

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CIRCLE SEAL CONTROLS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Circle Seals Controls, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in Corona, California. On November 29, 2007, I was proud to attend the anniversary celebration.

Circle Seal has a long, proud tradition of quality manufacturing in southern California. Circle Seal's home for the last 15 years is also my hometown—Corona. The state-of-the-art facility has 300 employees and provides equipment for military and commercial aircraft, U.S. Navy ships, the Space Shuttle, and other rocket and missile applications.

The evolution of the industrial defense base has allowed the U.S. government to get out of the manufacturing business and let contractors, who can do it better and cheaper, provide essential platforms and components. Without Circle Seal's expertise, our F-18s, Global Hawks and V-22s don't get off the ground. Right now, our troops are relying on the products made by Circle, and the pride the employees take in their work is a part of the success on the battlefield. I thank Circle Seal for all their hard work and their relentless pursuit of excellence.

Circle Seal's past successes have ensured a continued relationship with the U.S. government—I'm proud to see that the company also contributes to the C-17, the KC-767 Tanker and the Navy LCS programs. Their demonstrated reliability and quality are exactly what the government needs. I look forward to a continued strong relationship with Circle Seal and, again, I commend the company on their anniversary and—most importantly—the people who make Circle Seal a valued and integral part of the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDLAND ROCKHOUNDS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute my hometown baseball team, the Midland RockHounds, as they received the John H. Johnson President's Trophy honoring them as the best team in Minor League Baseball.

The Midland RockHounds, owned by Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond, are a community institution in the Permian Basin. Miles and Bob both have a deep passion for America's pastime, and it shows in the success of the RockHounds. Together with their management team, headed by longtime General Manager

Monty Hoppel, Miles and Bob have created one of the most successful teams in the history of the Texas League.

Under the direction of Miles, Bob, and Monty, the RockHounds have twice won the Texas League Championship and have been honored as the Double-A organization of the year. In choosing the RockHounds as the recipients of the President's Trophy, Minor League Baseball has recognized the many years of hard work and deep community involvement as the best in the nation.

The RockHounds would not be the team they are today without the people of the Permian Basin who have generously rewarded their efforts with over 270,000 clicks of the turnstile this year alone—a franchise attendance record.

In addition to fielding a great ball club, the RockHounds management works tirelessly to raise money for the community—especially local schools and youth sports organizations. Led by the hugely successful West Texas Sports Banquet and Memorabilia Auction, the RockHounds participated in over 80 fundraisers this year and helped to raise over \$100,000 this year for programs in the Permian Basin.

The President's Trophy is the most coveted award in Minor League Baseball as it is given in recognition of "overall franchise excellence". It takes into account the success of the franchise, its relationship with the surrounding community, and its contributions to baseball. On all of these measures, the Midland RockHounds are a model team and I am honored to represent the organization and its fans here in Washington.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and tremendous respect that I recognize the achievements of the Midland RockHounds today. Their successes on and off the baseball field have made the Permian Basin a better place to live and I can think of no team more deserving to earn the 2007 John H. Johnson President's Trophy.

TO HONOR PAUL VICTOR
LINSTROM

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Victor Linstrom who was born May 31, 1926, in Whitewood, SD. Paul attended school in Sturgis, SD. He joined the Navy in August of 1943, finishing his high school GED and naval training at the U.S. Naval Training Station at Farragut, ID. He was listed as a graduate of the class of 1944 at Sturgis High School. He was assigned to the *Pierre Victory* troop transport ship as a signalman and spent his military tour in the South Pacific. Paul was honorably discharged from the Navy in July 1946.

Paul married Isabelle Gerhard on September 21, 1946, in Sturgis, where he started

his truck driving career for his Dad's business. Paul and his family moved to Rapid City in 1950 where he started a 25-year career as an over-the-road, sleeper, truck driver for United Buckingham Transport. He also drove for AMOCO Oil Co. of Rapid City from 1975 to 1990, when he retired.

He loved fishing, hunting, traveling and camping in the Black Hills as well as and throughout the American West, Mexico, and Canada. In 1965, he helped organize the "Black Hills Hillbillies", a camping club associated with the Red Dale National Campers Club, serving as the Head Scout for the Hillbillies and hosting a number of National Rallies in South Dakota, as a 36-year member.

Paul and Isabelle spent 10 years wintering in Apache Junction, AZ, meeting many new friends in the RV Park and taking bus trips in Arizona, California and Mexico. Paul and Isabelle raised two daughters, Paula Kay LaPorte, who is married to John LaPorte, and Deborah Ann Phelps, who is married to Mike Phelps. They have four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country whose citizens willingly volunteer to put themselves in harm's way to defend and protect our great Nation.

I am proud to honor Paul for his dedicated service to our Nation. Paul is an American hero who left his home to defend our Nation, and then returned home to be a valued member of his community, showing his children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. Paul truly is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. May God bless Paul and his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act. Although this bill includes some very important provisions, like the private security contracting language I fought so hard to include, I am unable to support this legislation because it authorizes \$41.8 billion to continue the war in Iraq. It is unfortunate that this funding was part of this bill because otherwise I would have been proud to vote for this legislation. Nevertheless, I am very proud of the provisions to increase oversight and transparency over private security contractors, which Representative PRICE, Senator OBAMA and I worked so hard to include in this bill.

● 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.

This bill contains important provisions to regulate private security contractors, including nearly all of the provisions from H.R. 897, the Iraq and Afghanistan Contractor Sunshine Act, which I introduced in February to give Congress access to the basic information necessary for us to do our job of providing grave oversight of private contractors. The Defense Authorization Act would give Congress access to information about contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan including a description of each contract, the value of each contract, the total number of personnel employed on contracts and the total number of contractors killed or wounded. I am happy to see these provisions from my legislation included in today's bill.

The series of lethal incidents involving private security contractors in Iraq over the past 2 months have made it crystal clear that we must provide oversight of private contractors. This National Defense Authorization Act would increase oversight by the Department of Defense and the Department of State by mandating that they create clear regulations to govern contractor conduct, investigate any violent incidents like the September 16th Blackwater shooting, and clarify contractors' use of force.

Further, any new contract signed 180 days after the bill is enacted would have to contain a clause saying that contractors must comply with the new regulations and that all contract personnel performing private security contracts understand that they must comply with U.S. laws and the laws of the host country, orders issued by the combatant command, rules on the use of force, and any investigation into violent incidents conducted by DOD. If they do not comply, their contract could be terminated. This will create a powerful tool that the United States could use to ensure that private security contractors follow the law and are held responsible for their actions.

The National Defense Authorization bill also goes a long way toward restoring troop readiness. It includes a badly needed 3.5 percent pay raise for servicemembers and prohibits increases in TRICARE and pharmacy user fees. The bill also includes the Wounded Warrior Act to address the problems experienced by wounded and injured servicemembers that became apparent earlier this year at Walter Reed.

I also support the increase in the number of visas for the brave Iraqis who have worked with the United States and have been targeted for their efforts.

While I cannot vote for the bill because it includes \$41.8 billion for the war in Iraq without a withdrawal deadline, I would like to thank Chairman SKELTON for addressing so many of my concerns about bringing accountability to private contracting and to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LOUIS RELIC FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Louis Relic, a very

special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding David Relic for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY LANDSAT SPACECRAFT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SUSTAINING THE LONGEST, CONTINUOUS RECORD OF CIVIL EARTH OBSERVATIONS OF THE LAND

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution to celebrate 35 years of space-based observations of the Earth by Landsat spacecraft, an accomplishment that has helped revolutionize our understanding of the Earth's land surface as well as enable a wide range of applications of Landsat data that have had significant societal benefits.

The Landsat program began with the launch of the first civilian Earth observation satellite on July 23, 1972, by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. The satellite, originally known as the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, was later renamed Landsat 1. Since the first Landsat satellite, five follow-on spacecraft have been successfully launched to continue the space-based collection of land data. This series of Landsat satellites has established the longest, unbroken record of data on the global land surface.

The extensive three and a half-decade record of Landsat data has allowed scientists to study changes to the Earth's land cover over time, including changes influenced by both human and natural causes. The applied uses of the data have served numerous purposes, including natural resource management, land use planning, cartography, and food security, to cite just a few examples.

The data collected through the Landsat program are being used by many Federal agencies including NASA, the Department of the Interior and its U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Homeland Security and its Federal Emergency Management Agency, among others. In addition, academic institutions, State, county, and local governments, private industry, foreign governments, and non-governmental organizations are users of Landsat data. The broad application of these

data for scientific and societal benefit testifies to the Nation's sound investment in a public good.

My home State of Colorado has two companies that demonstrate the excellent commercial applications that have developed from the initial Federal investments made in space-based remote sensing exemplified by the Landsat program. DigitalGlobe in Longmont and GeoEye in Thornton have both become international leaders in the remote sensing fields.

I think it is important for this body to express our collective thanks to the many scientists, engineers, and program personnel who have contributed to Landsat's success over the past three and a half decades. As a result of their efforts, Landsat data has become an indispensable source for a host of beneficial applications that have improved our quality of life and enhanced our economic vitality. In addition, Landsat data are important scientifically. For example, the U.S. Climate Change Science Program has recognized the significance of the Landsat program, noting that "Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate."

However, while today's resolution recognizes the benefits we have accrued from past investments in the Landsat program, it is clear that more can be gained from this program in the years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that the benefits that are possible from civil space-based land observations, as well as from commercially available remote sensing systems, continue to be realized. By supporting the research, technology, education, and tools required to improve Landsat data collection and applications, we can look forward to further scientific advancements and societal benefits from this critical national asset.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I again want to salute all those who helped make Landsat possible and who work to maintain its continued successful operation, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on December 17, 2007, I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes due to technological complications with my vote notification system.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 1163—"aye"; rollcall No. 1164—"aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on December 17, 2007:

H. Res. 856, Resolution expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the

shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (rollcall No. 1163), I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 851, Resolution honoring local and State first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (rollcall No. 1164), I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 873, Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. On Ordering the Previous Question (rollcall No. 1165), I would have voted "no."

H. Res. 873, Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. On Agreeing to the Resolution (rollcall No. 1166), I would have voted "no."

H. Con. Res. 271, Sine Die Adjournment resolution of the 1st Session of the 110th Congress. On Agreeing to the Resolution (rollcall No. 1167), I would have voted "no."

H. Res. 878, Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764, State, foreign operations appropriations, FY 2008. On Ordering the Previous Question (rollcall No. 1168), I would have voted "no."

H. Res. 878, Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764, State, foreign operations appropriations, FY 2008. On Agreeing to the Resolution (rollcall No. 1169), I would have voted "no."

H.R. 4286, To award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (rollcall No. 1170), I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 2764, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for FY 2008. On agreeing to Senate amendment with 1st House amendment (rollcall No. 1171), I would have voted "no."

H.R. 2764, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for FY 2008. On agreeing to Senate amendment with 2nd House amendment (rollcall No. 1172), I would have voted "no."

H. Con. Res. 254, Resolution recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood. On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (rollcall No. 1173), I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORTING THE "PERFORMANCE RIGHTS ACT"

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Performance Rights Act," which was introduced today. This legislation, long in the making, has the simple goal of requiring that those who generate revenue from the use of music, pay for the use of music.

Terrestrial broadcasters have a strong and meaningful relationship with the American public. There are few of us who do not have wonderful memories that are accompanied by

music played over a radio, and fewer still who have not tuned in to hear news, traffic or emergency information. The American radio tradition is akin to apple pie or baseball. It is part of the American consciousness, and, with the help of HD radio, will remain so.

Even so, the past few decades have seen huge changes in how people consume music. Terrestrial radio once dominated new music awareness. This fact meant that if a consumer wanted to buy a song, they were likely to hear it on the radio first. Radio therefore had a dramatic promotional impact on music sales. However, even at the outset of mass music broadcasting in the United States, when Congress exempted terrestrial radio from paying artists a royalty, terrestrial radio was making money off of artists' work and paying nothing for it.

As time went on and records lost market share to 8-tracks, cassettes, CDs, and now MP3s, and terrestrial radio lost market share to cable radio, internet radio and satellite radio, consumer dependence upon terrestrial radio gradually decreased. Terrestrial radio no longer serves the same promotional role for music sales that it once did, but terrestrial radio is still exempt from paying a royalty to artists. Additionally, the other music platforms do pay for the right to broadcast music.

The "Performance Rights Act" encourages parity in music broadcasting by requiring terrestrial broadcasters to pay for the music they use. Stations that gross over \$1,250,000 will negotiate with artists to pay a fair royalty. "Small" stations, those grossing under that amount, can opt to pay a flat rate of \$5,000. Public broadcasters can elect to pay a flat rate of \$1,000. Talk radio that only uses music incidentally is exempt from paying as are religious services. All together, approximately 77 percent of all radio will have to pay artists virtually nothing to use music. This bill is not the boogeyman that detractors will make it out to be.

However, this bill is, I believe, unfinished. The songs that individuals consume via terrestrial, satellite, cable, and internet radio contain the same notes and the same voices regardless of which platform does the broadcasting. Yet they pay different rates, sometimes vastly different rates. We need to look further into these disparities, and I look forward to working with Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and others on correcting any inconsistencies in current law.

The arguments that supported exempting terrestrial radio from paying a performance right have been eroded by the passage of time and technological innovation. We all yearn for the nostalgia of yesteryear and American terrestrial radio is a big part of that, but our recollections of the past do not support injustices into the future. Radio has changed. Terrestrial radio should pay for the right to use the music from which it benefits.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CODIFY TITLE 41, U.S. CODE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I are introducing a bill to codify into positive law as title 41,

United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to public contracts. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, as part of its functions under 2 U.S.C. § 285(b).

This bill is essentially identical to H.R. 5414, favorably reported by the Committee on the Judiciary in the 109th Congress, updated to incorporate enactments that took place after the earlier bill was prepared.

This legislation is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel Web site at <http://uscode.house.gov/cod>.

The Committee on the Judiciary hopes to act on this bill after providing an opportunity for public review and comment. In addition to sharing concerns with the Committee, interested persons are invited to submit comments to Ken Paretzky, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-6711, (202) 226-9061.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD AMOS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Dr. Richard Amos upon his departure as Deputy to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL. Dr. Amos is stepping down at the end of this year to pursue opportunities outside of Federal service.

Madam Speaker, this is the second time that I have risen to honor Dr. Amos in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a rare tribute in my 17 years in Congress. Dr. Amos, a native of Huntsville, has served as the Deputy to the Commanding General since 2004. In this position, he is the top civil servant at Redstone. He is responsible for managing over 11,000 military and civilian employees and tasked with providing our Nation's warfighters with the most up-to-date technology and tools.

Dr. Amos was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 2000 and previously served as the Director of the System Simulation and Development Director at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) also located at Redstone. Throughout his tenure, he has diligently worked to serve our soldiers and ensure the Army is able to meet the ever-changing needs of our country.

Madam Speaker, today his family, friends, and colleagues throughout the North Alabama defense community celebrated his Federal service and accomplishments. I rise to join them in their tribute and to thank Dr. Amos for his many years of Federal service. I wish him the very best for the future.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
VESTER EUGENE SHULER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Vester Eugene Shuler whose warm heart and love of music touched many lives in Colorado. Gene was born in Choestoe, GA, and first came to Colorado when he was 13 years old to work in the sugar beet fields in Weld County. He traveled back and forth between Georgia and Colorado frequently in his early years and later raised his family in North Park Colorado.

Gene spent summers working in Colorado while attending school in Georgia. He proudly served in the United States Army and was sent to Germany in 1945. During his tour of duty he was a mechanic who supervised a garage. He returned home to Georgia to marry his sweetheart Loujine Young on July 17, 1948.

The young couple soon headed west and spent time working and living with Gene's brother Grady and his wife Ethel. They later moved to North Park where Gene worked as a welder and mechanic with Ozark Mahoney. A labor strike closed the mine and sent the young family to California to spend some time with relatives. They soon returned to North Park, living in Cowdrey, Pine Springs and finally Walden. Gene worked for the Wilford Garage, Cooper Motors and the Sigma Coal Mines.

Music played a large part of Gene's life. As a young boy Gene stuttered. He began playing music at a young age; it gave him a way to say things he couldn't make out in words. He realized that he could do with music what he couldn't do with words. He knew when it was time to start the music and what music everyone loved to hear. If you knew him at all, then he knew your favorite song. He truly loved the time he shared with the people he cared about.

Gene and Loujine raised 2 children, Carl Shuler and Gwen Hanson. They were blessed with 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. They enjoyed traveling and visited Georgia, Florida, Texas, California, Wyoming, Arizona and many places in between.

Gene's life was a lesson in how to enjoy life, honor God, care for others, face difficulties with courage, and make a positive impact on the world. I am proud to honor Gene, a precious veteran, who is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. May God bless his family, may God bless our veterans, and may God bless America.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN COLBY SCHULTZ FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Colby Schultz, a very special young man who has exemplified

the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin Schultz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE COLORADO ROCKIES ON WINNING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

**SPEECH OF
HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution congratulating the Colorado Rockies on their National League Championship and first-ever franchise appearance in the World Series.

The entire Colorado delegation joined me in introducing the resolution, and it is now co-sponsored by more than 50 other Members of Congress. I greatly appreciate their support.

The Rockies defied the odds this year by making it to the World Series, capturing the best hopes of Coloradans and giving us all a reason to cheer for their success. Despite a tough loss to a great team in the Boston Red Sox, we remain proud of the Rockies' efforts and astonished at their historic rise to the top of the National League.

Toward the close of the season, the Rockies were the underdogs in the National League pennant race. The challenge of making the playoffs seemed as large and daunting as the mountain range for which the Rockies were named, but the team maintained an optimism and competitive spirit that kept them alive long after commentators had written them off. Winning 21 of their last 22 games prior to the World Series—an unprecedented feat in baseball history—the Rockies rolled over expectations and swept the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NLCS.

The World Series proved to be a bigger challenge than the Rockies could surmount, and they lost in four games to a very talented Red Sox team. Despite the losses, the Rockies carried themselves with dignity and true sportsmanship, giving Coloradans something to be proud of.

As the father of two young athletes I can say that the way the Rockies carried themselves is a tremendous example for our young people. We would have loved to have seen the Rockies bring home a victory this year, but, as Red Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez said during the ALCS, there's always next year. I know I am not alone in looking forward to watching some great Rockies baseball in the future.

I urge all our colleagues to join me in congratulating the Colorado Rockies on a great season and in thanking them for serving as great examples of professional athletes practicing sportsmanship.

THE “PERFORMANCE RIGHTS ACT”
OF 2007

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I join my colleagues in both the House and the Senate in introducing “The Performance Rights Act” of 2007. This legislation is a first step at ensuring that all radio platforms are treated in a similar manner and that those who perform music are paid for their work.

This narrowly tailored bill amends a glaring inequity in America's copyright law—the provision in section 114 that exempts over-the-air broadcasters from paying those who perform the music that we listen to on AM and FM radio. For as long as I have been working on the intellectual property subcommittee, I have been troubled by this policy that sets America apart from every other developed country in the world. The purpose of the bill is to take a necessary step towards platform parity so that any service that plays music pays those who create and own the recordings—just as satellite, cable, and internet radio stations currently do.

I understand that this legislation raises some difficult political issues. Several people have expressed some very legitimate concerns—like the need to accommodate small broadcasters, the possibility of jeopardizing the revenues earned by songwriters and music publishers, or expanding the scope of the law governing music played in restaurants and other public venues. So let me begin by clarifying how we have narrowly tailored this legislation—

(1) The bill repeals the current broadcaster exemption—but it does not apply to bars, restaurants and other venues, or expand copyright protection in any other way.

(2) The bill provides an accommodation of protection for small and non-commercial broadcasters by setting a low flat annual fee with no negotiation, litigation or arbitration expenses. Nearly 77 percent of existing broadcasting stations in this country—including college stations and public broadcasters—will pay only a nominal flat fee, rather than having to pay a percentage of their revenues as royalties.

(3) The bill extends copyright protection to artists, musicians, and the sound recording labels—it does not harm or adversely affect the revenues rightfully paid to songwriters and other existing copyright owners.

For over 20 years I have been convinced that fairness mandates that all those in the creative chain from the artist, musicians and others who bring the recording to life—get compensated for the way they enrich our lives. The U.S. is the only developed country in the world that does not require privately owned over-the-air radio stations to compensate those performers who create the music that broadcasters use to attract the audience that generate their ad revenues. Because of music, radio is able to profit. Not compensating those who create the music is unfair and ultimately harmful to music creation that benefits everyone—including the broadcasters. Furthermore, the law requires all other platforms in the U.S., including satellite and Internet radio, to compensate the copyright owner.

Songwriters and music publishers rightly do get paid when their song is played on the radio, but the artist whose voice or musical talent brings in the ad revenue for the station never receives a penny from the station. That means that under existing law, when you hear "White Christmas" on the radio this holiday season, the estate of Irving Berlin will get paid for the words and music that he wrote. But the estate of Bing Crosby will not—even though it is the tone and texture of his voice that symbolizes Christmas for so many. This disparity makes no sense. Therefore, in an effort to begin the journey towards parity among platforms and fairness to artists, the bill as introduced will affect three areas where there is currently disparate treatment:

Platform parity—Never in the past have there been more engaging technological platforms which offer music to consumers at almost any time, in any format. Especially with the roll-out of HD, "hybrid digital," radio which will provide greater choice, it becomes harder to justify an exemption for any one platform. Both the radio station, regardless of the platform, and the performer benefit from the playing of music over the air. But only one party, the station, gets to keep the revenue it generates. While stations use music to get their ad revenue, they gladly leave others to pay the artist for another use of the music. It is certainly true that on all platforms there are differing degrees of promotion that may benefit the artist. That is why the Copyright Royalty Board takes into consideration any promotional element and adjusts the compensation to the artist appropriately.

While calling the performance right a "tax" might make for good rhetoric, it is also good rhetoric to call it "corporate welfare" when the U.S. Code compels copyright owners, artists, and musicians to give broadcasters their music for free. It is simply time to eliminate this anachronistic and unjustified subsidy.

International parity—During a recent meeting in Nashville President Bush was asked about this issue. When he was told that broadcasters in every country in the world except for China, Iran, North Korea, and Rwanda pay a performance right, he rightfully observed, "it sounds like we're keeping interesting company."

Because America does not have an adequate performance right, our own artists and musicians cannot receive royalties when their music is played on radio stations outside the U.S. In many countries between 20–50 percent of the music played abroad is "American-made" and because of the lack of reciprocity, we are denying our performers millions of dollars in revenue.

Rights parity—Songwriters have long been compensated for the songs that are played on the radio—as they should be. However, just as there would be nothing for musicians to play without notes, and nothing for the artist to sing without the words, there is also nothing for a DJ to play without a recorded song.

Our kids know the song "Breakaway" because Kelly Clarkson recorded it—but few know that it was written by Avril Lavigne. Does it make sense for Lavigne to get paid but for Clarkson not to get paid? The fact that Patsy Cline's estate is not compensated for over-the-air performances of her singing "Crazy" seems crazy. Shouldn't performers be paid as well?

One of America's greatest treasures is its intellectual property. In cities and towns across

the Nation and in countries around the world, American music is heard throughout the streets. People are consuming more music than ever. Yet the music industry is in crisis. The total value for the music industry at retail declined from \$14.5 billion in 1999 to \$11.5 billion in 2006. So, any claim that radio should get a free ride because so-called "free airplay" contributes to record sales just isn't true. Record sales have fallen 18 percent since 2000.

In 1995 Congress took a step forward and established a limited performance right for digital sound recordings. Yet, the performance right Congress created with one hand was taken away with the other, by exempting all terrestrial broadcasts.

Cable, satellite, and Internet radio services are granted a statutory license to broadcast music as long as they pay the defined fee determined by the Copyright Royalty Board. This bill extends the statutory licensing requirement to terrestrial broadcasters to avoid an unfair advantage. I do note however, that as we discuss reform of the section 114 license—other issues will likely arise such as, the standard to be used in determining royalty rates, the sound recording complement, and treatment of ephemeral copies.

We are fortunate that with the evolution of new technologies there are many legal music distribution services currently available. Cable, Internet, and satellite platform providers all compete to provide consumers their choice of music, anytime, in any place, in any format. While I am encouraged by the many options, I am concerned that the government seems to be giving preference to one platform over the others by exempting over-the-air broadcasters from compensating owners of the music which they use to grow their business. This bill seeks the appropriate balance between promoting the creativity of music and fostering innovation. Following is a section-by-section summary of the legislation:

Section 1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the "Performance Rights Act."

Section 2. Equitable treatment for terrestrial broadcasts

This section repeals the exemption for terrestrial broadcasters and makes conforming changes by deleting references to the word "digital" from the types of audio transmissions that are subject to a performance right. With these changes, all terrestrial (over-the-air) broadcast transmissions, including analog audio transmissions, would be subject to sound recording performance rights thereby providing parity for the technologies currently covered under the section 114 license.

Section 3. Special treatment for small and non-commercial Public Broadcasting stations; and religious stations and certain uses

This section would create an accommodation for certain qualifying broadcasters from the negotiation and arbitrated rate-setting. Instead, such broadcasters would pay a prescribed flat fee or would retain their current exemption.

For small broadcasters who make revenue less than \$1.25 million and therefore are concerned about the uncertainty of the rate and the impact on the growth and viability of their business—this section sets a flat annual royalty fee of \$5,000 per year for any individual station (even those part of a larger radio network) with no litigation, negotiation, arbitration, royalty board proceeding or licensing costs.

Furthermore, for non-commercial/public broadcast stations (irrespective of size) the rate is capped at \$1,000 per year per station.

Finally, for those stations that broadcast religious services or make "incidental use of musical sound recordings" such as brief musical transitions in and out of commercials or program segments, or brief performances during news, talk and sports programming there is an outright exemption.

Section 4. Availability of per program license

This section allows terrestrial radio stations to obtain program licenses for sound recordings (at separately set rates), in lieu of blanket licenses. In some cases, a radio station may not make many featured uses of music, for example a mixed-format station. In such cases, rather than requiring a station to pay a general blanket license fee in the same amount paid by a station that primarily makes featured uses of music, this section requires the Copyright Royalty Board to establish a "per program license" so that such stations can choose only to pay for the music they use, which may be less costly than the general blanket license. This parallels the licenses offered by the performance rights organizations for performing the underlying musical copyright.

Section 5. No harmful effects on songwriters

Finally, this section protects the songwriters from the impact of providing this new performance right. In the first instance, the bill adopts the songwriters' suggestion to remove the prefatory language which merely expressed "the intent of Congress" not to diminish the royalties of the songwriters. Furthermore, it includes the express indication that nothing in the Act shall adversely affect the royalties to songwriters.

I do not want to suggest that this bill is a "perfect" solution. But it is an appropriate starting place. I know there are other parts of section 114 that need to be reformed as well, and therefore will begin to examine additional provisions in the coming months. Furthermore, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

This bill attempts to strike a balance between providing adequate protection to our musicians and artists and continuing to support new innovative technologies. My goal is to preserve the legitimate marketplace by providing a technology neutral structure or at least one with parity for all services that appropriately pay for the music. I hope the parties can work together to reach further consensus on how to achieve parity between technologies and provide rightful compensation to our artists and musicians.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF GRACE CARLTON ALLEN

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Grace Carlton Allen, and to commend her contributions to the University of South Florida.

"Amazing Grace," as she was nicknamed by former Tampa Congressman Sam Gibbons, was born in North Dakota in 1908. She attended the University of South Dakota and the University of Minnesota, where she graduated with degrees in English and Secondary Education. After graduation, Allen taught high school English and secondary education.

She met her husband, John Allen at the University of Minnesota, and they married in 1933. The couple moved to Gainesville, Florida in 1948, where her husband was appointed President of the University of Florida, and from 1954 to 1955, Grace served as the University of Florida's interim First Lady.

In 1957, John was named as the first president of a yet unnamed and newly established university in Tampa. Grace and her husband moved to Tampa, where they would remain for the rest of their lives. As classes weren't scheduled to start until 1960, the Allens themselves, shaped what would later be known as the University of South Florida.

The summer before the University opened its doors, "Amazing Grace" invited all of USF's wives and female staff members to her home. With this group of women, she established the USF Women's Club, which remains active on campus today as a social, cultural, and philanthropic organization. In 1994, the USF Women's Club endowed the Grace Allen Scholarship, and within the first ten years of being established, it awarded 119 full tuition scholarships for excellence in academics, leadership, and service.

Another endowed fund of the USF Women's Club was given to the University in Mrs. Allen's name to provide funds to the university's library.

The Allens were one of the first families to live in the Tampa neighborhood of Carrollwood, where Grace also made her mark. She started a tradition where residents set luminaries outside of their homes on Christmas Eve. Pilots have been known to divert their planes over the neighborhood to see the lights each year.

When John retired from the University in 1970, the Board of Regents named USF's administration building after John and Grace in recognition of their lasting contributions to the university community. In 1996, USF awarded Grace the honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Until her death on December 16, 2007 at the age of 99, Grace remained an active member of and advocate for the University of South Florida's community. She is remembered as a powerful spokesperson for academic excellence, and as a caring, spirited woman by the countless friends, staff members and students whose lives she touched.

The Tampa community honors the life of Grace Allen for her outstanding contributions to the University of South Florida and the Tampa Bay area. Her life serves as an inspiration and will continue to influence the lives of people in our community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I

had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 17, 2007: Rollcall vote 1163, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution—H. Res. 856, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 1164, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution—H. Res. 851, honoring local and state first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 1165, on ordering the previous question—H. Res. 873, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1166, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Res. 873, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1167, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Con. Res. 271, providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 110th Congress—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1168, on ordering the previous question—H. Res. 878, providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1169, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Res. 878, providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1170, on motion to suspend the rules and pass—H.R. 4286, to award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, non-violence, human rights, and democracy in Burma—I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF JIMMY BRISTOW

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize James E. "Jimmy" Bristow of West Columbia, South Carolina for his many years of public service to the people of South Carolina and the country, and congratulate him on a successful year of leadership as President of Ruritan National.

Ruritan National is a national civic organization made up of 33,000 members with 1,178 clubs in 25 States. Since its founding in 1928, Ruritan has built a strong reputation as one of our Nation's leading community service organizations. Under the excellent leadership of Mr. Bristow, Ruritan has continued to grow

and make a substantial and positive impact in the community.

Mr. Bristow is a graduate of The Citadel with 31 years of experience working with community businesses. He now serves as vice president and resident construction lender for Security Federal Bank. In addition to his work with local businesses, Mr. Bristow is a life-long member of the Mount Hebron United Methodist Church where he has taught Sunday school for 22 years. Over the last decade, he has served as Scoutmaster for Troop 331 of the Indian Waters Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

For his years of public service, Mr. Bristow has received numerous honors and recognitions including the Order of the Silver Crescent from South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford—the State's highest honor given for volunteer and community service.

I am grateful for Mr. Bristow's service to his community. I want to recognize and thank his wife Fran and their three sons—Jeremy, Andrew, and Ryan—for their years of support, and wish them many more years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1413

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1413, which would create a pilot program testing the effectiveness of physically screening 100 percent of airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas at seven airports across the country.

I want to thank Homeland Security Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, Ranking Member PETER KING, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE and the other members of the Homeland Security Committee for their support of this legislation. I also want to thank Rosaline Cohen, Michael Stroud and Matt Washington from the majority staff of the committee, Coley O'Brien and Jennifer Arangio from the minority staff, and Justin Wein from my staff.

Meticulously screening passengers but giving workers open access is like installing an expensive home security system but leaving your back door wide open.

In 2001, Congress recognized that while we were investing significant resources in screening passengers and their baggage, we needed to close the backdoor of airports as well. That's why we passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act which required the Transportation Security Agency to screen all airport workers.

Yet, nearly six years after September 11th and passage of legislation requiring the physical screening of all airport workers, astonishingly TSA has failed to implement this basic policy or set a deadline for doing so.

At Heathrow Airport, the busiest international airport in the world, 100% of workers are screened, yet TSA refuses to acknowledge the national security benefits of following the same procedures here at home.

We know there is criminal activity taking place at some of our airports. Just this year alone, there have been frightening security breaches at Orlando International Airport, the arrest of a former airport worker as part of a

terrorist plot involving John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, a gaping lapse in security in Phoenix, and the arrest of illegal immigrants working at Chicago's O'Hare Airport with expired and false security badges.

And if there is criminal activity, certainly we should be considering the possibility of terrorist activity taking place. We cannot wait for the next security breach to occur for us to take action.

H.R. 1413 attempts to deal with the very real and serious threats that face commercial aviation today. By passing this legislation and appropriating funds to implement it—which are included in the FY08 Homeland Security Appropriations bill—we are acting on the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to prevent and protect against any possible insider threats.

I know some in labor and industry favor the use of alternative methods and technologies, such as biometrics to increase security at our airports. I am not opposed to biometric technology; however, those technologies do not exist for full implementation today in the aviation sector, and as we have seen with the TWIC card, the delays could last years in rolling out this measure across aviation.

This legislation is not aimed at any specific group of workers, the vast majority of whom are hard-working, law-abiding citizens. Instead it is a bipartisan approach to measure the feasibility and effectiveness of closing this loophole in our airport security.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1413, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY IURILLI

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Anthony Iurilli, who passed away on Sunday, November 25, 2007 at age 38 after a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Mr. Iurilli, known as Tony, exemplified the ideals that many of us aspire to: commitment to education, a love of community service, and devotion to his family and friends.

Tony was blessed with extraordinary athletic talent. He was a 1986 graduate of St. Raymond High School for Boys in the Bronx, where he lettered in both baseball and basketball. In his senior year, he was named to the All-City Baseball Team by three New York metropolitan newspapers—Newsday, the NY Daily News and the NY Post, and he was awarded a New York Yankees Scholarship to Pace University. There, he was the starting shortstop on the baseball team for four years, graduating in 1990 with a solid B average.

Tony's priorities were faith, family, school, and community. After college, he worked as Director of Recreation for HIV/AIDS patients at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, and he taught American history, health, and physical education at St. Helena's elementary school in the Bronx. He then returned to his alma mater, St. Ray's, to teach American history and health education, and to foster the athletic abilities of students who followed in his path. He coached the school's varsity and junior varsity bowling teams, and he served as the head junior var-

sity baseball coach and the assistant varsity baseball coach. As JV basketball coach, he led the St. Raymond's Ravens to Catholic High School All-City championships in 2003 and 2005.

While at St. Raymond, Tony was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a disease that may have crippled his body, but never his mind or spirit. Last summer, he served as best man at his beloved brother Frank's wedding in New York before moving to Florida for medical treatment. He returned to St. Ray's to be honored by faculty, alumni, and friends at a benefit dinner in mid-October.

Madam Speaker, this is a difficult time for all those who knew and loved Tony Iurilli. It is my hope that they will be strengthened by the memory of his selflessness, his bright smile, and his wonderful spirit.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony's all too brief, but wonderful life of commitment and community service.

RECOGNIZING TYLER EVAN ARTHUR FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Evan Arthur, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Tyler Arthur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE WALTON COUNTY 2007 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Kenneth Pridgen family for being selected the Walton County 2007 Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. More than one generation of involvement in agriculture has led this farm family to serve as a model of stewardship to society through a vitally important industry.

The Pridgen family is more than deserving of this year's award. Kenneth's father was himself raised working in agriculture, and he passed on the significance of their industry to his son, who in turn has involved his family in this work. Kenneth and his family recognize

the contribution that agriculture makes to all of society, including putting food on the tables of families throughout the entire country.

Every year, the North Florida Fair Association honors farm families in counties throughout North Florida that display leadership through farming techniques and agricultural production. The Farm Family of the Year award conveys the importance of farm families' contributions to some of society's largest needs including food, clothing, and building supplies. Recognition of their work, as conveyed by this award, encourages others in the community to become involved and support local agriculture as well.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that is a role model for all of us. A deep sense of civic contribution and values has been instilled in all of the Kenneth Pridgen family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many future generations.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN MEDICARE MARKETING ACT OF 2007

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Accountability and Transparency in Medicare Marketing Act of 2007. This legislation will serve as a companion bill to S. 1883, introduced in the Senate by Mr. HERB KOHL.

With recent reports from the Government Accountability Office addressing the failure of CMS to audit Medicare Advantage providers along with recent reports of marketing abuses and fraudulent practices aimed at seniors, this legislation is timely and imperative.

We have heard reports that many Medicare providers seek to mislead seniors for private financial gain. In fact, seniors are frequently confronted with such practices as cold calling, misleading sales pitches to purchase unnecessary products, or being pushed to enroll in private Medicare Advantage programs that are not within their best interests.

WellCare Health Plans, which is headquartered in my hometown of Tampa, was raided by the FBI in October for suspected fraudulent practices. WellCare is among the largest national providers of Medicare and Medicaid managed care plans with 2.3 million members nationwide.

Three quarters of states have reported complaints about inappropriate or confusing marketing practices which lead Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in private plans without adequately understanding the consequences of their decision or that Medicare Advantage is optional.

Some seniors have lost access to their regular doctors after signing up for a private plan that their doctor does not accept. However, when sold the plan, the private company assured that this would not occur.

Frighteningly, some providers have been accused of selling to seniors with dementia and using scare tactics to force beneficiaries to enroll. Others have been offered cash incentives for enrolling.

All of these scams and efforts to mislead seniors for private financial gain are a result of the lack of standardized regulations and real accountability. It has been reported that the government pays private Medicare Advantage insurers an average of \$9,000 a year for each person enrolled. Private insurance agents receive between \$350 and \$600 commission for each person they enroll. With nearly nine million Americans currently enrolled in these private plans, the profits going to these insurers and away from America's health care system is astronomical.

Without a standard method used for regulation, the financial gain of private insurers will continue to rise at the health expense of seniors and the personal and financial stress of all Americans.

We must implement transparency requirements that will ensure companies are held accountable and publicly identified, in the event of marketing abuses. The Accountability and Transparency in Medicare Marketing Act of 2007 will address all of these issues. It will create standardized marketing practices to be enforced by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). These standard practices will exclude telemarketing and cold calling, deceptive selling and other abusive practices.

This bill will create transparency by requiring that all violations be reported to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and in turn reported to Congress.

Additionally, this legislation will require the NAIC to create a committee to study and make recommendations to the Secretary and Congress on the establishment of standardized benefit packages for Medicare Advantage plans.

This legislation will help us to continue our effort to make Medicare safe, beneficial and accountable to our seniors, family care givers and all Americans. It will enforce regulations that will demand ethical and helpful tactics. It will alleviate private insurers unfairly benefiting from the hard-earned dollars of all American families. Further, we will provide seniors and family care givers with the protection and care that they deserve. It is our responsibility to keep fraud and unethical practices from plaguing our health care system, and the Accountability and Transparency in Medicare Marketing Act of 2007 seeks to help us step up to this duty.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE SILVER BRIDGE

HON. CHARLES A. WILSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the worst infrastructure disasters this Nation has ever seen. On December 15, 1967, at about 5 p.m., the Silver Bridge collapsed. It spanned the Ohio River from Gallia County in my district to Mason County West Virginia. That disastrous accident killed 46 people. Most of them had just left work and were headed home. This horrible tragedy, which was the result of the failure of a single eye-bar supporting the bridge, spurred Congressional ac-

tion that led to the first federal bridge inspection requirements.

Madam Speaker, I wish I could announce today that our nation wisely learned the lesson of the Silver Bridge Collapse. Unfortunately, the more recent collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis shows just how much our infrastructure has decayed because of inadequate investment. While I am glad that the appropriations bill we passed last night includes investment in bridges, I am convinced that much more work needs to be done.

On this 40th anniversary, let us take a moment to remember the 46 people killed in the Silver Bridge collapse. Even 40 years after the disaster, their absence is felt by their families and communities. Let us resolve today to honor their memories by doing all we can to ensure that the bridges, tunnels and roads that make up our nation's byways are safe and secure.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF MCLEANSBORO, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of McLeansboro, Illinois upon receiving the Governor's Cup Award for efforts to build a youth playground in the city park.

The Kids Kingdom Playground was made possible thanks to a donation by the Jerry and Bobbylee Sloan Hand-in-Hand Foundation as well as thousands of volunteer hours. I have had the opportunity to visit the Kids Kingdom Playground with Coach Sloan and I can attest that this is an excellent addition to the park for the McLeansboro community.

This project is a shining example of the willingness of a community to work together for the greater good. I extend my gratitude to those who made this playground a reality. I am pleased to congratulate the city of McLeansboro and all those who made the Kids Kingdom Playground possible.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AT BARTOW HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the International Baccalaureate School at Bartow High School in Florida's 12th Congressional District for being recognized as a gold medal school in U.S. News & World Report's first ever ranking of America's Best High Schools.

U.S. News & World Report analyzed over 18,000 public schools across the United States in an effort to find the top 100 public schools. They used a three-step analysis to sort through the many schools taking into consideration how each school's students performed on state tests, evaluating how well each school's disadvantaged students performed, and looking at whether the school was successful in providing college-level

coursework. Bartow's IB School placed third among the 100 other gold medal schools. This is quite an accomplishment and I commend the school for leading the way in excellence and for their commitment to empowering young minds.

Bartow High School has a rich history of providing a high caliber education. Distinguished from other high schools in Polk County and from most high schools in Florida, its origin began in 1887 as the Summerlin Institute. Bartow High School is proudly 117 years old and because of its history and tradition, many of its former students have gone on to achieve great success.

Included in this list are distinguished leaders from various professions. Spensnard Holland served as Florida's Governor in the 1940s and as a U.S. Senator from 1946–1970. Army General James Alward Van Fleet served as a commander and led major campaigns in WWII and the Korean War, and President Truman once remarked that he was America's "greatest general." In addition, Kenneth Jerome Riley was honored as a Rhodes Scholar Candidate while attending Florida A&M University and went on to play as an NFL defensive back for the Cincinnati Bengals.

In 1996, Bartow High School embarked on its next endeavor when the school was selected by the International Baccalaureate World School program to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. Students that attend the IB School are challenged with increased expectations in both academic and community involvement, and because of this they graduate ready to compete and enter into a fast-paced world that offers endless opportunities.

The IB School's mission is "to ensure each student has the opportunity to achieve his or her potential and creatively influence society by providing students with an advanced international curriculum." Today, it is my honor to commend Dr. Edwin Vetter and his staff of extraordinary educators, including some who shaped my classroom experience, for their dedication and hard work. It is clear that the commitment by both staff and students surpasses their mission, as the IB School continues to be recognized for its performance, not only in the State of Florida, but across the nation too. As an alumnus of Bartow High School, which hosts the IB school, I look forward to their many future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING COREY DYLAN JEPSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Corey D. Jepson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Corey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Corey has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Corey D. Jepson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “REDUCING OVER-CLASSIFICATION ACT OF 2007”

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today all Democratic members of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment are introducing legislation that will put the Department of Homeland Security on the path to better information sharing by turning back the tide of over-classification that imperils our ability to make America safer from terrorism.

The “Reducing Over-Classification Act of 2007” (ROC Act) gives Congress the tools to curtail the federal government’s widespread and mushrooming practice of classifying practically everything that moves.

Almost three and a half years ago, the 9/11 Commission made clear the urgent need to eliminate the over-classification of intelligence information by the Federal Government.

The Commissioners found that over-classification interferes with the sharing of critical information between the Federal Government and its State, local, and tribal partners on the front lines of our nation’s homeland security efforts.

Sadly, the numbers tell us that we’re still not heeding the 9/11 Commission’s warning.

According to the Information Security Oversight Office at the National Archives, the number of new classification actions jumped from eight million in 2001 to 14 million in 2005. During the same period, the quantity of declassified pages dropped from 100 million in 2001 to 29 million in 2005.

To make matters worse, we learned this past year that some agencies were withdrawing archived records from public access and reclassifying them.

Together with the exponential growth in the amount of material that is classified, we’ve seen the level of spending on classification go up considerably.

In 2001, \$4.5 billion was spent on classification but by 2004, we were spending \$7.1 billion.

In addition, there has been a troubling proliferation of new policies and labels to limit the distribution of sensitive but unclassified information across the Federal Government.

At the Federal level alone, there are over 28 distinct policies for the protection of this “SBU” information.

Unlike with classified records, there is no monitoring of or reporting on the use of SBU information markings or its consequences.

The proliferation of these SBU “pseudoclassifications” interferes with interagency information sharing—increasing the cost of information security and limiting public access.

It’s also an obstacle to sharing information with our first preventers and first responders in the field—precisely what the 9/11 Commission warned against.

During this session, Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Intelligence that I chair has held numerous hearings and received invaluable input from subject matter experts on what first steps to take to address the twin problems of over- and pseudo-classification.

The bill we’re introducing today reflects that input.

The goal is simple: make the Department of Homeland Security the “gold standard” when it comes to preventing over-classification and to limiting the use of sensitive but unclassified markings.

The only way to ensure that the Department gets it right going forward is to promote an enforceable and understandable strategy that applies to everyone.

DHS is an excellent place to start and—if it gets a handle on its own burgeoning over- and pseudo-classification addiction—can become a “best practices” center and the test bed for the rest of the Federal Government.

Accordingly, our bill will require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy that will: allow the classification of documents only after unclassified, shareable versions of intelligence have been produced; develop a new “sensitive and shared” information program that will provide protections for certain sensitive and unclassified information for limited periods of time under narrowly tailored circumstances; propose new incentives and disincentives to encourage Department personnel to classify documents properly and to use “sensitive and shared” markings sparingly; create training programs and auditing mechanisms for all Department employees in order to ensure that the Strategy is being implemented properly; establish an independent Department declassification review board to expedite the declassification of documents when the need for public access outweighs the need to classify; and propose legislative solutions to ensure that the Strategy is implemented in a way that not only promotes security but also fosters both information sharing and the protection of privacy and other civil rights.

Our Subcommittee plans to move this legislation early next year and hopes our colleagues in the House will join us in the effort to ensure that the Federal Government gets accurate and actionable information to those who need it in a timely fashion.

THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CONRAD AND FRANCES GASKIN

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Conrad and Frances Gaskin on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Both first generation African Caribbean Americans, Conrad and Frances met in elementary school and were married on September 14, 1957 at St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in the Bronx. Conrad served in the United States Air Force before eventually working for the New York State Teacher’s Retirement System. After receiving her doctorate from Fordham, Frances went on to found and serve as a professor for a program in nursing at the Hostos Community College at the City University of New York.

Moving to Albany in August of 1980, the Gaskins helped found an additional Church home in the Faith Community of the Black Apostolate. This later expanded to include St. Joan of Are and Sacred Heart Churches of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, where both serve as Ministers of the Eucharist.

Committed to serving the community, Conrad and Frances continued to stay active and involved after retirement. Conrad coached basketball and swimming while Frances worked for the American Red of America Cross and is a Staff Officer with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. They are blessed with three children and five grandchildren.

It is my honor to recognize Conrad and Frances Gaskin and provide my heartfelt congratulations to them on this wonderful event in their lives. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Gaskins and their family on their 50th wedding anniversary.

HONORING CPL TANNER O’LEARY

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of CPL Tanner O’Leary, who died December 9, 2007, while serving his country in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Tanner, who was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, N.C., graduated from Timber Lake High School in 2003. He joined the Army in 2005. He graduated from infantry training in May 2005 and airborne school in June 2005.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Tanner’s compassion and service. He represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Army. His life continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service.

Today, we remember and honor Tanner’s noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of CPL Tanner O’Leary. His commitment to and sacrifice for our country will not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SANTA FE QUADRUCENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Santa Fe Quadrucentennial Commemorative Coin Act. The minting of a commemorative coin will serve as a historic national tribute to the ever-distinct City Different.

Santa Fe was officially elevated by the Spanish settlers from a plaza to a capital city in 1610 and has continued to be a meeting

place and home to all cultures ever since. Santa Fe, to this day, continues to be a government, cultural, religious, and social center. Throughout its history, it has attracted settlers, traders, artists, historians, and tourists, all coming to see what Santa Fe and the surrounding communities have to offer.

The Santa Fe area has long been home to native peoples, centuries prior to European incursions. In fact, some of the tribal communities in the area today have been there for over one thousand years. Arriving centuries later, though still over 400 years ago, the Spanish settlers were integral to the European exploration and settlement of this continent. This legislation honors both the tribal communities and Spanish settlers.

Throughout the city are structures of great historical importance. Built in the 17th Century, the Palace of the Governors was the seat of government for generations and is now the oldest continuously used public building in the United States. It currently serves as the State's history museum, ensuring that current and future generations will be able to learn about the events that shaped New Mexico's past, present, and future.

The creation of the commemorative coin will help in the preparation and celebration of this monumental quadricentennial. The proceeds from the sale of the gold five dollar and silver one dollar coins will be split, with half going towards the 400th Anniversary Committee to support programs to promote the understanding of Santa Fe and its legacies. The rest will go to the Department of Interior to ensure the preservation of Santa Fe, enhance national and international programs, and improve archaeological research activities throughout the area. These are especially important as we continue to learn more about all of the communities that have settled in the area for centuries.

I want to take a moment to thank Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and PETE DOMENICI who are working on this in the Senate, as well as co-sponsors Representatives HEATHER WILSON and STEVE PEARCE for their support here in the House. We must all work to preserve the legacy of America's first European communities and the people who came long before, and I am proud the entire delegation has joined together to mark this remarkable milestone.

For the rich blend of cultures steeped in centuries of heritage, it is only fitting that the Congress recognize the 400th anniversary of the Nation's oldest capital originally known as La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asis. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY PRYOR

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Henry Pryor of Camden, Arkansas, who passed away December 9, 2007, at the age of 50.

Henry Pryor was a consummate professional who made a positive impact on the people and businesses he worked with throughout his life, which was abruptly and sadly cut short

due to a tragic car accident. His career in banking took him across the United States and he eventually landed in Camden, Arkansas, where he served as Executive Vice President of Heartland Community Bank of Camden, and Senior Vice President of Farmers Bank and Trust of Camden.

Although Henry Pryor had a career in business, his calling and real passion was in community development. The City of Camden and its residents were extremely fortunate to gain from his selfless gifts of time and energy to make his community a better place to live. As a member of the Ouachita County Historical Society, he was instrumental in preserving historic properties in Camden such as the Clifton-Greening Street Historic District. He took a keen interest in seeing businesses flourish throughout Camden and Ouachita County through his service as president of the Camden Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he was a graduate of the Leadership Camden area program and he served on numerous area boards and commissions. As a local community leader, he also recognized the vast importance of regional festivals and the impact they had on residents and businesses, through his proud service as chairman of the Annual Camden Daffodil Festival.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife of 21 years, Angela Woodward Pryor of Camden, Arkansas, and to his numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Henry Pryor will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. His focus on the community and his spirit of service to others and to his community will never be forgotten. I will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE SULLIVAN BROTHERS' AWARD OF VALOR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three members of the Decorah, Iowa Police Department, Chief Tom Courtney, Captain Warren Leeps, and Officer Sara Stinson, and Volunteer Decorah Firefighter Jeff Ode, as recipients of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking their own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes background investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

In January of 2007, Olive Sims crashed her car into a ditch along Division Street in Decorah. Chief Courtney, Captain Leeps, Officer Stinson and Volunteer Firefighter Ode responded to the report and quickly traveled to the scene. Upon their arrival, they discovered the engine compartment of the vehicle was engulfed in flames and that Olive was still inside. Putting their own lives in danger, they acted quickly to remove Olive from the vehicle

before the fire department arrived and just before the passenger compartment of the car was fully consumed by fire.

Their bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. Their courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans willing to risk their own lives for a neighbor in need. For this I offer them my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Chief Tom Courtney, Captain Warren Leeps, Officer Sara Stinson and Volunteer Firefighter Jeff Ode for their bravery. I am honored to represent each of them in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY RYAN WALSH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary R. Walsh, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Zachary R. Walsh for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

UNITED STATES-CUBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange's letter to President Bush and to enter into the RECORD a copy of their letter.

On November 27, 2007, the U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange sent a letter to President Bush that expressed their desire to establish relations with Cuban artists and urged him to take steps to normalize interaction with Cuba. The letter was signed by several artists including Harry Belafonte, Danny Glover, Carlos Santana, and Sean Penn. As of December 11, 2007, the letter has been signed by one thousand four hundred and twelve people.

I applaud the U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange for urging President Bush to change the U.S. policy towards Cuba and for raising awareness about how the policy impacts the artist community. Further, I support their movement, which would allow people from both countries to exchange and experience performing and literary arts.

Art in any form including, but not limited to dance, music, and poetry provides a mechanism where by people are able to express themselves, which ultimately represents their culture, identity, and voice. In addition to representing a culture, the selling of artistic goods provides a source of income for artists and substantially contributes to an economy, especially in the U.S.

The artists issue is part of the broader implications with the travel ban and trade embargo, which hurts the U.S. economically, politically, and socially. It is estimated that the U.S. economy loses millions of dollars annually due to the trade embargo. The lack of diplomatic relations prevents any effort to democratize Cuba. There is no way to quantify the cost paid by Cuban Americans who can't visit their loved ones freely.

The United States-Cuba policy is a failure, period. Change is needed now. I urge my colleagues to support my bills, H.R. 624 and H.R. 654, which would lift the embargo and travel ban.

U.S.-CUBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE,
Albuquerque, NM, November 27, 2007.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: We wish to bring to your attention the accompanying letter, dated October 26, 2007, received from Alicia Alonso, Prima Ballerina and Director of the Cuban National Ballet, and also Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Ms. Alonso has toured extensively in the United States and her work has long been admired by the American performing arts community, cultural critics and the public.

We are writing you as representatives of the cultural sphere in the United States. We write you as American citizens. We write to express our dismay at your administration's continuing hostility towards Cuba. We write to express our opposition to policies that keep us divided from our Cuban counterparts, preventing cultural interchange between our two countries. We believe the time has come to move towards cooperation and constructive relations with Cuba.

The present policies deny such possibilities of friendship and cultural sharing. We further note that cultural interchanges and relationships are also modes of communication and expression. In denying us the possibility of engaging in such exchanges and relationships, we are being denied our fundamental rights as guaranteed by the 1st, 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

This reality seems to run counter to other positions expressed by your Administration. In September 2006, for example, Laura Bush inaugurated your Administration's "Global Cultural Initiative," stating that "One of the best ways we can deepen our friendships with the people of all countries is for us to better understand each other's culture by enjoying each other's literature, music, films and visual arts."

As citizens, artists, scholars, educators and cultural workers from all artistic practices, academic disciplines, advocacy and service organizations in the arts, we hope you will read and consider the words of Alicia Alonso as we call upon your Administration to:

1. open a respectful dialogue with the government and people of Cuba in accord with established protocols supported by the community of nations;

2. end the travel ban that prevents U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba and allow for Cuban artists and scholars to visit the United States, thus eliminating the censorship of art and ideas, and

3. initiate, by working with appropriate members of Congress, a process that can result in the development of normal bilateral relations between our countries.

Supporters of Cultural Exchanges with Cuba:

Louis Head—Cuba Research and Analysis Group—Co-founder US-Cuba Cultural Exchange.

Bill Martinez—Martinez & Associates—Co-founder US-Cuba Cultural Exchange.

Cynthia Semon—Media consultant/musician promoter—US-Cuba Cultural Exchange.

James Early—Cultural Policy Specialist—U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange.

Harry Belafonte—actor/singer.

Danny Glover—actor.

Sean Penn—actor.

Carlos Santana—musician.

(Plus more than 1,400 other signatories).

IN APPRECIATION OF DANIEL V. KISH

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel V. Kish and the 28 years of service he has provided to the State of Alaska and the Nation.

In the summer of 1978, a young long-haired college student dressed in muddy work boots wandered into my office looking for an internship. Why he chose my office in particular, I do not know, though I suspect it had something to do with an attractive young lady working at the front desk, but he appeared willing and eager to work. Thus, after telling him to get a haircut and a pair of loafers, I put him to work.

My staff and I were immediately impressed by Dan's strong work ethic, his innate understanding of even the most complex issues, and his natural ability to communicate to my constituents—both in writing and in spoken word—the practical impacts of the various legislative proposals before the Congress.

In fact, when Dan returned to Indiana's Wabash College at the end of that summer to finish his studies, he left our office with an unexpected void to fill. The following year Dan had completed his undergraduate degree, and we had an open position to fill. Thanks to the good judgment and recommendation of the young woman who drew Dan into our office the previous summer, I tracked him down and asked him to come to work for me full-time. In the years since then, Dan has earned himself a well-deserved reputation as one of the most talented, dedicated, and knowledgeable staffers on the Hill.

Dan has stuck with me through thick and thin. He has always kept my best interests, and the best interests of the State of Alaska, at heart. His devotion to me, the State of Alaska, and the Nation has been unparalleled. Dan's unwavering commitment to and understanding of strong Republican ideals, free market policies, and responsible development of our Nation's resources have been an inspiration to hundreds of Hill staffers and Members alike, and he has served as the moral compass by which the Resources Committee has sailed throughout his tenure.

Dan's writing throughout the years has been equally inspiring. He is by far the single most impressive writer I've come across in 35 years. His talent and ability to get to the root of an issue in two or three eloquent sentences is unmatched. While Dan's use of words has always been powerful, it has often been humorous as well. A strong supporter of a free market economy, Dan once wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury recommending that the \$1 coin bear the likeness of Dolly Arthur—the owner of a historic bordello in Ketchikan, Alaska—suggesting that unlike Susan B. Anthony, she "was truly a woman who knew the value of a dollar." This unique sense of humor has brought smiles to my face and many others for nearly three decades.

But most of all, Dan Kish will be remembered for the genuine respect and appreciation he has always had for what he called "the Working Man." Although his mind was often occupied in debates over esoteric federal policies, his heart has always belonged to the

fight for the working men and women of America who get dirt under their fingernails rather than paper cuts on their pinkies. Dan tirelessly reminded us that American prosperity, national defense, and world leadership depend on the working men and women who operate the drill rigs, mine metals and minerals, harvest trees and crops, raise livestock, and pull the levers and press the buttons that control the dams responsible for irrigating the land and powering our communities.

God has blessed our country with a bounty of resources, and Dan was always ready with a sermon to remind us that His gifts are there for us to use wisely. Dan's wise words will not be forgotten.

While hiring Dan was one of the best decisions I've made in my 35 years in Washington, I think Dan would agree that coming to work for me was the most important decision of his life. After all, it's where he met his beautiful wife, Pam, the young lady who lured the long-haired college student into my office 29 years ago. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Pam Kish for everything she has done over the years, not only as a former staffer, but as a loving wife.

The State of Alaska and the Nation as a whole owe a debt of gratitude to Dan Kish for his 29 years of service, and this House is a better place because of his good work. Ronald Reagan once wrote, "Some people work an entire lifetime and wonder if they've ever made a difference." I know I speak for many in this body when I say there is no question that Dan Kish has made a tremendous difference during his tenure and will be sorely missed.

While Dan is moving on, his impact on and contribution to our work in Congress is timeless. I can think of no one who is more widely respected and admired for his intrinsic understanding of and devotion to the things that make this Nation so great.

I am forever grateful that Dan's path crossed with mine that day, 29 years ago so, while I stand here today honoring Daniel V. Kish for his years of service, his departure is bittersweet. Words cannot express my personal gratitude to Dan for his work, his counsel, and most importantly, his friendship. Thank you, Dan. I wish you and Pam the best in the next chapter of your life together.

RECOGNIZING RYAN KEITH BUEHRIG FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. I proudly pause to recognize Ryan K. Buehrig, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan K. Buehrig for his

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING COBB COUNTY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the 175th anniversary of the founding of Cobb County, GA. On December 3, 2007, residents of Cobb County came together to celebrate a community that has managed to remain united through many trying times. It was the spirit of community that held Cobb together after many bloody battles of the Civil War took place here, or when the murder of Leo Frank in 1913 threatened to pull the community apart. This deep reverence for community is one of the primary reasons that Marietta, one of Cobb's largest cities, was the first city in Georgia to be awarded the All American Cities Award by the National Civic League.

Today, Cobb County continues to meet the challenges that face our Nation with strength, resilience and innovation. Several cities in Cobb County have partnered with cities around the world, developing trade relationships that keep Cobb County and Georgia relevant in the global economy. Cobb County is proud to be the home of Home Depot's headquarters as well as several other companies that keep Georgia's, as well as America's, economy strong. As our Nation has grown more diverse, so has Cobb County. Cobb County has demonstrated how much progress can come from people working together as neighbors and partners rather than focusing on those things that keep communities divided.

Cobb County is a place that all Americans can be proud of and look to as an example of what every community should strive to emulate. I am proud to represent Cobb and commit these statements to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so generations can reflect on what has been, is, and will continue to be an exemplary community.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ALGERIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, otherwise called the Helsinki Commission, I rise to introduce a resolution which condemns in the strongest terms, the terrorist bombing of the Algerian Supreme Court and United Nations offices in Algiers, Algeria on December 11, 2007.

These deplorable attacks upon civilian targets took the lives of 37 people, including 17 United Nations employees, and injured numerous others. As a consequence of the destruction of the United Nations Development Pro-

gramme office and the damage to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office in Algiers, the capacity of the world body to carry out its operations in Algiers has been seriously diminished.

We subsequently learned that the December 11 attacks were the work of al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, a North African affiliate of al-Qaeda. This same organization claimed responsibility for several previous attacks in Algeria and Morocco, using tactics similar to those employed by their al-Qaeda brethren in Iraq, where they indiscriminately wreak upon civilians and military targets. These inhumane attacks are intended to sow insecurity and divisiveness, and, as in Iraq, can impede progress in the social and economic spheres.

The attacks illuminate al-Qaeda's determination to continue to spread its destructive aims globally by perpetuating violence against innocent civilians. But they should also reinforce the imperative of the community of civilized nations to stamp out terrorism in all its forms.

Algeria is a Mediterranean Partner of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), within whose ambit the Helsinki Commission carries out its mandate. The OSCE has among its highest priorities a commitment to combating terrorism, and the Algerian Government has been unwavering in its efforts to defeat terrorism, a goal that the United States shares.

Through our recent experience with terrorism, Americans understand the pain now suffered by the Algerian people for the loss of so many innocent lives and the injury of numerous others. Today, we affirm our support for the people and Government of Algeria in their continued struggle against extremism and violence.

That is why, together with my good friend Congressman BILL DELAHUNT, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, I am introducing today's resolution, which condemns the senseless acts of violence against the Algerian people and the United Nations on December 11. This resolution also expresses our profound sympathy for the victims of the bombings; the support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the Algerian people in their continued efforts to secure peace for their nation; and support for the Algerian authorities in bringing the perpetrators of the attacks to justice. Chairman DELAHUNT's commitment to advancing peace, human rights, and security are laudable and long-standing. I am deeply proud to work with him on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PRESSLEY WOODS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of South Carolina's own, Sylvia Pressley Woods, affectionately known as the "Queen of Soul Food." In August of 1962, Sylvia put her charismatic personality to the test and purchased the restaurant, which then was only a small luncheonette, from her own boss.

Almost 50 years later, Sylvia's has become the landmark of 126th St. and Lenox Avenue and the one place where everyone knows they can get a taste of authentic Southern Soul food. The restaurant also serves to remind the community's residents that hard work, determination, and love of family can lead to success.

Sylvia's Restaurant, a Harlem soul-food landmark, attracts busloads of tourists from all over the United States and around the world. Sylvia's is a frequent stop for celebrities and politicians. With the launch of a line of prepared supermarket foods, the empire of restaurateur Sylvia Woods has expanded to touch the culinary lives of people all over the country.

Woods herself has a remarkable story that encapsulates much of 20th-century African-American history. She was born Sylvia Pressley in Hemingway, South Carolina, on February 2, 1926. Her father, Van Pressley, died three days after she was born from the after effects of chemical-weapons injuries he sustained while fighting in World War I. When she was three her mother departed for New York City in search of a chance to make money that would put her family on a solid financial footing.

Woods recalled with affection the warmth and closeness of her rural southern community. Nevertheless, she has painful memories. "I didn't like any part of farm life," she told Nation's Restaurant News. "I didn't understand why people would not let me drink out of the same water fountain, but they would trust me to cook for them and to take care of their dearest things, their babies." Her grandfather was hanged after being wrongly accused of participating in a grocery-store robbery when her mother was just an infant.

Sylvia Woods worked in a Queens hat factory for a time, as well, but a turning point came in 1954 when a cousin told Woods that she planned to quit her job at a lunch counter at 126th Street and Lenox Avenue, around the corner from the famed Apollo Theater and within walking distance of the Woods's 131st Street apartment. Woods, who had rarely even seen the inside of a restaurant, took the job with trepidation and without any thought of ever running one herself. But she impressed the owner, a fellow South Carolinian, with her energy. When he ran into financial trouble with an investment in a black resort in upstate New York, he offered to sell her the restaurant. After her mother took out a \$20,000 loan backed by her family farm, Sylvia Woods became the owner of Johnson's Luncheonette in 1962.

With four children, Van, Bedelia, Kenneth, and Crizette, born between 1949 and 1967, Woods had little time to think of expansion, but Sylvia's became known far and wide for its fried chicken, collard greens, peach pies, and other soul-food standards. The restaurant moved two doors down from its original location in 1968 and gradually grew to occupy most of the Harlem block on which it rests. Sylvia's now can seat 450 and boasts a next-door catering operation.

Diners suggested that Sylvia's open new branches in other cities, but Woods and her son, Van decided on a different course—one inspired by the customers who would come in at holiday time with empty jars and ask whether they could buy Sylvia's barbecue sauce.

Launched in 1992 and featuring a picture of Woods herself on the label, the Sylvia's

Queen of Soul Food line of canned and bottled foods impressed Pathmark supermarket CEO Jim Donald. He told Crain's New York Business that "Sylvia and Van Woods run their company with their heart and soul." Sylvia's hot sauces, candied yams, mustard greens, kidney beans, and 13 other items are available in supermarkets nationwide.

Sylvia's Soul Food cookbook was also published in 1992. It was followed in 1999 by the more extensive Sylvia's Family Soul Food Cookbook, which included Woods's personal reminiscences and numerous family photographs along with recipes gathered in a giant South Carolina family cook-off.

The good reputation of the "Sylvia's" name has put Sylvia Woods's cookery on a path to growth, with the restaurant's many admirers hoping to get in on the action. Additional full-service restaurants are planned for the future, increasing the Sylvia's stable of 200 employees and bringing the soul-food creations of Hemingway, South Carolina, to even more American diners. With all four Woods children involved with the business, it represents a family tradition of the best—and tastiest—kind.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring South Carolina's own, mother, restaurateur and enterprising businesswoman, Mrs. Sylvia Woods.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1585,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF
HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1585, the Conference Report on Defense Authorization Bill.

As we approach the Holiday Season and we go back to our families, we cannot forget that not everyone is so fortunate.

Our loyal soldiers are serving proudly and not all will be with their loved ones.

I want to speak directly to them and to their families in my District because these are the true faces of the war.

This bill supports our service members by increasing military pay across the board, because the empty stomachs of a family hurt no matter where you are.

This bill protects our soldiers by providing the equipment needed, because today—our soldiers deserve the best there is.

This bill includes the Wounded Warrior Act which reinforces the fact that the tragic conditions at Walter Reed must end.

I ask my colleagues to not ignore the realities of the war and review their priorities—we must give our troops on the frontline what they need and rightfully deserve.

VETERANS GUARANTEED BONUS
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3793, the Veterans Guarante-

tee Bonus Act of 2007. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation because I believe the men and women who bravely serve our country deserve everything they are promised when they sign up for the military. This bill ensures those forced to leave military service because of a combat injury will receive the bonuses they are entitled to. Moreover, this bill recognizes that the men and women injured in battle, in Iraq and Afghanistan, would much rather be with their brothers and sisters in the field than in a hospital nursing their wounds. The least we can do is afford them with the benefits, pay, and assistance to which they are already entitled.

I would like to thank Congressman ALTMIRE for his tireless work on this legislation. It is a fine example of how the Democratic Congress is keeping its promises to our dedicated men and women valiantly fighting on behalf of our country. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act.

RECOGNIZING LINDA KITAZAKI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, heroes are people who devote their lives to serving others and making our world a better place in which to live. Linda Kitazaki was one of those people.

Linda was the executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving Southeast Texas. I knew her for over 20 years in my work as a judge in Texas. She was an advocate in every sense of the word who worked passionately to fulfill MADD's vision to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. Those who know her best describe her as compassionate, powerful, gracious and inspirational.

Linda became affiliated with MADD back in 1988 because of a near fatal crash involving teenagers who were drinking and driving. The situation was especially troublesome to Linda because the teenagers had been given alcohol by a parent. Because of her dedication to making a difference, she became the Administrator for the Harris County Chapter of MADD.

With the assistance of Penny Ellsworth, who joined MADD because her son was killed by a drunk driver, the two reorganized the Harris County Chapter.

MADD Harris County became the Southeast Texas Region Affiliate Office. With Linda at the helm, the small office grew to serve 10 counties and became one of the most prominent within the organization. Not only does the office provide services to the victims of drunk drivers, it also conducts outreach and education in order to prevent future tragedies. The idea of preventing young people from making bad decisions that would impact them for the rest of their lives truly resonated with Linda.

As a result of Linda's leadership, her MADD office became very strong and has 10 staff members and countless volunteers. She started new programs and initiatives. She was considered a maverick in new fundraising methods in the Houston area which were then replicated for national success in the organization. Her passion and commitment won her Employee of the Year recognition.

She also played a key role in developing the Take the Wheel Program, which focused all of the organization's resources and programs into Harris County because it had the highest number of drunk driving deaths in Texas. By partnering with law enforcement, businesses, government, community and religious leaders, the program seeks to save lives by encouraging personal responsibility in the use of alcohol and educating the public about the dangers of drunk driving.

On Dec. 13, 2007, Linda passed away unexpectedly. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion and exceptional service. On Dec. 19, 2007, friends and family will gather to celebrate the remarkable life of this extraordinary community servant. The State of Texas and our Nation owes much to Linda Kitazaki for making our streets and highways safer.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, due to medical reasons I missed a suspension vote and the vote on the motion to postpone consideration of the veto message for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 1154 and "aye" on rollcall No. 1155.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to personal medical reasons, I was unable to vote during the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 1163: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1164: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1165: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1166: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1167: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1168: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1169: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1170: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1171: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1172: "yea."
 Rollcall No. 1173: "yea."

ALL ALONG HIS WATCHTOWER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to present the following poem entitled All Along His Watchtower, which was written by Mr. Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Brent Hendricks, of the 172nd Striker Brigade from Forest City, North Carolina. Mr. Hendricks lost his leg when an IED blew up his humvee.

Bump, bump bump bump bump . . .
 Bump, bump bump bump bump . . . bump,
 bump bump bump bump . . .
 Whether, upon football fields of green . . . or
 on so Heroic Battlefields of Honor Seen
 . . .

All Along His Watchtower, "They could get
 no relief" . . .

Striking Hard, Striking Fast!

A bold heart, That is his motto, That is his
 path!

Dying twice, when . . . The Dark Riders in
 the distance, they began to approach
 . . .

When Brent, began to howl . . . "I'm not
 ready now!"

The Nort Catolacki Kid,

6'9" . . . built for power and speed . . . 9
 sacks in one football game . . . a man
 who would not heed!

Until, on battlefields of horror he would
 bleed . . . In the Real Game of Life, all
 for our Country 'Tis a Thee!

Giving up his fine leg, as he did . . .

Brent Hendrick, an Army Man . . .

A Real American Hero, who before us now
 stands . . .

Strength In Honor, who respects so com-
 mands . . . cheating death, as towards
 evil he ran . . .

Into that dark valley of death, for our nation
 to so bles . . . Striking Hard, Striking
 fast . . . all in death's path!

But, when you're 6'9" . . . and have a 17½
 shoe . . .

You can kick some glutenous maximus too!
 Now isn't that true! As this patriot's
 heart comes into view!

Could we, would we . . . ever such magnifi-
 cence find so too?

All ready, operations . . . he's had 65!

But, this Heroes Heart . . . will not wilt, will
 not die!

Like Arnold, he'll be back . . . Back . . .
 Back . . . Back in Iraq . . . with his
 brothers in arms . . . or he'll resign!

And The Wind Cries Hero!

Do Do Do Do . . .

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing
 our appreciation for this soldier's dedication to
 the United States Armed Forces and to this
 Nation. His service and sacrifice is a shining
 example of the quality of men and women
 who serve this great Nation at home and
 abroad.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
 OF CHRISTMAS AND THE CHRIS-
 TIAN FAITH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like
 to begin by thanking the Ranking Member of
 the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentle-
 woman from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for
 her support and help in getting this important
 measure to the House floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to address the
 House today to discuss the importance and
 relevance of Christmas, the Christian holiday
 celebrating the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

As this resolution notes, there are approxi-
 mately 225 million Christians in the United
 States, making Christianity the religion of over
 three-fourths of the American population. Be-
 yond that, there are approximately 2 billion

Christians throughout the world, making Christianity the largest religion in the world and the religion of about one-third of the world population.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, in recent decades there have been some who have undertaken efforts to diminish the significance of this great religion, and these efforts are no more apparent than during this time of Christmas.

It is not hard to look out over this great country of ours and find those who, for one reason or another, have engaged in a highly-politicized and highly-publicized crusade to rid the public square of any reference to the religious underpinnings of the Christmas holiday. These are individuals who have subscribed to a radical interpretation of our Constitution's free exercise and establishment clauses and have sought to impose their secular views and beliefs on the nation as a whole.

In many respects, it is this ongoing effort to bring about the secularization of Christmas—and all of our everyday lives for that matter—that motivated me to bring this resolution before the House today.

Regardless of how others may define it, Mr. Speaker, Christmas is a religious holiday. It is the day on which Christians—those who identify themselves as believers in the salvation from sin offered to them through the death and resurrection of their savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and who, out of gratitude for the gift of salvation, commit themselves to living their lives in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Bible—celebrate the birth of their savior. For Christians, the birth of Jesus is cause for great celebration. As the Son of God, Jesus was sent to earth, by our Heavenly Father, to become a human being, live a sinless life, be crucified on a cross for our sins, and rise from the dead three days later. The purpose of this, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, was to save sinners from eternal death—the price to be paid for their sin.

And so, Mr. Speaker, the birth of Christ, as celebrated by Christians on Christmas is a truly important and significant day because it is celebrated as a recognition of God's redemption, mercy and Grace.

The importance of Christmas, however, does not end with the tenets of Christianity. Because Christmas is one of the most important holidays on the Christian calendar, I believe that its annual passage should serve as an opportunity for all Americans, Christian or not, religious or not, to recognize the important role played by Christianity in the formation of our nation and in the founding of our civilization.

It is no coincidence, Mr. Speaker, that courthouses throughout this country proudly display the Ten Commandments. It is no accident that, in this very chamber, it is the face of Moses, the human author of those divinely dictated commandments, that looks down upon you, keeping close watch on all that transpires in this chamber. Mr. Speaker the framework of our laws and the fabric of our society is heavily dependent upon the maxims of Christianity, and I believe that as we Christians begin our annual celebration of the birth of our savior, the one from whom Christianity derives its name, it is wholly appropriate for us, as a nation and as members of this House, to take the time to acknowledge the contributions that the Christian religion has made to our country and our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all can agree that virtually any American, whether Christian,

atheist, agnostic, or otherwise, when confronted with the fact that he has in some way wronged his neighbor, will rightly respond in one universal way—knock on his door, confess to him, repent, and ask for forgiveness. The neighbor would then forgive them as Christ has taught us. True and simple as this may seem, it is important to ask why we as Americans naturally react in such a way. The answer of course is that in this “conditioned behavior” we see very clearly the positive effect that Christianity has had on the development of our country and culture.

There are few places in the United States—if any—that you can visit where the laws “do not steal” and “do not murder” do not apply. Likewise, there are few households in this great country in which moral character is developed in young children without the invocation of the ninth and tenth amendments regarding lying and coveting that which belongs to others.

Mr. Speaker, we as Americans live in a moral society and in a country that is governed by moral laws. While many of these laws obviously cannot be found in any explicit sense within the pages of the Holy Bible, when we survey the content of that book—the document that outlines how it is the Christians are to live their lives here on earth—we do find much in the way of foundational principles that has come to guide not just the development of our laws, but also the foundation of our nation.

It was from the Bible and the example of Jesus that Pilgrims first established government on this continent, from which the Founders outlined the political thought that shaped our nation, and by which Congress first intended to educate our children. Furthermore, as the scholar David Barton and others have tirelessly pointed out, it was from the Bible that early American leaders derived concepts like private ownership, the free-enterprise system, an industrious work ethic, and workfare rather than welfare. As a result, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ have permeated every aspect of life in America. He has shaped our culture and transformed every great leader to rise from our population. As a testament to this, each of our American Presidents has acknowledged God’s hand on this Christian nation that is the United States. If there never had been a Jesus Christ, there would never have been an America.

In an address to the nation President Truman once said that, “In love, which is the very essence of the message of the Prince of Peace, the world would find a solution for all its ills. I do not believe there is one problem in this country or in the world today which could not be settled if approached through the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. The poets’ dream, the lesson of priest and patriarch and the prophets’ vision of a new heaven and a new earth, all are summed up in the message delivered in the Judean hills beside the Sea of Galilee. Would that the world would accept that message in this time of its greatest need!”

He went on to say that, “This is a solemn hour. In the stillness of the Eve of the Nativity when the hopes of mankind hang on the peace that was offered to the world nineteen centuries ago, it is but natural, while we survey our destiny, that we give thought also to

our past—to some of the things which have gone into the making of our Nation.”

In 1940, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said of Christmas, “it is well for all humanity to remind itself that while this is in its name a Christian celebration, it is participated in reverently and happily by hundreds of millions of people who are members of other religions, or belong actively to no church at all. The reason is not far to seek. It is because the spirit of unselfish service personified by the life and the teachings of Christ makes appeal to the inner conscience and hope of every man and every woman in every part of the earth.”

President Eisenhower called the nation to reflect during his remarks at the lighting of the Nation’s Christmas Tree on December, 15th 1967 when he said, “In a few days we shall all celebrate the birth of His Holiness on earth. We shall recreate in our minds, once more, the ancient coming of that Spirit who remains alive for millions in our time. We shall acknowledge the Kingdom of a Child in a world of men.”

He went on to say, “That Child—we should remember—grew into manhood Himself, preached and moved men in many walks of life, and died in agony. But His death—so the Christian faith tells us—was not the end. For Him, and for millions of men and women ever since, it marked a time of triumph—when the spirit of life triumphed over death. So—if this Christmas season in a time of war is to have real meaning to us, it must celebrate more than the birth of a Baby.”

During his Radio Address to the Nation on Christmas Eve, 1983 President Reagan pointed out that “It’s been said that all the kings who ever reigned, that all the parliaments that ever sat have not done as much to advance the cause of peace on Earth and good will to men as the man from Galilee, Jesus of Nazareth.”

As the words of these great men—these revered and honored presidents of the United States of America have clearly demonstrated, it is not a stretch to say that the precepts and principles of Jesus have so completely permeated the culture of this nation that even an American atheist would be hard pressed to separate his worldview from the impact of the first Christmas.

Though we are not all Christians, Mr. Speaker, we are all Americans. By virtue of that simple fact, I will again reiterate my belief that it is not only appropriate but, more importantly, is necessary during this special time of year to remember not only the birth of Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, but also to recognize the important impact that the Christian faith has had on the foundation and development of our society, our nation, and our civilization.

RECOGNIZING ROOSEVELT PETRY,
JR.

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Mr. Roosevelt Petry, Jr.,

President and CEO of GP Industrial Contractors, Inc.

He began his professional career as a draftsman for Bethlehem Steel, performing piping, mechanical, electrical, and structural drafting. He worked for fifteen years on electrical instrumentation, mechanical and pipe designing, residential, and commercial construction, and has been a senior designer, project engineer, project manager, and project superintendent. Each job garnered Mr. Petry the necessary skills for his company to secure massive projects such as the Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, and other high profile projects around the country.

Mr. Petry received his bachelor’s degree from Lamar University in 1997, and one year later, he founded GP Industrial Contractors. He partnered with an acquaintance who owned Gulf Copper Manufacturing Company to form a company specializing in building refineries and petrochemical plants. Piping, steel fabrication, carpentry, maintenance, and engineering, are just a few of the services his company offers.

Mr. Petry attributes all of his success to God, and doesn’t think twice about giving back to the community. With a focus on youth education, he shared his knowledge as an instructor at Lamar University, teaching AutoCAD, surveying and drafting. He and his wife recently donated money to create an endowment scholarship at Lamar State College, for nursing and engineering students in Port Arthur. Currently, he hosts the Roosevelt Petry, Jr. Business Hour on KSAP 107.1—the Breeze, in Port Arthur, TX. After Hurricane Rita, Mr. Petry’s GP Industrial Contractors were there to help the small gulf coast community of Sabine Pass pick up the pieces, assisting in rebuilding.

He has served the community as Commissioner of the Port Arthur Housing Authority; Chairman of the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation; Member of the Port Arthur Citizen Advisory Committee; Member of the National Society of Black Engineers; Board of Directors for Junior Achievement; and Board of Directors for the United Way. He also serves on the Military Academy Selection Board for our Congressional District.

Over the years, Mr. Petry’s hard work and community involvement have resulted in several honors and awards, including Score’s 2007 Business Man of the Year Award; 2006 Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation’s Business of the Year Award; 2004 Houston Minority Business Council’s Emerging Ten Award; 2002 Lamar State College Port Arthur’s Industrial Business of the Year Award; 2004 Make Ready, Inc. 4th Annual Humanitarian Award; and he was featured in the National Society of Black Engineers in 2000.

This Port Arthur native has shown that your environment and circumstances don’t predict your future. Hard work and perseverance have been the lifeblood of Mr. Petry’s success. Port Arthur’s future is brighter because of Mr. Petry’s continuing commitment and involvement in our community. Roosevelt Petry seizes the opportunities that come his way and has a positive attitude and zest for life.

And that’s just the way it is.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we award a Congressional Gold Medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in recognition of her courageous commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, the images we have seen from Burma over the past year have been nothing short of horrifying. Soldiers firing automatic weapons into unarmed crowds and the charred body of a Buddhist monk, slain, lying face down in a pool of water stained with blood, are just two examples of the oppression that continues to plague Burma.

In the face of this horror, a hero has emerged. For close to 20 years, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has continued to fight for freedom and equality in Burma in the face of tremendous adversity. She has been arrested on numerous occasions, held under house arrest, and even had an attempt made on her life. In spite of this, Suu Kyi continues to speak out and to urge democracies throughout the world to come to Burma's aid. Her message is a simple one: "Use your liberty to promote ours."

Today, as we award the Congressional Gold Medal to Suu Kyi, we stand with her to demand democratic change in Burma.

I believe that while change will not come overnight to Burma, it will come. And when it does, it will be my great pleasure to join my colleagues in welcoming Aung San Suu Kyi to Washington so that we can thank her in person for her historic and courageous stand for liberty.

PAUL E. GILLMOR POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Paul Gillmor, by supporting the designation of the U.S. Postal Service Office located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

While we all miss our friend, this designation will serve to honor him for his distinguished career in public service in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, and for living his life as a true gentleman.

The reference to being a "true gentleman" is something that will have a special meaning to members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and it's something that I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a tribute to Paul Gillmor.

Paul and I were both members of the SAE's during our time at Ohio Wesleyan University, and our fraternity has a motto that describes

what it takes to be a true gentleman. I think this passage by John Walter Wayland describes Paul Gillmor and how he lived his life. It reads as follows:

"The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleagues would agree that Paul Gillmor lived the life of a true gentleman as a father, a husband, a friend and a public servant.

With that said, I appreciate today's effort to move this well-deserved legislation forward, and I urge everyone to honor and remember our friend and colleague, Paul Gillmor.

COMMENDING THE STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT THE U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN BALI**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, at a watershed moment in global diplomacy last week, our distinguished former Vice President, Al Gore, stepped in to fill an enormous U.S. vacuum in leadership. At the world summit on global warming in Bali, Indonesia, this new Nobel laureate once again took on the necessary role of the nation's conscience in the effort to save our planet from a looming climate catastrophe. With a candid and clear-eyed address, Vice President Gore provided a powerful bridge of hope to world leaders who were struggling to make real progress in setting a roadmap toward a treaty designed to stave off the most devastating impacts of global warming.

In his speech, Vice President Gore courageously confronted the "inconvenient truth" that right now, at this moment in history, the principal obstruction to progress in the global effort to confront the Earth's greatest existential threat is the United States of America. He urged the assembled delegates in Bali to overcome their anger and frustration at this obstacle, vowing that "over the next two years, the United States is going to be in a place it is not now." The Vice President also offered a solution, suggesting that rather than trying to move the Bush Administration, the climate summit simply should circumvent it by leaving "a large open space" in the document to be filled in when U.S. leadership is finally restored.

Inspired by the Vice President's address, the U.N. delegates finally and resolutely rebuffed the administration's effort to block consensus on a "Bali Roadmap" by reaching a consensus that commits all nations to negotiate a new, scientifically valid deal to fighting

global warming by 2009. The resolve to face down the White House was best perhaps best articulated by the delegate from Papua New Guinea—who, addressing the U.S. delegation in the final diplomatic showdown, declared, "If you cannot lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way."

Madam Speaker, our distinguished former congressional colleague, Al Gore, has provided our Nation and our global community with great leadership. At a time when our own Administration has let us down, Vice President Gore has reminded the world that, in his words, "political will is a renewable resource."

I commend the text of the Vice President's historic address to my colleagues. To date, this landmark in the global climate discussion has not been published in its entirety anywhere, but I am honored now to place a verbatim transcript of it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Al Gore's words should inspire all of us to work to fill in the "large open space" that our current administration has left in the place where U.S. leadership normally resides.

SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, BALI, INDONESIA, DECEMBER 13, 2007

(By Al Gore)

I am not an official of the United States, and I am not bound by the diplomatic niceties. So, I am going to speak an inconvenient truth. My own country, the United States, is principally responsible for obstructing progress here in Bali. We all know that.

We all know that. But, my country is not the only one that can take steps to ensure that we move forward from Bali with progress, and with hope. Those of you who applauded when I spoke openly about the diplomatic truth here have a choice to make. You can do one of two things here. You can feel anger and frustration and direct it at the United States of America, or you can make a second choice. You can decide to move forward and do all of the difficult work that needs to be done and save a large open blank space in your document and put a footnote by it. And when you look at the footnote, write the description of the footnote. This document is incomplete, but we are going to move forward anyway on the hope—and I am going to describe for you why I think you can also have the realistic expectation—that that blank will be filled in.

This is the beginning of a process designed to culminate in Copenhagen two years from now. Over the next two years, the United States is going to be somewhere it is not now. You must anticipate that. Targets must be a part of the treaty that is adopted in Copenhagen. And the treaty, by the way, should not only be adopted in 2009: I urge you in this mandate to move the target for full implementation of this treaty to a point two years sooner than presently contemplated. Let's have it take effect fully in 2010, and not 2012. We can't afford to wait another five years in order to replace the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

So we must leave here with a strong mandate. This is not the time for business as usual. Somehow we have to summon, and each of you must summon a sense of urgency here in Bali. These are not political problems, they are moral imperatives. But our capacity to strip away the disguise and see them for what they really are and then find the basis to act together to successfully address them is what is missing.

The greatest opportunity inherent in this climate crisis is not only to quickly deploy the new technologies that will facilitate sustainable development, to create the new jobs

and to lift standards of living. The greatest opportunity is that in rising to meet the climate crisis, we in our generation will find the moral authority and capacity for long term vision to get our act together in this world and take on these other crises, not political problems, and solve them. We are one people, on one planet. We have one future, one destiny. We must pursue it together, and we can.

The great Spanish poet from Sevilla Antonio Machado wrote, "Path walker, there is no path. You must make the path as you walk."

There is no path from Bali to Copenhagen unless you make it. It's impossible given the positions of the powerful countries, including my own, and the instructions from which they are not going to depart. But you can make a new path. You can make a path that goes around that blank spot. And you can go forward.

There are two paths you can choose. They lead to two different futures. Not too long from now, when our children assess what you did here in Bali, what we in our generation did here in this world. As they look backward, at 2007, they will ask one of two questions. I don't know which one they will ask, I know which one I prefer they ask, but trust me, they will ask one of these two questions.

They'll look back and either they will ask, "What were you thinking? Didn't you hear the IPCC four times unanimously warning the world to act? Didn't you see the glaciers melting? Didn't you see the North Polar ice cap disappearing? Didn't you see the deserts growing and the droughts deepening and the crops drying up? Didn't you see the sea level rising, didn't you see the floods, didn't you pay attention to what was going on? Didn't you care? What were you thinking?"

Or they will ask a second question, one that I much prefer them ask. I want them to look back on this time and ask, "How did you find the moral courage to successfully address a crisis that some many have said was impossible to address? How were you able to start the process that unleashed the moral imagination of humankind to see ourselves as a single global civilization?" And when they ask that question, I want you to tell them that you saw it as a privilege to be alive at a moment when a relatively small group of people could control the destiny of all generations to come. Instead of shaking our heads at the difficulty of this task and saying, "Woe is us, this is impossible, how can we do this?" We're so mad at the ones that are making it harder; we ought to feel a sense of joy that we have work that is worth doing, that is so important to the future of all humankind. We ought to feel a sense of exhilaration that we are the people alive at a moment in history when we can make all the difference. That's who you are. You have everything you need. We have everything we need, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource.

Thank you very much.

HONORING ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR. THROUGH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR SECURITY OFFICERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an event honoring my pioneering predecessor, former Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of New York, and

acknowledged in the New York CARIB News December 10 story, "Honoring The Legacy of Adam Clayton Powell Jr." Local 32BJ—the largest private sector union in New York and the largest property service union in the country—has evoked the memory and legacy of Mr. Powell in its campaign to organize private security guards. The more than 60,000 New York security officers deserve a living wage that meets their needs and those of their families. This battle is the most recent offshoot of Mr. Powell's influence on social and economic justice. It is in his spirit that these hard-working Americans fight for the benefits due them, and I wholeheartedly join them in this campaign.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

NEW YORK, NY.—In a major step forward for Local 32BJ's city-wide campaign to organize security officers, Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts welcomes Local 32BJ President Mike Fishman and Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood to the Abyssinian Baptist Church for its annual commemoration of the life and work of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

This is the first time the union's security officer campaign is being brought to the attention of Abyssinian's members.

"Honoring the legacy of Adam Clayton Powell means continuing his fight for social and economic justice," said Mike Fishman, Local 32BJ President.

"It is unfair that these men and women risk their lives protecting million dollar buildings, but don't make enough to support their families."

More than 60,000 men and women in New York, most of whom are African-American, work as private security officers. Although they keep our city safe, many of them earn less than \$10/hr, receive no affordable health care and little, if any, state-of-the-art security training.

"As leaders in this city in the fight for social and economic justice the support of Reverend Butts and Reverend Youngblood is vital to the success of our campaign," Fishman added.

"Local 32BJ's campaign to raise wage and living standards is about more than 60,000 security officers—it is about New York itself," said Reverend Calvin Butts.

"The union's campaign is our community's campaign because it represents a unified call-to-action to pay men and women not only what they deserve, but what they need, to support their families—regardless of color.

"Labor and African-American leaders have a long history of working together—including organizing campaigns led by Dr. Martin Luther King on behalf of sanitation workers and by Adam Clayton Powell on behalf of pharmacists in Harlem.

"Nothing is more important in the union's security officer campaign than fighting for respect," said Rev. Youngblood. "Armed with respect for ourselves and from the community, and empowered with hard-earned respect from employers, we will win this fight for economic and social justice."

The recent event took on added significance because the union's campaign has been gaining momentum, and now represents more than 6,000 security officers in New York—double the number from just a few years ago.

With new campaigns visible at Jet Blue and Fordham University, which both use Summit, a low-wage security contractor, the campaign has picked up steam in recent months.

With more than 85,000 members, including 60,000 in New York, Local 32BJ is the largest

private sector union in New York and the largest property service union in the country.

MISSED VOTES

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

JANUARY 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 42: Passage of H. Res. 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

JANUARY 22, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 43: Table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair for H. Res. 476. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 44: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. No. 52. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 45: Motion to suspend the rules and Agreed to H. R. 390. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 46: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 29. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 87: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, and amendment to include language which encourages the Assistant Administrator to utilize Land Grant Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and other minority serving institutions among other resources to undertake research for programs covered by the bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district. I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 88: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, an amendment to add a new paragraph to section 3, Biofuel Infrastructure and Additives Research and Development, to include issues with respect to where in the fuel supply chain additives optimally should be added to fuels. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 89: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, an amendment to add a new paragraph to section 3 which includes issues with respect to certification by a nationally recognized testing laboratory of components for fuel dispensing devices that specifically reference compatibility with alcohol blended and biofuels that contain greater than 15 percent alcohol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 90: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, an amendment to add a new section 7 entitled Additional Funding. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 91:

the Motion to Recommit with Instructions of H.R. 547. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 92: Passage of H.R. 547. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 111: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Con. Res. 52. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

MARCH 12, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 136: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended on H.R. 85. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 137: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 136. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 138: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 89. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 187: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended on H.R. 802. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 188: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended on H.R. 137. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 189: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended on H.R. 580. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

MAY 14, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 342: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass on H.R. 1124. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 343: Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 223. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 344: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (H. Res. 385). Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

MAY 16, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 358: Call in Committee Quorum. Had I been present, I would have voted “present.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 359: Motion that the Committee Rise (H.R. 1585). Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

JUNE 11, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district. I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 448: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass on H.R. 2356. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 449:

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on S. 676. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district. I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 450: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 418. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

JULY 23, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 687: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 404, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 688: Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 553. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 689: Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 519. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 690: On ordering the previous question on H. Res. 558. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

AUGUST 1, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 781: Motion to adjourn. Had I been present. I would have voted “no.”

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 847: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 694, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 848: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3020, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 849: Motion to Instruct Conference on H.R. 2669. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 867: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3246, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 868: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1657, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 869: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3527. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 924: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 185. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 925: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2276. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 926:

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3325. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

OCTOBER 15, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 961: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 738. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 962: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2089. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 963: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 20, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

OCTOBER 17, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 980: Passage of H.R. 2095. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

OCTOBER 29, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1010: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3224, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1011: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 573, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1012: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 747. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

NOVEMBER 5, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1034: Closing Portions of the Conference on H.R. 3222. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1035: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 513, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1036: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 744. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

NOVEMBER 7, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1058: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Con. Res. 236, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1082: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3315. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1083: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1593, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1084: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3403, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1085: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3461, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1095: Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1141: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2085. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber last night and this morning. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 1163 through 1176.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE "PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA" ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor one of our most successful and important educational campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, for 20 years of outstanding service.

Best known for its national drug-education campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America continues its mission to reduce illicit drug use in America by uniting communications professionals, renowned scientists, and parents.

What began in 1986 as a 3-year endeavor to "unsell" drugs to the American public, has turned into the largest public service campaign in our Nation's history. The pro bono work of some of the country's best advertising agencies across all forms of media has allowed the Partnership's anti-drug message to reach the public on local and national levels for the past two decades.

The organization first entered the wider public consciousness in 1987, with its "This is Your Brain on Drugs" broadcast and print public service announcements, which used the analogy that if a person's brain were an egg, using drugs would be like frying that egg. Another PSA featured a television, a trip to Paris, and a new car all disappearing right under the nose of a cocaine user. Still another that year focused on how a drug-induced high is like diving into an empty swimming pool. All these commercials and print campaigns were praised in a speech given to those involved executively with PDFA by then-President George H.W. Bush in late 1989.

Since then, the Partnership has grown from simple advertising into a drug prevention and treatment resource. Parents and caregivers can request materials and teaching aids that they can use to effectively address drug and alcohol abuse with their children. A major new initiative now unfolding integrates the latest science and research with the most effective traditional media and digital communication techniques to give parents the tools, resources and support they need to help their children lead healthy lives. This effort—the first ever for the Partnership—will include a Web-based interactive information resource center, parent-to-parent support network, a national toll-free call center and user-friendly online/offline tools.

Time and time again, the Partnership proves that the media industry can play a very positive role in influencing our young people to turn away from drugs. Fueled by their educational programs and grassroots community outreach efforts, the use of illicit drugs across the country has fallen by almost a third. Adolescent drug use alone is down by 19 percent in just the past 4 years and 32 percent since its inception.

To celebrate the accomplishments and longevity of the organization, the Partnership will kick off its 20th anniversary at its annual gala being held on November 27, 2007 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. The Partnership will honor William C. Weldon, chairman and CEO of the Johnson and Johnson Corporation.

In light of this momentous occasion, I congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America on 20 years of influential service to our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding them for continuing on with their vision to raise awareness on how we can prevent substance abuse in our communities and make America a safer and sober place to live.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN COUCH

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Couch, a community leader from Atascadero, California, on his retirement after 17 years of serving the city, most currently as chief of police.

Chief Couch grew up in North Dakota. After graduating high school in 1970, Chief Couch enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Vietnam, serving with the 114th Assault Helicopter Company. He completed his service with the Army in 1973 and enrolled in California State University, Sacramento, where he earned his degree in criminal justice administration in 1977. After his graduation, Chief Couch worked for the city of Santa Clara Police Department for 13 years and achieved the rank of sergeant. Since 1990, Chief Couch has served in the Atascadero Police Department.

Chief Couch was elevated to the rank of chief on October 7, 2004. During his tenure, he has instituted many improvements to the police department. For example, Chief Couch facilitated the purchase of additional motorcycles for the Traffic Division and added com-

puters and in-car video to all Atascadero Police Department patrol vehicles. He improved the efficiency of law enforcement in Atascadero by creating a special enforcement team, upgraded the capabilities in dispatch, made technical improvements to the radio repeater system, and implemented a crime free multi-housing program and a new traffic safety program. Chief Couch also succeeded at improving the police department retention and recruitment process and the department's relations with the community it serves by expanding community outreach and education programs.

Community service is a central priority for Chief Couch even in his off-duty life. Chief Couch is a member of the Atascadero Kiwanis Club. He also serves on the local board of directors for both the Women's Shelter and the Salvation Army. Finally, in addition to serving as chief of police, John is the chief driver and mechanic of the bus for the Atascadero Bible Church.

Chief Couch and his wife Margie have been married for 25 years and have raised two children, Brittany and Jared.

Dedicated to serving his community in a variety of ways, Chief Couch's leadership at the Atascadero Police Department will be sorely missed and difficult to replace, but his well-deserved retirement will give him the ability to spend more time with friends and family. I commend his service to the City of Atascadero and I hope that Chief Couch enjoys his transition into the next stage of his life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the Midland High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Two State Championship game. This was the team's third trip to the state finals since 1990.

The Midland Chemics led most of the hard-fought final game against Detroit Martin Luther King High School. However, King took the lead in the fourth quarter and held off Midland. The game marked the end of a successful season, in which the Chemics finished with an 11-3 record.

A week earlier it was Midland who pulled off the impressive come-from-behind victory, defeating Lowell High School. They scored 24 unanswered points in the second half to win 31-27 and earn their spot in the title game. In the playoffs they also defeated Davison, Bay City Central, and Arthur Hill en route to the finals.

The accomplishments of these student athletes are a testament to the years of hard work and dedication leading up to their playoff run. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Midland High School Football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE “DANIE” VANDERPOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danielle “Danie” Vanderpool as a dedicated volunteer, assisting veterans at the Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America in Des Moines.

Danie, a nine-year-old from Indianola, Iowa has volunteered for the dinner and a movie night every Monday night for the past 3 years. After dinner she cleans off the tables, helps set up chairs and serves popcorn, putting smiles on veterans’ faces. Danie was inspired to volunteer by her wheelchair-bound grandmother, Shonnae Lundy, who also volunteers at the IPVA.

Danie has left a lasting positive impact on many veterans and their families. The late Jimmy Hauck, a U.S. Navy veteran, nicknamed Danie the “Popcorn Girl.” Jimmy took a liking to Danie as she always kept all the popcorn bowls full. She truly exemplifies the Iowa spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.

It is a great honor to represent Danie Vanderpool in Congress. I commend Danie’s willingness to volunteer and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING 10 MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 10 members of the North Chicago Fire Department for going beyond the call of duty to save the life of a 10th district resident.

On November 26 of this year, the fire department was dispatched to the scene of a gunshot victim. Once notified that the victim had received a gunshot wound to the face, a Flight for Life helicopter was immediately called. With the gunman presumed to still be in the area, paramedics Patrick Michael and Gerry Goniwicha went to the aid of the victim despite considerable risk to their lives. Patrick and Gerry quickly moved the injured person to the ambulance and began to clear an airway and stop the bleeding.

As the paramedics worked, additional personnel were called to help the victim and establish a landing zone for the helicopter. Paramedics Joshua Rickabaugh and Joshua Monroe came to the assistance of the ambulance crew to help with patient care and transportation to the helicopter.

At the landing zone site, Commander Keith Humphries met with paramedics Chris Shearer, Keith Peacy and Jason Lambert to set up a safe place for the helicopter to land. The firefighters successfully established a landing zone in very tight quarters and the patient was quickly transferred to the helicopter. Once in the helicopter, Flight for Life nurse Julie Heyer, and flight medic Stu McVicar took over treatment until the team reached the Level I Trauma Center at Lutheran General Hospital.

This victim had a shattered jaw and severed carotid artery, with the bullet initially going into the heart. The victim is still in critical condition, but without the firefighters and medical personnel going into an area where a gunman could still be present, performing their skills flawlessly even with the extreme injuries involved, the victim would not have had a chance.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I commend Patrick Michael, Gerry Goniwicha, Keith Humphries, Joshua Rickabaugh, Chris Shearer, Keith Peacy, Jason Lambert, Joshua Monroe, flight nurse Julie Heyer, and flight medic Stu McVicar for their amazing actions.

STATEMENT ON THE RETIREMENT OF BUTCH HINTON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to a dedicated and loyal public servant, Henry L. “Butch” Hinton. On January 4, 2008, Mr. Hinton will retire following a distinguished 37-year career with the United States Government Accountability Office, GAO, capped by 13 years as the Managing Director of the agency’s Defense Capabilities and Management team.

Mr. Hinton began his career with GAO in 1970, rising through the ranks to lead one of its major divisions—the National Security and International Affairs Division, and after an organizational realignment, one of its key teams—the Defense Capabilities and Management team. He is an acknowledged subject matter expert on a wide variety of national security programs and policy issues dealing with defense planning and budgeting, force structure and readiness, weapon systems acquisitions, homeland defense, military and civilian personnel, logistics, infrastructure, and business and force transformation. In addition, he has an in-depth understanding of the Federal legislative and regulatory processes.

Through the years, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Hinton in my capacity as both chairman and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. As a result of his work on highly sensitive and complex issues related to military readiness, threats to national and global security, the global war on terrorism, the base realignment and closure process, and human capital management, he has been a two-time recipient of the Comptroller General’s Award for exceptional effort and achievement of results in support of the Congress and the American taxpayer. He has also received GAO’s Integrity Award, two GAO Distinguished Service Awards, and GAO’s Meritorious Service Award.

GAO was created in 1921 with the mandate to audit, evaluate, or investigate virtually all Federal Government operations—wherever they might take place. In other words, the GAO serves as a “watchdog” over the taxpayers’ money—guarding against fraud, abuse, and inefficient allocation of public funds.

GAO evaluations under Mr. Hinton’s guidance and leadership have saved taxpayers billions of dollars. During his career as head of GAO’s National Security and International Af-

fairs Division, and GAO’s Defense Capabilities and Management team, Congress has implemented numerous recommendations resulting from his work. He has also led the work on reports to improve the readiness and capabilities of active and reserve forces, oversight of military operations including the use of contractors on the battlefield, reliability of cost reporting, transparency over military compensation costs, defense planning in such areas as infrastructure and force protection, and efforts to transform the Department of Defense’s business operations, including the need for a Chief Management Officer.

Madam Speaker, Butch Hinton’s tenure at GAO has been characterized by success on every level. He has served as an example of a truly exceptional public servant. I am sure my colleagues will join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING MAYOR FRED TURNAGE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, for the past 34 years, Rocky Mount, North Carolina has known only one mayor—Fred Turnage. During his tenure, he showed time and time again that he was one of our State’s finest and most effective leaders.

Part of what makes him such a great leader is that he truly understands how to be a public servant. Mayor Turnage wanted to improve the quality of life of every single person living in Rocky Mount; he always had big plans for improving the city for the people; and, he always worked as hard as he could to achieve his goals.

Mayor Turnage successfully navigated the city through its darkest time in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The storm dumped 20 inches of rain on a region already saturated by two previous storms. Floyd engulfed neighborhoods, communities and entire towns with floodwaters and killed 16 people in the Twin Counties.

Almost a tenth of the city was flooded; 1,000 structures were destroyed with damage estimated at \$400 million; and, hundreds of residents were evacuated from their homes.

During those dark days, Mayor Turnage provided the strong leadership needed to give people a sense of comfort and the belief that the community could rebuild and be stronger than it was even before the storm.

Under his leadership, Rocky Mount successfully moved forward with a plan to rebuild, expand and strengthen the city beyond what it had been prior to the storm. Grants, private funds and city budget commitments paid for the new Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount Sports Complex, YMCA, Braswell Memorial Library, several parks and the train station.

During his three decades at the helm of the city, Mayor Turnage helped to successfully navigate the community as it moved from a tobacco and textile city to one that relies on diverse factories, small businesses and tourism.

Mayor Turnage has presided over more than 700 City Council meetings and he’s missed just six in his 34-year tenure. Two of those absences occurred because he was out of town on city business.

He grew up in Rocky Mount, graduated from what was then Rocky Mount Senior High in 1954 and moved on to Wake Forest University. He graduated from law school in 1961 and returned to Rocky Mount to work as an attorney. He then worked as assistant clerk of court for about 18 months before he opened his own law firm. In those days there were no district attorneys, so he ran successfully for prosecuting attorney for Nash County.

In 1971, he was elected to the City Council. At age 37, two years later, he was elected Rocky Mount's youngest mayor.

In December, Mayor Turnage turned over the gavel and the city had its first new mayor in 34 years. Mayor Turnage, and his wife, Norma, have been strong and steady leaders for their community, and they have succeeded in making their community a better place for everyone there.

Please join me in recognizing the great accomplishments of Rocky Mount's mayor, Fred Turnage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 18, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall No. 1174–1182, had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1174, “yes”—Providing for the consideration of the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6. Energy Independence and Security Act.

Rollcall No. 1175, “yes”—Providing for the consideration of the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6, Energy Independence and Security Act.

Rollcall No. 1176, “yes”—Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act.

Rollcall No. 1177, “yes”—Energy Independence and Security Act.

Rollcall No. 1178, “yes”—Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act.

Rollcall No. 1179, “yes”—Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act.

Rollcall No. 1180, “yes”—Expressing the unconditional support of the House of Representatives for the members of the National Guard.

Rollcall No. 1181, “yes”—Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 3997, with an amendment.

Rollcall No. 1182, “yes”—U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the

PanPaphian Association of America for its tremendous contributions to our cultural and civic life. Founded two decades ago by Hellenic Cypriot Americans of Paphian ancestry, the Association has carried out its vital educational and humanitarian mission while helping promote peace and understanding on the occupied island of Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association of American is holding its annual dinner-dance this month, at which its members will honor Mr. Nikos Tzizas with the Evagoras Pallikarides Award. Born in Paphos, Mr. Tzizas immigrated to the United States in 1979 after graduating from high school and serving more than two years in the Cypriot National Guard as an artillery officer. While in college, he became an active member of the Zenon Association; general secretary and a member of the soccer team at the Eleftheria Football Club; and an active member of the Cypriot Students Association. After graduating from St. Francis College with a degree in management and finance in 1986, Nikos Tzizas started his first company, National Mortgage Finders, and simultaneously began coaching soccer at the Eleftheria Pancyrian Youth association. In 2006, he became president of its soccer club. Under his leadership, the club became one of the largest and most successful in the Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer League and in the community of persons of Hellenic descent. In 2005 he served as president of the Panpaphian Association. Currently Nicos Tzizas is president of Lyons General Insurance Agency, and remains active in youth activities as president of the Eleftheria Pancyrian Youth Soccer Club. He is a devoted to his wife, Kalina, and his children, Kristothea and Nicholas.

The PanPaphian Association is bestowing its Distinguished Fellow Cyprian Award on Despina Axiotakis. She was born in Asgata, Limassol on Cyprus, where her father, Kyriacos Ioannou, was well known as the “Palikari” for exhibiting tremendous feats of strength. With her family, she immigrated here in 1956. After her education at the Traphagen School of Fashion, she entered the business world and today serves as president of Axiocom Productions, a firm specializing in public relations.

Despina Axiotakis became active in the political arena, serving the presidential campaigns of Governors Michael Dukakis and Bill Clinton. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Greek Children’s Fund and the Church of the Assumption in Windham, New York. While serving as president of the Asgata Association Cyprus Woman’s Division, she founded the Asgata Youth and Dance Division that included teaching the group Hellenic and Cypriot dances. In addition, she was the editor of the “Asgata Newsletter” for more than eight years. She serves as general secretary of the Cyprus Federation of America, a position she has held for more than 15 years. At the same time she has served as executive director of the Cyprus United States Chamber of Commerce. Despina is devoted to her husband, John, their 2 children, Lucas and Irene, and their 5 grandchildren.

The PanPaphian Association is honoring as its “Member of the Year” Mr. Michael Ioannou Michaels. Born in Kalavasos, Cyprus, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 21 and began working on ships as a welder. Mr. Michaels eventually started his own construction company. Although he adopted the United

States as his new home, he never lost the connection with his native country, and became involved in several organizations such as the Cyprus Federation of America, the PanPaphian Association, and Kalavasos Fraternity, which he serves as acting president, and also participates in the Pancyrian soccer team and the Cyprian dance group. One of his most noteworthy contributions to civic life is his generous and selfless devotion to the Rachel Cooper Foundation, which enables children with congenital heart disease from Cyprus and other countries to be flown to the U.S. for urgent medical care. Although he recently lost his beloved wife Olympia, Mr. Michaels remains devoted to her memory and to his daughter, Martha, and her husband, Andy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in paying tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America and all its good works.

HONORING THE WEST GENESEE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the West Genesee High School Football Team, 2007 Class AA New York State Football Champions. The West Genesee Wildcats defeated Monroe-Woodbury Crusader by a score of 42–21, earning West Genesee High School’s first state football championship title.

On behalf of the people of New York’s 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach Steve Bush, and Assistant Coaches Joe Corley, John Lawrence, Tim Lane, Corey Brooks, and Dana Eells on their team’s success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Wildcats take the field to defend their title in 2008.

Joe Kesler, Dave Hildman, Matt McCabe, Joe Fazio, Ryan McConnell, George Eunice, Jim Marks, James Grecco, Nick Aiken, Tim Moran, Jeremy Jones, Kyle Nojaim, Nick Collins, Pat Shanley, Mike Carter, Jeremy Conners, Tim Town, Mike Simiele, Yaw Awuah, Mike Mercer, Ben Waldron, Sirron Wright, Mike Delaney, Marcus Armstrong, Josh Cruz, Tom Flynn, Will Furdyn, AJ Reese, Scott Erikson, Nate Wells, Rich Longo, Mark Ferguson, Nick Pedrotti, Christos Dimkos, Mike Gagnon, Nick Cammuso, Nick Rinaldi, Kevin Heron, Stefan Cavedine, Mike Severance, John Gacek, Vinny Lananna, Ossamia Mere, Craig Simmons, Ben Wysokowski, Stephen Pooler, Tony Pedrotti, Doug Ayer, Jake Fietkiewicz, Dan Kolinski, Jeff Mancuso, Kevin Petrick, Luke Cometti

THE NATIONAL DIABETES COORDINATOR ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced The National Diabetes Coordinator

Act, H.R. 4836. As some of my colleagues who have worked on issues relating to diabetes may be aware, the Federal Government spends over \$80 billion per year treating diabetes and its complications.

Since 1980, the number of Americans suffering from diabetes has doubled to more than 20 million, and that number is projected to double again by 2025.

The serious complications stemming from diabetes—including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, blindness, amputation and renal disease—are well documented and even more importantly, they are largely preventable with proper management and treatment.

To that end, H.R. 4836 would establish a National Diabetes Coordinator to coordinate research and prevention activities throughout the federal government, including agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

We need this kind of comprehensive approach to get our hands around what is rapidly becoming an all-encompassing epidemic. A recent study found that one out of every eight Federal health care dollars is spent treating people with diabetes. The total amount of money spent on diabetes is nearly equal to the entire budget for the U.S. Department of Education, roughly \$80 billion.

While we expend vast resources on this effort, of that \$80 billion, less than 1 percent is spent on direct diabetes prevention. When you also consider that 18 of 21 Federal agencies spend money on diabetes, there is a clear need for a National Coordinator to establish a strategy to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications.

We have seen evidence that this approach can work. A recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, study demonstrated that Medicare and Medicaid could save \$2.5 billion a year by preventing diabetes and its complications with appropriate primary care. The city of Asheville, North Carolina saved \$2,000 per employee with an innovative diabetes management program. The NIH-sponsored Diabetes Prevention Project proved that we can prevent and delay diabetes and its complications by 58 percent.

A National Diabetes Coordinator will provide the Federal leadership necessary to maximize the funds the Federal Government is currently spending to save money and lives. Further, a National Diabetes Coordinator with specific responsibilities to work across agencies to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications will be a model for how the U.S. can deal with other chronic diseases such as heart disease.

As we consider how to move forward in the fight against diabetes, I encourage my colleagues to think of these statistics: one in three kids born today will get diabetes, and that figure rises to one in two in minorities. Further, 32 percent of the Medicare program is spent on the 18 percent of beneficiaries with diabetes. We need Federal leadership provided in H.R. 4836 to help reverse these trends and make a difference for future generations.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA MAY CARSON

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA MAY CARSON, a committed and valued voice for justice, who passed away on December 15, 2007. Congresswoman CARSON was born on July 8, 1938 in Louisville, Kentucky. She grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana where she would lead a remarkable life committed to justice for all. Congresswoman CARSON was loved by many for her effervescent personality and fighting spirit. She served her constituents of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana for 6 terms in the United States House of Representatives. She was the first African-American and woman elected to serve Indianapolis in Congress.

In her youth, Ms. CARSON overcame obstacles created by race, gender and poverty as the child of a single teenage mother. She attended and graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1955, a deeply segregated school in Indianapolis. However, her battles with injustice motivated her to pursue degrees in higher education at Martin University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her career in public service began in 1965, when she was hired as a staff assistant and aide to Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr., her mentor and predecessor in the 7th District of Indiana. She worked diligently on casework and other important legislative matters until 1972, when she ran and won a seat in the Indiana State House of Representatives. She served in the Indiana State House from 1972–1976 and in the Indiana State Senate from 1976–1990. In 1990, she was elected as a trustee for Center Township in downtown Indianapolis. As trustee, she was a just leader and a voice for reform. Her thoroughness and fiscal responsibility helped her manage the welfare rolls by providing assistance to those that needed it and removing those that did not. As a result, she transformed the office's \$20 million debt into a \$6 million surplus. She served as trustee for 6 years prior to her election to Congress.

In 1996, after a competitive campaign, Congresswoman CARSON replaced her mentor and predecessor Andrew Jacobs, Jr., as the representative for Indiana's 7th District. On January 3, 1997, she missed her congressional inauguration due to health problems. Her congressional tenure was replete with obstacles from failing health to closely competitive campaigns, but her tenacity and love for her district would not let anything impede her sincere dedication to her constituents. She never stopped caring for her district and she never lost a race. One of her most notable achievements in the House was passing a measure awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Another milestone accomplishment was a bill she cosponsored with Senator RICHARD LUGAR to remove blocks on child health insurance created by government agencies. She always sponsored legislation that helped the poor and homeless, veterans, and faithful American taxpayers. She served on

the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Her 10 years in the House were a testament of perseverance, devotion and inexhaustible compassion.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commend the life and mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA CARSON.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEARY
E. BONNETT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett. Reverend Bonnett, a native of Guyana, completed the General Certificate of Education and high school examinations through the University of London before migrating to the United States.

Reverend Bonnett earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Queens College of the City University of New York. He went on to pursue a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri as well as a Master of Divinity Degree from New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Bonnett is currently completing work towards a Doctor of Ministry Degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, specializing in spirituality and leadership for the 21st century.

Reverend Bonnett enlisted in the U.S. Army after college in order to fulfill a deferred draft commitment granted to full-time students during the Vietnam War. He attended Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. After 13 years of distinguished military service, he separated from active duty with rank of Major. His military decorations include the U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal; the U.S. Army Achievement Medal; and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

Reverend Bonnett is the former Executive Director of a parochial day school in the Rockaway section of Queens. While there he streamlined the curriculum to meet New York State standards. In addition, Reverend Bonnett served with the Salvation Army providing therapeutic crisis intervention to at-risk youths. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, he joined a team of family support specialists with the American Red Cross to providing benefits and support to family members who lost loved ones or were injured in the terrorist attack.

Reverend Bonnett is currently the Director of Christian Education at the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Silence The Guns, an educational organization dedicated to eliminating handgun usage among America's children. He is also the author of two books; *Failure is Not the Problem: and Joy Cometh in the Morning*.

Reverend Bonnett resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Dr. Terry Jan Blackett-Bonnet. He has three children, Kimbia, Amilcar and Haron.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Bonnett's selfless contributions and his works as a mentor to the children of Brooklyn.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett.

RECOGNIZING KERN RIVER OIL FIELD'S TWO BILLIONTH BARREL OF OIL PRODUCED

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone achieved in oil production in my district as the Kern River Oil Field recently produced its two billionth barrel of oil.

Over 100 years ago in 1899, "black gold" was discovered at Kern River when a father-son team hand-dug a 45 foot deep discovery well. This oil discovery set off a boom in Kern County leading to population growth and the discovery of more and more oil fields in the region. In 1903, Kern River, in addition to other oil fields discovered at the turn of the region, made California the top oil-producing state in the Union. In fact, in 1904, Kern River produced more than 17.2 million barrels of oil, which, at that time, was more oil produced than in the entire State of Texas.

In the early 1900's, oil production peaked at nearly 50,000 barrels per day, and then decreased to an average of about 10,000 barrels per day. However, due to human ingenuity, hard work, the advent of the steam injection (or "steamflooding") oil production process in the early 1960's, and cogeneration in the 1980's, today, Kern River produces approximately 82,000 barrels of oil per day.

With its production of the two billionth barrel of oil, Kern River joins only two other fields in a select, elite class of oil fields in California that have produced over two billion barrels of oil. Just to put this into perspective, two billion barrels of oil, once refined, on average, yields more than 43 billion gallons of gasoline. Subsequently, the Kern River Oil Field is the fourth largest field in the lower United States, the third largest field in California, and the second largest field in Kern County.

Today, Chevron North America Exploration and Production owns and produces nearly all of the oil at Kern River. A vital economic backbone of Kern County, Chevron at Kern River employs more than 345 individuals and has upwards of 800 contractors working at the field, and creates countless secondary and tertiary oil and non-oil related jobs in the community. In addition, Chevron at Kern River contributes more than \$24 million in property taxes to the County of Kern on an annual basis, and is a community leader in supporting various education and charitable causes.

Kern River is a heavy crude oil field, meaning the oil is a thick, viscous liquid that needs to be heated and pumped out of the ground. Generally, primary heavy oil recovery extracts between 5–10 percent of the oil from the ground, while hot waterflood recovery processes increase that recovery rate to between 15–25 percent. Yet, the steamflood recovery process can increase recovery rates to 50–80 percent. With the steamflood technological recovery advances of Chevron at Kern River, Chevron has been able to maximize production of the vast oil reserves of this field and has extended the life of this field for decades.

As a leader in heavy oil production, Chevron has established an International Heavy Oil Center at Kern River in order to collaboratively develop and deploy heavy oil production technologies worldwide, as well as to become a hub for heavy oil development. These technological advances developed at Kern River, as well as at other fields, will increase the ability of the industry to maximize the Earth's oil reserves' potential and help satisfy our energy demands.

What started out in 1899 as one hand-dug well, Kern River has developed into one of the largest oil fields in the United States with more than 9,000 producing oil wells. Again, I rise today to recognize the importance of Kern River producing its two billionth barrel of oil and to join with Chevron in celebrating this milestone. I look forward to continued production at this field for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO FULTON-MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the Fulton-Middleton High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Eight State Championship Game. It was the team's first finals appearance since winning the 1998 State championship.

The Fulton-Middleton Pirates lost a hard-fought final game to Crystal Falls Forrest Park High School. In the defensive battle, they pulled within one score of the Crystal Falls Trojans late in the fourth quarter, but were unable to get back the ball to attempt a game-tying drive. It was the Pirates only loss of the season. On the road to the final game, the Pirates defeated Fowler, New Lothrop, Our Lady of the Lakes, and Climax-Scotts in the playoffs.

The Pirates accomplishments pay testament to the years of hard work and dedication of these student athletes. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Fulton-Middleton High School football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FORT DODGE, IOWA CITY COUNCILWOMAN JANE BURLESON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Dodge, Iowa City councilwoman, Jane Burleson, for her 24 years of distinguished public service to the people of Fort Dodge.

In 1982, the citizens of Fort Dodge elected Jane as the first woman and first African American to serve on the council. Jane overcame many barriers to serve and contributed

a fresh and different perspective. Her dedication and commitment to improving the city is a true measurement of her leadership and care for her community. Jane's guiding presence on the council will certainly be missed, but the legacy she leaves will inspire many to dream big reach high and achieve great accomplishments.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Jane Burleson for her leadership and service to Fort Dodge, Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Jane in Congress and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING LT. THOMAS CHRISTENSEN AND FIREFIGHTER JEREMY BROWN OF THE WAUKEGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Thomas Christensen and Firefighter Jeremy Brown of the Waukegan Fire Department.

As Hazardous Device Technicians, Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown were the driving force behind the City of Waukegan's effort to secure a grant from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force for an Andros F6A Robot and transport vehicle to better respond to hazardous device incidents.

Currently there are only 12 bomb squads in Illinois. The Waukegan squad services Lake and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. Last year, the squad responded to more than 40 bomb calls. The most notable was a bank robbery where the suspect claimed to have an explosive device which he left on the teller counter after fleeing the crime scene.

With the F6A Robot and transport vehicle, the Waukegan Fire Department is better equipped to respond to bomb related calls. This equipment would not be possible without the diligence of Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown. The two men conceived the idea, developed the justifications and specifications and oversaw the construction.

Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown represent an outstanding division that was first formed in 1971. The team consists of several certified bomb squad members who put their lives on the line on a daily basis for northeastern Illinois.

I am proud of the achievements of these fine first responders.

TRIBUTE TO BERNIE FECHTEL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the work of

Bernie Fechtel of Jefferson City, Missouri. A successful businessman in central Missouri, Mr. Fechtel served as the Chairman of the Board for the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce in 2007.

During his time as Chairman, the local Chamber was awarded the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry's "Chamber of the Year" award in recognition of the Chamber's effectiveness and efficiency in implementing its economic goals. Jefferson City is the fifth city in history to receive this distinguished award.

Mr. Fechtel will continue to serve the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce in 2008 as its Chairman-Emeritus. I trust that Members of the House will join me in thanking Bernie Fechtel for his outstanding leadership and vision.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET BEULAH COVERT ALLEN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's most deserving citizens, Mrs. Margaret Beulah Covert Allen, who will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on August 2, 2008. Although Mrs. Allen was born in Statesville, NC, she presently resides in Congressman Bobby Scott's Congressional District, so we are both equally pleased and proud to share her as our friend and constituent.

Over the years, Mrs. Allen has assumed many different roles. She was a dedicated homemaker and was also employed for several years as a substitute teacher, seamstress, supervisor of arts and crafts at her area community recreation center, and a food service worker at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Allen has dedicated 75-faithful years of her life as a member of the Saint Paul A.M.E. Church. She has served as steward and stewardess and on several different committees including the Committee of Concern, which she chaired for many years. Mrs. Allen was also very involved in her community's Y.W.C.A. and the elementary and high school Parent Teacher Association.

By all accounts, Mrs. Allen is a "wonderful mother." Due to her husband's early death, Mrs. Allen was forced to rear five children as a single parent. Marion A. Christian, John C. Allen, III, Charles C. Allen, Beverly A. Henderson and Lynne C. Allen are the Allen children. All of the Allen children completed college and have reared successful children of their own.

Madam Speaker, over her lifetime, Mrs. Allen has lived through some of the most significant historical periods of our time. Like so many of the great historical monuments she has stood the test of time and has survived Reconstruction; lynching; World War I; the Great Depression; World War II; the period of segregation; the Civil Rights Movement; Voting Rights Movement; School Desegregation and other momentous times. She is indeed a walking history reference and we take great pride in recognizing her for being blessed with such longevity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 17, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 1163–1173.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1163—"yes"—Expresses heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007.

Rollcall No. 1164—"yes"—Honoring local and State first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007.

Rollcall No. 1165—"yes"—Same Day Rule.

Rollcall No. 1166—"yes"—Same Day Rule.

Rollcall No. 1167—"yes"—Sine Die Adjournment resolution of the 1st Session of the 110th Congress.

Rollcall No. 1168—"yes"—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764, State, foreign operations appropriations, FY 2008.

Rollcall No. 1169—"yes"—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764, State, foreign operations appropriations, FY 2008.

Rollcall No. 1170—"yes"—To award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

Rollcall No. 1171—"yes"—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for FY 2008—Amendment No. 1.

Rollcall No. 1172—"no"—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for FY 2008—Amendment No. 2.

Rollcall No. 1173—"yes"—Recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood.

IN TRIBUTE TO ANGIE MARKHAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Angie Markham, a great American who serves as the Executive Director of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Queens, Inc. Angie Markham is devoted to her family and her community. In recognition of her selfless dedication to the well-being of others, she was honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club of the Borough of Queens in New York City at its 76th Annual Dinner Dance.

Next year will mark two full decades of distinguished service by Angie Markham as Executive Director of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Queens, Inc. As the leader of the Federation, Angie Markham has developed and managed countless worthwhile initiatives that have provided essential services to the community. These include an annual Columbus Day Parade in Queens; a

surplus food distribution program; an annual 5-Kilometer Run to Help Fight Drug Abuse; Italian Heritage Cultural Month festivities co-ordinated with the office of the Queens Borough President, St. John's University, and several other community-based organizations; soccer camps, clinics, and tournaments for area youth; weekly cultural and entertainment events every summer in Athens Square Park in Astoria; classes in Italian language and culture, English as a second language, and civics. While devoting her time and attention to this incredible range of activities, Angie Markham has also remained devoted to her family as a beloved wife and mother.

In recognition of her many outstanding contributions to the community, Angie Markham has been honored by numerous organizations and leaders. She has been honored by the Queens Borough President's office, by State Senator George Onorato, by State Assemblyman Michael Gianaris, and by New York City Councilman Peter Vallone, Jr., as well by numerous government agencies and civic associations.

In being honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, Angie Markham's achievements were recognized by one of the largest and most vibrant political and civic organizations in our nation's greatest city. The Taminent Club represents voters in the neighborhoods of Astoria and Long Island City in the New York State Assembly's 36th District and is led by its able District Leaders, the Honorable Gloria DeMarco Aloise and the Honorable George Onorato. The Taminent Club proudly carries the banner of the world's oldest political party in one of the most diverse counties in the United States of America. Borough of Queens.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to our cultural and civic life made by Angie Markham.

HONORING THE BISHOP LUDDEN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Bishop Ludden High School Football Team, 2007 Mass C New York State Football Champions. The Bishop Ludden Gaelic Knights defeated the Dobbs Ferry Eagles by a score of 21–16, earning Bishop Ludden's first state football championship title.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach John Cosgrove, and Assistant Coaches Mike Rogers and Bill Cloonan on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Gaelic Knights take the field to defend their title in 2008.

Steven Barrett, Eric Beauford, James Braithwaite, Connor Brown, Casey Christo, Conor Cosgrove, Christopher Davis, Mark Deangelis, Yaroslav Fentsor, Nicholas Ferrante, Daquan Grobsmith, Christopher Harding, Michael Hogan, Eugene Law, Jiyhoun Ly, William McGrath, Julio Ortiz, Omar

Osbourne, Joseph Rathbun, John Rooney, Patrick Rosario, Benjamin Searle, Nathaniel Stewart, Connor Sweeney, Jake Szelewski, Devin White, Wendall Williams, Joevон Works

THE MEDIA OWNERSHIP ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, as much of America now knows, yesterday in a split decision, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve new media ownership rules that in many ways are far worse for the public interest than anything previously revealed by FCC Chairman Martin.

Prior to yesterday's vote, Chairman Martin had attempted to portray his proposal as a "moderate compromise" that would allow one company to own both a daily newspaper and a low-rated broadcast TV station in only the 20 largest media markets. But research from Free Press—collected in the Devil in the Details report—exposed how the loose and ambiguous "waiver" standards in the proposal left a giant loophole for companies to sidestep the ban in any market and for any station.

The final rule, rewritten in the middle of the night before the hearing, retains all of the original loopholes and adds additional loopholes that appear to allow cross-ownership mergers in virtually any market.

While I had held out hope that the FCC would delay this vote given the outpouring of public commentary opposing the rule changes, it is clear that the Chairman of the FCC is not listening. I see no other choice than to push for congressional action, and to that end, yesterday I introduced H.R. 4835, the Media Ownership Act of 2007, in the House to stop these new cross-ownership rules from going forward.

I am pleased to have been joined by my Washington State colleague Representative DAVE REICHERT in this bipartisan effort, and it is my hope that we can move swiftly to prevent these new rules from going into effect. This effort is the companion to work being done in the Senate Commerce Committee where a bipartisan group of Senators have led the effort against these changes.

When Chairman Martin was before the Energy and Commerce Committee earlier this month, I asked him how he could ignore the public outcry he heard when he visited Seattle, Washington, where—despite less than 5 days notice—thousands turned out and stayed until 1 a.m. on a Friday night to voice their concerns. I asked him how we could believe that he had thoughtfully considered the public's concerns, when less than 3 days later, the Chairman published an op-ed in the New York Times outlining his plan for media consolidation.

Clearly, Chairman Martin is not listening to the American people, and now we need to step up and ensure that their voices are heard. I hope my colleagues here in Congress will join me in this effort, and I hope this legislation moves swiftly.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN AUGUSTUS FREEMAN "GUS" HAWKINS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to mourn the passing of former Congressman Augustus Freeman "Gus" Hawkins, a committed public servant and civil rights leader, who died on November 10, 2007. Congressman Hawkins was born on August 31, 1907, in Shreveport, LA. He later moved to California where he would eventually serve 14 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, advocating for his constituents in South Los Angeles. Prior to his passing, he was the oldest living former member of the House of Representatives at the age of 100.

In his youth, Mr. Hawkins was a scholar and civil rights activist. In 1931, he received his undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. One year later, he continued his academic pursuits and studied political science at the University of Southern California. In addition to his intellectual skills and political savvy, Mr. Hawkins was a primary leader in progressive and civil rights campaigns in the urban areas of Los Angeles. His desire to eliminate injustice in his community propelled him to challenge a Republican incumbent in the California State Assembly. He defeated his opponent and quickly became the 62nd district's voice for civil rights and equality regardless of race, creed, or color. He remained in the California State Assembly from 1935 to 1963.

In 1963, Mr. Hawkins was elected to serve California's 21st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, making him the first African American elected from the State of California. He firmly demonstrated his commitment to public service by supporting legislation that would improve housing standards, labor, education, and conditions for the working poor. He made history by sponsoring the equal employment section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In addition, he fought consistently to raise the minimum wage and he and Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota) crafted the Humphrey-Hawkins Act of 1978, which was designed to combat unemployment and inflation. During his 28 years in the House, he served as the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and the chairman of the Committee on Administration. He was also one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which was founded in 1971. When he retired in 1991, he had created over half a century's worth of landmark legislation on both the State and Federal level.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to remember the legacy and mourn the passing of former Congressman Augustus Freeman Hawkins.

ARTHUR I. JACKNOWITZ, PROFESSOR AND DISTINGUISHED CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHARMACY CONCERNED ABOUT CMS COMPOUNDING POLICY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to a compelling letter written by Arthur I. Jacknowitz, Pharm. D, Professor and Distinguished Chair in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at West Virginia University's School of Pharmacy at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center in Morgantown, WV. Writing on behalf of more than 650 pharmacies and 359,000 Medicare beneficiaries in West Virginia, Professor Jacknowitz expressed his deep concern over the adverse impact that CMS's new policy excluding compounded inhalation medications from Medicare beneficiaries would have in West Virginia and across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter Professor Jacknowitz's letter into the RECORD.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY,
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY,
Morgantown, WV, October 30, 2007.

KERRY WEEMS, ADMINISTRATOR,
*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 200
Independence Avenue, SW, Room 314 G,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR ADMINISTRATOR WEEMS: Compounding pharmacists play an essential role in many patients' lives by enabling physicians to prescribe customized medication therapy to best meet their needs. Indeed, for the growing number of people with unique therapeutic requirements that cannot be addressed with commercially available products, a compounded product may be the only viable treatment option.

Compounding of medications for patient use has been a significant component of the practice of pharmacy and medicine since the beginnings of our profession. Virtually all practicing pharmacists will be involved with compounding activities at some point during their career. In fact, it is estimated that the 30 to 40 million prescriptions are compounded each year. Pharmacists are the only health care professionals that have studied chemical compatibilities and can prepare alternate dosage forms. In fact, each state requires that pharmacy schools must, as part of their core curriculum, instruct students on the compounding of pharmaceutical ingredients. Compounding pharmacies are licensed and regulated by their respective state boards of pharmacy, rather than the FDA.

With this mind, I am writing to you as a Professor of Pharmacy and on behalf of more than 650 pharmacies and 359,000 Medicare beneficiaries they serve in our state of West Virginia to express my concern about the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) new policy excluding compounded inhalation medications from Medicare beneficiaries. CMS issued this new policy without explanation or medical rationale driven by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) posture and legal position regarding compounding. It is a reversal of your agency's long-standing policy on inhalation medications. By excluding compounded inhalation medications for Medicare beneficiaries stating that they are no longer medically necessary you are discriminating

against compounded medications in general. I believe that this new policy may have far-reaching and serious consequences for Medicare beneficiaries who rely on nebulizer medications. Eliminating compounding will severely restrict access to these critical medications for Medicare beneficiaries and their prescribing physicians.

The FDA's legal position on compounding medications, its aggressive enforcement policies against several compounding pharmacies and the agency's intervention and influence on CMS's recent policies on compounded medications establishes a dangerous precedent for all pharmacy compounding throughout the United States. Ignoring the recent Federal court decision *Medical Center Pharmacy v Gonzales*, 451 F. Supp.2d 854, 865 (W.D. Tex. 2006), the FDA reasserted its legal position "that all compounded drugs are unapproved new, and therefore illegal, drugs under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA)". Contrary to the FDA's position, the Federal Court held that "compounded drugs, when created for an individual patient pursuant to a prescription from a licensed practitioner, were implicitly exempt from the new drug definitions contained in the Act".

As a result of the FDA's position and CMS's new policy on compounding, more than 29,000 citizens of West Virginia suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) that depend on these medications as well as the hundreds of compounding pharmacies and their employees, will be adversely affected. For this reason, I am asking that CMS rescind the recent policy excluding compounding medications.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR I. JACKNOWITZ,
Professor and Distinguished Chair,
Department of Clinical Pharmacy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST.
FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the St. Francis High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Seven State Championship game. It was their fifth State finals appearance in 10 years.

The St. Francis Gladiators lost a hard-fought state championship game to Mendon High School. It was the end to an impressive play-off run in which they outscored their opponents 188–8 in the four games leading up to the finals. They finished their season with a 12–2 record.

The Gladiators accomplishments are a testament to the years of hard work and dedication of these student athletes. They have proudly carried on their school's tradition of excellence. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the St. Francis High School football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT NEWELL
WISNER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker. I rise today to recognize the retirement of Robert Newell Wisner, after 41 years as an Iowa State University Extension economist.

Since February of 1967, Robert Wisner has provided a remarkable service to the agricultural community in Iowa and across the globe. He is extremely innovative in his methods of presenting market outlooks and analyzing marketing and risk-management strategies. Robert's publications on risk management and genetically-modified crop marketing have been widely used in Japan and China and have benefited countries in Europe as well. He pioneered work on revenue assurance contracts and regularly educated crop insurance agents about different risk management tools.

Robert also has a gift in relating his work to the common farmer. He has converted his highly complicated market research and analysis into an easily understandable format. Robert is known for checking up-to-the-minute information, seconds before presentations, to give his audience the most accurate statistics. He has worked hard to gain the confidence of farmers by conducting over 2,200 extension meetings and authoring more than 1,500 publications. Robert is a trusted source of expert agricultural economic information and for this I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commanding Robert Wisner for his leadership and service to the farmers of America. I consider it an honor to represent Robert in Congress and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING OFFICER ARMANDO AL-
EXANDER OF THE WAUKEGAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Armando Alexander of the Waukegan Police Department for his selfless act of heroism.

On February 3, 2007, Officer Alexander was assisting with closing a local bar. At 2:49 a.m., Officer Alexander heard gunfire erupt in the parking lot next to the establishment. Without regard for his own personal safety, he ran toward the gunfire where he witnessed two subjects firing shots at a victim in a parked car. The victim was shot three times before the suspects fled. Officer Alexander then chased the suspects on foot through a residential development and construction site. He apprehended one of the suspects and recovered the firearm used in the crime. The second suspect was later arrested.

Officer Alexander's outstanding efforts took two dangerous gang members off the streets of my district and made Waukegan, Illinois, a safer place.

As a member of the Significant Incident Group on the Waukegan Police force, Officer Alexander is a leader and a role model for local law enforcement in the 10th Congressional District of Illinois.

I am proud to count this heroic American as a constituent and a friend.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND
ROSALIE WELLING

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the exemplary and extended service of Bob and Rosalee Welling, who will receive the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Central Missouri.

Bob received his juris doctorate from St. Louis University School of Law. Following law school he spent 2 years in the United States Army and then moved to Warrensburg, MO, to begin a 50-year career in law. In 1985, Bob received the Missouri Bar President's Award.

Bob served as president of the Missouri State Board of Education and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Boards of Education. He was a former chair on the board's Governmental Affairs Committee and was a mentor in the association. Bob has also presided as chair of the Regional Council for Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Currently, Bob is a member of Children's Mercy Hospital Planned Gift Council and board member of its nonprofit subsidiary, Family Health Partners. He is also serving as a gubernatorial appointee to the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission.

Rosalee graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology. Following graduate school, she served as a physical education and health teacher in the Raytown School District and then as a speech pathologist at the Children's Therapy Center. She then joined the University of Central Missouri and taught until her retirement in 2002.

While at the university, she served for 13 years as director of the Early Childhood Communication Special Education Preschool, spent 6 years as the coordinator of Clinical Services in the Welch-Schmidt Center for Communication Disorders, and was guest lecturer in the Department of Phonetics at the University of Helsinki, Finland.

Today, Rosalee is director emeriti of the University of Central Missouri Alumni Association Board and the Foundation Board. She also serves as a tutor in the Johnson County Adult Literacy Program.

The Wellings are known in the State of Missouri for their outstanding civic involvement and volunteer service. I trust that Members of the House will join me in wishing Bob and Rosalee Welling and their family the best in their future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO NICK TENAGLIA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Nick Tenaglia, a native son of Astoria in Queens who has dedicated his energies throughout his life to serving others. In recognition of his selfless dedication to his community, Nick Tenaglia was honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club of the Borough of Queens in New York City at its 76th Annual Dinner Dance.

A lifelong Astoria resident, Nick Tenaglia has distinguished himself both for his service to the community and for his proficiency as an outdoorsman and nature lover. After graduating from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School and LaSalle Academy, he chose a career in the building trades. Nick Tenaglia joined the Carpenters Union, where he served an apprenticeship for four years. In 1985, he joined the staff of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and eight years later was promoted to Supervisor.

It was fitting that Mr. Tenaglia made his professional home at the municipal agency charged with protecting the beautiful and diverse natural environment of the New York City metropolitan area, because he is an avid and skilled angler and marksman. In 1997 and 1998, Nick Tenaglia was named the New York City Fresh Water Fishing Champion, and he has also earned awards from the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. He regularly participates in New York State Rifle and Pistol Club competitions. In his spare time, he can frequently be found at his property in the Pocono Mountains.

In being honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, Nick Tenaglia's achievements were recognized by one of the largest and most vibrant political and civic organizations in our nation's greatest city. The Taminent Club represents voters in the neighborhoods of Astoria and Long Island City in the New York State Assembly's 36th District and is led by its able District Leaders, the Honorable Gloria DeMarco Aloise and the Honorable George Onorato, a distinguished New York State Senator. The Taminent Club, which Mr. Tenaglia serves as a Member of the Board of Directors and as Sergeant-at-Arms, proudly carries the banner of the world's oldest political party in one of the most diverse counties in the United States of America. Borough of Queens.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to the community made by Nick Tenaglia.

HONORING THE FAYETTEVILLE MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Fayetteville

Manlius, F-M, High School Girl's Cross Country Team, 2007 Nike Team National Champions. The F-M Girl's Cross Country Team won at the State, regional, and national levels to earn their second consecutive national championship title, and become the first team ever to win back to back Nike National Championships.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young women on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach William Aris, and assistant coaches John Aris and David Davis on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Hornets defend their title in 2008.

The team members are Kathryn Buchan, Katie Buchan, Mackenzie Carter, Courtney Chapman, Hannah Luber, Molly Malone, and Jocelyn Richards.

SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FOOD DONATION ACT

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the Federal Food Donation Act, an important piece of legislation that will help address the scourge of hunger in America.

Each year, 35 million Americans, including 12 million children, go hungry, even though we live in the richest nation in the world. In many ways, the situation is getting worse, as increasing costs for food, energy and housing mean that increasing numbers of working families have difficulty affording sufficient food. According to a report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 80 percent of cities studied reported increases in requests for emergency food assistance during the last year. Despite this increase in need for food assistance, too little has been done to ensure that food banks, pantries and other charitable organizations have sufficient resources to address the needs of their hungry clients.

The Federal Food Donation Act will help alleviate the shortage of food among organizations that work to serve the hungry. This important bill will amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide that contracts will contain provisions encouraging the donation of excess, apparently wholesome food to non-profit organizations working to combat hunger. The bill will ensure that excess food acquired for the use of the federal government does not go to waste and instead goes to help feed the hungry.

The Federal Food Donation Act represents an important step forward in the effort to combat poverty. I am hopeful that the bill will also spur more organizations in the private sector to follow suit and to ensure that they make good use of excess food. Additionally, I am hopeful that Congress will soon pass legislation strengthening the Food Stamp program by substantially increasing benefits and easing access to the program for eligible beneficiaries, to help ensure that the 25 million Americans who receive Food Stamp benefits each year receive sufficient assistance to prevent them from becoming hungry.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to express my support for the Federal Food Donation Act. Our country must no longer tolerate the presence of widespread hunger and I believe that this legislation will play a critical role in combating hunger. I am proud to express my full support for this legislation and I thank my friend and colleague, Mrs. EMERSON, for her sponsorship of the bill and for her leadership in fighting hunger.

A TRIBUTE TO DADY BELFORT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dady Belfort. Dady, one of four children, was born in Les Cayes on the Island of Haiti to Rose Nostalie and Joseph Santiford Belfort. In 1977, she migrated to the United States enrolling in Erasmus Hall High School. After her high school graduation in 1980, she attended Kings Borough Community College and is currently enrolled at John Jay College, pursuing a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Dady became a police officer for the City of New York in 1989. Since joining the force, she has received numerous citations during her 18 years of service. In 2002, she became the force's Community Affairs Officer and in 2005 she was promoted to Detective.

Dady is very active in her community. She is a regular participant in the New York Cares coat drive as well as numerous toy drives. Dady walks each year in the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish's walk-a-thon for the Knights of Columbus, and the walk for breast cancer at Jones Beach. She is a member of the Canarsie Lions Club, and the Haitian American Law Enforcement Fraternal Organization. Dady coordinates with various organizations' outreach programs to help the less fortunate by collecting food for the homeless, adopting a family for the holidays, and frequently assisting at the Gerald R. Ryan Outreach Center Soup Kitchen.

As a young girl, Dady has always wanted to make a difference in her community. She lives her life by one simple saying, "Happiness is not an individual matter. When you are able to bring relief or bring back the smile to one person, not only that person profits but you also profit. The deepest happiness you can have comes from the capacity to help relieve the suffering of others. So if we have the habit of being peaceful, there is a natural tendency for us to go into the direction of service."

Dady is married to Cecil Ramsay and they have three children; Rodnny, Samantha and Christopher.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of New York who has set the bar extremely high for individual service to her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this Dady Belfort.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
DAVID H. HUNTOON, JR.

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Major General David H. Huntoon, Jr., currently serving as the 46th Commandant of the United States Army War College, located in my Congressional District at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Gen. Huntoon became the 46th Commandant of the Army War College in August 2003. His service in this post will come to a close in January, when he will be reassigned to Fort Myers.

The resume of Gen. Huntoon is long and distinguished, fitting for the Commandant of an institution with a long and distinguished history. Gen. Huntoon was commissioned in 1973 from the Military Academy at West Point. He served thirteen years as an infantry officer; he served in the Directorate of Plans at Fort Bragg during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause; and he has served as a National Security Fellow at the Hoover Institute, as an Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, and as the Director of Strategy at the Pentagon.

As the Commandant of the Army War College, Gen. Huntoon has been dedicated to training strategic leaders in the war against terrorism. He speaks of the need to restore the peace shattered on 9/11. He speaks with reverence of both family and the military family, and he has worked to bring the community of Carlisle into the folds of his daily command.

It has been a privilege and an honor to get to know Gen. Huntoon and his family over the past few years. I want to thank him for his dedicated service to the mission of the United States Army War College and to the defense of our great Nation. I wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE PARASKEVAIDES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to the honor the life and accomplishments of George Paraskevaides, a humanitarian of unmatched proportions. Mr. Paraskevaides was one of the most renowned Cypriot philanthropists of his day. His life story reads like a classic tale of rags to riches. Born in Athens, Greece in 1916, George Paraskevaides moved with his family back to Cyprus where he excelled in school and ultimately graduated from the Polytechnic Institute in Milan, Italy. After World War II, Mr. Paraskevaides, together with Stelios Ioannou, formed the most preeminent architectural engineering firm in Cyprus, Joannou & Paraskevaides.

George Paraskevaides' keen intellect and unmatched work ethic, allowed Joannou & Paraskevaides to become one of the most prolific firms in the Middle East, Africa, and

Asia. This lucrative company allowed Mr. Paraskevaides to engage in the work he enjoyed most: helping others. George quickly became recognized in Cyprus as a champion of Cypriot issues and sick children.

His death on December 5, 2007 at the age of 91 has left a gaping hole in the hearts of Cypriots the world over. He was the voice of all that is true and good about the island nation. President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, said of the passing of George Paraskevaides. "He was a model of humanity, dignity and kindness. He offered a lot in a selfless way to those who needed help and was a benefactor for Cyprus, serving his country with patriotism. He leaves behind him charity work for which he will be dearly remembered as a man of high moral standards." I could not concur more with this sentiment.

George Paraskevaides is recognized the world over for his good works and philanthropy. He has received innumerable awards including the Medal of Exceptional Contribution, the highest honor of the Republic of Cyprus, Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Oman III, Class Civil by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the Rotary Foundation Medal, and the Medal of Merit of the Lions International Club of Nicosia, the St. Paul's Medal by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North and South America, and the St. Marcus Medal by the Pontifice. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and was also honored with the Holy Cross of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, the works of the George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation has been recognized for having formed links with Shriner's Hospital in Springfield, MA, and Children's Heart Fund Hospital in Minneapolis and has provided numerous scholarships for less fortunate Cypriots. Paraskevaides founded the Cyprus Kidney Association, the Surgical and Transplant Foundation and the Cyprus Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, while the list of awards is impressive. I am sure the biggest award that George Paraskevaides won in his life was the love and affection of his wife, Thelma, and his family. He will be missed but never forgotten. May his memory be eternal!

HONORING NGHIA VAN DONG

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Vietnam War.

Nghia Van Dong was born in Hai Phong, Viet Nam, during the end of the Indochina War. Following the Geneva Conventions which brought the conflict to a resolution, Mr. Dong joined fellow refugees in repatriating to the Republic of South Viet Nam. This trip would prove fruitful, as Mr. Dong met his future wife Hanh on the ship which carried him to Saigon.

At the start of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong knew that his country needed him. He quickly signed up to help with the war effort, and was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces for a period of ten years. When Consul General McNamara asked the Commander of the Special Forces to recommend one of his

best senior Vietnamese employees for the important post of chauffeur and body guard, Mr. Dong was his immediate recommendation.

Mr. Dong served as person chauffeur and body guard to the principal officer of American Consulate, while at the same time supervising all the guard personnel. He filled these roles from October 2, 1970, until the final evacuation on April 29, 1975. He was cited for gallantry on a number of occasions, and also for safe-guarding the life of Consul General Francis T. McNamara.

He has a citation for personally attacking three Viet Cong machine gun positions and destroying each of them with small arms and hand grenades. In a moment of sheer bravery, Nghia Van Dong placed himself between Consul General McNamara and a group of Vietnamese Marines, taking several bullets and saving the life of the Consul General. In total, Mr. Dong was wounded ten times over the course of the war.

At the close of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong came to the United States. Settling in Fairfax, Virginia, Mr. Dong found employment in Hospital Services, working at both Dewitt and Mount Vernon Hospitals. In 2005, Mr. Dong retired from Mount Vernon Hospital Food Service after 26 years of employment.

Mr. Dong and his spouse Hanh are active in the local Vietnamese Church and have been active for years as they enjoy the fruits of their long marriage—their 15 grandchildren. Although recent illness has kept him from many activities, Mr. Dong has always enjoyed fishing, drinking coffee, and playing the lottery. He has also been active in local veterans' groups.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Viet Nam War, and his outstanding legacy of public service here in Northern Virginia. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Dong.

HONORING BONNIE PALECEK

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and dear friend of mine as she retires as Executive Director of the Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault in my State of North Dakota. I have had the privilege of knowing Bonnie Palecek for over 25 years and have seen firsthand the leadership and devoted service she has provided in protecting victims of violence.

Bonnie Palecek has been with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault for nearly 30 years. Bonnie established the Council on Abused Women's Services in 1980, and has led this network to now connect over 20 domestic violence prevention and intervention programs across the State. Under her leadership, this coalition is the voice for thousands of women and children affected by violence. Bonnie has tirelessly advocated for domestic violence victims and their families and has been the driving force behind passing countless pieces of legislation in North Dakota to protect victims of domestic abuse. After 30 great years, she will be difficult to replace.

I know that Bonnie Palecek will be sorely missed by all who have known her dedication to serving victims of sexual and domestic violence. I offer her my congratulations and best wishes for her continued success and happiness in the coming years.

LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL (NAAG) OPPOSING H.R. 2046, THE ‘INTERNET GAMBLING REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007’

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) signed by 45 Attorneys General opposing Representative BARNEY FRANK’s legislation, H.R. 2046, the “Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007.” In this letter, these Attorneys General declare that the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which provided an additional Federal enforcement tool against Internet gambling and which was signed into law last year, has “effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.” The NAAG letter then goes on to detail the opposition of 45 top law enforcement officials to H.R. 2046. I request that the entirety of this letter be included in the RECORD immediately following my remarks, including the list of all the signers of this letter.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Washington, DC, November 30, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC.

TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the “Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007.” We believe that the bill would undermine States’ traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: “We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level.” Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, UIGEA, which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a Federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S.

customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive Federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the Federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A Federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because §5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may “opt out” of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed \$100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the Federal law might nevertheless allow 18-year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down State opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be omen to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America’s gambling laws on the Internet, “harmonizing” the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

John S. Juthers, Attorney General of Colorado; Bill McCollum, Attorney General of Florida; Douglas Gansler, Attorney General of Maryland; Troy King, Attorney General of Alabama; Talis J. Colberg, Attorney General of Alaska; Terry Goddard, Attorney General of Arizona; Dustin McDaniel, Attorney General of Arkansas; Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General of California; Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut; Joseph R. (Beau) Biden III, Attorney General of Delaware.

Linda Singer, Attorney General of the District of Columbia; Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General of Georgia; Alicia G. Limtiaco, Attorney General of Guam; Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General of Hawaii; Lawrence Wasden, Attorney General of Idaho; Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois; Stephen Carter, Attorney General of Indiana; Paul Morrison, Attorney General of Kansas; Charles C. Foti, Jr., Attorney General of Louisiana; G. Steven Rowe, Attorney General of Maine.

Lori Swanson, Attorney General of Minnesota; Jim Hood, Attorney General of Mississippi; Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Attorney General of Missouri; Mike McGrath, Attorney General of Montana; Kelly A. Ayotte, Attorney Gen-

eral of New Hampshire; Anne Milgram, Attorney General of New Jersey; Gary King, Attorney General of New Mexico; Roy Cooper, Attorney General of North Carolina; Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General of North Dakota; Marc Dann, Attorney General of Ohio.

W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma; Hardy Myers, Attorney General of Oregon; Tom Corbett, Attorney General of Pennsylvania; Patrick C. Lynch, Attorney General of Rhode Island; Henry McMaster, Attorney General of South Carolina; Larry Long, Attorney General of South Dakota; Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General of Tennessee; Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas; Mark Shurtleff, Attorney General of Utah; William H. Sorrell, Attorney General of Vermont. Robert McDonnell, Attorney General of Virginia; Rob McKenna, Attorney General of Washington; Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., Attorney General of West Virginia; J.B. Van Hollen, Attorney General of Wisconsin; Bruce A. Salzburg, Attorney General of Wyoming.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

**SPEECH OF
HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007. It is an initial step towards a new energy policy. Some will say this bill goes too far, others will claim it does not go far enough. While opportunities to overhaul our energy policy were missed, this bill does include a starting point for true reform.

Any attempt to transform the direction of our energy policy must include an increase in CAFE standards. Increasing fuel efficiency is something I have fought many years for. We have the technology to do it, we have the will to do it and now, with this bill, we have made the commitment to do it. This provision is the cornerstone for revamping our energy policy. It not only addresses our reliance on imported oil, but will also help stem the creation of green house gasses.

I agree with the inclusion of a Renewable Fuels Standard; however, as we have learned over the past few years, the manner in which it is executed raises its own set of questions. Our current thirst is for corn based ethanol. Of 5 billion gallons of biofuels produced domestically last year, 4.9 billion were derived from corn. Placing a limit on the amount of corn ethanol eligible to be applied in meeting the RFS is a necessary step. Yet, I have doubts as to whether that limit is too high and whether more should be done to ensure the development of other biofuels. Also, most studies give corn based ethanol an energy balance of 1.2. Would it not be a better long term policy to shift our focus towards a more efficient source of biofuel?

Finally, I am concerned about the effects this mandate could have on the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Task Force and I have worked tirelessly to clean up this troubled waterway. Spurred on by government subsidies, farmers in the watershed have been drastically increasing their corn acreage. Due

to the intrinsic nature of corn farming, any increase will heavily impact the health of the watershed and could undo many of the great achievements we have made in the past few years.

Fifty years from now our energy makeup should be fundamentally different. At that point we should no longer be relying on fossil fuels to drive our economy. Yet, the fact remains we must rely on them today. Neither the technology nor the infrastructure exists to do otherwise. In the intervening years we must not only develop a green energy sector, but we must also shift from foreign sources of energy to domestic ones. Therefore, we must not hinder the development of our oil and natural gas fields. I am pleased this bill discarded the troublesome tax package that would have been a disincentive on domestic production.

Madam Speaker, contrary to what its champions claim, this bill does not fundamentally change our Nation's energy policy. While I will vote for this bill, I look forward to working with my colleagues to finish the job that has been left undone.

**RECOGNIZING OHIO'S 2008
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable teacher from Ohio's Fourth Congressional District.

Her name is Deborah Wickerham. A teacher for 32 years, Ms. Wickerham has taught at Chamberlin Hill Intermediate School in the Findlay City School system since 1992, currently teaching both deaf and hearing fifth graders in her inclusion classroom.

In 2001, Ms. Wickerham achieved National Board Certification, and currently works as a facilitator and mentor to help other teachers achieve certification. In addition to this and to her regular duties at Chamberlin Hill, she spends many after-school hours tutoring students who struggle with homework, organizational skills, and test preparation.

She has received numerous awards and recognition throughout her teaching career, including the Presidential Award for Elementary Science Excellence, the Vernier National Science Teacher of the Year Award, the Rotary Golden Apple Award, Jaycees Teacher of the Year honors, and the 2007 VFW Regional Teacher of the Year title.

Today, I am proud to announce to the House that Deborah Wickerham has been named the 2008 Ohio Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Department of Education.

According to her colleagues, Ms. Wickerham's secret to success is her ability to demonstrate, through her dedicated work in the classroom, the most important mission of teachers: to help even child succeed.

We all recognize the increasing challenges facing today's students. Now more than ever, they need the benefit of dedicated teachers like Ms. Wickerham.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deborah Wickerham in earning this distinction, through which she will serve as a spokesperson for Ohio teachers, make public appearances and speeches

across the state, and continue her outstanding work in the classroom.

RECOGNIZING KINGLAND-HANSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Kingland-Hanson as the recipient of the Golden Apple Award for her commitment and enthusiasm as a teacher in the Hampton-Dumont School District in Iowa.

Carolyn says she is humbled by the honor and believes all her fellow teachers at Hampton-Dumont are equally deserving of the award.

Carolyn has taught high school English and literature for 22 years and has a gift in working with teens. She is able to transform difficult literature into exciting and easy to learn lessons. Carolyn turns her classroom into a stage as students have the opportunity to act out scenes and dances that are in the books they are studying. Her recipe for success is her love of, and commitment to, her students. Her passion for literature and the teaching profession will continue to have a significant impact on her students for years to come.

I congratulate Carolyn Kingland-Hanson on her well-deserved award, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many students in her community. It is a great honor to represent Carolyn in Congress, and I wish her continued success.

**HONORING A NORTH CHICAGO
POLICE OFFICER**

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Luis Rivera of the North Chicago Police Department Tactical Narcotics Team. Besides fulfilling his duties as a narcotics and gang investigator since May 2005, Detective Rivera also serves on the North Chicago Police Department Major Crime Evidence Team, as a firearms instructor, tech officer, bike patrolman and former SWAT officer. Beyond his tireless dedication to the department, Detective Rivera has consistently displayed an extraordinary commitment to his community.

In January of this year while working undercover, Detective Rivera purchased 4 ounces of cocaine from a criminal resulting in four arrests and the seizure of 116.6 grams cocaine, one Chevy Blazer and \$4,977. Detective Rivera also developed a narcotics gang conspiracy case on members of the Four Corner Hustler street gang operating in North Chicago that came to a conclusion on February 28, 2007. Through the use of confidential informants and undercover officers, 39 indictments were issued on 12 of the Four Corner Hustler street gang members by the Lake County States Attorney office. This investigation halted violence in the area.

In June he developed an informant that infiltrated a crew that was robbing local drug dealers. While gathering information to make a case, the leader of the group and member of the Gangster Disciples street gang committed a home invasion, resulting in the violent death of a young female along with 2 males who

**FEDERAL FOOD DONATION ACT OF
2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is considering an important piece of legislation. H.R. 4220, the Federal Food Donation Act of 2007 is a step in the right direction towards feeding the hungry in our nation. It is unacceptable that here in the richest nation in the world American children go to bed hungry while perfectly good food goes to waste. I am proud to be a sponsor of this bill—a bill that will not solve all hunger, but will solve some people's hunger.

I want to thank Mrs. EMERSON for introducing the Federal Food Donation Act. The bill will help the efforts of nonprofit organizations serving the hungry. Agencies and contractors are encouraged to donate safe and wholesome food to nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to food-insecure people, while avoiding another mandate or further layer of bureaucracy. In order to help protect donors, the bill provides that executive agencies and contractors making donations are protected from civil or criminal liability.

While donating unused food is a good step in combating hunger in America, the fight is not over.

**TRIBUTE TO NOUVEL CATHOLIC
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and pay tribute to Nouvel Catholic Central High School for winning the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Six Football State Championship. It is the team's second consecutive state title.

The Nouvel Panthers Defeated Blissfield 12–7 in the state final game on November 23. The win was a fitting cap to a successful season. The Panthers finished with an impressive 10–3 record. The ability of the Panther players to regroup after these losses and ability to win the close games down the stretch is a clear indication of the dedication these young men have for their sport.

This tremendous group of student athletes has proudly carried on their school's tradition of excellence.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Nouvel Catholic Central football team on this milestone achievement and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

were seriously wounded. Lake County Major Crimes Taskforce investigated the crime and had murder warrants. Detective Rivera then developed an operational plan to take the suspect into custody. The detective used his informant to lure the suspect to a location on July 3, 2007, to discuss doing another robbery. Members of the North Chicago SWAT team arrested the suspect upon his arrival.

Last August Detective Rivera used an informant to infiltrate another armed robbery crew along with an undercover ATF agent. On October 25, 2007, the North Chicago Tactical Narcotics Team, agents from ATF and their SWAT officers as well as Waukegan Net Agents conducted a sting on this crew, arresting four Gangster Disciples and the recovery of a hand gun. All 4 subjects were charged through the United States Attorneys office.

Detective Rivera is truly taking criminals off the streets, making our community safer. Our district is fortunate to have police officers, like the detective, who risk their lives every day. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

IN TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MELONI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Antonio Meloni, a tireless, energetic and effective civic activist. Antonio Meloni is devoted to his community and his family, and in recognition of his selfless dedication to the well-being of others, he was honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club of the Borough of Queens in New York City at its 76th Annual Dinner Dance.

A resident of Astoria for forty-two years, Antonio Meloni has distinguished himself for his outstanding service to the community. He has been a leader in local crime-fighting and neighborhood beautification efforts, working with at-risk youth in the Second Chance Task Force, serving as an instructor in women's self-defense courses, and working to prevent and clean up the urban blight of graffiti. Mr. Meloni has been extraordinarily active in numerous civic organizations, ranging from the Astoria-Long Island City Kiwanis Club; the 114th Precinct Community Council; the local New York City Community Emergency Response Team; the Variety Boys and Girls Club; the Knights of Columbus; the Church of the Immaculate Conception, where he serves as a Minister of Welcome; the Astoria Civic Association, which he currently serves as Vice President; and Queens Community Board 1, on which he has chaired the Public Safety Committee for many years, among many other organizations. Of Antonio Meloni's many accomplishments in service to the community, one of which he is particularly proud is the design and completion of the "Greater Love Than This" memorial to veterans of our nation's armed forces, a monument that is located next to the existing World War I Memorial in Astoria Park. In recognition of his many civic contributions, Mr. Meloni has been honored over the years by former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition, the New York City

Council, and numerous community organizations.

Next year will mark two full decades of distinguished service by Antonio Meloni as Executive Director of Immigration Advocacy Services. In this capacity, he has developed and managed countless worthwhile initiatives that have provided essential services to new arrivals to our nation's greatest city. While devoting his time and attention to this incredible range of activities, Antonio Meloni has also remained devoted to his beloved family, including his wife Denise and his two children Michael and Angela.

In being honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, Antonio Meloni's achievements were recognized by one of the largest and most vibrant political and civic organizations in our nation's greatest city. The Taminent Club represents voters in the neighborhoods of Astoria and Long Island City in the New York State Assembly's 36th District and is led by its able District Leaders, the Honorable Gloria DeMarco Aloise and the Honorable George Onorato, a distinguished New York State Senator. The Taminent Club proudly carries the banner of the world's oldest political party in one of the most diverse counties in the United States of America. Borough of Queens.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to our cultural and civic life made by Antonio Meloni.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MODELL FAMILY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and accomplishments of the Modell family. The Modell family migrated from Russia in the 1870s settling on the Lower East Side of New York City. They soon began peddling clothing, jewelry, and other odds and ends from a pushcart.

George Modell opened a store at 79 Cortland Street in 1893. The business moved to Nassau Street during the 1930s when George's son Louis joined and established their pawnbroking business. Louis successfully expanded and assumed leadership of the company during World War II. In 1956, Gerald, Louis' eldest son had completed his studies at Columbia University and was commissioned into the army as an officer. In 1959, he joined the Modell Jewelry & Pawnbroker business.

Gerald Modell opened a second location in 1960 on West 47th Street, in the heart of the "Diamond District," where Modell began to expand financing to the diamond and jewelry industry. In 1965, Gerald expanded by starting a diamond importing company operating in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, and Bombay.

Gerald Modell's son Eric graduated from the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce in 1997. After a 3-year career as a management consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Eric joined the family business in 2000. Today Eric is the executive vice president and is committed to expanding the business even further.

Gerald Modell has been associated with the creation and operation of many charitable and philanthropic causes, mostly in the medical field. He currently serves on an Advisory Board at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City and is the founder and former vice president of the Mental Illness Foundation.

Today the Modells have six pawnshop locations in operation throughout New York City: the Diamond District; Gramercy Park; Spanish Harlem; Brooklyn Heights; Brownsville; and Bay Ridge. Annually, Modell makes tens of thousands of loans to the public for their short-term financing needs.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank the Modell family for their nearly 115 years of service to the residents of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Modell family.

A LETTER FROM GOVERNOR MITCH DANIELS OF INDIANA

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I wish to submit into the RECORD a letter from Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels expressing his concerns regarding H.R. 2046, the Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act, which would legalize Internet gambling and undermine the ability of states to make and enforce their own gambling laws. I share Governor Daniel's opposition to this bill, and will fight to make sure H.R. 2046 does not pass the House.

STATE OF INDIANA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Indianapolis, Indiana, November 9, 2007.

Re Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007 (H.R. 2046)

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID, SENATOR MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI AND REPRESENTATIVE BOEHNER: As Governor of the State of Indiana, I wish to express my concerns about a bill currently in the U.S. Congress known as the Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007 ("H.R. 2046"), which would legalize Internet gambling and undermine the ability of states to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

In contrast with limited, state-regulated forms of gambling such as horse tracks and riverboat casinos, gambling via the Internet is available from virtually any location (e.g., homes, offices, schools) twenty-four hours per day in an anonymous environment. Research and studies have indicated that Internet gambling is more accessible to minors, more attractive to college-age individuals, more susceptible to fraud and other criminal activity, and harder to regulate. These are some of the reasons why Indiana recently updated its gambling laws to specifically prohibit Internet gambling. Using the Internet

to engage in gambling in Indiana, or with a person located in Indiana, is a felony under Indiana law.

Last year, in response to the growth of the Internet gambling problem, Congress passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, UIGEA, which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the U.S. marketplace. But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling operators to engage in business with U.S. customers. The Department of Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the holders of those licenses were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

Furthermore, a federal license under H.R. 2046 would supersede any state enforcement action because, as written, this bill grants a “safe harbor” defense against any prosecution or enforcement under any state or federal law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. In other words, any gambling operator who obtains a license from the Treasury Department and follows the requirements of H.R. 2046 would be excused from criminal charges.

Essentially, the bill would legalize Internet gambling in each state, unless the governor of a state clearly specifies the existence of a current state restriction e.g., an existing state law) barring Internet gambling. On that basis, a state may “opt out” of the legalization of Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, this opt-out provision is problematic because it does not clearly preserve the right of states to place conditions on legal types of gambling. H.R. 2046 also does not grant Indiana any right to challenge a licensing decision by the Treasury Department or bring an enforcement action against a gambling operator who circumvents Indiana’s prohibition on Internet gambling.

In addition, even if Indiana exercises this opt-out and Indiana’s ban on Internet gambling remains in effect, the opt-out provision of H.R. 2046 will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) as a violation of U.S. trade agreements. In recent years, the WTO has ruled against the U.S. in disputes pertaining to free trade in gambling services. Accordingly, if the WTO strikes down the state opt-out provision as unduly restrictive of trade, then it is likely that we will see a significant expansion of legalized gambling in the U.S. and the preemption of state laws prohibiting or restricting Internet gambling.

I ask that you reject H.R. 2046 and any other proposals that would undermine Indiana’s ban on Internet gambling.

Sincerely,

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr.,
Governor, State of Indiana.

RECOGNIZING MABROOKA CHAUDHRY FOR RECEIVING THE MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, an outstanding educator who has been se-

lected to receive the Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is given to outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals. The recipients must demonstrate exceptional educational talent through their instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and the school. They must also represent themselves as leaders who engage and inspire students, colleagues, and the community.

Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, a social studies teacher at Atholton High School in Columbia, Maryland, has proven her ability in all of these areas. She empowers her students to debate and explore ideas in a safe, student-centered environment. Through online discussion groups and extensive writing assignments, she encourages students to articulate their ideas while improving their overall academic performance. Her students consistently perform well on the district’s quarterly assessments in U.S. History, and 100 percent of her 2005–06 students earned a three or above on the AP American Government exam. She is currently serving as the U.S. History Curriculum Team Coordinator, and has facilitated the Multicultural Club, the Human Rights Awareness Club and the Muslim Student Association.

Ms. Chaudhry’s love of her profession and the students that she teaches is evidenced by the energy she puts into her work and the achievements of her students. As someone who has been active and keenly interested in education policy throughout my professional life, I have the utmost respect for teachers like Ms. Chaudhry; she represents the passion and commitment of so many others across Maryland and the Nation who are working extremely hard to educate our children. As we work to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congress ought to be doing all it can to provide these dedicated men and women with a law and the resources to empower this commitment and passion.

Madam Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, who has been recognized as an outstanding educator and will receive the Milken National Educator Award.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP GIERS

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and dedication of Philip Giers on the occasion of his retirement.

Philip has worked at the Veterans Administration for 37 years and on January 3rd he will retire after an impressive career. Fresh out of college, he began his service in West Haven, CT at the brand-new Blind Rehabilitation Center. Philip, a highly skilled woodworker, taught industrial arts to the blind. He then received his Masters degree in Special Education and started teaching cane travel and electronic mobility aids for the blind, where he became instrumental in the development of laser cane use and binaural sensory aid. In June of 1975, Phil and his wife, Christine, moved to Northampton, Massachusetts where he became Chief of Blind Rehabilitation at the Eastern

Blind Rehabilitation Clinic in Leeds, which covered the entire eastern seaboard (as far east as the Mississippi River) and Puerto Rico. When the Blind Rehab Clinic was finally closed, Phil continued his work in public service in the Northampton VAMC’s Human Resources Department and later in Pittsfield, MA where he was given the task of opening a sheltered workshop for veterans. He will end his long, award-winning career as manager of the sheltered workshop in Leeds VAMC, where he has worked to expand the influence of the work of veterans throughout western Massachusetts.

Phil’s achievements and prominence has touched millions of people here in Washington, DC, as well: he was consulted in the development of our Metro system. He was also consulted in the development of the electric car and was called upon by Australia and several African nations on handicap accessibility issues.

Phil’s dedication to helping the blind extends to his life outside of the office as well. He has been a member of Lions International since 1986 and has held several leadership positions, including president. The Lions Club is an advocate for bettering the lives of those with vision problems and Phil has worked tirelessly to further their cause on the local, State, national and international levels. Besides his work with the Lions Club he has been an active member of his church, Saint Mary’s, for 28 years and has also served in leadership positions in Business Networking International. He is also an active blood donor, having donated 152 pints of blood over the past 37 years.

Phil is a respected leader in his community and a dedicated family man. He has been a loving husband to Christine for 34 years and father to Erica. While he will miss his work, Phil is looking forward to working more in his antique business, traveling with his wife and playing golf. We are all grateful for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HAROLD DENSMORE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. William “Bill” Densmore is one of these individuals. On January 12, 2008 he will be honored at a retirement dinner.

Bill was born October 17, 1945 in Turlock, California and he was raised in the small town of Newman, California with a population of 2,500. He graduated from the prestigious University of California, Berkeley in 1967. Bill also attended Hastings College of the Law from 1967 to 1969. Bill served his country honorably in the United States Coast Guard from 1969 to 1973. In 1973, he was employed by the Riverside County Department of Veterans

where he is now retiring from after 34 years of excellent service. He became Director of the Department in 1989.

Bill has achieved many successes during his time as Director—not only for the Riverside County Department of Veterans but for the entire community of Riverside. He founded the Interagency Coalition on Homeless Veterans and hosted ten annual Homeless Veterans Care Fairs to publicize the plight of homelessness. Bill remains active as an advocate for homeless veterans, serving on the City's Homeless Task Force, the FEMA Local Board, and advocating with the JPA at March Air Force Base for a permanent facility for U.S. vets, and homeless veterans service provider. Bill also founded the Riverside National Cemetery's (RNC) Memorial Honor Detail, an all-volunteer organization providing military honors for veteran burials at RNC. Bill founded Vets Express, a free transportation service for veterans traveling from Blythe and the Coachella Valley to the VA Medical Center in Loma Linda. He worked to name a stretch of I-10 the Veterans' Memorial Freeway and successfully advocated for the placement of three VA Outpatient Clinics in Riverside County. Bill also founded the Annual Salute to Veterans Parade in the City of Riverside.

Bill has worked on several memorials and monuments task forces, including the Villegas Memorial, the Riverside County Wall of Honor, the Riverside County Veterans' Memorial, and the monuments and memorials at the Riverside National Cemetery. As a member of the Veterans' Advisory Committee, he instituted the annual David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award, the Legislative Breakfast series, and regular county-wide veterans' benefits workshops. Bill has advocated for and staged events at RNC as a way of introducing RNC to more Inland Empire residents.

Bill has also served on the GoRiverside Committee to promote the use of public transportation and he conducted the first county and state veterans' needs surveys, published the results with the help of the San Bernardino Veteran Service Officer, and distributed the surveys statewide to elected officials and veterans advocates and leaders. Bill continues to serve on the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Committee to assist in restoration of this historic landmark in the city of Riverside and has served two four-year terms on the city of Riverside's Planning Commission.

Bill Densmore's tireless passion for veterans and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. Bill has been the heart and soul of our veterans community events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

SALUTING MAYOR DENNIS TRUDEAU AS HE PREPARES TO RETIRE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor and pay tribute to a faithful public servant in my 10th Congressional District of Georgia.

Dennis Trudeau has served Grovetown as mayor for over 20 years, but his service for the greater good has been a lifelong pursuit. Mayor Trudeau is a patriot who served his community, his country, and his world with distinction.

Before taking that first oath of office in 1988, he served his resident country of Canada with distinction in uniform. Trudeau grew up in Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Army as soon as he came of age. He was one of the thousand of brave men who stormed the beaches of Normandy and was even taken as a prisoner of war. Mayor Trudeau later joined the United States Army in July of 1946 and after retiring from active duty in July of 1967 worked with the U.S. Army Signal School until 1984. He is a man of courage, dedication, and strength.

It is obvious the people of Grovetown believed in Mayor Trudeau or they would not have re-elected him time and time again. In a newspaper editorial one resident wrote, "He has lent dignity and restored a sense of pride to the residents of Grovetown." As the U.S. Congressman of Georgia's Tenth District, I consider it an honor to represent this fine leader and his dear town in Washington, DC.

Mr. Trudeau, we salute you and your service and wish you the best as you embark on the next phase of your life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on December 11th and December 12th 2007 in order to attend the funeral of a close family member, which was held in Utah.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 1142, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1143, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1144, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1145, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1146, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1147, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1148, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1149, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1150, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1151, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1152, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1153, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1154, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1155, "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE HAMLETT: A WOMAN CONTINUING TO BLAZE NEW TRAILS AS KEEPER OF THE MACE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, as a Member of Congress, I am moved by Ms. Joyce Hamlett's trust in patience, trust in truth and trust that God has planned a great path for her life. I rise to ask you to join me in recognizing the excellent service and continued professional success of Ms. Joyce Hamlett, newly appointed Assistant Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressional business begins when the Mace is set, and ends when it is lifted. There is one woman with the great responsibility to ensure that the Mace is available for this historical purpose. And, in times of emergency, one woman guards the Mace and preserves its protection.

Ms. Joyce Hamlett is the first African American woman to serve as the Keeper of the Mace. Her moral upbringing prepared her for this honorable position. Ms. Hamlett was raised by her grandfather in a church community that fostered the importance of honesty and faith. Indeed, Ms. Hamlett's strong heritage has served as the guiding force throughout her career on Capitol Hill.

In the early 1980s, Ms. Hamlett departed Broadway, North Carolina and began her successful professional journey alongside her mother, Betty Pearson, at the Capitol Café. Within five years, Ms. Hamlett rose to cook for lawmakers upstairs in the Capitol Hill restaurant.

Her respectable interaction with lawmakers continued when she went on to serve as elevator operator under the Architect of the Capitol. During that time, she formed long-lasting friendships with many Members of Congress.

In the early 1990s, Ms. Hamlett interviewed for the position of chamber security, and soon after began to firmly enforce House rules on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. As chamber security, she was well-known as one who worked hard to safeguard the principles and rich tradition of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Because of her excellent service, Ms. Hamlett was promoted to her current position as Keeper of the Mace. Ms. Hamlett is not only Keeper of the Mace, but she is also keeper of a strong moral foundation and keeper of the wisdom and principle represented by the Mace's solid-silver eagle.

Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, I congratulate Ms. Joyce Hamlett, a woman that continues to blaze new trails with distinction as Assistant Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the economic relationship between the U.S. and Russia, and to once again call on the Bush Administration to exert pressure on Russia to ratify its Bilateral Investment Treaty with the U.S.

In October I chaired a hearing in the Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology Subcommittee on the U.S.-Russia economic relationship as it relates to the financial losses U.S. shareholders suffered as a result of the dissolution of the Yukos Oil Company. During the 1990s, Yukos was not only the largest private company in Russia, it was also a model of corporate governance that set an early example for other Russian companies entering the global market. Its chairman, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was

well known in the U.S. and Europe for his leadership in helping Russia make the transition to a market economy.

But the Yukos Company's vast energy resources and Mr. Khodorkovsky's Western leanings proved too much for Kremlin operatives eager to assert state control over the energy sector and discipline Russian businessmen who supported opposition parties.

In what was widely reported by major news publications at the time, Russian authorities used arbitrary and possibly extralegal means to dismantle Yukos and redistribute \$100 billion of its assets to state companies overseen by the Kremlin. At the end of the day, American investors in Yukos lost somewhere between \$7 and \$12 billion and Mr. Khodorkovsky, convicted on trumped up tax charges, was condemned to a penal colony.

Quite simply, U.S. and other would-be foreign investors need to know whether the rule of law will be upheld in Russia. And the Bush Administration needs to be motivated to start asking the Kremlin some tough questions when it comes to protecting the interests of U.S. investors.

From a Russian perspective, instances like the Yukos situation will create an uncertainty among potential investors, which could result in a substantial loss of investment and impede Russia's integration into the global economy.

In a December 12, 2007, article in the Washington Post, Dr. Anders Aslund of the Peterson Institute for International Economics writes that the Yukos incident, "unleashed a great wave of renationalization in the post-communist world," and that the men in the Kremlin are, "taking over one big, well-run private company after another, turning them into less efficient state-owned firms."

In support of his assertions, Dr. Aslund mentions Leonid Reiman, a former KGB official, who is now Russia's Minister of Communications, while still controlling \$8 billion in personal telecommunications assets.

The United States and Russia signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) in 1992 but the treaty has not been ratified by Russia. Ratification of the BIT would provide protection for U.S. investors against the types of actions taken by the Russian government in the Yukos case.

The failure of Russia to ratify the BIT, has been a key weakness in the U.S.-Russia economic relationship. Compared to investors from many other nations, U.S. investors are at a disadvantage. For example, 38 countries—including France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the U.K.—have concluded bilateral investment treaties with Russia that have also been ratified. The presence of these treaties allows Yukos shareholders from these countries to sue the Russian government, but that option is not available to U.S. shareholders.

I want to again call on the Bush Administration to persuade Russia to ratify the BIT. By ratifying the BIT, President Putin would send a strong message to U.S. investors that investing in projects in Russia is safe, and that the Yukos situation is the exception, not the rule.

Madam Speaker, I recommend to my colleagues Dr. Aslund's article in the Washington Post of December 12, 2007, and I request that the article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

**RUSSIA'S NEW OLIGARCHY
FOR PUTIN AND FRIENDS, A GUSHER OF
QUESTIONABLE DEALS**
(By Antlers Aslund)

The news that Dmitry Medvedev, Vladimir Putin's nominee to succeed him as president, wants Putin to become prime minister of Russia next year opens one option for Putin to retain power after his term ends. Putin has little choice but to stay in power as long as he can.

A year ago, a famous Russian journalist asked me: Is it true that Putin has a net fortune of \$35 to 40 billion?" (This journalist, of course, has long been excluded from Kremlin-controlled media.)

This fall, the respected Polish magazine Wprost published its annual response to Forbes, its list of the richest people in Eastern Europe. Besides the well-known business executives, there is Gennady Timchenko, a little-known character with a purported fortune of \$20 billion. A small oil trader who resides in Geneva, Timchenko is from St. Petersburg, where he belongs to the same luxurious dacha collective as Putin.

I first heard of Timchenko in February 2004. Ivan Rybkin, a Russian politician who audaciously opposed Putin in the presidential election that year, claimed that Putin was "one of Russia's biggest oligarchs" and that he operated through three middlemen, including Timchenko. Rybkin charged that the Putin-Timchenko group was gobbling up the embattled oil giant Yukos. He swiftly disappeared under mysterious circumstances and after he re-emerged, was forced to suspend his campaign.

Indeed, the privately owned Yukos oil company has been devoured by the state-dominated Rosneft, whose chairman is Igor Sechin, Point's closest adviser and collaborator. The confiscation, which began in 2003, was publicly justified with not-very-credible citations of tax violations. Rosneft's gain was probably about \$100 billion in Yukon assets. U.S. investors in Yukos have lost at least \$7 billion; some claim the figure is as much as \$12 billion. In October, the House Financial Services Committee's subcommittee on domestic and international monetary policy held a hearing on this, at which I testified.

The Bush administration, however, has not protested this outrageous confiscation of private American property. Then-Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed strong support for Putin in October 2004: "The Russian people came out of the post-Soviet Union era in a state of total chaos—a great deal of freedom, but it was freedom to steal from the state and President Putin took over and restored a sense of order in the country and moved in a democratic way." Putin appreciated—and might have been encouraged by—these words. Two months later, Yukon's main oil field was sold to Rosneft in an auction that Putin's economic adviser, Andrei Illarionov, called "the scam of the year" (for which he was sacked). U.S. shareholders in Yukos have come to realize that the United States has no single valid agreement that safeguards their property rights; European investors, though, can sue the Russian state under three treaties.

The Yukos confiscation has not cost Putin anything. In fact, he unleashed a great wave of renationalization in the post-communist world. His chums from St. Petersburg are taking over one big, well-run private company after another, turning them into less efficient state-owned firms. One of Putin's close friends from the KGB, Leonid Reiman, is his minister of communications. Last year, an independent arbitration court in Zurich ruled that Reiman, despite his denials,

was the real owner of Russian telecommunications assets currently valued at on less than \$6 billion. Reiman has amassed this extraordinary fortune as a state official, partly through beneficial privatizations, partly through privileged licenses issued to his companies. A government with any standards would fire such an official, but Putin suppressed this negative information within Russia and kept Reiman on, showing that he accepts corruption.

The Russian daily Kommersant published a long interview with Russian businessman Oleg Shvartsman on the eve of the recent Duma elections. Sensationally, he described how he raided private enterprises to the benefit of KGB officials described his activity as "velvet privatization." Kremlin spokesmen have denied the report.

Even more striking was an interview last month with the Kremlin-connected Russian political observer Stanislav Belkovsky in the German daily Die Welt. Belkovsky, who initiated the Kremlin attack on Yukos, claimed that Putin controlled specific shares of three companies (Surgutneftegaz; Gazprom; and Gunvor. Timchenko's company) worth some \$40 billion. Putin has not commented on this allegation.

According to Transparency International, Russia is growing more corrupt even as most other post-communist countries are controlling their corruption. The fundamental dilemma for Russia, and Putin, is that a system so corrupt cannot be very stable. It's less clear why President Bush does not call Putin out on this or even defend the interests of U.S. citizens and corporations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BEST BUDDIES EMPOWERMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES ACT OF 2007

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join my colleague from Maryland, the House majority leader, to introduce the Best Buddies Empowerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of 2007. As Mr. HOYER will attest, this is not the first time we have come together in a meaningful way in this important area—and we were both proud when the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004 became law in the 108th Congress.

It's estimated that between 7 and 8 million Americans live with intellectual disabilities, impacting nearly 1 out of every 10 families. For these individuals, life is not always welcoming—and very rarely is it easy. People with intellectual disabilities are often excluded from society—whether at school, in the workplace or in their communities—simply because of their differences. So I was glad to learn of a program called Best Buddies. This organization, founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, helps integrate people with intellectual disabilities into mainstream society, end their social isolation, and embark upon productive, fulfilling lives. The Best Buddies program works with volunteers to establish meaningful friendships with their non-disabled peers in order to help increase the self-esteem, confidence, and abilities of people with and without intellectual disabilities. This is a program that has enhanced the lives of actual people

by providing real and safe opportunities for one-on-one friendships and new options for employment.

And while these activities may not sound like life-changing events to the average person, for individuals with intellectual disabilities, they make a world of difference. This bill helps accomplish that goal in a number of significant ways. It authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants or contracts with Best Buddies to conduct and expand its activities—with an eye on increasing the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities, as well as to promote outreach programs. This bill will go a long way toward dispelling negative, hurtful stereotypes and make clear the extraordinary gifts that people with intellectual disabilities nonetheless possess and utilize. More important, it will help move people with intellectual disabilities from the margins of society to the mainstream of society.

I am also pleased to note that this bill is budget neutral. The \$10 million authorization in this bill is offset by repealing two programs that in the most recent fiscal year were funded at \$10.4 million. I know Mr. HOYER and I look forward to working with our colleagues to enact this bill into law, in the hope that we can help raise the hope and dignity of people with intellectual disabilities, and further empower their full participation in our communities.

RECOGNIZING SHARON ADAMSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Sharon Adamson, coordinator for Boone County CARES (Child Abuse Resources and Educational Services), and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the safety of the children in Boone County, Iowa. For the past 14 years, Sharon has contributed her time and talents for the betterment of many young children, and for this I offer her my congratulations and thanks.

A native of Charles City, Sharon graduated from Moody Bible College in Chicago and received her B.A. in education from Trinity College in Deerfield, IL. After receiving her master's degree in counselor education she became a guidance counselor at an elementary/junior high school in Wisconsin before moving to Boone. While at CARES, Sharon played a key role in the growth of seven programs: Happy Bear, No More Secrets, Time Out for Moms, Parent Education, Children in the Middle, Stork's Nest, and Community CARES. She is very proud of Community CARES because it is a community created through "radical" hospitality which provides a safe place where people in need can go.

Sharon has made a significant impact on the Boone community by dedicating her career to benefiting and working towards growing a safe environment for all children. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commanding Sharon Adamson for her leadership and service. I consider it an honor to represent her in the United States

Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

—
SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "OPEN Government Act."

Since coming to Congress, I have been working for an improved Freedom of Information Act process, a critical component to ensuring an open and transparent government. In 1996 Congress passed important legislation that reflected the changing technological times, the "Electronic Freedom of Information Act of 1996." This important law helped to make FOIA more efficient by providing public access to information including in an electronic format.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee, of which I am a member, has held several hearings during the past few years about the FOIA process where we learned that it has not progressed as well as we had hoped. Some agencies and departments are doing a better job of fulfilling freedom of information requests while some continue to lag behind.

Requesters often wait months or years to find out the status of their requests or to obtain the information. As a result, the backlogs at agencies and departments continue to grow. Frequently, the only recourse for the denial of requested information is to file lawsuits. However, many requesters cannot afford the high costs associated with court cases.

The "OPEN Government Act" includes many important provisions that I hope will improve the process and eliminate many of the problems that exist in today's system including an amendment that I offered in committee that would provide for greater disclosure to the FOIA requester about the exemption under which a deletion has been made from requested material.

I have heard from constituents who say that when they receive a response from the agency, they are unable to determine why certain information was redacted. While I recognize that in some cases linking a redaction to an exemption may reveal sensitive information, where possible I believe that agencies should specify which exemption applies to which redaction.

Passage of today's legislation is long overdue, and I commend Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS and their staffs for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNA GONZALEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anna Gonzalez, a resident of

Brooklyn for more than 40 years. Anna is the current director of the Hope Gardens Multi-Service Center; a community center that seeks to educate and empower the people of Bushwick, Brooklyn.

Anna Gonzalez, formerly Anna Rodriguez, attended Clara Barton High School. Ms. Gonzalez worked as a nurse during her 20s until she decided to take time off to raise a family. She first became involved in community activism at Public School 86, the elementary school her children attended. She worked as a parent leader, volunteering to help improve the school and then as a leader of a successful boycott to prevent the school's rezoning by local officials.

Ms. Gonzalez's participation in the boycott was a springboard to her next position as Community Associate with the Knickerbocker-Wycoff Service Center, an organization that assists residents with their problems and concerns. Ms. Gonzalez then worked at St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church, organizing and running youth activities and religious educational services. In 1981, she accepted a position at the P-60 Senior Center, now the Hope Gardens Multi-Service Center. Within 6 months she was promoted to director.

Ms. Gonzalez's tenure as the Director of Hope Gardens has been marked by huge growth in the number of services that are being offered as well as the number of people being served. Today, Hope Gardens is an important community resource. However, her professional responsibilities did not interfere with her community involvement. Ms. Gonzalez was elected twice, the first time as a write-in candidate, to Community School Board #32, serving as chair for 2 years. She has also served on Community Planning Board #4 for more than 20 years, serving as chair for more than 6 years.

Ms. Gonzalez has been married to Pablo Gonzalez for 46 years; is the mother of four children: George, Aida, Jose, and Ralph; and the grandmother of seven children: Christopher, Justin, Anissa, Jacob, Megan, Kelsey, and Jeremy.

Madam Speaker, I cannot say enough about Anna Gonzalez. She is extremely generous with her time and cares a lot about her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this awesome woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on December 19, 2007, I missed votes because of scheduled eye surgery in Dallas.

Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 1183, 1184, 1185 and 1186.

HONORING LOCAL AND STATE FIRST RESPONDERS, AND THE CITIZENS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN FACING THE SEVERE WINTER STORM OF DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 2007

SPEECH OF
HON. DARLENE HOOLEY
OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, although much work is left to be done as our communities start to recover from the severe storms that ravaged Oregon and Washington on December 2 and 3, 2007, we can reflect and be grateful for the hard work of the thousands of our fellow Pacific Northwesterners who helped neighbors, families, and complete strangers during the storms and their aftermath. Without their efforts, the damage and loss of life from the storm may have been much more extensive.

We were all shocked by the devastating impact that these storms wreaked on Oregon. More than 10 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period with wind gusts ranging from 60 to 129 miles an hour. Communities along the coast were inundated, families huddled in shelters as homes were destroyed and the coast was cut off from the rest of Oregon as roads and bridges were washed out. Among the stark reminders of the terrible power of these storms are crippled railroad tracks and bridges in Tillamook County, damage to the National Guard Armory in Dallas and the flooding of most of the town of Vernonia as well as other communities up and down the coast.

Thankfully, first responders and ordinary citizens moved quickly to help their fellow Oregonians cope with the storm. Rescuers in one case used chainsaws and dodged falling trees to clear the way for an ambulance. Two Tillamook men also risked their lives to try and save a woman whose truck went into the Nehalem River on Highway 101. These are just two of the numerous stories of bravery by first responders and Good Samaritans who stepped up to help those impacted by the storm. Selfless Oregonians from across the State came to help in what turned out to be a spectacular response effort. It has been incredible to see the extraordinary efforts of so many.

I want to personally thank everyone who was involved. Their heroic service to our communities has been extraordinary and their efforts are deeply appreciated. I also want to extend my deepest sympathy to those whose family, friends, and loved ones perished in the storms. It is a tragedy that these individuals were taken from us in these terrible storms. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING KIARA DELLE HARGROVE FOR RECEIVING THE MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove,

an outstanding educator who has been selected to receive the Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is given to outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals. The recipients must demonstrate exceptional educational talent through their instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and the school. They must also represent themselves as leaders who engage and inspire students, colleagues, and the community.

Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove, a chemistry teacher at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, makes learning exciting by turning science experiments into competitions. She places importance on making sure her students are well-rounded individuals by integrating reading and writing strategies into her science lessons. She also differentiates instruction in order to teach a variety of academic levels at once. To ensure that students enter high school with the proper skills, Ms. Hargrove teaches remedial math and science study skills to incoming freshmen through the Summer Bridge Program, and serves as the ninth-grade advisor. As co-advisor of the Math Engineering and Science Association (MESA), she helps elevate the study of math and science among girls, especially African-Americans, at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School. Ms. Hargrove was chair of the School Improvement Team, is co-author of the School Improvement Plan, and has influenced many of her fellow teachers to go beyond traditional approaches to teaching.

Ms. Hargrove's love of her profession and the students that she teaches is evidenced by the energy she puts into her work and the achievements of her students. As someone who has been active and keenly interested in education policy throughout my professional life, I have the utmost respect for teachers like Ms. Hargrove; she represents the passion and commitment of so many others across Maryland and the Nation who are working extremely hard to educate our children. As we work to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congress ought to be doing all it can to provide these dedicated men and women with a law and the resources to empower this commitment and passion.

Madam Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove who has been recognized as an outstanding educator and will receive the Milken National Educator Award.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF DELAWARE, OHIO

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the community of Delaware, OH. Ohio Magazine recently named Delaware one of Ohio's Best Hometowns.

Praised for its small town atmosphere, eclectic character and friendly neighborhoods, Delaware is a charming place to call home. Kindness and hospitality are lifelong qualities of this community and its members.

As one of Ohio's fastest growing communities it's easy to see why Ohio Magazine has named it one of Ohio's Best Hometowns. Home of the Little Brown Jug, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the Central Ohio Symphony, Delaware has much to offer its residents and visitors alike. The blending of old and new has created an energetic and historic downtown while preserving the personality of small-town America.

I offer my congratulations to Mayor Windell Wheeler and the members of the Delaware community. All have produced a welcoming place for Central Ohioans to call home.

REMEMBERING HENRY HYDE

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we are all saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde). He will be sorely missed not only by his fellow Members, but by the countless people who came in contact with him on a daily basis.

One such person is Mr. Bert Caswell, a guide with the Capitol Guide Service. I am including for the RECORD a poem written by Bert about the late Mr. Hyde, as well as a recent article from The Hill discussing his poetry. I hope all Members will take the time to read this poem and remember Henry Hyde.

SOMETHING'S, YOU CAN NOT HYDE?

Something's!
You can not Hyde!
That lives with us, so very deep down in-
side . . . throughout our lives!
All in what we say and do!
All in who we so touch . . . that make us a
real who's who!
As in our times, that which so comes into
view!
For it's all about how you so carry yourself,
as when you rise!
For it's all in what you so do, in others eyes,
as your time upon this earth goes by!
For these, are the things that which one can
not Hyde!
Fast breaking in our lives!
To court our hearts, all in our part called
life that which so defines!
All in The Game of Life, you were so great
Henry Hyde!
Henry Hyde, was such The Man. . .
Who upon the hardwood and on the floor of
The House, did so boldy stand!
All because of his great heart, and
stance. . . and his gentle hand!
From That Land of Lincoln. . .
From one court of greatness to another, al-
ways thinking!
As across the aisle he reached out his hand!
Quiet in his calm and caring grace.
For his service to God and Country he now so
holds his place. . .
And for all of those magnificent children, he
did stand!
Oh, Henry Hyde,
You were, But The Man! For in you we can
so understand!
What it is to be a leader, a patriot, a family
man. . . and God fearing man!
Yes, In Life. . . Something's, You Just Can
Not Hyde!

FOR THE RECORD
(By Arie Dekker)

Congress's day-to-day proceedings and debates can be found immortalized in the official Congressional Record. The record's nearly 2,000 books, comprising more than 150 volumes, line the brick walls of the Senate Library and preserve the words of presidents, ambassadors, legislators and Bert Caswell, a 54-year-old Capitol tour guide from Baltimore.

Caswell may seem like an odd addition to the Record of floor speeches, inaugural addresses, scholarly essays and research studies. But his unflinching patriotism as captured in his accessible and unpretentious poetry is consistently submitted to honor America's diverse heroes.

"I never thought I was a writer," Caswell said. "I thought writing was punctuation and spelling, and I can't do either."

But when former Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) resigned from the Senate to run for president in 1996, Caswell was so moved that he wrote the poem "The Measure of a Man" in Dole's honor. After the poem was casually distributed around Capitol Hill, then-Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.) officially inserted it into The Congressional Record.

"And from that moment, my life was changed," Caswell said.

Caswell had written only two poems before and has since composed more than 500 in tribute to lawmakers, presidents, veterans, entertainers, athletes and others. About 20 of his poems have wound up in The Congressional Record, after having been submitted by members from both sides of the aisle.

In memory of Sean Taylor, the football star who was recently killed by intruders in his Miami home, Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.) submitted a new Caswell poem to the Record on Dec. 4 entitled "Taylor Made." Meek's spokesman Adam Sharon said Caswell and Meek talk as friends practically every day about their comings and goings. He said Meek is impressed with Caswell's "big heart" and willingness to go above and beyond his regular duties—not only writing poetry, but giving Capitol tours to special visitors like wounded veterans and children from the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The congressman finds that extremely commendable," Sharon said.

Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) submitted a Caswell poem last month to honor Gunnery Sgt. Angel Barcenas, a Marine whose legs were amputated last year after sustaining injuries in Iraq. Barcenas had previously served Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush on Marine One, and he recently led a group of Marines, police officers, and firefighters in a formation run to ground zero in New York City.

"Poetry has been a medium for not only documenting history but also upholding the principles that have made our nation great—principles such as courage, honor and perseverance," Sessions said in an e-mailed statement. "I applaud Bert for using his gift of poetry to honor America's bravest."

Listening to Caswell talk about his poetry is like taking a crash course in American history and culture. He has written about sports legends, political leaders, war veterans, firefighters, entertainers, civil rights leaders and Holocaust survivors.

"I write about heroes, people that inspire me," he said. "I really am impressed with the people who have power and fame, and yet they wield it and they make the world better. And that's what it's really all about."

Caswell's subjects include sports stars Steve Young, Cal Ripken Jr. and Mario Andretti; civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.; reporter David Bloom; entertainers Bob Hope, Jason Alex-

ander and Tom Hanks; Congressional Gold Medal recipient Dorothy Height and former astronaut and Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio).

Caswell wears his patriotism on his sleeve. He makes an ideal tour guide, welcoming Capitol visitors with instant anecdotes about their home states' or cities' contributions to the greater national identity. He will seriously discuss their college sports teams' strengths and vulnerabilities, impersonate California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), or crack jokes about the highest court in the land not being the Supreme Court, but rather a basketball court up the street.

Caswell has worked for the Capitol Guide Service for 21 years, although he did not plan it that way. As an all-American lacrosse star, he played on the national champion University of Maryland team in 1975. Before becoming a regular contributor to The Congressional Record, he was listed in NCAA record books as a top scorer at the 1975 Division 1 lacrosse tournament. He later coached the Maryland team for five years.

He earned two graduate degrees from Bowie State College, one in education and the other in administrative management. He then taught high school physical education and science for about 10 years.

In addition to being included in The Congressional Record, Caswell's poetry has been presented at official ceremonies and posted in government buildings. Several of his poems are posted in the amputee ward at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. One of his poems is on display in a memorial to the police officers who were killed when a gunman entered the Capitol in 1998 and opened fire.

"I see more in three months than most people see in a lifetime," Caswell said, drawing a connection between his job as a tour guide and his passion for writing about American heroism. He said working at the Capitol exposes him to people from around the world and also gives him a unique first-hand view of lawmakers, who he says are underappreciated for their service. He is currently compiling his poetry for a book that will include anecdotes about the many famous people he has encountered in Washington.

"I have had the privilege of getting to know Bert during my time in Congress," said Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), who has inserted three of Caswell's poems into the Record this year. "As a Capitol Hill tour guide, [Caswell] is instrumental in sharing the rich history of our beautiful Capitol Building."

Caswell writes his poetry on a small laptop so he can write wherever and whenever inspiration strikes. His writing process is simple: He records what's on his mind, lets it sit for a while, and returns typically only once to double-check his work. He said the average poem takes no more than 30 minutes to complete.

"Mostly everything the first time comes out great," he said. "And then I go back and tweak it. Normally the first draft's pretty good."

He does not have a favorite poet or style of poetry. He actually avoids reading other poetry to keep his own work pure.

"I don't read other people's work, hardly, because I don't want it to change my words," Caswell said.

HONORING AND APPRECIATING
AMERICA'S FIRE FIGHTERS

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to

support H. Res. 695, a resolution calling for the creation of a "National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day". I introduced this legislation to celebrate and honor the brave men and women of America's fire departments. Since 1735, professional and volunteer fire fighters have been an invaluable facet of our communities, towns, and cities. Ever vigilant, this Nation's fire fighters respond quickly to emergencies of all kinds and protect and save lives each and every day. From the earliest days of Benjamin Franklin's Union Fire Company to the famous fire departments of New York City, Chicago, and Boston, every fire station in this country has a proud history and tradition of distinguished service. Today, over one million fire fighters answer the call of duty and perform extraordinary acts of selflessness and valor without hesitation.

In my district alone, the Orange County Fire Authority serves 22 cities with approximately 1,000 fire fighting personnel protecting over one million residents. Southern California's beautiful, yet volatile environment is prone to natural disasters, flash floods, and wildfires. Every year, Orange County fire fighters place themselves on the front lines of these disasters and tirelessly work day and night to rescue endangered residents and prevent damage to cities and land. Recently, we watched as these fire fighters joined those from several other southwestern states to successfully battle the wildfires that raged across Southern California in October. I commend the tremendous bravery of Orange County fire fighters and am proud to honor each one today on the Floor of the House.

As internal and external threats facing this country change constantly, the role of the fire fighter has also modified and expanded. Not only do fire fighters defend our homes and buildings from fire, the highly trained personnel of the fire department provide emergency medical services, hazardous material response, special rescue response, and terrorism response. Whether it be a daring rescue of a family trapped in a burning house, preventing a forest fire from spreading, responding to the scene of an accident, or providing medical assistance at the location of a terrorist attack, fire fighters significantly impact the lives of Americans every day. And, in some cases, fire fighters have paid the ultimate price and given their lives to protect their surrounding communities. We will never forget these fallen heroes.

In light of the exceptional service of fire fighters across this nation and with full recognition and great respect of their quiet courage and valor, I ask that you join me in support of this resolution to express the desire of the House of Representatives for the establishment of a "National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day" to be observed annually. While we can never thank these men and women enough, this proposed national day of honor is a fitting tribute to those that keep sentinel watch over our lives and property.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to honor America's fire fighters today.

WILDLIFE FOREVER CELEBRATES
20 YEARS OF HABITAT AND
WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, Congress has devoted considerable resources and effort to protecting the environment over the past few decades.

Wildlife Forever, based in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, has been a visionary partner in our nation's efforts to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife.

Today, I rise to salute Wildlife Forever as it celebrates its 20th anniversary and thank all the members and volunteers for all they do to protect our precious environment.

Since 1987, Wildlife Forever has provided funding to more than 800 projects in all 50 states through private special interest conservation groups, state game and fish departments and federal agencies. Species that have received direct benefit from Wildlife Forever grants include the American bald eagle, billfish, black bear, blacktail deer, bluebirds, bluegill, Canada geese, catfish, coyote, crappie, ducks, elk, gray whale, great gray owl, grizzly bear, herons, kestrels, largemouth bass, Massasaqua rattle snake, moose, mule deer, muskie, otter, peregrine falcon, pheasant, prairie chicken, quail, ruffed grouse, salmon, sea bass, Sonoran pronghorn, songbirds, striped bass, trout, trumpeter swan, walleye, white-tailed deer, wild turkey—the list goes on and on.

Partnerships are key to Wildlife Forever's success. Project highlights over the last 20 years include: Acquisition of 32,340 acres of land for public recreation; Wetland Restoration of more than 29,400 acres; Construction and placement of more than 9,224 bird and waterfowl nesting structures; Research utilizing radio telemetry and global positioning system with elk, grizzly bear, white-tailed deer, black bear, bighorn sheep, moose, goshawks and coaster brook trout; 125,747,367 public impressions with a 'Stop Invasive Species' message; Stream improvements and riparian repair of over 240 miles; Land Management practices including controlled burns, prairie restoration, shrubbery plantings, and reforestation efforts of more than 325,310 acres; Fish hatchery support producing a yield of 30,371,109 fish stocked in public lakes and streams; Placement of more than 130 Watchable Wildlife interpretive signs.

Madam Speaker, our Nation sends its thanks and gratitude to Wildlife Forever President and Chief Executive Officer Doug Grann and his entire team for all they do to protect the environment.

TRIBUTE TO CRYSTAL CITY IN
ZAVALA COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic 100 year anniversary of

the founding of Crystal City in Zavala County in the great State of Texas.

In 1907, two land developers, Carl F. Groos and E.J. Buckingham, set about developing this town on the site of the 10,000-acre Cross S Ranch, which they purchased in 1905. In 1908 the arrival of a railroad set the foundation for the city's development as a processing, packing, and shipping center for vegetables, and in particular the locally grown spinach.

Originally named for its crystal clear artesian wells, today Crystal City is known as the "Spinach Capital of the World." Texas Governor James V. Alfred bestowed the title on the city after the First Annual Spinach Festival was held there in 1936. Staking claim to its spinach status, Crystal City is also home to a larger than life statue of Elzie C. Segar's Popeye. The well known sailor that is "strong to the finish 'cause he still eats his spinach" also serves as the Annual Spinach Festival mascot. Crystal City's landmark Popeye statue was erected in 1937 and dedicated "To All the World's Children."

The Spinach Festival centers on the agricultural heritage of the region and is held every second weekend in November. The three day festival attracts over 60,000 people to Crystal City and celebrates the production and consumption of spinach. Throughout its history, the festival has been recognized in issues of National Geographic, Texas Highway, and Texas Monthly magazines, and by the publishers of the Special Event Industry and Event Business News. In 1945 the California Packing Corporation, later the Del Monte Corporation, built an extensive canning plant just northwest of Crystal City.

Today, Crystal City still serves as the center for Texas's "Winter Garden" region, an area named for its year-round production of vegetables by irrigation.

This community of over 7,000 people has a historically significant past. During World War II, Crystal City was home to the largest alien internment camp housing American civilians of German, Italian and Japanese ancestry. On November 1, 1947, more than two years after the end of World War II, the Crystal City internment camp was formally closed.

In the 1960s, Crystal City was also at the center of the beginning of the Mexican-American civil rights movement. In 1969, a conflict arising from the ethnicity of cheerleaders resulted in 200 Mexican-American students staging a walk-out from the high school, that soon spread to the middle and elementary schools. The U.S. Department of Justice became involved in the dispute and ultimately negotiated a settlement that paved the way for bilingual education and better testing programs.

Crystal City's rich—and sometimes turbulent—past has made it what it is today, a shining example of a truly American community.

I am proud to represent the people of Crystal City and to recognize the city upon its 100th anniversary.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies, leaving businesses vulnerable to the threat of future terrorist attacks. In response, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, TRIA, in 2002 and extended it in 2005 to create a federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses.

As a result, TRIA has helped make terrorism insurance available and affordable to businesses, particularly those in our major urban areas. If TRIA were allowed to expire at the end of this month, many major development projects across the country would come to a halt, putting many jobs and economic development opportunities at risk.

Although I am disappointed that the stronger House version of this legislation did not get enacted, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2761 so that this important program will continue for years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL ON THEIR 2007 5A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor St. Paul's Episcopal School on their 2007 5A Alabama State Football Championship.

In 1947, William S. Mann founded St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile, Alabama. St. Paul's began with a class of 20 kindergartners and has grown to an enrollment of more than 1,600 students, making St. Paul's the largest Episcopal school in North America. While perhaps best known for their outstanding faculty and top-notch college-preparatory curriculum, St. Paul's is also fast becoming acknowledged around the State for having one of the best athletic programs as well. In fact, just last year St. Paul's was recognized by the Birmingham News as having the best overall sports program in the entire State of Alabama.

First-year head coach Mike Bates led the 14-1 Saints to his school's first-ever football State championship. Even though St. Paul's has a rich and proud history of winning championship trophies in many other sports, this most recent honor on the gridiron brings the number of State championships won by St. Paul's teams to three this year. Madam Speaker, these three championships mark the school's 134th, 135th, and 136th respectively in St. Paul's storied history.

Indeed, the St. Paul's Saints proved they are a team of champions in their victory on December 7, 2007, at Legion Field in Birmingham as they defeated Briarwood Christian in a thrilling 14-13 victory.

The entire St. Paul's family is excited and proud of what these young men have accomplished. Whether on or off the field, the student athletes of St. Paul's continue to set positive examples for those who will follow them. Many of the young men who played on this year's team will become stars in their own right in college and perhaps, one day, in the pros. However, make no mistake, they are all champions in the game of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Paul's Episcopal School on their extraordinary football season and State championship. This team and the entire school deserve public recognition for this tremendous accomplishment.

I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

ST. PAUL'S ROSTER

NAME, GRADE, AND JERSEY NUMBER

Strickler Adams, 12th, 17; Glen Adams, 9th, 19; Tyler Andrews, 10th, 46; Mark Barron, 12th, 4; Deige Barry, 12th, 33; Ryne Baxter, 12th, 68; Matt Bowden, 11th, 31; Mic Brown, 12th, 75; Angelo Bruno, 11th, 42; and Scott Byrd, 12th, 50.

Alan Carroll, 10th, 51; Davis Coker, 10th, 18; Joe Cotton, 11th, 58; Scott Crow, 11th, 81; Daniels Duhe, 11th, 21; Adam Dyas, 10th, 25; Chad Dyas, 11th, 40; Paul Elcan, 12th, 67; Dominic Francia, 11th, 11; and Gaines Gibson, 12th, 15.

Joe Gilmore, 11th, 56; Brett Granger, 12th, 29; Carson Hale, 11th, 16; Destin Hood, 12th, 1; Zain Husain, 12th, 3; Trevor Jones, 12th, 74; Tyler Kennedy, 12th, 63; Zach King, 10th, 62; Josh Lancaster, 12th, 54; and Scott Martin, 12th, 14.

Ivan Matchett, 12th, 5; AJ McCarron, 11th, 10; Corey McCarron, 9th, 43; Andrew McGee, 10th, 30; Clint McKinnon, 12th, 83; Bill McRae, 12th, 35; Andrew Miller, 12th, 8; Joseph Minus, 11th, 64; Williams Morrissette, 12th, 24; and Bishop Mostellar, 10th, 37.

Harrison Myles, 12th, 22; Patrick Myles, 10th, 20; Hunter Nelson, 11th, 44; Dulan Nicholas, 10th, 55; William Oneal, 12th, 28; Luke Phillips, 12th, 23; Marcus Porter, 11th, 53; Marcus Powell, 10th, 41; Thomas Praytor, 12th, 72; and Gray Rentz, 12th, 26.

Matt Rippy, 11th, 9; Grant Rogers, 12th, 12; Mason Tharnes, 10th, 78; Mike Thomas, 11th, 52; Walton Thompson, 11th, 61; David Turner, 10th, 80; Louis Watson, 12th, 2; Lee Wingard, 10th, 60; Billy Wyatt, 12th, 65; John Wyatt, 10th, 27; and Ryan Zarzour, 12th, 6.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Mike Bates.

Assistant Coaches: Muskingum Barnes, Ron Danley, Tim Hardigree, Tyler Siske, Thomas Smith, and Shane Sullivan.

RECOGNIZING TOM NIELSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Humboldt, Iowa Police Officer Tom Nielsen as a recipient of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking his own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes back-

ground investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

On June 10, 2007, Officer Nielsen received an emergency alert indicating that a distraught woman had jumped into the river above the Reasoner Dam. Officer Nielsen quickly responded to the call and rescued the woman, who remained combative during his lifesaving effort.

Officer Nielsen's bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans: willing to risk their own lives for a neighbor in need. For this I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Officer Tom Nielsen for his bravery. I am honored to represent him in Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Energy Independence and Security Act. I'll let some of the numbers stand on their own:

This historic legislation will increase vehicle fuel standards to 35 miles per gallon in 2020, the first such increase in over 30 years. In 2020, these fuel standards will give consumers in my State of New York an estimated \$894 million in annual net consumer savings. The bill is also expected to save consumers across the country \$400 billion through 2030 by energy efficiencies in buildings, appliances and lighting. Additionally, according to analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists, provisions in the bill will support the creation of nearly 150,000 jobs, nationwide—a full 8,200 in New York alone. Finally, by 2030, the legislation will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 24 percent.

All these numbers—increased efficiencies, savings, and jobs and reduced global warming—and many more add up to the new direction this Congress is taking in energy policy. I thank the Speaker and all my colleagues for their hard work on this challenging legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERNET NEUFVILLE-GRAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of Sherbet Neufville-Gray to positively change the health care community in the Brooklyn, New York area.

Sherbet Neufville-Gray is a divorced mother of two daughters, Chloe, age 16, who is a leukemia survivor and Quimani, age 11. Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, Sherbet is a product of a family that instilled the value and importance of education. In 1988, Sherbet received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the

University of the West Indies in Mona Campus, Jamaica. In 1997, she earned her Master's degree in Public Administration from New York University.

Sherbet feels that her mission in life is to provide and facilitate the delivery of service for the underserved. Her recognition of these endeavors began as early as age 19 while working as a student-teacher intern in one of the violence ridden areas of Kingston, Jamaica.

Sherbet moved from Jamaica to the United States approximately 20 years ago and shifted her career focus to healthcare. Within this field she has worked at resolving dilemmas in various healthcare settings. Sherbet currently serves as the Associate Director of Psychiatry's Division of Chemical Dependency for the Health and Hospitals Corporation at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center and its surrounding network. In this capacity, Sherbet has been instrumental in developing, revising and implementing policies that serve as advocacy for persons in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. This she does while resolving patient complaints and ensuring that the facility and staff meet regulatory and stakeholders expectations regarding service. Her prior capacities as research analyst at the Brooklyn Hospital Center helped her promote the use of evidence-based practices in healthcare. There, Sherbet spearheaded improvement in the hospital's patient education practice as well.

Not only has Sherbet spent her entire career serving as an advocate for the underserved, but she is heavily involved in community organizations. She is a founding member of the Vander Park Glenwood Lions Club, and she is also a member of an organization of Jamaicans (JON-J) that provides services to youths, immigrants and anyone in need. Sherbet is also an active member of the United Methodist Church, where she works in various fundraising capacities and volunteers in the church's soup kitchen.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again recognize the selfless contributions that Sherbet Neufville-Gray has made to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding woman and the great things for which she stands.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4286, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to that heroine of the Burmese people and the world, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

It is fitting for Ms. Suu Kyi to receive this, the highest and most distinguished civilian award we have to offer. She is a courageous leader, a former Nobel Peace Prize recipient who has spent 12 of the past 18 years behind bars. For what? For daring to advocate for a peaceful, democratic system for Burma, instead of violent, military rule.

The military refuses to recognize the will of the Burmese people—made exceedingly clear in past elections, and most recently in the demonstrations we all saw this Fall. The people plead for human rights and an end to the junta's power. Instead, these thugs have cracked down even harder with their customary persecution and bloodshed.

The Congressional Medal of Honor was originally awarded to military leaders for achievement in battle. Ms. Suu Kyi and the Burmese people are currently waging their own battle—a peaceful one—based on democratic ideals that all Americans share with them. Let's honor Ms. Suu Kyi for this peaceful struggle, and send a message to her brutal captors and to the world, that we stand with her and her people.

TRIBUTE TO CHERITH NORMAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation for Cherith Norman's service to our country as senior congressional adviser in the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. I have had the privilege of getting to know Cherith during her time as senior congressional adviser in the State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs on budget and appropriations issues. She is one of the best congressional liaisons from the State Department that I have worked with during my entire time in office. I have been deeply impressed by her work ethic and commitment to serving the United States government. She is conscientious, dedicated, and quick-thinking, and has been a tremendous asset to both me and my staff.

Cherith worked for Senator JIM DEMINT for 6 years while he was a U.S. Representative and also during his congressional campaign. She worked at the State Department for 4 years, serving as a political appointee since 2003 in the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. During her time at the State Department, Cherith has served as interlocutor between the appropriators and the department on critical spending issues; planned countless congressional member and staff trips overseas; coordinated with the White House, National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget and other Executive Branch agencies to present the President's international affairs budget to Congress each year; advised senior State Department officials on policy and funding strategy for international programs and State Department operations, and, in a courteous, conscientious and efficient manner, facilitated clear communication between Congress and the State Department.

Cherith is moving to New York to serve on the staff of Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad in the U.S. mission to the United Nations. Cherith's strong work ethic and selfless attitude have been the hallmarks of her service to our government and to the department, and I believe that she will serve the State Department very well in this new capacity. I know I am joined by many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in expressing our appreciation for her work here in Washington, our sadness at her departure, and our best

wishes for her future endeavors in our mission to the United Nations.

INTRODUCING THE BROADCAST LICENSING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker. I think there is a lack of quality civic dialog taking place in our country today. Our news has become homogenized and formulaic and there is a persistent dumbing down of national issues. The corporatization of media and the massive consolidation of our media outlets have made broadcasters less responsive to their local audiences. This has eroded public discourse in our country, and this has an impact on the health of our democracy.

Last month Congress held a joint session to hear French President Nicolas Sarkozy. In his remarks he celebrated the life of the great French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville. In his seminal work Democracy in America, de Tocqueville marveled at the diversity and number of newspapers and journals in America. He believed that there was a symbiotic relationship between a democracy and the media when he said that there "is a necessary connection between public associations and newspapers: Newspapers make associations, and associations make newspapers." A healthy democracy, according to de Tocqueville, needs a strong diverse media. The diversity that de Tocqueville extolled has been in precipitous decline, a fact that has not been lost on the 70 percent of Americans that believe that media consolidation has gone too far.

Two major conglomerates control two-thirds of the national radio market. Increasingly, "local broadcasts" are voice tracked or recorded remotely and passed off as live local broadcasts. Four out of ten commercial TV stations surveyed in 2003 aired no local public affairs programs; 92 percent of the election coverage aired by the national networks in the 2 weeks before Election Day 2004 was devoted to the Presidential contest, leaving only 8 percent for local elections and referendums. Slightly less than 2 percent of stories were devoted to the U.S. House or Senate races, and an additional 2 percent examined ballot initiatives or referenda. These are but a few startling facts that demonstrate the crisis.

The perils of media consolidation are not just theoretical—they've manifested in a failure of broadcasters to serve in the public interest. At 2 a.m. on January 18, 2002, there was a train derailment in Minot, ND. All six commercial radio stations in Minot were owned by the same broadcaster, yet when emergency responders tried to reach somebody at the stations to air emergency warnings and instructions, nobody responded. Clear Channel was voice tracking its broadcast in Minot. Over 240,000 gallons of a hazardous material—anhydrous ammonia—were leaked. One person was killed. 110 were immediately treated, and more than 1,000 people needed medical care in the months that followed.

The consolidation we've witnessed has coincided with the erosion of public interest stand-

ards imposed on broadcasters. The idea that broadcasters are public fiduciaries has been lost. I believe relaxed ownership rules and rubber-stamped postcard license renewals have contributed to this degradation. The public interest standard was created out of a compromise between civic groups and broadcasters. Broadcasters wanted editorial control, while civic groups in the 1920s wanted broadcasters to be regulated as common carriers. As a compromise, broadcasters were given editorial control but were also required to serve the "public interest, convenience and necessity." When a broadcaster receives a license they are investing in public responsibility and service. This responsibility should not be reduced to a postcard. Broadcasters must demonstrate that they are meeting the needs of their community. We need to reinvigorate the public interest requirement on broadcasters.

I'm introducing legislation today entitled the Broadcast Licensing in the Public Interest Act. This legislation attempts to put new life in the public interest standard. First, the bill reduces a broadcast license term from 8 years to 3. The 3-year term will bring greater oversight and scrutiny to license renewals. Second, the bill requires broadcast licensees to demonstrate that they have made a dedication to the civic affairs of its community and to local news gathering. The bill also mandates that broadcasters air locally produced programming and make a commitment to provide a public presentation of the views of candidates and issues related to local, statewide or national elections. Finally, the bill obligates that broadcasters provide quality educational programming for children. If enacted, this legislation would strengthen the public interest standard and force greater scrutiny on license renewals.

I urge members of this House to cosponsor this legislation and revive the public interest standards on broadcasters.

SUDAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and urge its immediate passage. We are voting on language very similar to legislation that passed the House 418–1 at the end of July, which supports the decision of state and local legislators and fund managers to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. However, the bill before us today does not require the government to create or be the source of a "black list" of such companies. For that reason, the Senate version is much more acceptable to the Administration.

Some have said that today's legislation is too little, too late. This certainly may not be the case for more than a million innocent men, women, and children who have somehow survived the genocide and slaughter. We can't rewrite history or save lives already lost in Darfur. However, we can and must resolve to do better going forward. This legislation has the potential to give hundreds of thousands of

peaceful and unarmed men, women, and children in Darfur an increased chance of surviving the genocide.

Economic and financial considerations have been used to both block and water down our Sudan capital markets legislation in the past. Economic and financial considerations are important, but in a loving nation can never be used as justification for turning a blind eye to genocide. Closing our financial markets to those who participate directly or indirectly in the slaughter of innocent human beings is well within our ability and ought to be a bedrock principle. America is a loving nation, and allowing our financial markets to be utilized by an evil regime which conducts religious and racial genocide is inconsistent with our values and principles.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will help put strong pressure on a government that has consistently engaged in genocidal actions, both directly and as an enabler of paramilitary factions that are harassing and killing people in the Darfur region and elsewhere in Sudan.

It is vital to keep the pressure on the Khartoum government, both because of the "bait-and-switch" game it has been playing with the rest of the world for years, pretending to make strides to end the genocide and then going back on its word when the world's outrage is temporarily spent. The latest outrage involves refusing to allow the deployment of non-African United Nations peacekeeping troops, due in two weeks, which it previously had agreed to accept.

The objective of this legislation is one that I wholeheartedly embrace, and that I have sought to achieve in legislative proposals of my own in previous Congresses. Passage will be a strong expression of Congress's outrage over the continued genocide in Darfur. I urge its immediate passage.

I want to thank the staff that worked on this important effort. From Chairman FRANK's staff, Jim Segel, Scott Morris, Daniel McGlinchey and Nancy Alexander; from Representative BARBARA LEE's staff, Chrisos Isentas; from Representative DONALD PAYNE's staff, Noelle Lusane; from Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's staff, Gene Gurevida and Yleen Poblette; from Representative FRANK WOLF's staff, Molly Miller; from Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH's staff, Sherry Rickett; and Joe Pinder, Kevin Edgar, and Anthony Cimino from my own staff.

CONGRATULATING CARROLL COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I don't know if you've had a chance to see this week's Sports Illustrated Magazine. On the cover is a picture of Brandon Day, a football player for the Carroll College Fighting Saints—who on December 15 won their fifth National Title in six years. Carroll College plays in Helena, Montana as a part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. This year, they had a perfect 11 and 0 record in the regular season and survived the playoffs to defeat the Sioux Falls Cougars by a score of 17

to 9 to win the Championship. They say that defense wins championships—the Saints' defense allowed only 5.1 points per game, the fewest points allowed in all of college football. They shut out opponents five times during the year including once during the playoffs. But it wasn't just a powerful defense that earned this Championship—a well-balanced offense scored an average of 26.4 points per game. I would like to congratulate Coach Mike Van Diest, his team, his school and their fans on a truly remarkable season. Next year, the Saints will be building on the longest win streak in college football at fifteen games. I ask that the team roster be added to the record with my comments.

Team Roster: John Camino, Brian Sloan, John McKenna, Zack Gill, Justin Smith, Chase Gill, Travis Browne, Zach Richardson, Cody Zimmerman, Wilson Bowbly, Shane Van Diest, Marcus Miller, Andrew Lopez, Bryce Picard, Jon Von Eschen, Zach Schaal, John Barnett, Will Barnett, Gary Wagner, Brian Murphy, Stevie Sloan, Jeren Starr, Thomas Dolan, Cody Lamb, Kody Swartz, Gabe Le, Zach Thiry, Jeff Deal, Nick Milodragovich, Christian Prosperie, Mike Waldenberg, Tyson Bogumill, Jake Whetzel, Body Whetzel, Pat Regan, James Byrd, Kurt Stoll, T.J. Lehman, Tucker Vezina, Corey Peterson, Shawn Holland, Greg Bosick, Jake Orrino, Chanler Buck, Colton Sherley, Sean Herrin, Brandon Day, Kyle Ferebee, Travis Schmidt, Ellis Beckwith, Ryan Egan, Matt Tummel, Thomas Robinson, Mac Gordon, Tyler Espinosa, Scotty Rice, Bubba Bartlett, Greg Thompson, Marshall McEwen, Tyler Pasha, Nick Gilchrist, Phil Lenoue, Ted Morigeau, Andy Fjeseth, Owen Koeppen, Trever Hass, Spencer Savage, Rick Young, Garret Garrels, Nick Petrusha, Ron Baze, Doug Adams, Alex Pfannstiel, Bryson Pelc, Ben Wahl, Conrad Addison, Kolten Knatterud, Dan Layton, Kerry Cicero, Chad McMillan, Conor Fox, Justin Howe, Brent Williams, Mike Pafthausen, Mike Vickhamer, Ryan Gilmore, Adam Brockway, Scott Holbrook, Donald Phipps, Leonard Thurmond, Bryan Camino, David Whitmoyer, Kipp Curtis, Lat Wipplinger, Tyler Sanders, Mac Kirk, Dan Lovin, Roman Morris, Isiah Linnell, Luke DenHerder, Kyle Moore, Kris Drumheller, Zach Zosal, Casey Sternhagen, Cole Whitmoyer, A.J. Allen, Garrett Thompson, Ryan DeKruyf, Mike Ogrin, Mason Siddick, Will Hamilton.

President: Dr. Thomas Trebon; Athletic Director: Bruce M. Parker; Sports Information Director: Brandon Velti; Head Football Coach: Mike Van Diest; Assistant Coaches: Nick Howlett, Jim Hogan, Jarrod Wirt, Gary Cooper, Tyler Emmert, Nick Hammond, Mark Lenhardt, Tim LeRoy, Jed Thomas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, I was absent for two votes due to an important meeting regarding a significant economic development need in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 1179 and 1180.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT-ELECT LEE MYUNG-BAK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today America's great ally, the Republic of Korea, elected a new President. To provide congratulations and in recognition of the achievement of President-Elect Lee Myung-bak, I wish to submit the following article from the Associated Press regarding today's presidential election in South Korea.

LEE CLAIMS WIN IN SOUTH KOREA ELECTION
(By Burt Herman)

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AP)—Former Hyundai CEO Lee Myung-bak claimed victory Wednesday in South Korea's presidential election, as voters overlooked fraud allegations in hopes he will revive the economy.

Lee's two main rivals both conceded defeat after returns and exit polls showed him winning nearly double the votes of his closest competitor.

"Today, the people gave me absolute support. I'm well aware of the people's wishes," said Lee, of the conservative Grand National Party. "I will serve the people in a very humble way. According to the people's wishes, I will save the nation's economy that faces a crisis."

The National Election Commission said Lee had 48.6 percent of the vote with 98 percent of ballots counted. Liberal Chung Dong-young was a distant second with 26.2 percent. The victory margin was by far the largest in any South Korean presidential election.

Lee, a former Seoul mayor who turned 66 on election day, has led the race for months. His victory ends a decade of liberal rule in the South, during which the country embarked on unprecedented reconciliation with rival North Korea that has led to restored trade and travel across the heavily armed frontier dividing the peninsula.

"I humbly accept the people's choice," Chung told reporters late Wednesday. "I hope (president)-elect Lee Myung-bak will do a good job for the country."

Candidate Lee Hoi-chang, who was trailing in third with 15.7 percent of the vote, congratulated Lee Myung-bak on his win.

"I hope he would uphold the people's yearning for a change in government and correct what the outgoing government has done wrong in the past," he told reporters.

The office of liberal President Roh Moo-hyun congratulated Lee.

"We respect the people's choice shown in this election," presidential spokesman Cheon Ho-seon said in a statement.

Hundreds of supporters watching results on a giant TV in front of the Grand National Party's headquarters burst into song Wednesday evening as returns showed Lee winning.

Lee has pledged to take a more critical view of Seoul's engagement with North Korea and seek closer U.S. ties. Efforts to end North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions stand at a critical juncture, with the communist country set to disclose all its programs for eventual dismantlement by a year-end deadline.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey congratulated Lee on his victory.

"We have a long history of cooperation and friendship with South Korea and fully expect that'll continue with this new government," he said. "Certainly, we've got a number of important issues on our bilateral agenda including our mutual cooperation in the six-party talks."

RECOGNIZING CRAIG OLTHOFF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Craig Olthoff, a long-time U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency employee, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the agricultural community of Iowa.

For the past 30 years Craig has been employed by the Farm Service Agency. He served as the Hardin County executive director from 1978 to 1989, when he was then promoted to district director. As district director, Craig oversaw 11 county offices in north central Iowa. I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks for his dedication to providing reliable service to Iowa Farmers.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Craig Olthoff for his leadership and service to the USDA Farm Service Agency and the farmers in his district. I consider it an honor to represent Craig in Congress and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA R. ADAMS, MPA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrea R. Adams. Andrea was born on Staten Island, New York and is a product of the City's public school system. After receiving her G.E.D., she enrolled in York College in Jamaica, New York and St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn. Andrea later attended Long Island University, graduating with a Master's of Public Administration and a certificate in Health Care Administration.

Andrea has worked in the health care field for 25 years. She has held various positions, among them: Medical Secretary; Technical Specialist; Health Educator; Hospital Training Director; Community Outreach Liaison; Executive Assistant; and currently, Director of Volunteer and Auxiliary Services.

Andrea is credited with spearheading the Gateway to Health Sciences School at Queens Hospital 12 years ago. She implemented this unique learning hospital/high school collaboration to lure inner city youth to occupations in the health profession. The hospital's on-site project opened the door to her present and most rewarding task; counseling young people allowing them to see the potential of a rewarding a career in the health care field. As the hospital's Volunteer Director, she also assists second career adults referred from health career schools, and senior citizens seeking a rewarding volunteer experience.

Andrea is a member of the National Association of University Women's Saturday Tutorial Program. This program assists children in improving their reading, math, penmanship, and communications skills. Andrea is an active

supporter of many of the programs at St. Matthew's Community A.M.E. Church of which she is a member. Currently, the church is preparing to open an after school program center. Upon its completion, Andrea plans to be a regular participant of the skills enhancement program. She is also a member of the New York City Board of Education's "Speaker in the Classroom" program. Each year, she visits day care centers, schools and colleges to share information about various and unique careers in health care.

Andrea is a member of the Women's Concerns Committee at Queens Hospital Center and participates in developing projects to advance cultural awareness among hospital staff. Her diligent work in this area earned her the Mayor's Award in 2001. She is also a rape, domestic violence advocate and an outreach educator of the health care proxy law, breast cancer awareness, and HIV/AIDS transmission.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Andrea R. Adams, who has spent her life giving so much to others. I also want to thank Ms. Adams helping the children of Brooklyn, New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this exceptionally kind woman.

FOURTH TIME A CHARM FOR WESTERN ALAMANCE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" wasn't written specifically with the Western Alamance High School football team in mind, but as its players and fans will tell you, that statement perfectly captures the fighting spirit of the Warriors. On December 8, 2007, Western Alamance won the North Carolina 3-A high school football championship on its fourth try in the title game. The Warriors completed a perfect 16-0 season by defeating North Gaston 62-36.

Having lost three straight state championship games, the Warriors of Western Alamance were used to playing in a big game setting. As Head Coach Hal Capps told the Times-News, however, there was something different about this year's squad. "North Gaston is an outstanding football team, outstanding," Coach Capps told the Burlington newspaper, "but this team was on a mission, they were not going to be denied."

Senior receiver Levon Curtis, who was named the game's Most Outstanding Player, was part of those past title game losses, and he told the Times-News, "We did it. I didn't know it would ever happen. I've got to get it through my mind, we did it." Curtis certainly did it by scoring four touchdowns, two through the air and two on the ground. In all, Curtis caught seven passes for 153 yards and rushed for another 96 yards.

Coach Hal Capps will be the first to tell you that finally winning that elusive state championship took a total team effort. Members of

his coaching squad included Terry Covington, Drew Hambright, Chris Jackson, Frank Lassiter, Kenny Lockner, Brad Melton, Mike Mitchener, Chris Myers, and Jeff Snuffer. They were ably assisted by team managers Kaitlyn Lockner, Rachel McKinney, Amanda Summers, and Amanda Thomas.

But it was the players who finally led the Warriors to the promised land. Members of the 3-A champs include Ethan Willis, Jonathon Corriher, A.J. Smith, Donald Britt, Ryan Blair, Jared Orton, Houston Spake, Nathan Jasper, Brandon Hill, Kenneth Lindsey, Chris Sparks, Wes Satterfield, Tucker Street, Chris Bradsher, Matt Maness, Connor Meehan, Scottie Thomas, Justin Torrence, Rod Shaw, Michael Wade, Doug Bernard, Olanders Sellars, Johnny Mitchell, P.J. Wright, Brad Brenner, Macon Rippy, Billy Williamson, Gary Strader, Kyle Norris, Levon Curtis, Nathan Bell, Kevin Lewis, Kyle Haizlip, Josh Baulding, Casey Roberts, Todd Ludwig, Joe Ahlgren, Christian Saconn, Robert Fields, Mac Mitchener, Blake Bledsole, Chris Sizemore, Jered Welborn, Josh Warren, Donald Schietzel, Jay Johnson, Matt Apple, Shawn Huffines, Richard Miller, Laramie Stallings, Nick King, Corey Brothers, Bradley Dickey, Jamal Dark, Zack Palm, Allen Black, Tony Bejos, Jeremy Gooding, Tyler Clayton, Martin Dailey, Dace Crawford, Ashton Tinin, Wayne Stanfield, Joe Reinheimer, Ronnie Mimms, Jordan Gaines, Bill Blanchard, Jeremy Ray, Avery Booker, Josh Medlin, Alex Mitchell, George Wentz, Ben Smith, Brent Oliver, and Orvin Guiffaro.

All of these players assisted Western Alamance in a record-setting performance. Six State records were broken during the title game, including most combined points scored (98) in a championship contest. The only number that the Warriors will remember is four. Because on the fourth try, Western Alamance finally brought home the trophy.

Even amid all of the jubilation, there was some sadness associated with the team. Two days before the championship, the brother of offensive coordinator Jeff Snuffner died of cancer. Quarterback Donald Britt told the Times-News, "When we heard Coach Snuffner's brother died, something went off in us. We just wanted to do it for him. We wanted to go out there 110 percent, every play." Coach Capps told the Burlington newspaper that just before the game, he and his offensive coordinator hugged and told the other how much they loved each other. "I'm sitting there five minutes before the game," told the Times-News, "crying like a baby. That's what life is all about. It's about loving and caring about people and having relationships. When something doesn't go right, you pick each other up and go on."

The Warriors did more than go on. They went all the way to be named as North Carolina 3-A high school football champions. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Western Alamance Principal Terri Spears, Athletic Director Carter Gerlach, Head Coach Hal Capps, and all of the players, coaches, staff, family, and fans, as well as the outstanding Warriors marching band. The team is a true inspiration to all of us who work hard to accomplish our goals. The Warriors proved that sometimes old adages are true because they never gave up.

TRIBUTE TO THE FREDONIA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of the Fredonia American Legion Auxiliary. The members of this organization have loyally served the Fredonia area and its veteran community for many years and their good deeds deserve to be acknowledged.

All of the Legion's activities work toward its mission to improve the quality of life for Fredonia's veterans and their families.

To raise money for veteran family events, such as their annual Children's Christmas Party, the Legion has held various events throughout the year including a Chinese auction, craft show, bingo night and several basket raffles.

As part of their community service efforts, members collected donations to give to local needy families during the holiday season.

The Legion hosted an "Americanism" Essay Contest at local grade schools to promote patriotism among the country's youth. The winners included third-grader Olivea Wright from Oakview Elementary and sixth-grader Kelsey Greathouse from Commodore Perry Elementary.

On Veterans Day and Memorial Day, members held honorary services with special guest speakers to pay tribute to U.S. veterans in the Fredonia area.

From September 2006 to June 2007, the Fredonia American Legion donated an impressive \$18,700 in coupons to 37 commissaries around the world.

The officers of the Legion include: Mary Ellen Flynn, President; Sandy Lurtz, 1st Vice President; Ruth Foust, 2nd Vice President; Dorothy Young, Secretary/Treasurer; Shirley Kirsch, Chaplain; Darlene Hoffman, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms; Mary Jane Lockcock, Sergeant-at-Arms.

I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in recognizing the service of the Fredonia American Legion and in congratulating its efforts.

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT ATLANTA VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, almost last, but certainly not least, Congress takes action on a bill to authorize a major medical facility project that will create modern inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia. This is an investment of \$20.5 million to provide a standard of care our Nation guarantees for veterans across America. This is a relatively small bill but it is part of keeping a very big promise. We should always keep that promise.

This project will renovate 3 inpatient floors to meet ADA accessibility requirements. Our

handicapped veterans should have bathrooms, showers and toilet facilities they can actually use. This project will also meet needs of a growing group of women veterans. It will provide patient privacy where it has been inadequate. And it will make the staff work more efficiently by simply making the layout of the building better for work. In addition, an enclosed connecting bridge will be built between the Medical Center and VA Regional Office buildings so there will be more fluid access between what goes on at the hospital and what goes on at the benefits administration.

The Atlanta VA Medical Center has an active affiliation with the University of Emory Medical School. This project will keep this relationship on sound footing. Hundreds of medical doctors and students with Emory make contributions at the hospital and see firsthand the result of sacrifices made from generation to generation. Unfortunately, with the number of our boys and girls coming home from war growing as we speak, these physicians are going to be caring for so many more people with so many more health problems.

I want to applaud the efforts of my colleague from Georgia, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, for working to pass this bill through the Senate. I know on this issue, the issue of caring for our veterans, all of us from Georgia and on a bipartisan basis in the House and Senate can agree that no expense should be spared in order to ensure the best care modern medicine can provide.

We have more work to do on this and so many other issues. It is my hope we can come together on more bills in the coming year, much larger bills, which benefit those who wear the uniform, as well as kids and seniors who need better health care.

TRIBUTE TO HUGHSTON ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, the city of Columbus in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District boasts a stellar health care community that enriches the well-being and quality of life for Muscogee and surrounding counties.

This year, Georgia Trend magazine singled out one of those health care facilities, Hughston Orthopedic Hospital, for its Honor Roll, naming it one of the 15 best places to work in the state.

Long known for its excellent patient care, Hughston's secret is now out: It also provides excellent employee care.

One of the founders of the hospital summed up the organization's ethos by saying, "It's not bricks, mortar and equipment that makes a hospital—it's people."

Employee input helps the hospital keep its edge in providing the best possible care. Every month, the President's Council convenes to allow employees to voice suggestions or concerns directly to the CEO, Don Avery.

Hughston employees receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement, flexible working schedules, day care discounts and a special HOPE fund to aid employees suffering hardships.

Employees who go above and beyond the normal call of duty receive special recognition, such as the Spirit of Caring award for nurses dedicated to excellent care and the Frist Humanitarian Award for workers who engage in community service and extraordinary acts of kindness.

In 1984, Dr. Jack Hughston, known as the "father of sports medicine," and Dr. Thomas Frist Sr. founded the hospital. Today, the hospital famed for its sports medicine is a 100-bed orthopedic facility performing spinal surgeries and joint replacements.

Madam Speaker, I want to call special attention to the special people providing visionary leadership and top-notch medical care to the patients in the Greater Columbus area. They embody the spirit of hard work and compassion that keep America great.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District of Georgia and this House, I congratulate Hughston Orthopedic Hospital on this well-deserved recognition.

SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION OF PLUTO AS A PLANET

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the renewed recognition of Pluto as a planet.

The planet Pluto was discovered on January 23, 1930, by Clyde Tombaugh. Although just 24 years of age with no formal education beyond high school, Mr. Tombaugh discovered this new planet by painstakingly and systematically examining and comparing photographic plates he had made of the night skies over New Mexico. For this achievement, Mr. Tombaugh received a prestigious award from the Royal Astronomical Society along with a scholarship to the University of Kansas, which allowed him to continue his formal education.

Clyde Tombaugh went on to make a large number of additional contributions to our knowledge of the universe and to receive many more awards and honors before his death on January 17, 1997. I am proud to note that Mr. Tombaugh was born on February 4, 1906, on a farm near Streator, IL, in LaSalle County—a community which I am privileged to represent in the Congress of the United States.

Unfortunately, on August 26, 2006, the International Astronomical Union, IAU, meeting in Prague and relying on the votes of only a handful of its approximately 10,000 members, made the decision to downgrade the status of Pluto.

This decision was met with protests from eminent scientists and astronomers all over the world. Perhaps foremost among those in the international scientific community strongly disagreeing with the IAU decision was Dr. S. Alan Stern. Named earlier this year by Time magazine as one of the "One Hundred Most Influential People in the World", Dr. Stern is also one of the lead consultants for the New Horizons Mission.

The New Horizons Mission is an unmanned spacecraft launched in January of 2006, which is projected to reach Pluto and the outer edge of our solar system in the year 2015. This

spacecraft is carrying some of the ashes of Clyde Tombaugh.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to express their support for the reversal of the International Astronomical Union's decision and the official reinstatement of Pluto as the ninth and outermost planet in our solar system.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATORS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. The AAMVA will be holding their 2008 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

In 1932, growth in the motor vehicle population, increasing interstate travel, and an increase in death and injuries on the highways highlighted the need for a national organization for uniform interstate laws and programs.

In response, representatives of the States, recognizing this need for uniform and reciprocal administration of motor vehicle laws, formed the American Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Subsequently in 1933 the group renamed itself the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, or AAMVA.

AAMVA has been the recognized North American authority for driver licensing and motor vehicle administration. AAMVA's U.S. and Canadian members have worked collaboratively to support and improve motor vehicle administration, safety, identification security and law enforcement.

AAMVA has served as a liaison with other levels of government and the private sector, and its development and research activities have provided guidelines for more effective public service.

AAMVA has fostered a tradition of service in the motor vehicle and law enforcement professions, providing outstanding service to the community through superb customer service initiatives, information technology, safety, and the best in public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America.

I would like to commend the many achievements of AAMVA and encourage AAMVA to continue its tradition of excellence in service to motorists through its advocacy of improving highway safety.

HONORING COMMUNITY BRIDGES OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Bridges of Santa Cruz County, which will gather to celebrate its 30th anniversary later this month. Community Bridges, a family of non-profit programs, provides otherwise unmet care to the citizens of Santa Cruz County and is a vital component of our community.

Since its inception on October 19, 1977, Community Bridges has worked to provide innovative human services to enhance our diverse community. Today the family of programs (Child and Adult Care Food Program; Child Development Programs; La Manzana Community Resources; Lift Line: Live Oak Family Resource Center. Meals on Wheels; and WIC Nutrition Program) serves nearly 30,000 Santa Cruz County community members each year.

Through its services, the group nurtures the entire life from beginning to end. Starting childhood, Community Bridges fosters a better life by providing childcare, after-school programs, and teen mentoring to ensure that children develop the skills they need to succeed in school and life. For those later in life Community Bridges helps residents maintain their dignity and independence by providing meal delivery, transportation, and literacy and language education.

With an eye on healthy living, Community Bridges combats childhood obesity and promotes community wellbeing by providing nutrition education programs, breastfeeding support for new mothers, and food reimbursements. Moreover, Community Bridges helps reduce the risk of child abuse and keeps families strong by providing parenting classes, fostering educational attainment, and connecting families to health insurance programs and other important resources.

They not only seek to address unmet human service needs in our county, but also focus on supporting existing efforts to serve the community by working with other local care providers. Community Bridges promotes civic engagement by actively seeking community input and providing leadership training opportunities for local residents. By building partnerships with local organizations they ensure the greatest efficiency and accessibility of services for Santa Cruz County residents. The broad reach and integrated structure of Community Bridges affords the agency the unique ability to swiftly identify and address community needs as they emerge.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to express appreciation for the critical role Community Bridges serves in providing a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community and helping to improve the quality of life for the children, families, and seniors in Santa Cruz County.

COURT RULINGS ON YUKOS MANAGEMENT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, I would like to share information with my House colleagues about the application of the rule of law and free market economics in Russia. While economic growth has been positive since the 1998 financial crisis, Russia's legal and political system has regressed, threatening the development of a diverse economy based on market principles and the rule of law. The Russian government's 2003 expropriation of the YUKOS Oil Company raises concern about the stability of the economy and continues to remind us that investing in Russia is still very risky.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus Russia Working Group, I would point out that the same legal system that has undermined the civil and human rights of former YUKOS head Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev, also caused the company's downfall. In the YUKOS case, the Russian courts failed to adhere to basic principles such as private property rights protection, independent judges, due process and equal application of the law.

YUKOS, once Russia's largest oil company, was forced to declare bankruptcy in August 2006, when it could not pay claimed back taxes. After a series of auctions, YUKOS' remaining assets fell into the hands of the state-owned company, Rosneft. On November 22, 2007, Russia's Federal Tax Service announced it had completed YUKOS' bankruptcy procedure and that the company had ceased to exist as a legal entity.

In contrast to their experience in the Russian judicial system, Khodorkovsky and Lebedev have won several court rulings in other countries. The first favorable decision came in August 2006, when a Dutch court refused to give the Russian receiver of YUKOS, Eduard Rebgun, full control of its Dutch unit.

In August 2007, the Supreme Court of Switzerland ruled that the case against Khodorkovsky and Lebedev was politically motivated and refused to release bank documents to Russia in connection with the case.

Shortly afterwards, in October 2007, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Russia had violated the rights of Lebedev during his arrest and pretrial detention, and the Russian government was ordered to pay him compensation.

However, in the most recent and significant ruling on October 31, 2007, a Dutch court ruled the YUKOS receiver did not have the right to sell off the firm's foreign assets in a bankruptcy auction in August. The court nullified all actions taken in that auction. The court also ruled that YUKOS was denied a fair trial to establish how much back taxes it owed to the Russian government.

The Dutch court ruling is important because it highlights three vitally important issues: First, the ability of Russian officials to appoint their own managers to run YUKOS; second, the bankruptcy of YUKOS and the process used to achieve it; and third, the validity of the original tax claim against YUKOS.

This decision, like many others before it, raises concerns about the legitimacy of the Russian court rulings in the YUKOS case. When the European Court of Human Rights along with courts in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and other jurisdictions all reach the same conclusion, it strongly indicates that there is something very wrong in the application of the rule of law in Russia.

I want to share details of the October 31st Dutch court judgment relating to this case, and would like to submit for the RECORD the "Decision" section of that ruling.

JUDGMENT

District Court of Amsterdam, civil law division, case number/docket number: 355622/HA ZA 06-3612.

Judgement dated 31 October 2007 in the case of 1. David Andrew Godfrey, resident in London (United Kingdom); 2. Bruce Kelvern Misamore, resident in Houston, Texas (United States of America); 3. the private company with limited liability YUKOS Finance B.V., with registered seat in Amsterdam; claimants, procurator litis: Mr. R.J.

van Galen versus 1. Eduard Konstantinovich Rebgun, in his capacity of trustee in the bankruptcy of the legal entity under the law of the Russian Federation OAO YUKOS Oil Company, having chosen domicile at Rotterdam; 2. Leendert Jacob Hogerbrugge, Resident at Leiden; 3. Sergei Savelyevich Shmelkov, resident at Moscow (Russian Federation); defendants, procurator litis: Mr. P.N. van Regeren Altena.

Claimants jointly hereinafter to be called Godfrey et al. and separately Godfrey, Misamore and Yukos Finance. Defendants jointly hereinafter to be called Rebgun et al. and separately Rebgun, Hogerbrugge and Shmelkov. OAO Yukos Oil Company herein-after to be called Yukos Oil.

THE DECISION

The District Court:

Passes a declaratory judgment that all Shareholders' Resolutions in regard to Yukos Finance, in so far as taken by Rebgun in his capacity of trustee of Yukos Oil, including but not limited to the decision to dismiss Godfrey and Misamore as directors of Yukos Finance B.V. dated 11 August 2006 and the alleged decisions to appoint Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge as directors of Yukos Finance, are null and void;

Passes a declaratory judgment that all decisions taken by Shmelkov and/or Hogerbrugge in their supposed capacity of directors of Yukos Finance B.V. are null and void;

Orders Rebgun to lend his immediate and unconditional cooperation to the reversal of the (consequences of the) Shareholders' Resolutions he made in Yukos Finance, subject to a penalty of 10,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 1,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 500,000 Euros;

Forbids Rebgun to exercise any rights with respect to the shares of Yukos Finance or to have these rights exercised, subject to a penalty of 10,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 1,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 500,000 Euros;

Orders Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge, both jointly and severally, to lend their immediate and unconditional cooperation to the reversal of the (consequences of the) managerial decisions taken in Yukos Finance, whether individually or jointly, subject to a penalty of 100,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 100,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 100,000 Euros;

Forbids Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge to exercise any rights with respect to their alleged representative authority in Yukos Finance or to have these rights exercised, subject to a penalty of 100,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 100,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 100,000 Euros;

Orders Rebgun, Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge jointly and severally to pay the procedural costs on the side of Godfrey et al., estimated up to this judgment at 332,87 Euros in disbursements and 1,808 Evros in local counsel's salary;

Orders Shmelkov to pay the costs incurred in connection with the Russian translation of the Writ of Summons, being 10,882,06 Euros;

Declares the aforementioned orders and injunctions as well as the orders to pay the procedural costs immediately enforceable;

Dismisses all other applications.

This judgment was passed by Mr. W. Tonkens-Gerkema, Mr. C.S. Naarden and Mr. A.W.H. Vink and delivered in open court on 31 October 2007.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIL NOLF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the exemplary career of Mr. Neil Nolf, a talented public servant and good friend, who is retiring at the end of the year after decades of public service at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Since assuming his post as Public Affairs Officer in 1987, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Nolf on many issues of critical importance to the residents of the 28th Congressional District of New York, especially those that involved improving the lives of the dedicated service men and women at the Air Base. His was a life dedicated to public service and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Neil Nolf's life has been driven by a deep-rooted sense of commitment to his community and service to his country. Born and raised in western New York, Mr. Nolf graduated from Buffalo State College in 1975 and began work at the Social Security Administration in Buffalo. Mr. Nolf then left his home in western New York to begin work for the FBI in Washington, DC. From there, he fortunately returned to western New York to begin a very successful career at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. While working full time, Mr. Nolf enlisted as a reservist with the 914th Airlift Wing in 1979, discovering and honing the unique leadership skills that have come to define his lifetime of service.

Never content with settling for the status quo, as Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Nolf has been responsible for transforming the Air Reserve Station into the efficient facility that it is today. Overseeing the construction of a new training facility, an officers and airmen quarters, a military entrance processing site, and a much needed runway extension, he was able to ensure that the 914th Airlift Wing had the critical equipment and facilities required to be one of the most successful units in the country. His leadership has also been significantly tested in recent years, with the 914th Airlift Wing being the most deployed reserve unit in the Nation since the beginning of the Iraq War in 2004.

The Air Base, its surrounding communities, and indeed the Nation as a whole, owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nolf. His legacy will live on at the Air Base, and I look forward to seeing the Air Base continue to grow and flourish, adding much to the security and the economic viability of our Nation. I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service, and I wish Neil the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his storied life.

TRIBUTE TO NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CONNIE MACK
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Naples High School Football Team

for winning this year's Class 3A Florida State Championship at the Citrus Bowl last week.

Trailing 10-7 against St. Augustine, the Naples High Eagles turned an errant snap into a game-winning touchdown to win the game 17-10. The win keeps the Eagles' 15-0 season record spot-free and makes it the first undefeated season in school history.

Vince Lombardi once said, ". . . You've got to play with your heart, with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, he's never going to come off the field second."

The young men of the Eagles Football Team have proven what Coach Lombardi said, and what he meant. Any of us who have played competitive sports understands the valuable lessons of hard work, teamwork and commitment. These memories and lessons will stay with these players for the rest of their lives and are made all the sweeter by their incredible season.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the Naples High School Football Team, their coaches, students and fans. We couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments this season.

CONGRATULATING THE FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL TEAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Foothill High School Agriculture Team of Bakersfield, California on receiving first place in the Parliamentary Procedure Event at the 80th annual National Future Farmers of America Leadership Conference.

The team defeated competition from groups representing 45 states, receiving the country's top Ag education honors. Abigail "Abby" Ryan was also named the national Outstanding Presiding President. Winning the state title earlier this year, the students went on to capture a title at the national competition.

Foothill High team members included Abigail Ryan (President), Amber Sawyer (Secretary), Vern Clark, Amanda Shuminski, Leanne Clark, and Wes Pounds. I would also like to recognize the Foothill High Agriculture Coach Josiah Mayfield.

Undoubtedly, the Parliamentary Procedure skills developed will promise success to students in years to come. Some of these skills included the ability to run orderly meetings on agricultural issues by introducing motions, debating topics and voting, demonstrating their knowledge of the principles of democratic assembly.

It gives me great pride to honor the Foothill High Ag Team and congratulate the Principal, Brenda Lewis, the Coach, Josiah Mayfield and these outstanding Ag students for receiving this distinguished award.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN REID AND DEBRA MADISON-REID

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ken Reid and Debra Madison-Reid. Ken and Debra have known each other their entire lives. They played together as children in the streets of Bushwick where Debra resided and where Ken would visit relatives who lived on the next street. While the two of them were enrolled in high school, Debra's family moved to the same block as Ken's best friend.

Ken and Debra lost contact after high school though Ken had made countless attempts to win the heart of his long-time friend. After high school, Ken enrolled at Hofstra University, pursuing a degree in Broadcast Engineering. Following graduation, he accepted a position at New York Telephone Company, now Verizon. The very first day he reported for work, he opened the door and saw Debra and they were once again connected. They were married in Brooklyn, New York on October 18, 1982.

Years later, Debra and Ken found themselves without a tenant for the top floor of their brownstone. With no prospects in sight, they realized they had to get creative very fast. Ken has always purchased gift certificates to area spas; meanwhile, Debra was able to persuade Ken to host several of their own spa parties at places like the Presidential Suite at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Manhattan. Eventually, they would convert the top floor of their brownstone into a day spa.

The Spa Club in Bed-Stuy opened its doors December 30, 2006 and has become a place that nourishes the mind, body, and soul. Their clients include government officials, members of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, members of the New Jersey Nets organization, local church congregates and other community organizations.

There are plans in the works to expand The Spa Club throughout the entire building within the next 2 years. There are also plans to have a location in the Atlantic Yards within the next 5 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize both Ken Reid and Debra Madison-Reid for their contributions to our community and providing a place for us to nourish our minds, bodies and souls after a hard day.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this beautiful couple who have the type of story of which movies are created.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY JEFF WILLIAMS AND OFFICER MICHAEL KETTERER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on August 18, 2007, Placer County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Williams and California Highway Patrol Officer Michael Ketterer responded to the call

of a woman who was about to commit suicide. The woman planned to jump from the Foresthill Bridge, which at 730 feet tall is the third highest bridge in the country.

Upon arrival, Deputy Williams and Officer Ketterer were met by Mr. Michael Owens, who was attempting to calm the woman until help arrived. When the officers approached the woman, they realized she had climbed over the rail of the bridge and was hanging by her hands while her feet dangled beneath her. Exhibiting extraordinary bravery, Deputy Williams reached through the rail and grabbed the woman's left arm while the two other men assisted in attempting to pull the woman to safety. In doing so, all three men risked their own lives by leaning over the side of the bridge safety rail in order to rescue the woman from certain harm.

I would like to commend Deputy Jeff Williams for his heroic efforts. A graduate of Sierra College who currently resides in Roseville, CA with his wife Maria, Deputy Williams is an asset to his community and deserves to be praised for his selflessness and bravery.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF OSSIE DAVIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Ossie Davis, an American actor, World War II veteran, writer, and civil rights activist.

Raiford Chatman Davis, better known as Ossie Davis was born on December 18, 1917 in Cogdell, Georgia as the fifth child of Laura Cooper and Kince Davis. The name Ossie derived from a pronunciation of his first and middle initials, RC.

He began studying in 1939 at Howard University, but decided to withdraw to pursue his dream of being an actor. He relocated to New York City and began acting with the Rose McClendon Players in Harlem. He served as a surgical technician for the Army during World War II from 1942 to 1945. After returning from the war, he continued to pursue his dream of acting and debuted in the 1950 film *No Way Out*. He was an exceptional actor and appeared in many movies, television shows and stage plays.

He married Ruby Ann Wallace, also known as Ruby Dee, in 1948. She was also an actress and civil rights activist. Their contribution to the civil rights movement was significant and inspiring. They played a key role in planning the historical 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and served as emcees. They were friends of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Rev. Jesse Jackson and worked side by side with them to advance the rights of African Americans. Mr. Davis had the honor of delivering the eulogy for Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 2007, their album "With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together," won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album. Mr. Davis passed away on February 4, 2005. His contributions to the performing arts and civil rights movement will live on for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE RALPH MENDOZA'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF FORT WORTH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fort Worth Chief of Police Ralph Mendoza. After more than 35 years with the Fort Worth Police Department, and almost eight years as the top cop, Ralph Mendoza will retire in February 2008.

During Mendoza's tenure, the city of Fort Worth saw reductions in crime and advances in technology. Serving as the first Hispanic Police Chief of Fort Worth, Mendoza is praised by other city officials, calling him an "outstanding chief" and applauding his efforts as Police Chief that led to a reduction in the crime rate for the city.

Additionally, others go on to say that Fort Worth "is indeed a better place" because of Mendoza's efforts, which helped to make the city the ninth-safest in the country.

Mendoza began his career with the Fort Worth Police Department in 1972 as part of the now-defunct cadet program. He graduated from the police academy in 1974 and later became the department's first Hispanic lieutenant, deputy chief and chief. He was appointed acting chief in August 1999, and was named Police Chief in January 2000.

I am sure the decision to retire was not an easy one for Chief Mendoza. I join his colleagues in wishing him all the best as he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

It is with great honor that I recognize Chief Ralph Mendoza for his decades of hard work and selfless dedication given to the citizens of Fort Worth, Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington, and his service will set a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

SUDAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the continuing tragic situation in Darfur is an attack on humanity and I believe that Congress, that the President, that the international community, and everyone concerned about their fellow men and women has a responsibility to work toward ending this genocide.

Local and State governments around this Nation are expressing their outrage over the ongoing genocide, as they should be. S. 2271 encourages these actions by allowing these governments to divest from companies that continue their financial ties with Sudan. As we support these communities as they take a stand, it is vital that the Federal Government do so as well. S. 2271 provides this support by barring Federal contracts with companies doing business with the Sudanese government.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must continue to play leadership role in protecting the civilians in Darfur and working towards a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. Too many lives have already been lost and this situation will continue to worsen unless we fulfill our commitment by supporting and strengthening the international mission in Darfur.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY EAGLES AND LYME INDIANS 2007 NEW YORK STATE GIRLS SOCCER CLASS D CO-CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Chazy Central Rural School District's Eagles and the Lyme Central School District's Indians upon sharing the 2007 New York State Class D Girls Soccer Championship. This was the first State girls soccer championship in school history for both schools, which are located in my Upstate New York Congressional District.

On November 17, 2007, Chazy and Lyme became the New York State Class D Co-Champions when they played each other to a 0-0 tie after two overtime periods and 110 minutes. In the game, Lyme goalkeeper Alex Weston, who was named the tournament's outstanding goalkeeper, made 12 saves while Chazy's K.C. Olds set a State record with her 20th shutout of the season. Olds, who tied the Section VII career record with 37½ shutouts, was also a Third Team All-State selection.

The Chazy Eagles finished their season at 23-1-1 under the tutelage of Coach Joe Dumoulin, who was named Class D Coach of the Year. Other members of the team included assistant coaches Saania Duprey, Karissa House, and Cory Thompson and players Brigid Daul, a two-time Third Team All-State selection; Liz Favreau; Jessica Garrant; Co-Captain Brittany Godreau; Heather Guay; Co-Captain Madelaine Guay, a two-time First Team All-Conference selection and a First Team All-State selection; Astrid Kempainen; Caitlyn Lapier; Devin Latremore; Jennifer Lavigne; Co-Captain Samantha Lavigne; Ali Mitchell; Megan Ryan; Victoria Reynolds, a Second Team All-State selection; Morgan Roussy; Marie Trombly; Shauni Trombly; and Gabby Weeden.

The Lyme Indians finished the season 22-1-1 under Coach Mary Guyette, who is set to retire after 20 years of coaching. Other members of the team included assistant coaches Ashley Barbour and Kristin Robbins; and players Jennifer Augustus; Morgan Boccilatt; Meredith Borden; Jessica Brown; Tiffany Brown; Katrina Lane; Rachel Matraw; Jasmine Noll; Hilary Rust, a Second Team All North selection; Olivia Speno, a Second Team All North selection; Brittany Sharlow; Courtney Strasser; and Tiffany Wright. Of note, Nikkia Raso and Terra Towne were named Co-Most Valuable Players of the Frontier League. In addition, Raso, a First Team All-State selection, was named Class D girls soccer Player of the Year by the New York State Sports-writers and Coaches Organization while Towne was named Second Team All-State.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent the Chazy Eagles and the Lyme Indians girls

soccer teams. Accordingly, I now ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their hard work and accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND CHAPTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cleveland Chapter of the Knights of Rizal, and to celebrate their contributions in service to the Filipino community of Cleveland.

The Knights of Rizal are named after Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal, martyred in 1896 in the midst of the fight for Filipino independence from Spain. Dr. Rizal was an inspiration to a whole country and to celebrate his contributions to the fight for independence for the Philippines.

The Cleveland Chapter of the Knights of Rizal was founded fifteen years ago and has served the Filipino community with dedication and distinction.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Cleveland chapter of the Knights of Rizal. I commend the Knights of Rizal for their commitment to the Filipino community and the greater community of Cleveland.

ON THE PASSING OF LOUIS JORDAN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I respectfully pause today with a heavy heart as I share with my colleagues the sad news of the passing of my good friend Attorney Louis Jordan who was a native of Warren County, NC and lived in Goldsboro, NC. Louis slipped away from us last night leaving his wife Nancy James Jordan and their two adult children, Kevin and Kelly.

A good number of years ago, both Louis and I attended North Carolina Central University. It was there that we became roommates and subsequently grew to be very close friends. After graduation, I returned to my hometown of Wilson and Louis settled in Goldsboro. For more than 35 years, Louis provided a tremendous service to the Wayne County community through his community-oriented practice of law.

Madam Speaker, with many years between us and our law school days, our paths once again crossed. I was a sitting Superior Court Judge and Louis was a practicing attorney who argued many cases before me. He was never one to shy away from a fight and was equipped to slay any legal giant. Louis represented his clients well.

Louis later became an ordained minister and through his ministry exhibited his true dedication, commitment and loyalty to his community. He was a great mentor to the youth of the community and contributed great

counsel and leadership to the City of Goldsboro's Board of Education and the Goldsboro public schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Attorney Louis Jordan. The City of Goldsboro, the State of North Carolina and the United States of America have suffered a great loss.

IN HONOR OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER IN REDWOOD CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share news about a remarkable organization serving many of the constituents in my home district. The Veterans Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City recently celebrated its recognition as the first—and only—accredited senior center in San Mateo County, the third in California and just the 148th of the 15,000 senior centers in the United States. The senior center's accreditation status is bestowed by the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), a unit of the National Council on the Aging.

Accreditation is the official recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission in a nationally accepted professional fashion. It is based on compliance with nine standards of senior center operations developed by NISC. Accreditation is unique to the senior center field and demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to high quality programs and services to older adults.

Madam Speaker, the Veterans Memorial Senior Center is to be commended for its vision, collaborative relationships, volunteer programs, outreach programs, wide range of health and fitness programs, plus support services. Its mission is to provide inclusive programs that enhance the body, mind and spirit focusing on health and wellness through a variety of social events, expressive arts, nutrition, fitness, educational, and recreational classes; plus social services support. And it does this very well.

On December 1, 2007, the Center celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a gala event featuring a theme of "Honoring Our Legacy and Looking Into Our Future." I rise today to recognize them on achieving this milestone, and to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation for all the good they do.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and the House, I thank the Veterans Memorial Senior Center on Madison Avenue in Redwood City for its 25 years of service and note the exemplary work that Linda M. Griffith, its director, has done to achieve this prestigious accreditation.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER MARTIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Martin, son of

Bob Martin and Kelly Martin of Kearney, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions including assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, scribe, and assistant senior patrol leader. Alexander was also a past member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and earned his Brotherhood in Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Alexander demonstrated his ability to effectively lead and organize by putting all that he learned into constructing a storage basement for his church rectory in Liberty, Missouri, with the help of his scout and adult helpers. Alexander spent more than 140 hours of diligently planning, designing, and installing two storage units in order to maintain supplies for important committees and organizations within the church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Alexander Martin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SCOTT SPERLING ON
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Scott Sperling on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday. Scott is a man known for his intellect and business acumen, and I am fortunate to call him a friend.

Scott is currently Co-President of Thomas H. Lee Partners and Trustee and General Partner of various THL Equity Funds and is also President of TH Lee Putnam Capital. Additionally, he keeps busy as Director of Hawkeye Holdings, Thermo Fisher Corp., Univision Communications, Inc., Warner Music Group, and several private companies.

In addition to his business commitments and accomplishments, Scott is also a director of several charitable organizations including the Brigham & Women's / Faulkner Hospital Group, The Citi Center for Performing Arts and Wang Theater and Harvard Business School's Rock Center for Entrepreneurship.

Scott started on his illustrious career path after earning a B.S. from Purdue University and an MBA degree from Harvard University.

Scott and his wife Laurene have four children, Michael, Jenny, Zach, and Melanie. It seems as if each Sperling is more intelligent than the next, and much of the credit for that should probably go to Laurene.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to wish a happy 50th birthday to my dear friend, Scott Sperling.

INTRODUCTION OF FOUNTAIN
CREEK WATERSHED FEASIBILITY
STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am introducing a bill to authorize a feasibility study regarding a multipurpose project in the Fountain Creek watershed in Colorado. The bill is in the House companion to a similar bill, S. 2384, the Fountain Creek Feasibility Study Act, introduced by Senator Ken SALAZAR.

As Coloradans know, Fountain Creek is a major tributary to the Arkansas River. Its watershed, which encompasses some 927 square miles, supports a wide variety of plants and wildlife and directly affects many residents of our state—in fact, according to the 2000 census, more than 500,000 people live in the watershed's boundaries. But the effect of Fountain Creek's flows extends beyond the watershed's boundaries. Water from the watershed serves municipal, industrial and agricultural uses. Creeks within the watershed contribute about 15 percent of the drinking water for Colorado Springs and are a source of irrigation for over 100 farms and ranches. The fertile farmland there produces wheat, corn, hay, oats, and vegetable crops; there are also many working livestock ranches along Fountain Creek. But the watershed has its problems, and in recent years, issues related to Fountain Creek have tended to divide local residents who otherwise would be united by its ability to serve as an important link for commerce and recreation.

Decades of neglect, increased waterflows resulting from urban development in the northern part of the watershed, increased stormwater discharges, and sewage spills have all contributed to the problems and the controversies. The watershed is subject to frequent flood damage, erosion, and sedimentation. In 1999 a major flood caused millions of dollars of damage to public and private property, and destroyed the foundations of numerous homes and roads. Indeed, earlier this year there was minor flooding from the Fountain in the Pueblo area. Farmers and ranchers near the downstream end of the watershed in particular have suffered substantial losses of productive farmland. Degradation of the water quality and thus aquatic and wetland habitats is accelerating due to wastewater spills, loss of natural vegetation, and high water volume. Simply put, Fountain Creek watershed's ecological conditions are unstable and under constant threat.

Senator SALAZAR's bill, and this House companion to it, aim at laying a foundation stone for the work of restoring Fountain Creek and turning the corridor between Colorado Springs and Pueblo into an environmental, agricultural, and recreational "crown jewel" for Colorado. Under the legislation, the Army Corps of Engineers would be required to conduct a study of the feasibility of constructing one or more dams and reservoirs to provide more reliable flood and sediment control, to conserve fish and wildlife and preserve their ecosystem, and to improve the water quality throughout the watershed. The Corps' expertise and experi-

ence will be critical to determining the options for restoring the health and stability of the Fountain Creek watershed.

The idea of such a multipurpose project on the Fountain is not new. It was first proposed in 1970 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after the 1965 flood that inundated communities along the Fountain Creek, including particularly the city of Pueblo. The proposal was supported by the States of Colorado and Kansas and local officials, and was even the preferred option of the Army Corps for addressing flooding in the Fountain. Like Senator SALAZAR, I think a similar proposal should be evaluated again, in light of changed conditions and increased flows in Fountain Creek resulting from urban development in the Colorado Springs metro area.

Senator SALAZAR has laid out a vision to revitalize Fountain Creek and connect the communities along its bank in a regional project. The feasibility study called for in S. 2384 and this House companion would be an essential first step. I agree with Senator SALAZAR on the desirability of taking that step, and the bill I am introducing today is intended to assist in making it happen.

IN HONOR OF MIKE LIPSKI

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we begin to wrap up this year's work in Congress, I wish to recognize a valued Mississippian who recently left my staff to pursue opportunities in the private sector back home in Mississippi. Mike Lipski served as my military legislative assistant and special projects director, and later, as my Legislative Director here in Washington, DC. Mike's heart has always been with his home on the Mississippi gulf coast; now he has returned there and taken a position as director of sector administration at Northrop Grumman. Mike's service to Mississippi and our country spans a lifetime of hard work.

Mike's two-decade service in the Navy stretches from his time as a surface warfare officer on the USS *Oliver Hazard Perry* to service as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, including time at the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He brought to my office experience as executive officer of Navy's Engineering Field Activity Southeast in Jacksonville, Florida, as well as a stint as a Navy Legislative Fellow serving on Senator TRENT LOTT's National Security staff.

On my staff, Mike utilized, promoted, increased, and protected the defense community's value, not only for security, but also as an engine of the economy. He demonstrated his commitment to the needs of our war fighters—past, current, and future—with his work on veterans legislation; support and funding for our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world; and preparation and planning for military training and base infrastructure around Mississippi and specifically at Meridian's Naval Air Station and our National Guard facilities. He served as the point person in my office during the most recent round of BRAC, base realignment and closure. He coordinated statewide efforts of military and community

leaders to effectively communicate the national mission value of our bases and defend them in the face of downsizing and cuts.

In my office, Mike provided calm and reasoned counsel and was a trusted advisor and effective implementer of my legislative agenda and appropriation priorities. He successfully worked with economic development interests to bring new and better jobs to Mississippi and implement strategic community development plans at our universities and industrial clusters. He has a strong vision for our State and creative ideas to reach those goals.

Hurricane Katrina presented unique challenges to all levels of leadership in Mississippi, from alderman to Congressman; from mayor to Governor. As we coordinated emergency response efforts on all levels of government, Mike Lipski served as my liaison to MEMA, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and slept on a cot at their headquarters for several days, when he wasn't on the coast with a satellite phone making immediate needs assessments and providing logistical coordination and advice. Mike traded his cot and sat-phone for a tie and clipboard and returned to Washington where he worked closely with me in developing and implementing Katrina reform measures: Federal contracting reform, housing and infrastructure policy, Federal relief and emergency recovery funding. His knowledge and experience with the Corps of Engineers provided a unique resource both during reform and in oversight as committees investigated the Government response to Hurricane Katrina.

Mike's wife, the former Jill Daria Wiltzius, has stood by him throughout his military career and his public service in my office. His transfers around the world have provided them both amazing international experiences but now Mike has convinced his Wisconsin girl to settle in Mississippi. Our State is a better place with the two of them as strong and honorable citizens. Jill is an outstanding educator and hopes to pursue her Ph.D. now that they are settled in Mississippi. I know Mike's family in Long Beach is very proud of him and his successful career is a tribute to his parents: John and Eleanor.

Now Mike will have time to sail, canoe, fly fish, and indulge his outdoor passions, but I have no doubt he will be integral in rebuilding and leading the coast to a full recovery.

Mike Lipski left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, warm friendship, determined work ethic, and dry humor. I am proud of his service and the positive difference he has made for our State and the country. I am grateful to call him my friend. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi and wish him the best of fortune in his new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DEE CORK AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Dee Cork for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces,

and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

Working along with Mr. Monty Slough, Mr. Cork identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Cork began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Cork has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Dee said, "It would be nice to see no one else on it, one is too many."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Dee Cork for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3997, HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Heroes Earnings and Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act of 2007 is an important piece of legislation that goes a long way toward helping the financial difficulties faced by American soldiers. This bill helps honor those who are serving so bravely during this time of war.

The HEART Act would make permanent the inclusion of combat pay as earned income, ensuring that soldiers' families receive much needed tax relief. It also would help thousands of veterans and their families to become homeowners through low-interest home loans, would support those small business employers who continue to pay National Guardsmen and Reservists when they are called to serve, and expands other tax credit and tax relief provisions to help ease any financial difficulties faced by these soldiers.

Those who answer the call of duty should be rewarded for their actions by being assured they will not be unduly and negatively affected due to their patriotism. I support this legislation and join the many veterans' organizations in encouraging its passage into law.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY EAGLES UPON WINNING THE 2007 NEW YORK STATE BOYS SOCCER CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chazy Central Rural School District Eagles upon winning the 2007 New York State Boys Soccer Class D Championship. Of note, this was the third state boys soccer championship in the last four years for Chazy, which is located in my upstate New York congressional district.

On November 18, 2007, the Eagles won the New York State Class D Championship when they defeated the Poland Tornadoes by a score of 1-0. In that game, Stetson Fields scored late in the second half after taking a pass from Co-Captain Jason Baker. Chazy, with a 14-2 shot advantage that pressured the Tornadoes' defense all game long, was then able to preserve their lead, with goalkeeper Jacob Beeman recording the shutout.

The Eagles completed the 2007 season with a record of 24-1-0 and with team Co-Captain Nolan Ryan as the holder of the state record for career goals; in his career, Ryan scored 173 goals, 59 assists, and 405 points. The Chazy Eagles were coached by Rob McAuliffe and assistant coaches Ian Brassard and Matt Devins; Brian Norcross is the Athletic Director. Other team members were scorekeeper Lindsey Seymour and players, Ben Baker, Jordan Barriere, Kenny Bulriss, Tyler Bulriss, Jonah Curtin, Tyson Duprey, Brad Hansen, Shea Howley, Steven LaBombard, Co-Captain Kyle LaFountain, Andrew LaPierre, Perry Latremore, Eric Martin, Nathan Racine, Kyle Reynolds, Kaleb Snide, Gaelan Trombley, and Chris Vliege. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize them for their significant accomplishment.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAN CICORA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dan Cicora, and to celebrate his service to the veterans of Cuyahoga County.

Dan began his service to our country in 1969. As a soldier in the United States Army, Dan served in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery. Dan graduated cum laude from Ohio University in 1975, and in 1979 began his work with the Veterans Administration as a benefits counselor. Dan's extraordinary dedication to veterans and his sincere desire to serve our community has marked every position he has held with the VA, and he has won numerous accolades for his efforts. In May 1983 Dan received the VA Central Office Public Service Award, he has received five suggestion awards, and twenty-three awards for performance, quality and contribution.

Since 2003 Dan has served as the Congressional Liaison for the VA Cleveland office. In this capacity Dan has helped my office

serve literally hundreds of veterans; he has been an invaluable asset to my office. I, as well as hundreds of Cleveland's veterans and their families, are indebted to Dan for his professionalism, compassion, and dedication.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dan Cicora, on the occasion of his retirement, for over twenty-eight years of service to the veterans of Cuyahoga County. I wish him only the best as he begins to write a new and exciting chapter in his life. May others in our community draw inspiration from his example.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BELLA RUSSELL

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's most deserving citizens, Mrs. Bella Russell who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on January 1, 2008. Mrs. Russell resides in Warren County within my Congressional District and is the grandmother of our friend and colleague, Congressman ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN.

Although Mrs. Russell was born in the County of Warren, she moved to Camden, NJ as a young child where she attended the public schools. In later years, Mrs. Russell married John Wesley Russell and through this marriage, three children were born. She is now the matriarch of this wonderful family with 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great grandchildren.

From the State of New Jersey, the family relocated to North Carolina where they acquired a 200-acre farm. While Mr. Russell operated the farm, Mrs. Russell dedicated much of her time as a homemaker and occasionally assisted on the farm. She was also very actively engaged in her community and served as 4-H Club Leader for more than 10 years.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Russell has dedicated 70-faithful years of her life as a member of Russell Union RZUA Church. She has served as Church Mother for 50 years and took great pride in organizing church clubs and groups.

Madam Speaker, over her lifetime, Mrs. Russell has lived through some of the most significant historical periods of our time. Like so many of the great historical monuments she has stood the test of time and has survived Reconstruction; lynching; World War I; the Great Depression; World War II; the period of segregation; the Civil Rights Movement; Voting Rights Movement; School Desegregation and other momentous times. She is indeed a walking history reference and we take great pride in recognizing her for being blessed with such longevity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Bella Russell, a most deserving American.

COMMENDING THE STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN OSLO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, last October, the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was bestowed on a man who has dedicated his life to making this planet a more livable place for all of us and future generations. Vice President Al Gore has steadfastly served the people of the United States and the citizens of the world in his life's work, and I commend him for his leadership, foresight, and dedication in addressing the crisis of climate change.

For our part, and under the visionary leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congress has taken a serious, groundbreaking step towards reducing our country's dangerous dependence on foreign oil by passing the Energy Independence and Security Act, which today became law. I am proud to have authored the international provisions, and could not be more proud of my colleagues for supporting a forward-looking piece of legislation that meets the tremendous challenge of combating climate change head-on. At long last, we are making a meaningful investment in new technologies that will yield clean, renewable energy.

Vice President Gore's Nobel acceptance speech last week in Oslo, Norway epitomizes the way in which he has been able to lead by example on this crucial topic. His words of truth and clarion call to action inspire us all to take care of this Earth we call home, and I am honored to enter his eloquent speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Al Gore. Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Honorable members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

I Have a purpose here today. It is a purpose I have tried to serve for many years. I have prayed that God would show me a way to accomplish it.

Sometimes, without warning, the future knocks on our door with a precious and painful vision of what might be. One hundred and nineteen years ago, a wealthy inventor read his own obituary, mistakenly published years before his death. Wrongly believing the inventor had just died, a newspaper printed a harsh judgment of his life's work, unfairly labeling him "the Merchant of Death" because of his invention—dynamite. Shaken by this condemnation, the inventor made a fatal choice to serve the cause of peace.

Seven years later, Alfred Nobel created this prize and the others that bear his name.

Seven years ago tomorrow, I read my own political obituary in a judgment that seemed to me harsh and mistaken—if not premature. But that unwelcome verdict also brought a precious if painful gift: an opportunity to search for fresh new ways to serve my purpose.

Unexpectedly, that quest has brought me here. Even though I fear my words cannot match this moment, I pray what I am feeling in my heart will be communicated clearly enough that those who hear me will say, "We must act."

The distinguished scientists with whom it is the greatest honor of my life to share this award have laid before us a choice between two different futures—a choice that to my

ears echoes the words of an ancient prophet: "Life or death, blessings or curses. Therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

We, the human species, are confronting a planetary emergency—a threat to the survival of our civilization that is gathering ominous and destructive potential even as we gather here. But there is hopeful news as well: we have the ability to solve this crisis and avoid the worst—though not all—of its consequences, if we act boldly, decisively and quickly.

However, despite a growing number of honorable exceptions, too many of the world's leaders are still best described in the words Winston Churchill applied to those who ignored Adolf Hitler's threat: "They go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent."

So today, we dumped another 70 million tons of global-warming pollution into the thin shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet, as if it were an open sewer. And tomorrow, we will dump a slightly larger amount, with the cumulative concentrations now trapping more and more heat from the sun.

As a result, the earth has a fever. And the fever is rising. The experts have told us it is not a passing affliction that will heal by itself. We asked for a second opinion. And a third. And a fourth. And the consistent conclusion, restated with increasing alarm, is that something basic is wrong.

We are what is wrong, and we must make it right.

Last September 21, as the Northern Hemisphere tilted away from the sun, scientists reported with unprecedented distress that the North Polar ice cap is "falling off a cliff." One study estimated that it could be completely gone during summer in less than 22 years. Another new study, to be presented by U.S. Navy researchers later this week, warns it could happen in as little as 7 years.

Seven years from now.

In the last few months, it has been harder and harder to misinterpret the signs that our world is spinning out of kilter. Major cities in North and South America, Asia and Australia are nearly out of water due to massive droughts and melting glaciers. Desperate farmers are losing their livelihoods. Peoples in the frozen Arctic and on low-lying Pacific islands are planning evacuations of places they have long called home. Unprecedented wildfires have forced a half million people from their homes in one country and caused a national emergency that almost brought down the government in another. Climate refugees have migrated into areas already inhabited by people with different cultures, religions, and traditions, increasing the potential for conflict. Stronger storms in the Pacific and Atlantic have threatened whole cities. Millions have been displaced by massive flooding in South Asia, Mexico, and 18 countries in Africa. As temperature extremes have increased, tens of thousands have lost their lives. We are recklessly burning and clearing our forests and driving more and more species into extinction. The very web of life on which we depend is being ripped and frayed.

We never intended to cause all this destruction, just as Alfred Nobel never intended that dynamite be used for waging war. He had hoped his invention would promote human progress. We shared that same worthy goal when we began burning massive quantities of coal, then oil and methane.

Even in Nobel's time, there were a few warnings of the likely consequences. One of the very first winners of the Prize in chemistry worried that, "We are evaporating our

coal mines into the air." After performing 10,000 equations by hand, Svante Arrhenius calculated that the earth's average temperature would increase by many degrees if we doubled the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Seventy years later, my teacher, Roger Revelle, and his colleague, Dave Keeling, began to precisely document the increasing CO₂ levels day by day.

But unlike most other forms of pollution, CO₂ is invisible, tasteless, and odorless—which has helped keep the truth about what it is doing to our climate out of sight and out of mind. Moreover, the catastrophe now threatening us is unprecedented—and we often confuse the unprecedented with the improbable.

We also find it hard to imagine making the massive changes that are now necessary to solve the crisis. And when large truths are genuinely inconvenient, whole societies can, at least for a time, ignore them. Yet as George Orwell reminds us: "Sooner or later a false belief bumps up against solid reality, usually on a battlefield."

In the years since this prize was first awarded, the entire relationship between humankind and the earth has been radically transformed. And still, we have remained largely oblivious to the impact of our cumulative actions.

Indeed, without realizing it, we have begun to wage war on the earth itself. Now, we and the earth's climate are locked in a relationship familiar to war planners: "Mutually assured destruction."

More than two decades ago, scientists calculated that nuclear war could throw so much debris and smoke into the air that it would block life-giving sunlight from our atmosphere, causing a "nuclear winter." Their eloquent warnings here in Oslo helped galvanize the world's resolve to halt the nuclear arms race.

Now science is warning us that if we do not quickly reduce the global warming pollution that is trapping so much of the heat our planet normally radiates back out of the atmosphere, we are in danger of creating a permanent "carbon summer."

As the American poet Robert Frost wrote, "Some say the world will end in fire; some say in ice." Either, he notes, "would suffice."

But neither need be our fate. It is time to make peace with the planet.

We must quickly mobilize our civilization with the urgency and resolve that has previously been seen only when nations mobilized for war. These prior struggles for survival were won when leaders found words at the 11th hour that released a mighty surge of courage, hope and readiness to sacrifice for a protracted and mortal challenge.

These were not comforting and misleading assurances that the threat was not real or imminent; that it would affect others but not ourselves; that ordinary life might be lived even in the presence of extraordinary threat; that Providence could be trusted to do for us what we would not do for ourselves.

No, these were calls to come to the defense of the common future. They were calls upon the courage, generosity and strength of entire peoples, citizens of every class and condition who were ready to stand against the threat once asked to do so. Our enemies in those times calculated that free people would not rise to the challenge; they were, of course, catastrophically wrong.

Now comes the threat of climate crisis—a threat that is real, rising, imminent, and universal. Once again, it is the 11th hour. The penalties for ignoring this challenge are immense and growing, and at some near point would be unsustainable and unrecoverable. For now we still have the power to

choose our fate, and the remaining question is only this: Have we the will to act vigorously and in time, or will we remain imprisoned by a dangerous illusion?

Mahatma Gandhi awakened the largest democracy on earth and forged a shared resolve with what he called "Satyagraha"—or "truth force."

In every land, the truth—once known—has the power to set us free.

Truth also has the power to unite us and bridge the distance between "me" and "we," creating the basis for common effort and shared responsibility.

There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." We need to go far, quickly.

We must abandon the conceit that individual, isolated, private actions are the answer. They can and do help. But they will not take us far enough without collective action. At the same time, we must ensure that in mobilizing globally, we do not invite the establishment of ideological conformity and a new lock-step "ism."

That means adopting principles, values, laws, and treaties that release creativity and initiative at every level of society in multifold responses originating concurrently and spontaneously.

This new consciousness requires expanding the possibilities inherent in all humanity. The innovators who will devise a new way to harness the sun's energy for pennies or invent an engine that's carbon negative may live in Lagos or Mumbai or Montevideo. We must ensure that entrepreneurs and inventors everywhere on the globe have the chance to change the world.

When we unite for a moral purpose that is manifestly good and true, the spiritual energy unleashed can transform us. The generation that defeated fascism throughout the world in the 1940s found, in rising to meet their awesome challenge, that they had gained the moral authority and long-term vision to launch the Marshall Plan, the United Nations, and a new level of global cooperation and foresight that unified Europe and facilitated the emergence of democracy and prosperity in Germany, Japan, Italy and much of the world. One of their visionary leaders said, "It is time we steered by the stars and not by the lights of every passing ship."

In the last year of that war, you gave the Peace Prize to a man from my hometown of 2000 people, Carthage, Tennessee. Cordell Hull was described by Franklin Roosevelt as the "Father of the United Nations." He was an inspiration and hero to my own father, who followed Hull in the Congress and the U.S. Senate and in his commitment to world peace and global cooperation.

My parents spoke often of Hull, always in tones of reverence and admiration. Eight weeks ago, when you announced this prize, the deepest emotion I felt was when I saw the headline in my hometown paper that simply noted I had won the same prize that Cordell Hull had won. In that moment, I knew what my father and mother would have felt were they alive.

Just as Hull's generation found moral authority in rising to solve the world crisis caused by fascism, so too can we find our greatest opportunity in rising to solve the climate crisis. In the Kanji characters used in both Chinese and Japanese, "crisis" is written with two symbols, the first meaning "danger," the second "opportunity." By facing and removing the danger of the climate crisis, we have the opportunity to gain the moral authority and vision to vastly increase our own capacity to solve other crises that have been too long ignored.

We must understand the connections between the climate crisis and the afflictions

of poverty, hunger, HIV-AIDS and other pandemics. As these problems are linked, so too must be their solutions. We must begin by making the common rescue of the global environment the central organizing principle of the world community.

Fifteen years ago, I made that case at the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro. Ten years ago, I presented it in Kyoto. This week, I will urge the delegates in Bali to adopt a bold mandate for a treaty that establishes a universal global cap on emissions and uses the market in emissions trading to efficiently allocate resources to the most effective opportunities for speedy reductions.

This treaty should be ratified and brought into effect everywhere in the world by the beginning of 2010—two years sooner than presently contemplated. The pace of our response must be accelerated to match the accelerating pace of the crisis itself.

Heads of state should meet early next year to review what was accomplished in Bali and take personal responsibility for addressing this crisis. It is not unreasonable to ask, given the gravity of our circumstances, that these heads of state meet every three months until the treaty is completed.

We also need a moratorium on the construction of any new generating facility that burns coal without the capacity to safely trap and store carbon dioxide.

And most important of all, we need to put a price on carbon—with a CO₂ tax that is then rebated back to the people, progressively, according to the laws of each nation, in ways that shift the burden of taxation from employment to pollution. This is by far the most effective and simplest way to accelerate solutions to this crisis.

The world needs an alliance—especially of those nations that weigh heaviest in the scales where earth is in the balance. I salute Europe and Japan for the steps they've taken in recent years to meet the challenge, and the new government in Australia, which has made solving the climate crisis its first priority.

But the outcome will be decisively influenced by two nations that are now failing to do enough: the United States and China. While India is also growing fast in importance, it should be absolutely clear that it is the two largest CO₂ emitters—most of all, my own country—that will need to make the boldest moves, or stand accountable before history for their failure to act.

Both countries should stop using the other's behavior as an excuse for stalemate and instead develop an agenda for mutual survival in a shared global environment.

These are the last few years of decision, but they can be the first years of a bright and hopeful future if we do what we must. No one should believe a solution will be found without effort, without cost, without change. Let us acknowledge that if we wish to redeem squandered time and speak again with moral authority, then these are the hard truths:

The way ahead is difficult. The outer boundary of what we currently believe is feasible is still far short of what we actually must do. Moreover, between here and there, across the unknown, falls the shadow.

That is just another way of saying that we have to expand the boundaries of what is possible. In the words of the Spanish poet, Antonio Machado, "Pathwalker, there is no path. You must make the path as you walk."

We are standing at the most fateful fork in that path. So I want to end as I began, with a vision of two futures—each a palpable possibility—and with a prayer that we will see with vivid clarity the necessity of choosing between those two futures, and the urgency of making the right choice now.

The great Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen, wrote, "One of these days, the younger generation will come knocking at my door."

The future is knocking at our door right now. Make no mistake, the next generation will ask us one of two questions. Either they will ask: "What were you thinking; why didn't you act?"

Or they will ask instead: "How did you find the moral courage to rise and successfully resolve a crisis that so many said was impossible to solve?"

We have everything we need to get started, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource.

So let us renew it, and say together: "We have a purpose. We are many. For this purpose we will rise, and we will act."

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MICHAEL HERMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph M. Herman a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Joseph Michael Herman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE TEACHERS OF THE ILLINOIS' FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WHO RECEIVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION IN 2007

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize sixty eight distinguished teachers from Illinois' Fifth Congressional District who have been honored with National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

National Board Certification is the highest level of certification in the teaching profession, and these teachers have earned this distinction through their service, commitment, and excellence in teaching.

Those who are honored with this award are widely considered to be at the peak of their profession, providing countless opportunities for children to learn and excel. National Board Certified teachers are also statistically proven to increase financial opportunities within their districts, strengthen the teaching practice, and improve student learning.

Applicants for this award may spend up to three years proving themselves, while undergoing peer reviews by 12 separate teachers, passing competency and skill testing within his

or her individual specialty, and demonstrating educational outreach beyond the walls of the classroom.

Teachers everywhere play a critical role in our children's lives, and these sixty-eight individuals have exemplified that spirit and motivation, guiding students with patience, compassion, concern, and most of all, dedication to their profession.

Madam Speaker, I am proud tp honor these distinguished educators on their award of National Board Certification. I have no doubt that their efforts have had a tremendous impact on countless children throughout the Chicago-area, and that they will continue their profound effect for years to come.

I wish to congratulate:

Cynthia Ahn of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Cynthia Anderson of Highcrest Middle School; Wendy Anderson of Audubon Elementary School; Rolando Argumedo of Nobel Elementary School; Anita Aysola of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School; Rosemary Barilla of Sauganash Elementary School; Pamela Barreda of McPherson Elementary School; Becky Benkiser of Mitchell Elementary School; Jessica Bezares of Avondale Elementary School; and Patricia Bonness of Vaughn Occupational High School.

Daniel Caldwell of Northside College Preparatory High School; Elizabeth Camp-Montcalm of Sullivan High School; Paul Carrera of Lane Technical High School; Jennifer Catron of Depriest Elementary School; Holly Clark of Roosevelt School; Jennifer Cline; Alan Demski of Taft High School; Adlin Dominguez of Roque De Duprey Elementary School; Edward Dziedzic of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School; and Catalina Fernandez of Vaughn Occupational High School.

Laura Floyd of Mayer Elementary School; Anna Franczyk; Tiffany Frayer of Moos Elementary School; Mary Galligan of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Christopher Gamble of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School; Valerie Gernske of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School; Donna Goode of Solomon Elementary School; Laurie Green of Bridge Elementary School; Francesca Guerrero Borrull of Roosevelt High School; and Samara Guzman of Newberry Elementary Math & Science Academy.

Deidre Habetler of Dever Elementary School; Arthur Helbig of Casals Elementary School; Patricia Jones of Haugan Elementary School; Sarah Kissell; Renee Kreczmer of Sauganash Elementary School; Phyllis Kuziel-Perri of Hitch Elementary School; Wendy Lambie of Gray Elementary School; Joan Leber of Talcott Elementary School; Carrie Lewin of Donoghue Elementary School; and Martin Lombardo of Foreman High School.

Eileen Luciano of Sumner Elementary Math & Science Community Academy; Erin Luzadder of Palatine High School; Katrin Machaj of Lane Technical High School; Dona Maldonado of Hamline Elementary School; Gladys Maldonado of Haugan Elementary School; Martha Maly of Jenner Elementary Academy of The Arts; Mary Martin of Hawthorne Elementary Scholastic Academy; Tricia McGann of Sheridan Elementary Math & Science Academy; James McIntosh of Roosevelt High School; and Traci Meziere of Central Elementary School.

Michelle Nash of Hammond Elementary School; Jennifer Nelson of New Field Elemen-

tary School; James Newman of Taft High School; Thomas O'Brien of Flower Career Academy High School; Marguerite O'Connell of Foreman High School; Alicia Peshel of Mitchell Elementary School; Johonna Pollack of Saucedo Elementary Scholastic Academy; Holly Pruitt of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Ana Romero of McKinley Park Elementary School; and Selma Saidane of Kellogg Elementary School.

Richard Sasso of Hinsdale South High School; Julianne Soble of Solomon Elementary School; William Spain of Amundsen High School; Darlene Stone of Donoghue Elementary School; Jennifer Trejo of Taft High School; Patrice Turk; Yoni Vallecillo of Senn High School; and Kristen Wilkens of Best Practice High School.

CONCERN ABOUT BORDER PATROL ACTIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, like many of our colleagues I have seen recent news reports about the use of pepper spray by Border Patrol officers who have been the targets of attacks by people on the other side of our southern border.

I am sure that we all agree that the officers can and should defend themselves, but like others I am concerned about the extent to which use of pepper spray or other chemical agents could have unintended consequences.

In that connection, I think we should carefully consider a recent editorial in the *Gazette*, a daily newspaper published in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

As the editorial puts it:

The Mexican Consulate has complained, and rightly so. The United States is not at war with Mexico, and it makes sense to maintain friendly relations with our southern neighbor.

Border Patrol officials argued that the agents need to protect themselves, and that the smugglers should be blamed for hiding behind innocent people. Well, there are better ways to protect against criminals than to saturate entire neighborhoods with tear-gas canisters. For starters, the Border Patrol could engage in cooperative efforts with the Tijuana police or the Mexican federal authorities to go after the rock-throwers.

I think that is a suggestion well worth exploring.

For the information of all our colleagues, here is the complete text of the editorial:

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, Dec. 18, 2007]

BORDER PATROL SHOULD STOP TEAR-GAS ATTACKS

What would Americans think if Mexican officials routinely fired pepper spray and tear gas into California neighborhoods as a way to root out, say, smugglers who were operating from the U.S. side of the border? How would we, as Americans, feel if our houses were damaged, our neighborhoods evacuated and our children endangered because of the aggressive tactics of the Mexican police or military?

Most Americans would no doubt be outraged. American officials would likely demand that Mexico cease and desist from such

behavior. The anger would be perfectly justified.

Mexican officials are not attacking the United States, but U.S. Border Patrol agents are attacking the Colonia Libertad neighborhood of Tijuana. Mexicans have every right to be as angry as we would be if the roles were reversed.

In response to smugglers who are pelting Border Patrol agents in order to create a diversion, the Americans are stepping up their efforts. "Agents have used pepper spray in the past, but usually aimed directly at the smugglers," the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. "The new tactics, which saturate large areas, have forced dozens of temporary evacuations and sent some residents to hospitals."

The Mexican Consulate has complained, and rightly so. The United States is not at war with Mexico, and it makes sense to maintain friendly relations with our southern neighbor.

Border Patrol officials argued that the agents need to protect themselves, and that the smugglers should be blamed for hiding behind innocent people. Well, there are better ways to protect against criminals than to saturate entire neighborhoods with tear-gas canisters. For starters, the Border Patrol could engage in cooperative efforts with the Tijuana police or the Mexican federal authorities to go after the rock-throwers.

We understand that the issue of illegal immigration is extremely contentious, but even those advocating tougher U.S. enforcement measures should agree that there need to be limits to the policy. It's hard to make the argument that Mexicans are trampling our sovereignty while we so eagerly trample theirs.

IN HONOR OF MARY MILLS
RITCHIE

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we wrap up this year in Congress, I want to honor Mary Mills Ritchie, who left my staff earlier this year to return to Mississippi. She was a dedicated member of my staff who honorably served my office and the people of Mississippi.

Mary Mills came to my office as our staff assistant in 2003, after graduating from the University of Mississippi earlier that year, and Jackson Preparatory School in 1999. She demonstrated her abilities to understand and affect public policy and with her dedicated work ethic, her role grew to Legislative Assistant for health care policy.

She managed this legislative portfolio at a critical time, as we worked with seniors and communities to implement the Medicare Reform Act of 2003 that provides prescription drug benefits to needy Americans. She served as my liaison to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and assisted pharmacists, hospitals, and other health care providers in Mississippi move through the Washington bureaucracies.

Following Hurricane Katrina, she played a critical role as we inserted language in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that provided funds for 8½ months of Mississippi's state

Medicaid budget: \$850 million in budget relief at a time when Mississippi was straining under the pressures of disaster recovery.

While working in Washington, she met a young man from Texas named Spencer Ritchie and they married in March of 2005. But rather than carrying her away to the Lone Star State, she converted him into a Mississippian. He is now in law school at the University of Mississippi, where she works in Oxford.

Mary Mills' hard work and success is a tribute to her parents, Sam and Leila Lane. I know they and her brothers, Samuel and Ben, are very proud of her.

Madam Speaker, Mary Mills Ritchie left a formative mark on my health care agenda and on our office. We will not forget her good nature or her eagerness to learn and work. She possesses a rare grace and presence. This unique spirit carries her compassion and commitment to help, teach and serve others. She continues to bless the lives of all who know her. I thank her for her service to this office and to Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING MONTY SLOUGH
AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces, and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

After checking records at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Monty identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Slough began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Slough has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Monty said, "This isn't going to bring them back, but they sure as hell are not going to be forgotten."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our Nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, In 2002, we enacted the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act in an attempt to stabilize the economy following the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to protect against economic catastrophe should another attack occur. This important program is set to expire at the end of the year, and it is essential that we reauthorize TRIA.

The legislation before us is not the strong bill we passed in September or the compromise we passed last week, and it is not a perfect bill. It extends TRIA by only 7 years and does not include the strong new provisions that were included in the other bills we passed. However, this legislation does do one vital thing: it works to ensure the stability of our economy should another national crisis occur. For this very important reason, I support this legislation today but hope we can pass a stronger bill in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANGELO WEDO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Angelo Wedo, a former shoemaker's helper and railroad worker, who served ten years as mayor of Brook Park, Ohio.

Born in Windber, PA, Angelo was the son of Italian immigrants. After graduating with a degree in accounting from Lehigh University, Angelo moved to the Cleveland area, where he worked as an accountant for Pre-form Marine Products before and after his stint as mayor.

In 1961, Angelo was elected Brook Park city treasurer. He served as Ward 4 councilman from 1966 to 1970 and as council president for two years before becoming mayor.

Angelo served as mayor from 1972 to 1981 and is credited for playing an integral role in establishing the city's first recreation center. In appreciation of his commitment to recreation facilities, a city park was named in his honor.

Angelo was the devoted husband of Sondra and the loving father of Greg, Michelle, Tony, Valerie, and Vicki. He was the cherished grandfather of six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Angelo Wedo, an enthusiastic member of the Brook Park community and dedicated servant of local government. May his commitment to Brook Park serve as an example to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO AARON DAVID HUDSPETH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron David Hudspeth a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Aaron David Hudspeth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INVESTIGATION NEEDED ABOUT TAPE DESTRUCTION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, many Americans are rightly concerned about reports that the Central Intelligence Agency destroyed tapes documenting the interrogation of two suspected Al Qaida terrorists.

This morning's newspapers report that the decision to destroy the tapes may have come after the matter had been discussed with legal advisers at the highest level in the Bush administration.

I do not know how accurate those reports may be. But I agree with an editorial in yesterday's *Gazette*, the daily newspaper of Colorado Springs, that Congress should investigate this matter.

In the words of the *Gazette*:

The House and Senate intelligence committees and other congressional committees have vowed to undertake investigations into the circumstances under which those tapes were destroyed. This is an appropriate use of the legislative branch's power to oversee the activities of the executive branch, especially when allegations of illegal activity are involved.

On Friday, however, the Justice Department asked the relevant congressional committees to postpone their investigations while preliminary investigations by the Justice Department and the CIA itself are under way. U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey also announced that the Justice Department would not comply with congressional requests for information at this time.

This stonewalling is inappropriate and only feeds suspicion. Congress is an equal branch of government under the Constitution. As such, it has full authority to conduct investigations into the activities of executive branch employees. ***

In a democratic system the government is supposed to serve the interests of the people and eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But the people cannot maintain vigilance over "their" government if the government

is allowed to keep its arguably questionable activities secret.

I completely agree with that succinct summary of the situation, and urge the Intelligence Committees to proceed with their inquiries.

For the information of all our colleagues, I am attaching the complete text of the *Gazette's* editorial:

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, Dec. 18, 2007]

OPEN GOVERNMENT—CONGRESS MUST INVESTIGATE TAPES' DESTRUCTION

Although the circumstances are suspicious surrounding a decision by the CIA to destroy videotapes of the interrogations of two al-Qaida suspects by CIA interrogators, it is virtually impossible to know whether those tapes contain evidence of "enhanced interrogation" techniques that rise to the level of torture. What is certain is that all the investigations into how and why those tapes were destroyed, and who ordered their destruction, should proceed with all deliberate speed.

Last week CIA Director Gen. Michael Hayden gave secret testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee regarding the hundreds of hours of videotaped interrogation of two men identified as members of al-Qaida, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri. He acknowledged that the tapes had been destroyed sometime around 2005.

The House and Senate intelligence committees and other congressional committees have vowed to undertake investigations into the circumstances under which those tapes were destroyed. This is an appropriate use of the legislative branch's power to oversee the activities of the executive branch, especially when allegations of illegal activity are involved.

On Friday, however, the Justice Department asked the relevant congressional committees to postpone their investigations while preliminary investigations by the Justice Department and the CIA itself are under way. U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey also announced that the Justice Department would not comply with congressional requests for information at this time.

This stonewalling is inappropriate and only feeds suspicion. Congress is an equal branch of government under the Constitution. As such, it has full authority to conduct investigations into the activities of executive branch employees.

At the same time, the Justice Department is urging a federal judge not to hold a hearing into the destruction of the tapes. U.S. District Judge Henry Kennedy is presiding over a case involving 12 Yemeni prisoners being held at the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay on Cuba. Defense lawyers have urged such a hearing, noting that in 2005 Kennedy as the presiding judge in Zubaydah's and al-Nashiri's cases ordered that all evidence involving that case be preserved, and want to determine whether the destruction of the Zubaydah and al-Nashiri interrogation tapes violated that order.

It is possible for reasonable people to differ as to whether torture is ever justified. We agree with Sen. John McCain, who knows something about torture from his experience as a Vietnam prisoner of war, that the United States should maintain the moral high ground by abjuring torture. Most experienced interrogators also note that torture is not a reliable way to acquire accurate information.

A broad, informed debate on appropriate interrogation techniques is appropriate given widespread suspicion that the U.S. has used techniques that are tantamount to torture. The more information available, the

more informed any such discussion will be. That's why it is deplorable that the Justice Department wants to quash congressional and judicial inquiries into the destruction of videotapes that may—or may not—have documented the use of inappropriate techniques by government operatives.

In a democratic system the government is supposed to serve the interests of the people and eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But the people cannot maintain vigilance over "their" government if the government is allowed to keep its arguably questionable activities secret.

CONGRATULATING STRATON KARATOSSOS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, the athletic tradition at Mississippi State University has celebrated the lives and accomplishments of many student and staff leaders over the years. Recently another has been added to this list when Straton Karatassos was inducted into the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame.

Straton has a lifetime of experiences and stories as a manager and trainer of athletic teams. While working with the Georgia Southern baseball team in 1973, he made his first visit to Mississippi State University for a game, and later that year returned as a graduate student. Now, three decades later, Straton has become inseparable from the MSU athletic family. He was named State's head trainer in 1981, later served as assistant athletic director for sports medicine, and now works as assistant athletic director for athletic development within the Bulldog Club.

While he is a native of Savannah, GA, we like to claim him as a true son of Starkville. He and his wife, Harriet, of Batesville, MS, are central to the Bulldog community, and he is as much part of the teams at Mississippi State as are the players.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in congratulating Straton Karatassos for a lifetime of service to sport and saluting him in his induction into the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the men and women who put on the uniform of the National Guard have acted with extreme bravery and integrity. Through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, these soldiers have fought valiantly, without question and without reservations, and they embody the entire spirit of service.

In New Mexico, the National Guard has played an historic role in defending our Nation. Members of the New Mexico National Guard served as "Rough Riders" on San Juan Hill

with Teddy Roosevelt, served as prisoners of war at Bataan for horrendous years during World War II, and were deployed to Operation Desert Shield. Whether fighting during a time of war, assisting local and State law enforcement, or guarding our borders, New Mexico's National Guard stands "ready to fight" and accomplishes every mission it receives with distinction and with pride.

We in the House offer our unconditional support of these men and women, and I strongly support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH MICHAEL GREENWOOD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Keith Michael Greenwood a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Keith has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Keith has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Keith Michael Greenwood for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ROBERT F. RIORDAN

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Robert F. Riordan, who is retiring after many years of active involvement in the Kansas business community. Bob is set to retire at the end of the year as the head of government relations for Black & Veatch, a leader in energy and water industries, and one of Kansas's largest businesses.

Bob is the eldest of Francis Xavier and Elizabeth Parris Riordan's four sons. He was raised in Wichita and Salina, KS. Despite the loss of his father when Bob was only 13 years old, he excelled in academics and sports while at Sacred Heart High School in Salina. At Sacred Heart, he was captain of the basketball team, a member of the 1958 American Legion State Champions, and valedictorian of his class.

Upon graduation from Sacred Heart in 1960, he attended the United States Naval Academy. Bob received his commission as an ensign in 1964 upon his graduation from Annapolis. He married Pamela Elizabeth Sutton, and together they have three children and three grandchildren, with two more grandchildren on the way. Bob served his country for 11 years while on active duty as a naval officer. He made numerous deployments to Vietnam and

saw much combat. His deployments included serving on the USS *Haverfield* (DER 393) and the USS *New Orleans* (LPH-11). While on active duty, he achieved the rank of lieutenant commander, a rank he made as an early selectee.

Wanting to spend more time with his family, Bob returned to Kansas after 11 years of service. Bob has always put his family first, and is a loving and caring husband and father. Throughout the years, he made financial and professional sacrifices to make sure that his relationship with his family came first.

Bob spent 3 years in Salina, working for Marymount College and the engineering firm of Wilson & Sons. While in Salina, he became interested in our Nation's energy policies and alternative energy. He started his own business for alternative energy in Salina before being appointed to a position with the then Kansas Department of Energy. After leaving his appointment, he moved to Lawrence, KS, and spent several years with the University of Kansas developing various forms of alternative energy. In 1982, Bob began doing government relations work for Kansas Power & Light, and was central to the development of their energy policies. While at Kansas Power & Light, Bob became vice president of operations, and helped to create a successful strategy to bring economically efficient power to Kansas.

In 1991, Bob left Kansas Power & Light to help create a fuel-cell company based out of Connecticut. He then came to work with Black & Veatch, starting with a project to build a power plant in Florida. He returned to Kansas in 1994 as head of Black & Veatch's government relations, and has continued in this position to the present day. Throughout his time at Black & Veatch, I have had the opportunity and privilege to work with Bob on a wide range of exciting projects.

Throughout his life, Bob has always been a man of integrity, honor, and loyalty. Bob's word is his pledge. More importantly, Bob will do something or take some action simply because it is the right thing to do. Bob never carries a grudge, and he never keeps score of what he has done for others. Through his service to his country, dedication to his career, and devotion to his family and friends, he exemplifies all that is best about Kansans.

I would like to wish Bob, and his wife Pam, all the best as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

IN SUPPORT OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to those who selflessly rushed to Ground Zero to help their fellow citizens during and immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. These courageous American men and women thought of others first and themselves second. Truthfully, if it were not for the firefighters, rescue workers, emergency medical providers, and volunteers who helped in the days following 9/11, then the death toll may have been even higher. The healing process

would have been even slower. And the cleanup would have taken even longer.

Today, however, many of these rescue workers and volunteers suffer severe respiratory illnesses and diseases as a result of their exposure to toxic debris and materials at Ground Zero. To add insult to injury, the Bush administration has failed to provide them with adequate health care and, in some cases, actually challenged the cause of their illnesses, which doctor after doctor has diagnosed as stemming from the poisonous air at Ground Zero.

Our Nation can and must do far better by our heroes. That is why I strongly support and have cosponsored the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. This legislation would establish a World Trade Center Health program to provide medical monitoring, treatment, and compensation to emergency responders, recovery and cleanup workers, and other Ground Zero workers suffering serious diseases as a result of their efforts. It would also expand the number of individuals who are to be covered by such arrangements and creates a nationwide network of health care providers for treating victims residing outside the New York City area.

The American people understand that we have a duty to support our heroes—from those who saved lives in the aftermath of 9/11 to all of our service men and women returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's sad that we need legislation to force the Bush administration to do right by our heroes—but such is the situation we face. Thus, I will continue to fight for passage of the James Zadroga Act, will continue to seek increased funding to treat veterans and troops with post-traumatic stress disorder, severe brain injury, and other needs, and will work hard to elect a new President of the United States who will do more than pay lip service to the needs of our heroes.

Finally, I wish to applaud the good people at the Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes organization. While they never asked for anybody's praise, they have earned it—not only through their actions on 9/11, but also through their tireless advocacy on behalf of all those struggling with serious health problems caused by 9/11 and through their assistance to sick and injured 9/11 responders.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE INDUSTRY TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 15—Recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

During the holiday season, it is appropriate that we consider this resolution. Many Americans participate in the tradition of Christmas and Christmas trees are an important part of this tradition. Many memories associated with Christmas include a beautiful natural tree decorated with lights and ornaments with gifts underneath, shared with family and friends.

Whether families purchase a pre-cut tree or cut the trees themselves—the tree most likely came from a tree farm. More than 36 million Christmas trees are produced each year, and 98 percent of them come from Christmas trees farms. Christmas tree farms have a positive contribution to our economy.

None know the importance of Christmas trees to our economy better than Oregonians. In 2006, Christmas trees accounted for more than \$121 million of the Oregon economy. Our number one agricultural commodity is nursery products, including Christmas trees. While many people know Oregon for our forests, it is fitting that we are also first in the Nation in Christmas tree production. I am proud to represent thousands of Oregonians who are part of the Christmas tree and nursery industry.

Christmas trees are both part of the Christmas and winter holiday season, and important to Oregon and the nation's economy. I commend my colleague, Ms. Foxx, for introducing this resolution.

HONORING RETIRING DIRECTOR OF THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM MICHAEL C. MAHANEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Michael C. Mahaney, Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System, whose exemplary service will conclude on January 4, 2008.

Mr. Mahaney began his involvement with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) in December of 1973 as a Library Page in the Central Library's Stack Department. In 1976, he received his Master of Library Science degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and began working as a part-time Librarian at the Fairfield, Mead and Kensington Branch Libraries before being appointed to a full-time Librarian position in the Central Library's Business and Labor Department.

Mr. Mahaney's love of the library system and his natural leadership abilities soon propelled him to more senior positions within the B&ECPL, including liaison to the Erie County Legislature, Library constituents, local and regional media and the Library Board of Trustees, and Chairman of the Library's long range planning committee. He was also an active member of the New York Library Association and American Library Association, frequently representing the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library on committees and task forces and at various state and national conferences.

In January 2000, Mr. Mahaney was promoted to the post of Deputy Director, Chief Operating Officer of the B&ECPL, responsible for the administration of all Library public support and planning functions and played a critical role in the development of the Library's strategic plan.

Following a national recruitment effort in January 2003, Mr. Mahaney was chosen overwhelmingly by the Library's Board of Trustees to serve as permanent Director of the B&ECPL. During this time, he was instrumental in guiding the community through the reorganization of the Library in the aftermath of Erie County's worst budget crisis in history.

In his last year as Director of the B&ECPL, Mr. Mahaney oversaw a \$500,000 increase in county funding and the passage of the Library Protection Act, a local law safeguarding library funds after the county's annual budget is adopted, a goal library officials had sought for 14 years.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to stand here today to pay tribute to the inspired leadership and remarkable contributions of Michael C. Mahaney during his 34 years of dedicated service to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to honor Mr. Mahaney's past service and ask you and the rest of our colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Mahaney the very best of health and success in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2007

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the False Claims Act Corrections Act of 2007, a bill designed to return the False Claims Act to its original intent. This legislation is sorely needed today, with the Department of Defense budget raided by unscrupulous contractors willing to enrich themselves at the expense of our Nation, and the Medicare program at risk of insolvency while organized crime and others pilfer funds meant for the care of our elderly and disabled. The proposed amendments would correct the effect of unduly restrictive judicial opinions by clarifying that Congress intends the law to reach all types of fraud on the Federal fisc, regardless of the form of the transaction. The amendments would also restore the intended incentives for whistleblowers, to act when they discover fraud against the United States Government.

The False Claims Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in order to combat rampant fraud in Civil War defense contracts. The Supreme Court has called the law the "Government's primary litigative tool for combating fraud," a law "intended to reach all types of fraud, without qualification, that might result in financial loss to the Government." The statute, which embodies principles developed in centuries-old English common law, contains incentives for private individuals to report false claims and fraudulent activity. It also allows private parties to sue on behalf of the United States and bring their private resources to support the Government's investigation and litigation. If the United States investigates and finds merit to the private party's allegations, it may intervene in and take control of the lawsuit.

During the first century after its enactment, however, the law fell into disuse as amendments and adverse case law chipped away at the incentives needed to bring whistleblowers forward. Moreover, the courts had restricted the law by construing ambiguities in the act against the Government. It had also become apparent that, in order for the law to have its intended impact, the Department of Justice needed the power to compel testimony and production of documents to investigate allegations made by informants.

In 1986, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY and I worked together in an effort to restore the re-

quisite incentives for whistleblowers and to clarify that the law was intended to reach all frauds on the Government, regardless of the form of the transaction. The False Claims Amendments Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on October 27, 1986. In addition to addressing incentives, the new law also provided for a subpoena-type authority for the Department of Justice so that the Department could fully investigate allegations raised by whistleblowers. Congress intended that the Department of Justice would use this new "civil investigative demand" authority to obtain documents and testimony, and then question witnesses and experts about this information to fully comprehend its significance.

I am very happy to report that, in the years since 1986, the amended Act has returned over \$20 billion to the United States Government that otherwise would have been lost to fraud. For the most part, the law has been a resounding success. The Government has received full compensation for many of its losses, and has also imposed financial penalties on many who have knowingly over-billed the Government. It has utilized information from False Claims Act informants to impose criminal sanctions, including imprisonment, on the worst offenders. The Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services, in turn, have debarred from Government contracting, and excluded from participation in the Medicare program, some of those subject to judgments and convictions. Other agencies have taken similar action. As a result of this aggressive enforcement action by our executive branch, many companies have been motivated to initiate compliance efforts, and have been deterred from engaging in the types of fraudulent schemes subject to enforcement activity.

Nonetheless, the law has not been a success in one critical respect: it could be doing far more. If construed according to Congress' original intent, it could be bringing in many billions of additional dollars in recoveries from those who have cheated at the expense of the taxpayer. Instead, some courts have misconstrued our intent, even in clear language in the law, in a manner that leaves entire categories of fraud outside the reach of the law. For example, courts have thrown out cases in which the Government has administered Government programs, and expended its funds through contractors and other agents, as opposed to direct expenditure. Many courts unreasonably have barred whistleblowers with potentially meritorious claims from pursuing cases. For example, the courts have dismissed cases brought by insiders who know key details of fraudulent schemes because they can't plead specific details of the billing documentation, such as the dates and identification numbers of invoices—information ordinarily sought and obtained in discovery. Finally, due to procedural requirements and an oversight in our original drafting, the Department of Justice has not employed the civil investigative demand authority as hoped.

The amendments proposed in this legislation will remove these debilitating qualifications and to clarify that the Act is intended to "reach all types of fraud, without qualification" leading to Government losses. We intend for these amendments to apply to all future cases as well as all cases that are pending in the courts on the date the amendments become law.

The Amendments' most critical goals are the following: Clarifying that the Act covers

fraud on Government programs even when the Government uses agents and other third parties to administer Government programs and contracts; Clarifying that the Government's new or amended complaint in a qui tam action relates back to the original qui tam complaint to the same extent it would relate back if the Government had filed the original complaint; Clarifying that plaintiffs do not need to have access to individual claims data or documents to bring a False Claims Act case; Amending the Act so that a qui tam case may be dismissed in light of prior public disclosures only upon motion of the Government, and only if the case is truly parasitic; Amending and clarifying the Act to specify how the Act's chief investigative tool—the civil investigative demand—may be used to investigate violations of the Act; and clarifying how the Act applies to Federal employees who discover fraud during the course of their employment, by providing the Government authority to move to dismiss the action of any Federal employee who brings a qui tam action under the Act without first having provided the Government fair notice and opportunity to pursue such wrongdoing through its own False Claims Act action or other appropriate remedy.

Fighting fraud against U.S. taxpayers is not a partisan issue. When we passed the False Claims Act amendments in 1986, we did so with a strong bipartisan coalition in both houses. I'm pleased to continue that tradition by introducing this bill today with Representative JIM SENENBRENNER as my partner. I look forward to working with him to make these amendments to the False Claims Act law this Congress.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JULIA CARSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I raise to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently passed colleague and dear friend JULIA CARSON.

In 1996 JULIA's deep commitment to those she served led her to become the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House from Indiana. I had the opportunity to get to know JULIA during our freshman terms in the 105th Congress and build a relationship with her over the past 10 years that we have both served. Julia spent her time in Congress working for children's issues, women's rights and efforts to reduce homelessness. One of her biggest accomplishment in the House was passing legislation granting the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks, the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated city bus in Montgomery, AL. She leaves behind an unmatched record of service to the people and an unequaled legacy of leadership.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the family of JULIA CARSON and in honoring her career in service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO AARON N. MENICHETTI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron N. Menichetti a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Aaron N. Menichetti for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL STRAUSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mr. William Arthur Strauss.

I first met Bill Strauss in 1963 when we were both pages here in Washington. Bill served at the Supreme Court; I served in the Senate. Our respective careers continued to revolve around the Nation's capital—mine in Congress, Bill's in the executive branch.

Bill boasted an education few can match: an undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1969, a law degree from Harvard, and a master's degree from Harvard's venerable John F. Kennedy School of Government. He returned to Washington with his young bride in 1973, joining the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) as a policy aide. He quickly moved up to the Presidential Clemency Board, directing a report on the impact of the Vietnam War on draft-eligible youth.

Bill Strauss continued his work for the Federal Government, moving to the Department of Energy in 1977. Subsequently, in 1980 Mr. Strauss became chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Government Processes.

Despite his long service in the Federal Government—or, possibly more aptly, as a result of it—Mr. Strauss discovered at a Memorial Day party in 1981 that he was blessed with the gift of improvisational comedy. Having performed successfully to a receptive audience of friends, Mr. Strauss realized he could make a living satirizing the goings-on within the Beltway.

During his office's Christmas party in 1981, Mr. Strauss, along with a group later christened the Capitol Steps, performed his first musical parody. Senator Charles Percy (R-III), his employer, and the rest of the staff knew instantly that Bill Strauss had a gift. The group

grew steadily over the years, blossoming into the now \$3-million-a-year industry with performances across the country.

Despite these notable achievements, Bill will probably be best remembered for founding the Critics and Awards Program, otherwise known as the Cappies. Bill was inspired to institute this regional institution, which honors exceptional high school dramatic and musical performances throughout the Washington, DC, metro area, after being diagnosed with an aggressive strain of pancreatic cancer. Every year, high school students gather at the Kennedy Center for a ceremony not unlike the Tony Awards in New York. I look forward to the Cappies every year, and hope this tradition continues for years to come.

I was saddened to hear Bill succumbed to cancer at his home in McLean, VA, on December 18, 2007. His legacy of both the Capitol Steps and the Cappies will keep his memory alive within the Capitol Beltway for many years to come. May the elected officials in this body never cease to give Mr. Strauss' company a plethora of material to keep the country laughing.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. William Arthur Strauss, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 19, 2007]

BILL STRAUSS, 60; POLITICAL INSIDER WHO STEPPED OVER INTO COMEDY

(By Joe Holley)

Capitol Steps founder Bill Strauss was a Harvard-trained lawyer and Senate subcommittee staffer when he broke through the chrysalis of Capitol Hill conventionality to become a musical satirist.

Mr. Strauss, who died Dec. 18 of pancreatic cancer at his home in McLean, recalled the breakthrough in a phone interview shortly before his death at age 60.

It was Memorial Day 1981, he said, and he was hosting a party that ended with a jam session around the piano. Party-goers riffed on parodies of Reagan-era news makers.

Mr. Strauss discovered that night that he had a facility for impromptu silliness and satire. He began to wonder whether, at age 34, he might be able to make a living at it, even though his only musical training was a stint in his elementary school orchestra.

During the next several months, when not worrying about nuclear proliferation and other weighty matters, he wrote musical parodies. Enlisting other musically gifted Senate staffers, he scheduled the group's debut at the annual office Christmas party of Sen. Charles Percy (R-III), Mr. Strauss's employer.

The group christened itself the Capitol Steps, an allusion to the location of a late-night amorous moment enjoyed by Rep. John W. Jenrette (D-S.C.) and his wife, Rita.

Capitol Steps was a hit from the beginning. For the next few years, the group performed regularly for free at parties and in church basements. "We were clinging to our day jobs," co-founder Elaina Newport said. "Frankly, we were trying not to get in trouble."

Today, Capitol Steps is still performing, although not in church basements. It's a \$3 million-a-year industry with more than 40 employees who sing and satirize at venues across the country.

The group's success was "totally out of the blue," Mr. Strauss said. "Neither I nor anyone else was expecting it."

Mr. Strauss's more serious side found expression in six books he co-authored about

American generations and as co-founder of Cappies, a high school critics and awards program. He also wrote three musicals—“MaKiddo,” “Stopscandal.com,” and “Anasazi”—and co-wrote with Newport two books of satire, “Fools on the Hill” (1992) and “Sixteen Scandals” (2002).

“He packed several lifetimes into his 60 years,” Newport said.

William Arthur Strauss was born in Chicago and spent most of his childhood in Burlingame, Calif., in the San Francisco area. He was a Capitol page in 1963, during his junior year in high school, and graduated from Harvard University in 1969. He received a law degree from Harvard Law School and a master’s degree from Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, both in 1973, but knew from his first semester in law school that he did not want to practice law. The summer his classmates took the bar exam, he and his wife were on a 40-day honeymoon trip across Africa.

The couple moved to Washington in 1973, and Mr. Strauss took a position as a policy aide for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services). He moved the next year to the Presidential Clemency Board, where he directed a research team writing a report on the impact of the Vietnam War on the draft-eligible generation.

A year later, he and Larry Baskir co-wrote “Chance and Circumstance” (1978), a book about the Vietnam-era draft. Their second book, “Reconciliation After Vietnam” (1987), was said to have influenced President Jimmy Carter to issue a blanket pardon to draft resisters.

Mr. Strauss worked at the Department of Energy from 1977 to 1979 and then was offered the position of general counsel of the Selective Service System. Political objections derailed the offer: Someone pointed out that in the preface to “Chance and Circumstance,” he had admitted helping a classmate eat enough to be too heavy for the draft.

The day Mr. Strauss heard about his rejection, he learned of an opening as a committee staffer with Percy. When Republicans took control of the Senate a year later, in 1980, Mr. Strauss became chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Government Processes.

He had grown up listening to political satirists Tom Lehrer and Stan Freberg and had written a few political poems in college, but making a living with Capitol Steps was, in Mr. Strauss’s words, “a big entrepreneurial leap.”

He would never lack for material, however—from Sen. Gary Hart and “Monkey Business” to Vice President Dick Cheney (“The Angina Monologues”). In the late 1980s, he perfected his backwards talk routine, “Lirty Dies,” just in time for President Bill Clinton (“Clinton’s Libido Loco”) and Monica Lewinsky (“My Mama Told Me: You’d Better Sleep Around”).

Made up mostly of Republicans, with a few Democrats and independents—to spread the blame a bit,” Newport said—the troupe, at Mr. Strauss’s insistence, has always tried to be equal-opportunity satirists. “Generally people wanted to be in the show,” he said, even when they were the ones being spoofed.

As Capitol Steps was taking up more of his time, Mr. Strauss was exploring American history through the cycle of generations. With co-author Neil Howe, he wrote “Generations” (1991), “13th Gen” (1993), “The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy” (1998), “Millennials Rising” (1999), “Millennials Go to College” (2003) and “Millennials and the Pop Culture” (2005).

In 1999, Mr. Strauss received a diagnosis of an aggressive strain of pancreatic cancer.

The diagnosis prompted him to form the high school Critics and Awards Program, known as Cappies. “I decided this would be my calling, performing less and concentrating on starting this program,” he said.

Cappies arranges for high school students to attend and review each other’s shows, with top reviews published in local newspapers. Sixty Washington-area schools are involved with the program, as well as 17 additional schools in the United States and Canada. Top Cappies winners perform shows at the Kennedy Center, and student creative teams, under Mr. Strauss’s oversight, have written two musicals. The most recent, “Senioritis,” has been made into a movie that is to be released in March.

“He had so many different projects in the air,” said Judy Bowns, his Cappies colleague for nine years, “and the amazing thing is that they were completed with a standard of excellence that was mind-boggling.”

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Janie Strauss of McLean; four children, Melanie Yee and Rebecca Strauss of McLean, Victoria Hays of Fairfax County and Eric Strauss of Reston; and one granddaughter.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this reckless energy policy, which will do absolutely nothing to make us energy independent, or lower energy costs. This bill sets us on a dangerous path and ties our hands in a regulatory mess to ensure that we cannot produce domestic energy.

Like my colleagues, I believe we should find solutions to address the growing demand for energy. The biggest concern facing the farmers and ranchers of this country is increased input costs from higher fuel prices and fertilizer. The U.S. fertilizer industry relies upon natural gas as the fundamental feedstock for the production of nitrogen fertilizer. The rest of the U.S. farm sector also depends on significant amounts of natural gas for food processing, irrigation, crop drying, heating farm buildings and homes, the production of crop protection chemicals, and, let’s not forget, ethanol biofuel production. In addition to the farm sector, the forest products industry relies more on natural gas than any other fossil fuel, and energy amounts to the third largest manufacturing cost for the industry.

Unbelievably, this legislation contains no new energy supplies in it and does nothing to relieve the burdens of increased costs on producers who provide the food and fiber for American consumers. It seems that the majority’s plan to move toward energy independence includes limiting domestic energy production and imposing new government mandates that will prove to be costly and burdensome to the American people.

This legislation would dramatically expand the Renewable Fuels Standard RFS, by increasing it to 36 billion gallons by 2022. This initiative is extremely ambitious and could be achieved by tapping all sectors of agriculture including plant and wood waste, vegetable oil, and animal fat and waste which would result in the production of 21 billion gallons of cel-

lulosic ethanol. While I am in favor of finding new markets for agriculture products, what good is finding new markets for agriculture commodities when the cost of production is too much for our farmers and ranchers?

We should develop a policy that is technology neutral and allows the market to develop new sources of renewable energy. The RFS provisions create an unrealistic mandate for advanced biofuels technology that doesn’t yet exist and creates hurdles for the development of second generation biofuels by placing restrictions on alternative fuels, renewable fuel plant production, and, most important, limits the harvesting of our homegrown feedstocks. These restrictions will undoubtedly lead to a consumer tax to help bridge the gap in production that will occur if this policy is put into place.

Even with the advancement of cellulosic ethanol, the expansion of the RFS would still require 15 billion gallons of renewable fuel to come from the only current commercially available option: grain ethanol.

Last year, 20 percent of the U.S. corn crop was used for ethanol production and that amount is expected to rise significantly over the next few years. With feed stocks meeting most of our renewable fuel initiatives, the livestock sector is facing significantly higher feed costs. Corn and soybeans’ most valuable market has always been, and will continue to be, the livestock producers. We must ensure that there are not unintended economic distortions to either grain or livestock producers as a result of these sectors prospering from other markets.

The benefits of reduced reliance on foreign energy sources, stable energy prices, and new markets for agricultural products should not be replaced with a risk of adding even more increased input costs for livestock producers and creating even higher food prices for consumers.

In addition to the above mentioned concerns, I’m also deeply disappointed that the Renewable Fuels Standard would essentially shut out one of the largest potential sources of feedstock for renewable fuel, forest biomass. In total, forests have the potential to sustainably produce 370 million tons of biomass for energy every year. This is approximately two and one-half times the amount of forest biomass we currently consume in traditional forest products. This amount of forest biomass could produce 24 billion gallons of ethanol per year, according to very conservative estimates. This could supplement, not replace, existing forest products markets.

Unfortunately, H.R. 6 would not allow forest biomass grown on public lands to be used to meet the Renewable Fuel Standard, unless the biomass was removed near buildings, public infrastructure, or areas people inhabit regularly. This greatly reduces the opportunity for any substantial market in the energy sector for the byproducts of hazardous fuels reduction. These markets could help lower the costs of reducing wildfire risks and improving forest health on public lands. With the restrictions in H.R. 6, very little of these byproducts could be used to meet the Standard. Currently, we have serious issues in our public forests, with over 90 million acres at risk of wildfire, insects, and diseases. H.R. 6 would do nothing to help address these concerns.

Additionally, H.R. 6 stipulates that, with respect to private forests, only forest biomass

removed from “tree plantations” or biomass that is considered slash or brush can be used to meet the renewable fuel standard. It would also exclude any biomass taken from old growth forests, forests in the later stages of development, or forests that are considered “ecological communities” as defined by State Natural Heritage Programs.

With these restrictions, this Renewable Fuels Standard discourages efforts to reduce wildfire risk, control insects and disease in forests, improve forest health and wildlife habitat, and create market opportunities for family forest owners. There is also a tremendous opportunity to utilize existing forest products industry infrastructure to produce renewable fuels. H.R. 6 would do little to encourage that development.

A renewable fuels producer would likely look at all these restrictions on forest biomass and decide not to bother with forestry materials. If we are to come anywhere close to meeting the RFS mandates in H.R. 6, we must have a substantial amount of forest biomass as a feedstock. I’m deeply concerned that we will not be able to meet these mandates with the restrictions in H.R. 6 on the use of forest biomass.

This energy policy, set in place by the Democrat majority, exemplifies the Democrat motto through and through: tax and spend. This bill imposes \$21 billion in tax increases. The other side will tell you that these tax increases will not affect the average hardworking American, only the “big, evil oil companies.” Nothing could be farther from the truth. The taxes contained in this bill will impede new domestic oil and gas production, will discourage investment in new refinery capacity, and will make it more expensive for domestic energy companies to operate in the U.S. than their foreign competitors, making the price at the pump rise even higher.

Let’s make no mistake: an increased tax doesn’t just hurt energy companies, it hurts every American—individual, farm, or company—that consumes energy. Increased taxes on energy companies are passed to consumers. Every American will see these increased costs on their energy bill. This body shouldn’t pass legislation that further raises energy prices for consumers.

What is even more disturbing is that these increased costs will be felt by some of our Nation’s most poor. On average, the Nation’s working poor spends approximately 13 to 30 percent of their yearly income on energy costs. This average is already too high, and sadly this legislation will only dramatically increase the amount of money these workers will have to spend on energy costs. I have heard those on the other side of the aisle say that we must all shoulder the cost to produce clean energy. Well, the costs of the clean energy in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) alone, as estimated by just one of Virginia’s many electric utilities, will increase \$200 million for its retail customers. By shifting to renewable energy sources, that are not as available or as cost effective as traditional sources, we will see a rise in energy prices across the board and this will be hardest felt by working people who cannot afford to shoulder any more costs.

While this bill is said to be focused on new energy technologies, it fails to address some of our most promising domestic alternative and renewable energy supplies that could be

cost effective for American consumers. Coal is one of our Nation’s most abundant resources, yet the development of coal-to-liquid technologies is ignored in this bill. Furthermore, this legislation does nothing to encourage the construction of new nuclear facilities.

Proponents of this legislation will tout how green this bill is; however, if my colleagues really want to promote green energy they should encourage the production of more nuclear sites, which provide CO₂ emission-free energy. The rest of the world is far outpacing the U.S. in its commitment to clean nuclear energy. We generate only 20 percent of our energy from this clean energy, when other countries can generate about 80 percent of their electricity needs through nuclear. It is a travesty that in over 1,000 pages this legislation does not once mention or encourage the construction of clean and reliable nuclear plants. Nuclear energy is the most reliable and advanced of any renewable energy technology, and if we are serious about encouraging CO₂-free energy use, we must support nuclear energy.

This legislation does nothing to address the energy concerns of our country; and it does nothing to relieve agricultural producers of their increasing input costs. This legislation only makes the situation worse and it is the product of a flawed process that does not have bipartisan support.

This bill is a dangerous policy for our country. If we really want to make our country energy independent, this Congress must pass an energy bill that contains energy. This bill does not. I urge my colleagues to reject this awful bill, let’s start over, and work to find real solutions to the energy needs of our Nation.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Energy Independence and Security Act—a major step towards securing a new, clean energy policy for America.

Last November the American people told Congress that they wanted a new direction in our Nation’s energy policy. Today we have the opportunity to vote for a bill that the overwhelming majority of our constituents agree is the most significant Federal energy legislation in nearly 30 years—a bill that helps our country deal with the current energy crisis, prepare for the energy realities of the future, and address the impending climate crisis.

The Energy Independence and Security Act contains an increase in fuel economy standards for cars and trucks. Raising CAFE standards will also reduce America’s dependence on foreign oil by 1.1 million gallons per day, cut emissions almost 27 million tons per year, and save Minnesota families up to \$1000 every year.

The Energy Independence and Security Act sets landmark energy efficiency standards for appliances, lighting, and buildings. As a result, American consumers and companies will save billions of dollars in unnecessary energy costs, while decreasing their burden on the planet.

And the Energy Independence and Security Act makes a commitment to the fuels of the future, by replacing Middle East crude with Midwest crops.

By supporting this legislation we can make the first big step towards a more secure and more environmentally sustainable America. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and to continue working to overcome the obstructionism of the President for additional, needed reforms for our country and our planet.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 1173, during consideration of H. Con. Res. 254, recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood I incorrectly voted “nay”, when I intended to vote “Yea”.

SCAPPOOSE-VERNONIA SCHOOL

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, as my colleagues know, in early December, the Pacific Northwest coast experienced severe storms. The storms caused devastating damage that isolated towns, left citizens without housing, transportation, communications, water, heat or electricity, and tragically caused loss of life. One city in my district, Vernonia, was particularly hard hit. The elementary, middle and high school were all severely damaged. Because of the damage, Vernonia students in grades 6–12 are now going to school in the nearby community of Scappoose. Although the storm recovery continues, and will continue for sometime, I wanted to share with my colleagues the following communication from Scappoose High School Principal Sue Hays reporting on the first day of Scappoose-Vernonia school. Her message is one of communities coming together, neighbors and families helping each other. Simply put, Oregonians at their best.

I will continue to do all I can to assist Oregon communities and families recover from the storms, but I wanted my colleagues in the House to know that the compassionate, proud, and hardy Oregon spirit shines on. Here is Principal Hays’ message:

“Dear Scappoose Families,

I wanted to let you know how our first day of Scappoose-Vernonia School was. It was a great day, a very emotional day as the Vernonia students arrived in seven buses. Their teachers greeted them at the cafeteria doors with open arms. Every comment from the Vernonia staff to students was so heart felt. Questions about how is your family? How is your house? Are you ok? And . . . “we are so glad you are here . . . we have missed you” was repeated with each child. Many hugs took place as if these students had not seen each other for a lifetime! It was a very emotional moment for some of us.

We managed to feed all 300 students that showed up in record time, and then the

Vernonia students were off to the gym for an assembly and to get their new schedules. The Scappoose students then assisted the students to their classrooms and gave them guided tours of our building. Our Scappoose students came in for lunch shortly afterwards and then they headed home for the day.

It is now 3:30 and the halls are quiet and the Vernonia student's grades 6–12 are in class listening to teachers and working away on the latest assignment given to them. It is like nothing ever happened and they don't seem to know that they are even in Scappoose. They do know that there is teaching and learning going on, friends have re-united and the teachers that love them are there to support them and teach them.

I am so in awe of our staff and students who have handled this situation with grace, enthusiasm and superb organizational skills. The Vernonia students and staff have been very appreciative and they do have "stories" to tell. I talked to a couple of students today where one told me he still had 6 feet of water in his house. Another student told me he lost everything including his house. The lesson of the day was "giving and receiving".

Thank you all for your support and "class act" that your sons and daughters displayed today, even at 7:30 am in the morning! Report was that most everyone was on time!

If any of you wish to volunteer to "man" the donation areas at the high school, please let us know via email scappoosehighschool@scappoose.k12.or.us. Mr. Casey Honl has volunteered to coordinate and supervise the donations! People are now wanting to donate appliances and furniture, and we are trying to locate a facility that we can store the items in. We are still accepting cash donations with checks made out to "Vernonia School Project". We are hoping to get all students a new pair of tennis shoes. I have 60 donated from Nike at this time. Lastly, we can't forget the food drive to fill our own food bank in Scappoose as well as sending food to Vernonia. The U-haul in front of the school will be open school hours Wednesday through Saturday am. Thanks again for being such a great community! You are loved!

IN TRIBUTE OF BERTRAM M. LEE
SR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Bertram M. Lee Sr., a trailblazing entrepreneur who exemplified the truest ideals of courage, fortitude and commitment. Bertram believed that there was nothing he could not achieve or conquer with personal dedication and faith as his instruments.

Bertram, who died in October 2003, gained national recognition as a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist. He broke through the barriers that sought to limit his vision to accomplish more than was expected of a person of his background. He launched large, sophisticated firms and expanded opportunities for other Black entrepreneurs and executives in media and telecommunications industries.

As lead investor and president of Dudley Station Corporation he was in the vanguard of minority ownership of major media properties. His efforts culminated in 1982, when New England Television Corporation, a minority-led consortium acquired WNEV-TV, Boston's CBS affiliate. Under his leadership as President of the corporation from 1982–1986, both the value of the station and its journalistic quality increased.

Bertram went on to become the first minority owner of a professional sports franchise as co-owner and managing partner of the Denver Nuggets basketball team. In banking, he showed outstanding leadership as chairman of the board of directors of Boston Bank of Commerce. He also served on the boards of Shawmut Bank and Reebok International, Inc. A common thread woven through all of his accomplishments was his ability to expand existing boundaries and open opportunities in areas that were traditionally closed to African-Americans.

In politics, we worked together on the historic campaign to elect David Dinkins, the first African American mayor of my beloved city of New York. We shared a view of the world that believed in, and struggled for, the empowerment of African Americans no matter where they were on the globe. I urge my colleague to join me in recognizing this great American.

END OF SESSION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to adjourn for the holiday season, we eagerly await the chance to spend time with our loved ones.

Radio music and advertisements offer cheery Jingle Bell tunes, the Christmas tree on the West Lawn has been lit, and we leave with a spirit of benevolence, wishing all a merry Christmas.

But unfortunately, Madam Speaker, not all who like Christmas will have it be merry because of a Grinch mean and scary who vetoes our bills with nary a thought.

The Grinch stole Christmas, Madam Speaker. He's robbed from the WHOS, and there's not a one weaker. And who are the WHOS? Why, any child can tell you—the WHOS are the children, the hungry, the poor, the ones we should help, not shove out the door.

While the tone I take is somewhat light-hearted, the subject matter is serious. The President, at almost every turn, has thwarted our efforts to help the most needy and vulnerable in our society.

First, the President has been callous towards the most vulnerable—our children, especially foster children.

The President vetoed a 15 million dollar increase for those children who surrounded by domestic violence are forced to take the safest way out—run. These youth depend on programs authorized under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act that fund homeless shelters and counseling to diffuse conflict at home and enable them to be reunited with their families.

Mr. Speaker, the 5 million dollar increase Congress approved for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program—also vetoed by the President.

To the orphaned foster youth who are denied services when the clock strikes midnight on their 18th birthday, the President turns his back on them. Homeless, without health insurance, they become just another statistic to be quoted in the list of "throwaway" youth.

The President denied the sum of a mere 500,000 dollars to create a national registry on child abuse, a provision Congress passed with bipartisan support in the Adam Walsh Act.

Currently, Madam Speaker, child abusers need only to cross state lines to avoid prosecution and find employment as teachers or daycare providers. This national registry would track the offenses of predators to prevent abuse, and it is unconscionable to deny funds for this program.

That is not all that's been taken from under the tree. It's just the beginning, I hope you will see.

We demand so much from parents this day in age, Madam Speaker. They balance full-time parenting with full-time employment, often, at the cost of family life.

They make this sacrifice with the promise of providing a better future for their children. They send them to school and trust it will better equip them for tomorrow.

However, this President has turned a blind eye towards the education of our children.

The President's priorities translate into budget cuts for programs like Head Start, who will be forced to shut their programs door on 34,000 children.

Despite Congressional intent to increase funding for the 6.9 million children receiving special education, the President wants to reduce that funding and slash K-12 education by 1.3 billion dollars.

Madam Speaker, the President's priorities must not be allowed to stand. All children, no matter what their station in life, deserve a quality education and this Congress will continue to fight to ensure we honor our obligations to them.

And while the President will enjoy many Christmas carols this season, he wants to eliminate funding for Universal Newborn Hearing programs.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on. This short, but illuminating list, best highlights the differences between the priorities of our two parties.

Congress will continue to fight for these vital programs and to ensure that the least among us are well protected. As we adjourn for the holidays and celebrate the season with our families, let us get in the Christmas spirit and rededicate ourselves to the welfare of the most vulnerable.

"And the Grinch with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Thank you, happy holidays.

PASSING OF JUDGE ERNEST A.
LOVELESS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a dear friend of mine, Judge Ernest Loveless, and to offer my condolences to his family on his passing.

In the State of Maryland, few judges commanded more respect than Judge Loveless. First appointed to the 7th Judicial Circuit in 1960, Judge Loveless rose to the position of Chief judge in 1976. Serving on the bench until his retirement in 1992, Judge Loveless left behind a legacy of fair rulings and a more effective and efficient court.

During his 32 years on the 7th Circuit, Judge Loveless became known for his management skills. As the populations of Prince George's County and southern Maryland grew in the 1970s, Judge Loveless recognized the need to update the court's systems to better enable it to handle the increased caseload. He succeeded in installing new computer systems, and he made other necessary changes to help the 7th Circuit keep pace with the changing times.

Known across our State as an expert on juvenile law, Judge Loveless presided over thousands of adoption cases, even adopting two children of his own. He had the foresight to hire a resident psychologist to assist with family law matters, a valuable asset to the court and the cases it handles.

On a personal note, I believe it was clear to all who knew him that serving others was a deeply held value for Judge Loveless. Before becoming a judge, he served our Nation proudly in the Navy during World War II, and he then went on to serve the people of Maryland in the House of Delegates from 1954 to 1960. He was active in several civic organizations in Clinton, MD, and he continued to contribute to the community throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, Judge Loveless was a good and honest man who lived an honorable life, and he will long be remembered in southern Maryland and Prince George's County for his devotion, his knowledge of the law, and his fairness. I join countless Marylanders whose lives were touched by Judge Loveless in sending my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

**INTRODUCTION OF PREPAID
DERIVATIVES BILL**

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation addressing the taxation of prepaid derivative contracts. The appropriate tax treatment of financial products is ever evolving, just as the market for these products is. Occasionally, Congress or the Treasury must step in and clarify how these new offerings should be treated under the tax code. And my bill today will do that.

Recently, a new product called Exchange Traded Notes, has caught the attention of reg-

ulators and investors. The main benefit of these notes is their tax treatment. Issuers have advised buyers that these interests receive almost unlimited tax deferral on any gain earned. And, they advise that even when the gain is recognized at the point that the note is sold or redeemed, it is taxed as long-term capital gain and not ordinary income. These notes can run as long as 30 years and track an exchange rate, index, or commodity.

So, with almost unlimited tax deferral, it seems that many other investments would pale in comparison. Already, many investors have caught on. These exchange-traded notes have garnered \$4 billion of investment in a very short period of time. Some argue that this tax treatment is justified, as holders of these notes have some credit risk. If the issuer goes under, the holder may not get paid.

But this favorable tax treatment has not gone without notice. In a *Tax Notes* magazine article aptly titled, "Too Good To Be True?" one practitioner called this tax treatment, "The Wild West of the tax law." And one columnist in the *Washington Post* likened this new tax sheltering opportunity as opening "Pandora's Tax Box." It is important to note that this favorable tax treatment is premised on the opinion of one law firm.

More recently, Treasury has stepped in to clarify that Exchange Traded Notes tied to foreign currencies are debt and do generate taxable income to investors. In a companion notice, Treasury asked for comments on whether holders of other prepaid forward contracts should be required to accrue income during the term of the contract. It is possible that Treasury will produce guidance providing appropriate clarity in this market, but in the interim, I believe legislative action is warranted.

The legislation that I am filing today provides rules for the tax treatment of prepaid derivative contracts, which includes Exchange Traded Notes. Holders of such instruments will be required to include as interest income each year an amount determined by reference to a short-term interest rate. The basis in such contract would be adjusted by any income inclusion so that at disposition, any gain or loss would be properly accounted for just as it would be with any other investment receiving annual payments.

In past Congresses, I have pursued legislation to curb vehicles providing unlimited tax deferral to investors, such as swap funds. I believe it is important that our tax laws reach instances where interest is earned or gain recognized, especially where the products are complex or lack transparency. The legislation that I am filing today takes another step in that direction. But I welcome constructive comments from practitioners on both sides of this issue. Above all, if we amend the tax code, we want to get it right the first time.

I look forward to discussing this complex issue with my colleagues in the New Year and seeking their support for this bill.

H.R. 2640

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, this bill makes important changes to the national in-

stant check system, designed to help States identify and prevent convicted felons and other dangerous individuals from owning firearms.

As it currently stands, millions of criminal records are not accessible by the instant check system, and millions of additional records fall through the cracks as a result of backlog and other problems. The bill will help cure these problems by providing the resources and incentives needed to modernize the system and ensure that the records are up to date.

Improving and enhancing the instant check system will help prevent future tragedies such as the Virginia Tech shootings earlier this year, where there is clear reason to know, after due process, that the individual in question should not own a gun.

The House has passed this bill in each of the last two Congresses. Now the Senate has passed it, with changes dealing with the procedures for restoring gun ownership rights.

While I continue to have reservations about the new process for restoring gun ownership rights to individuals previously diagnosed with mental illness, and will be monitoring its implementation very closely, passage of the underlying bill is extremely important.

I want to again thank my good friends CAROLYN McCARTHY and JOHN DINGELL, as well as RICK BOUCHER from the Judiciary Committee, and LAMAR SMITH, our Ranking Member, for all their work on this important matter.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF DR. RICHARD
CHESTEEN**

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long, distinguished career of an esteemed educator, a dedicated public servant, a tireless community leader and my friend, Richard Chesteen, PhD.

Richard's academic career began almost 50 years ago. He earned his Associate's Degree from Holmes Junior College, his Bachelor's Degree from Delta State University, then his Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree in Political Science at the University of Mississippi. We have been fortunate to have him as a professor and faculty leader at the University of Tennessee at Martin, in the heart of northwest Tennessee, since 1969.

Dr. Chesteen's leadership has always stretched beyond the edge of the UTM campus. He has held active positions in scores of government and political organizations in Weakley and Obion counties and throughout Tennessee. Richard has served on the Obion County Commission, the Obion County Regional Planning Commission and the Obion County Democratic Party.

Statewide, Richard was a candidate for governor in the 1994 primary, where he earned a reputation for working on thoughtful solutions toward the problems facing our state at that time. Over the years, he has also served on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the Tennessee County Services Association and Tennessee Cares,

an organization to help single parents with the educational support they need to get back into the workforce. These are just a few of an extensive list of ways Richard has served our community and state.

Even as he looks toward retirement, Dr. Chesteen is not giving up on his dedication to education. He has helped found the Richard Chesteen Endowment for Government Internships at the University of Tennessee Martin to offer more first-hand opportunities for today's political science students, who will be the leaders of tomorrow, both in this great chamber and in other leadership positions throughout our country.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in congratulating Richard Chesteen and his family on his retirement, thanking him for his tireless service and honoring his work with the new Endowment for Government Internships.

FEDERAL FOOD DONATION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for H.R. 4220—The Federal Food Donation Act of 2007. During this holiday season, millions of Americans reach into their pockets and pantries to help those less fortunate in their communities. Many times these donations go to non-for-profits like the Community Harvest Food Bank in northeast Indiana or In-As-Much Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana. These organizations then hand-out the food to those in need. While the supply of donations is high this time of year, demand is even higher. This legislation will allow the Federal Government to help increase the supply of wholesome food to orga-

nizations by removing red tape and allowing excess food that would otherwise be wasted go to those who need it.

In northeast Indiana demand has increased this year and the community has stepped up its efforts. Millers Poultry in Orland, Indiana has donated thousands of eggs and over 10,000 lbs of chicken to the Community Harvest Food Bank. The local Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry group in northeast Indiana has also donated 15,000 lbs of venison. With help from processors like New Haven's Custom Meats and Lengacher Meats in Grabill, this venison is easily distributed to hungry families in the community.

While 25,000 lbs of meat seems like a lot, local pantries in Fort Wayne are giving out 10,000 lbs of food per day. I would like to thank those who have helped fill local food banks and urge those who have not yet donated to contact their local food bank or charity and give all you can to help those going hungry this Christmas Season.