cancer by chance on an unrelated doctor's visit two decades ago, I know first-hand how this research can change lives—it saved mine. It can quite literally mean the difference between life and death. Between hope and despair.

To be clear, I think it is safe to say that every Member of this body is excited about the recent news regarding the scientific potential in amniotic stem cells. One can only imagine the medical breakthroughs this research has in store for us.

But scientists tell us it is no replacement for embryonic research—just as the limited number of stem cell lines President Bush made available in 2001 were not a replacement for full federal funding of this research. Indeed, this finding simply reminds us how critical it is that we pursue any and every kind of research that can contribute to our understanding of these diseases—so long as we can ensure it is performed with the utmost dignity and ethical responsibility. That is what “expanding stem cell research” is all about.

And for sure, this legislation does just that—permitting peer-reviewed federal funds to only be used with public oversight and by only allowing research on embryos that were originally created for fertility treatment purposes and that are in excess of clinical need and will otherwise be destroyed.

I believe the real moral issue here is whether the United States Congress is going to stand in the way of science and preclude the scientists from doing lifesaving, ethical re-

search. We do not live in the Dark Ages—and nor should our public policy. With this vote, this Congress has an opportunity to show the world we are a country that believes science has the power to advance life.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are such a country. The world has always looked to America as a beacon of hope precisely because of our capacity to use our abundant resources to promote the best ideas in the world. Let's continue that tradition. Let's lead the way—let's support this bill.

HONORING TONY GWYNN'S ELECTION TO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Tony Gwynn and congratulate him on his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame. This high honor caps a career of great accomplishment, respect for the game, the fans and his team the San Diego Padres.

Tony is an all around athlete having been drafted by both the Padres and Clippers before focusing on his baseball career. He is a member of the exclusive 3,000 hit club, a five-time gold glove winner at right field and an eight-time National League Batting Champion. These numbers are amazing enough but adding to that the Roberto Clemente award for dedication to community and 15 trips to the All-Star Game at the request of baseball fans worldwide shows the love and respect fans of baseball showed to him as well.

Congratulations on your election today to the Baseball Hall of Fame. I am proud of you Tony, you deserve it and the best of luck in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC PAUL BALINT, JR.

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On December 15, 2006, Army Private First Class Paul Balint, Jr. (B Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division) died in Al Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Private Balint had served in the Army for over a year and in Iraq for three months, before sustaining fatal injuries during an attack on his battalion.

Balint was known as a loyal friend and soldier. His parents remember him as a compassionate man and a mediator, always thinking about others and wanting to make sure everyone was having a good time. He also had a love for hip-hop music and was going to add music to the home videos he filmed while in Iraq.

His parents had no doubts about what their son wanted to do with his life. He was going to be a soldier. Balint used to recite the “The Soldiers Creed” at the kitchen table while his

mother cooked. When his father asked him what he wanted to do, he said he “wanted to be in the infantry.” When his father then asked him about the issue of Iraq, Balint responded that he wanted to go “fight that stuff.”

Balint enlisted in the armed forces in Willow Park, Texas, with his brother, mother and father at his side.

After completing basic training, Balint had the Soldiers Creed branded into memory, and into his heart.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Private Balint, I would like to read aloud the Soldiers Creed.

THE SOLDIERS CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Private Balint is gone, but he will never be forgotten. God Speed to his family and to the United States of America.

STEM CELL RESEARCH  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the issue of embryonic stem cell research places humanity on the frontier of medical science and at the outer edge of moral theology.

On the side of science there is much hope, even expectation that extraordinarily effective therapies will be developed to treat—and possibly cure—a wide range of maladies such as diabetes, Parkinson's, spinal cord injury and a host of others. Progress has been achieved in the laboratory in animal studies and in human application. Much has yet to be learned, however, about adverse outcomes, which is why scientists proceed cautiously without over promising and with respect for the moral considerations of their research.

The latter gives me the greatest pause. An editorial in *America Magazine* said it well: “The debate over embryonic stem cell research cannot be fully resolved because it is ignited by irreconcilable views of what reverence for life requires.”

Let us recall Louise Brown, the first test tube baby. Her life began in vitro, as a fertilized egg. There are many potential Louise Browns, potential human beings conceived in the laboratory but leftover as cryogenic embryos. Are they to be discarded, or, can they ethically be used for stem cell research? That is the moral theology issue that we must resolve.

The reality is that human life is established in creating an embryo, whether in vitro or in