

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I regret that on January 29, 2008, due to the Florida primary I was unable to be in Washington for votes.

HONORING EARL WILLIAMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brilliant life of Mr. Earl Williams. Earl was a caring friend, family member, and leader in the community. He will be greatly missed, but the positive impact he has left will remain in the hearts of all who had the honor of knowing him.

It is with a deep sense of sadness that I rise today to deliver condolences to the family and friends of a great man, a brilliant human being and a true servant of God. However, it is also with a deep sense of gratitude to Earl's family and friends for sharing this loyal, patriotic, and compassionate man with us that I rise to celebrate his life and honor his legacy.

As a person committed to those who are most vulnerable and most in need in our world, Earl was committed to creating safe havens for individuals who needed the love and kindness of their neighbors to see them through difficult times. He worked tirelessly as an administrator and part owner of Garden Plaza Convalescent Home in Los Angeles, CA. Earl was also the founder of Liberty Child Care Center in Chicago.

His wide reach—involved in communities as different as Chicago and Los Angeles—and his limitless compassion drove his intentions to service humankind, and to do the Lord's work on this earth.

Earl was a true patriot, serving his country as an outstanding and dedicated member of the United States Army. He and his family were proud of his service, and our country owes him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to his country.

As a devoted family man, Earl always demonstrated his unwavering and unconditional love, loyalty, and devotion to each and every member of his family. He was a true role model to those whose lives he touched in so many ways.

Today, I join with Earl's family and friends in bidding him farewell. I salute Earl Williams for a life well lived. Let us keep his legacy alive by recommitting our lives to his work and to his values to make this a better world. May his beautiful spirit continue to live and guide our lives, helping us to be true to our family, our friends, our community, our country, and most importantly, to our God.

Today, California's Ninth Congressional District joins with the communities of Los Angeles, CA, Chicago, IL, and all the places where Earl William's love touched the lives of those who knew him, to salute and honor a great human being. We extend our deepest condolences to Earl's family. Thank you for sharing his great spirit with so many. May his soul rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MELISSA BOOSMAN FOR ACHIEVING THE GOLD AWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Melissa Boosman, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1262, and by earning the most prestigious Gold Award.

Less than 1 percent of all Girl Scouts in the United States earn this prestigious award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. It symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Melissa Boosman for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE CENTER VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company of Clarence, New York. For a century the members of the Clarence Hose Company have been volunteering to protect their neighbors.

The Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company became the first fire company in the town of Clarence in 1908. The company began as a stock company and was able to purchase a hand drawn hose cart and chemical fire extinguishers. Land for a fire hall was donated to the fire company by a local businessman, and fundraising for the construction began in July 1908 with the first firemen's pic-

nic in Clarence. With the help of a local farmer, Wesley Williams, the company raised enough money to construct Williams Hall.

The year 1922 marked a milestone for the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company. In February of this year the company was able to purchase its first fire truck. The acquisition of this truck was important to the protection that the fire company offered the people in Clarence. Additionally, the first annual Labor Day picnic was held in 1922. This is a time-honored event in the town of Clarence; not only is it a way for the fire company to raise funds for improvements to the equipment used to serve the people of Clarence, but it is an event that families throughout the town look forward to every year.

Since its beginnings the Clarence Volunteer Fire Company has become an indispensable part of the town. The company remains committed to providing fire, rescue, and EMS services to the citizens that reside within the district boundaries. They've continued to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population of Clarence Center. As we reach the 100th anniversary of this fire company the volunteers continue to dedicate themselves to serve and assist the members of their community.

Thus Madam Speaker, in recognition of its 100th anniversary of tremendous service in the town of Clarence, I ask this Honorable Body join me in honoring the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company.

HONORING DR. RICHARD WITKOWSKI, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Richard Witkowski, Superintendent of the Garden City Public Schools, upon his retirement from a distinguished 41-year career in education.

For just over four decades, Superintendent Witkowski has served the citizens of Wayne County. Richard began his 39-year tenure with the Garden City Public Schools in 1969 after 2 years with the Gibraltar schools. Throughout his distinguished career with the Garden City Public Schools, Richard served as both an educator and administrator. Mr. Witkowski began as a mathematics and science teacher at Garden City East High School in 1969 before moving across town and becoming Assistant Principal at Garden City West High School in 1971. Mr. Witkowski discovered an innate talent for administration, being promoted to director in the central office in 1974, business manager for the district in 1985, associate superintendent, and superintendent in 2001.

Superintendent Witkowski will be best remembered for his dedication, both to his job and community. Shortly after his promotion to

• 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.

superintendent, Richard was tested with several crises, including the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and a bacterial meningitis outbreak at the high school, which resulted in a first-ever schoolwide inoculation of the students. He also oversaw the rebuilding of the district's five elementary schools, assisting school staff in directing students to buses, which would take students to their temporary classrooms. Witkowski remains active in the community as a member of the Garden City Rotary and the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. Richard has served as president of both organizations and currently serves as treasurer of the Rotary. Superintendent Witkowski will also continue his commitment to education and connection with students through the class he teaches at Madonna University in Livonia.

Madam Speaker, for 41 years Superintendent Richard Witkowski has faithfully served Michigan citizens of all ages. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superintendent Richard Witkowski upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community's and country's future.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM T.
LICHTER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Lichter for his 29 years of devoted service to the Village of Lombard, Illinois.

In early life, Bill served as Assistant City Manager for Mentor, Ohio and Administrative Assistant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont. He then earned a Master's degree in Political Administration from American University and is also currently a Ph.D. candidate at Northern Illinois University.

Bill Lichter began his service to the Village of Lombard on January 7, 1985, when he became its ninth Village Manager. Since that day, he has served with vision and fortitude for over 22 years.

Through the years, Bill has been an insightful observer, keen in his understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout his career, he has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While Lombard has gone through change after change over the years, one thing has remained the same. Bill Lichter has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the Village Board and working tirelessly for the benefit of his community.

Bill has had many accomplishments over the years, though they are too numerous to list exhaustively. Chief among them, however, are his success in improving the Village's long-term financial forecasting and management and his rewarding efforts to promote local economic development.

Bill Lichter has been an advocate for the people of Lombard since his very first days in office more than two decades ago. In his time

with the Village, he has affected countless lives and left an indelible impression on Lombard and its residents.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Bill Lichter is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Lombard. Please join me in honoring this unsung hero for his extraordinary career and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way: Final passage of New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act, H.R. 1528 (Rollcall No. 28): I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Children's Dental Health Month. Each February, the American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. As a part of their awareness efforts, dentists and dental hygienists from across the country and in my home State of Idaho join together and volunteer their time to provide free care to children.

As a dentist, I understand the need for children to receive proper dental care. This includes going to the dentist regularly for check-ups and treatment when problems arise. Oral health is critical to a person's overall health and means more than healthy teeth. Research continues to show that many diseases and conditions show themselves in the mouth. For people who don't have access to dental care, oral disease is almost 100 percent inevitable—and almost 100 percent preventable.

This is particularly heartbreaking when it affects our children. Children with poor oral health can have problems eating, sleeping properly, paying attention in school and even smiling, because they suffer constant pain. Unfortunately, many of us don't realize the extent and severity of untreated dental disease in children.

In my State of Idaho, over 35 percent of children lack dental insurance. More than 25 percent of elementary school-aged children in Idaho suffer from untreated tooth decay. If the problems go untreated, a child will often end up in a hospital emergency or operating room, which costs far more than a trip to the dentist.

Hundreds of dentists and oral healthcare providers in Idaho and across the country donate their time and energy to help this cause, and I graciously thank them. While National Children's Dental Health Month will not solve

the issues of access to oral healthcare by itself, it is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and provide care to our most important and vulnerable resource—our children.

NICHOLAS ROYCE, FIFTY YEARS
AND STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD
FIGHT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. BERMAN, Madam Speaker, the name Nicholas Royce deserves to be added to the list of dedicated Americans who exemplify the spirit of achievement. He has earned this recognition for his long and outstanding career as a performer, and his devotion to many entertainment industry humanitarian causes, typifying the altruism that is so much a part of the American character.

Of special significance is the fact that through his life, he has been in the forefront with the independent efforts and advocacy for civil, constitutional, human and spiritual rights.

He was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to Theodore and Anastasia Vlangas, both natives of Sparta, Greece. At the age of 6 years old his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he became aware that this faith and origin were different from most Americans. Challenged by ethnic and religious obstacles, he became motivated to learn every truth he could about his faith and his origin.

With the encouragement of his sister Stella, he made his show business debut at the Lord Baltimore Hotel and followed that with a successful tour of the east coast during school vacation, and all at the age of 14, and with his parents' blessing.

After high school he entered the Armed Forces and entertained WWII vets in the Army base hospitals in the United States and Japan. Because of his ethnic look he became known as the Greek Fred Astaire in G.I. clothing.

The Armed Forces had limited religious choices; Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. Where's a poor Greek Orthodox kid to go for religious salvation? Thanks to Nicholas and his late friend Senator Leverett Saltonstall, representing 500,000 Orthodox Catholics who fought and died for the constitution, a bill reached Congress in 1955 to create such a place in the military. Today servicemen wear tags designating Eastern Orthodoxy and have Orthodox chaplains. Thirty-three States quickly recognized Eastern Orthodoxy as a major faith.

After he left the service, the American Legion's Pennsylvanian district honored Royce for his continued efforts as an entertainer to bring joy to veterans in hospitals.

After his visit to Turkey in 1965, Royce waged a tireless campaign to return St. Sophia Cathedral in Istanbul to an open house of worship instead of a museum. It was converted to a mosque in 1453 and Royce changed history with that campaign. Thanks to Royce, "the Orthodox Christian cry for help" has been taken to the United Nations human rights office in Geneva, European parliament, European Union, and to every religious and world leader and to every President since the Carter administration.

Vlangas became Royce at his agent's request and with his parents' blessing, thus following the show business practice of the time. He changed his name, but never forgot who he was. Even at the height of his career in the late 40s and 50s the Nicholas Royce dancers stood for all good things and wowed 'em with Nat King Cole's "Calypso Blues", and a modern dance number based on "Harlem Nocturn". They performed in all the top supper clubs, niterys and TV shows; Ed Sullivan, Milton Berle, Kate Smith, etc.

From his new home in California, starting in 1957, Nicholas Royce has exercised his rights as a layman of the Orthodox faith. He launched a vigorous letter writing campaign to mass media, Government officials, private and public agencies, industry and individuals, and he has succeeded in broadening the public's understanding and recognition of the Orthodox faith. Because "exclusion of Orthodoxy is a form of discrimination and prejudice", Nicholas has made these efforts, so Orthodoxy would be an integral part of American life along with other major faiths.

Retired since 1994, Royce now resides in Valley Village, California. Retirement has given him more time to fight for AIDS victims, the homeless, and abused women and children. He broke the stereotype by joining the Hollywood Women's Press Club, Women in Film, and American Women in Radio and TV. In 1996, the University of Minnesota's Immigration history Research Center was pleased to announce the addition of "the Nicholas Royce papers" to their archival library.

Never one to rest on his laurels, he continues to accept new challenges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I regret that on January 28, 2008, due to travel complications, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4140 and S. 2110. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DR. ASA G. HILLIARD
III

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III (Baffour Amankwatia II). A devoted father, husband, mentor, and world-renowned humanitarian who worked tirelessly and inspired us all, Dr. Hilliard will be sorely missed by us all. Asa passed away on August 13, 2007.

An accomplished academic and devoted professor, Dr. Hilliard affected the lives of thousands of students. He was not only a mentor in his community, but a hero in the African Diaspora Movement. Dr. Hilliard began his academic career in Denver, where he earned a B.A. in Education Psychology, an M.A. in counseling, and a Ed.D in Education Psychology at the University of Denver.

Dr. Hilliard launched his professional career at the University of Denver, teaching at the College of Education and in Philosophy colloquium of the Centennial Scholars Honor Program. After moving with his family to California, Dr. Hilliard dedicated 18 years of his life to San Francisco State University. During this time, he served as Department Chair for two years, Dean of Education for eight years while also working as a consultant for the Peace Corps. Dr. Hilliard's influence and reach was truly global. As he mentored and taught students in the United States, he also made constant visits to Africa, serving as the Superintendent of Schools in Monrovia, Liberia for two years.

Dr. Hilliard was a founding member of the association for the study of Classical African Civilization, serving as its first Vice President. He was co-developer of a popular educational television series *Free Your Mind, Return to the Source: African Origins* and produced many videotapes and educational materials on African-American History through his production company, Weset Education Productions. Dr. Hilliard was so groundbreaking and forward-thinking in his approach to education that several of his methods have become national models in the field.

Dr. Hilliard was a purposeful man with an unquenchable passion for education and the preservation of his culture's history and traditions. Without reservation, Dr. Asa Hilliard significantly changed the world with his dedication to the preservation, study, and spiritual understanding of Africa, African Americans, and Africans in Diaspora throughout the world.

One of my long standing desires was to travel to Egypt with Dr. Hilliard on one of his study tours. Each time I saw him I mentioned this and we both were very excited about the prospect. Due to my hectic schedule, this never happened. As God will have it, I was in Ghana, West Africa, at the Cape Coast Slave Castle when I learned from Reverend Jeremiah Wright through Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. that Asa had passed the day before in Egypt. Like many, I was devastated and saddened, yet thankful to his family and to God for his amazing life. I reflected upon his death in Egypt in a prayerful manner, and took pause to commemorate this great soul.

His loving wife, Mrs. Patsy Jo Hilliard, has quoted Asa as repeatedly saying, "It is not enough for us to be bright and competent. We must also have purpose and direction. It is not enough for us to 'make it' on our own—to save ourselves. As Abena says in Armah's novel, *Two Thousand Seasons*, 'There is no self to save without the rest of us.'" In this way, Dr. Hilliard touched and influenced the lives of all who were privileged to come into contact with him.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, we salute and honor a great human being, our beloved Asa G. Hilliard III. We extend my deepest condolences to Asa's family, and our deepest gratitude to them for sharing this great spirit with us. May his soul rest in peace, and may we continue to benefit from the positive impact he left on the world.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS B.
HANSER FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas B. Hanser, 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.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas 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 Nicholas B. Hanser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EGGERTSVILLE HOSE COMPANY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eggertsville Hose Company of Amherst, New York. For a century the members of the Eggertsville Hose have been volunteering to protect their neighbors.

The Eggertsville Hose began in 1906 in a corner meat packing store after a series of household fires could not be extinguished. The two home blazes were unable to be controlled by the bucket brigade, the fire fighting team at the time. Residents of Eggertsville then banded together to form an organization that would provide better fire protection to the community.

This fire company was incorporated in May 1908. The Eggertsville Hose was the first fire company in the town of Amherst outside of the Village of Williamsville. Fighting to protect the members of their community is the main priority of this 100 percent volunteer fire district. No matter what it takes these volunteers rise to the call of duty.

The Eggertsville Hose is an indispensable part of the Amherst Community, the members of the Hose have dedicated countless hours of service to assist their neighbors. As the population in the district grows the Eggertsville Hose advances along with the rising need for their service. In 1995 the fire station was moved to the center of the district which allows the Hose to respond to emergencies in all areas in a shortened period of time. The new station location along with new equipment and technology makes it possible for the volunteer fire fighters to be increasingly effective in their firefighting capabilities.

The citizens of Eggertsville know that they will be protected by the brave firefighters of the Eggertsville Hose whenever disasters occur or fires flare up. Madam Speaker, in

recognition of its 100th anniversary of tremendous service in the town of Amherst, I ask this honorable body join me in honoring the Egbertsville Hose Company.

HONORING MS. BETTYE BANKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the retirement and celebrate the career of a true community leader, Ms. Bettye Banks. This year will mark 30 years of her outstanding service with Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Dallas, with whom she has dedicated her professional career to providing financial education to citizens of North Texas.

Ms. Banks began her career as a secretary with Consumer Credit Counseling of Dallas in 1978. Her work ethic, diligence, and intellect allowed her to easily move up through the ranks, serving as office manager and counselor, among other positions.

In 1990, Ms. Banks singlehandedly created the education program, aimed at teaching financial wellness and literacy. Today, Ms. Banks is the senior vice-president for Consumer Counseling of Dallas and responsible for overseeing the financial wellness initiatives of the Education Department. With her vision and leadership, the department has also grown to include 41 individual presentations on money and credit related topics. Ms. Banks has truly been an asset to the department and has left a lasting impression on its growth and impact in the community.

In a true testament to her spirit, while working full time at CCCS Dallas, she completed her bachelor's degree in applied business practice. She has also earned professional certification as a Consumer Credit Counselor, Certified Financial Counseling Executive and Housing Counselor.

Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Banks has authored a series of consumer-finance workbooks and taught over 3,000 seminars and workshops. Her reputation as an expert in the fields has generated contributions in multiple publications, including *Today's Dallas Woman* and *Dallas Family*. She has appeared on CBS, NBC and ABC and is sought out as a conference speaker on the topics of financial wellness.

Additionally, Ms. Banks is an active community leader, serving on the boards of the Greater Dallas Rotary Club, the Dallas Legal Roundtable, and Friends of Consumer Freedom, among others. She has been a member of numerous local organizations including the North Texas Affordable Housing Coalition, Family Financial Advisory Council and the Dallas Downtown Rotary.

There is no doubt that Ms. Banks has generated a monumental legacy at CCCS Dallas. Through her drive and fortitude, she has undoubtedly elevated the organization, and her leadership will be missed. At this milestone in her life, I would like to take the time to commend her for her commitment to the community and education. I extend my best wishes for her retirement and thank her for her invaluable friendship.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, Congress passed a \$146 billion, bipartisan economic stimulus bill that will quickly send hundreds of dollars to poor and middle-class working families while offering businesses one-time incentives to invest in new equipment. Although there is much more to do if we are to meet the needs of American families, including extending unemployment benefits and food stamps, I believe that this stimulus is an important first step in our effort to help hardworking Americans.

This broad-based stimulus package will provide tax relief of up to \$600 per individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child. Recovery rebate checks could be sent as early as mid-May, getting money to Americans who will spend it immediately to reinvigorate the economy. In Texas alone, approximately 8.6 million families will receive rebates averaging over \$900. Nationwide, over 111 million families would receive these rebate checks, including 35 million with earnings too low to pay income taxes. More than 19 million of these are families with children and 13 million are struggling seniors. Nearly \$50 billion of the rebate will go to middle-income Americans and those aspiring to it. Economists estimate that each dollar of broad tax cuts leads to \$1.26 in economic growth.

The economic stimulus bill also helps address the crisis we are facing in our home mortgage market by permitting more borrowers facing defaults to refinance through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). For 2008, the bill increases the FHA loan limits up to \$729,750 from \$362,790 to expand affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure. In addition, the bill also enhances credit availability in the mortgage market by including a 1-year increase in the conforming loan limits for single family homes from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from \$417,000 up to \$729,750 for 2008. These increases in loan limits will benefit areas where housing costs are higher than the national average.

Mortgage rates on loans that currently exceed these loan limits are much more expensive than for smaller loans. These higher rates have hurt demand for housing in high-cost areas. The provisions in the stimulus will lower borrowing costs for many Americans, including middle-class families in high-cost cities to those who may be facing foreclosure. More importantly, this will allow more homeowners to refinance their existing mortgages, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the interest freeze for some subprime borrowers brokered by the Treasury in December. This is because more borrowers will be able to take advantage of the freeze to refinance into new FHA loans.

Finally, this bill will promote small business investment in equipment, which will spur job creation here at home. The bipartisan plan doubles the amount small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments made in 2008 from \$125,000 to

\$250,000, for purchases of new equipment of up to \$800,000 (from \$500,000). It also provides immediate tax relief for all businesses to invest in new plants and equipment by speeding up depreciation provisions, so that firms can write off an additional 50 percent for investments purchased in 2008.

While more needs to be done, I am confident that this bipartisan economic stimulus package will help many American families in the weeks and months ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety for being recognized by the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, an independent organization created by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Police Executive Research Forum. The importance of public safety officers within our community, and in particular within the University of Delaware, cannot be underscored enough. I am proud to represent a State that is home to such selfless and dedicated officers as those at the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety.

The University of Delaware is now a member of an elite group of public safety agencies in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Barbados that have received this prestigious, international award. The men and women of the Department have shown great dedication and commitment to providing quality service and protection to all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Delaware campus.

Employing only a total of forty-two officers on its Wilmington and Lewes campuses with approximately twenty security offices, the Department of Public Safety has no easy task as the University of Delaware has a large enrollment with students living on and off campus in the town of Newark. Despite this challenging task, the department has provided and continues to provide the highest quality protection and service to the University of Delaware community.

The citizens of Delaware deserve to know that the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety, has taken extraordinary steps to demonstrate their professionalism and pride in delivering quality public service to the University of Delaware community. I am tremendously proud of the Department of Public Safety and would like to commend and thank the men and women of the Department for the sacrifices and commitment that they make on a daily basis. The bravery and hard work of all those involved with this outstanding organization is responsible for making Delaware a safer place to live.

THANKING MS. ELAINE COMER
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in January 2008, we rise to thank Ms. Elaine Comer for 32 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Elaine began her career at the House as a Programmer Analyst at House Information Resources (HIR) and has held and mastered many positions, each with increasing responsibility as she continually served this great institution as a valuable employee of HIR within the Office of the Chief Administrator.

In the mid-1970s, when the House first began using minicomputers, Elaine designed, developed, and implemented the first House-developed Member Office Support System, as well as mission-critical legislative systems. Elaine was selected to represent the House in a cross-government team with the Senate and the White House that resulted in the House-wide implementation of an integrated Local Area Network (LAN) to support House committees. These accomplishments led to her instrumental involvement in an HIR-wide PC LAN implementation automating project management and time accounting.

Elaine's management abilities were showcased as she oversaw project support to 30 mission-critical House applications, provided key coordination in the modernization of the Data Center, was appointed the HIR representative to the CAO Business Process Improvement Team, and led the Process and Procedures project that supports the House Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Program. Elaine's contributions to the House culminated in her expert management of the Configuration Management and Quality Assurance programs for the CAO.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Elaine for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Elaine many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

**HONORING NATIONAL GUARD DAY
CELEBRATIONS AT THE INDIANA
STATEHOUSE**

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, today, the Indiana National Guard is hosting a National Guard Day at the Indiana Statehouse. This event will highlight our Hoosier citizen soldiers' capabilities, and provide an update as to their status as they prepare to deploy to Iraq. The event will also show strong support for the families of our Hoosier Guardmembers.

I applaud Maj. Gen. Umbarger's work with the Indiana National Guard. He has been an unwavering champion of the Indiana National Guard. His efforts today are to show support for Guardmembers and their families, as well as to help elected leaders and citizens better understand the role of the National Guard.

On this day, I too would like to express my support and deepest thanks to our Guardmembers, and their families. Many of these brave men and women are preparing to leave their homes, their loved ones, and their lives stateside in order to defend our Nation. Their commitment to duty and steadfast determination is an example to Hoosiers, and all Americans alike. They all deserve our most heartfelt thanks and admiration. Our Hoosier Guardmembers and their families will be in my prayers.

**HONORING THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #101
AND THE MARINES' MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, together with Representatives MILLER, STARK, TAUSCHER and MCNERNEY, I rise today to honor and thank the California East Bay Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America and the Marines' Memorial Association. With the support of the Marines' Memorial Association and Major General Michael Myatt (Ret.), the Blue Star Moms are hosting their third event for Gold Star parents who have lost a child in service to our country.

The East Bay Blue Star Moms was founded when Patty Martin, Peggy Conklin and Nancy Ecker reached out to each other for support after the September 11th attacks. Each had a son in the Army, and in November, 2001, they established a support group for military mothers in the East Bay area. Membership has since grown to over 150 mothers, and they are affiliated with the national Blue Star Mothers of America. The East Bay chapter sponsors a variety of activities in addition to the Gold Star event, including providing care packages for troops stationed overseas, and Operation Post Card, connecting local community groups with soldiers abroad through letter writing campaigns. The moms have also taken their good works to veterans in our community through regular visits to the VA hospitals at Livermore, Palo Alto and Martinez.

The Marines' Memorial Association in San Francisco was founded in 1946 as a living memorial to all the Marines who had lost their lives in the Pacific during World War II. Since then, its mission has expanded to include all branches of the United States Armed Services, including members of National Guard and reserves, and the U.S. Merchant Marine. The Memorial is currently led by Major General Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.). General Myatt has overseen the development of the Memorial as a facility that both honors fallen servicemembers and actively promotes the interests and needs of men and women currently in service.

The third Gold Star Parent gathering will bring together hundreds of parents from all over California for a 2-day event to honor the families of the fallen and allow them to celebrate the lives of their children and mourn their loss. This event allows the families to come together in private and share their experiences with others who are experiencing the same loss. The Marines' Memorial Association

provides the facilities and meals for the event at a considerably reduced cost, and additionally lends support to the participants throughout the weekend. The Blue Star Moms contribute an incredible effort to make the Gold Star event successful, including personally reaching out to all the Gold Star families in the state, and underwriting expenses for families who might not otherwise be able to make the trip.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, at this time it is appropriate that we thank the Blue Star Moms and the Marines' Memorial Association for the hard work and dedication they have shown to sponsor the Gold Star parents event. Their efforts have provided an important forum for these families to come together and the event is greatly appreciated by the families who have participated.

**TRIBUTE TO JACK FITZGERALD
AND FITZGERALD AUTO MALLS**

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a longtime advocate for child passenger safety, my constituent Jack Fitzgerald, President of Fitzgerald Auto Malls.

As you may know, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 2 to 14 and the leading cause of injury-related death for children under age 2. We know that when installed and used correctly, child safety seats and safety belts can prevent injury and save lives. In fact, young children restrained in child safety seats have an 80 percent lower risk of fatal injury than those who are unrestrained.

In order to ensure that child safety seats are properly used and installed, car seat check-up events, like those sponsored by Safe Kids Worldwide, are essential. At these events, child passenger safety technicians teach families how to safely transport their children and help make sure everyone in a vehicle is buckled up correctly on every ride. On average, technicians spend about 30 minutes with each child. These events, most of which are open to the public, are conducted by Safe Kids coalitions in central locations such as automobile dealerships, hospitals, community centers and shopping centers.

Since 1996, Safe Kids Worldwide has partnered with General Motors to help change the way parents and caregivers learn about child passenger safety. More than 13 million people have been reached by the Safe Kids Buckle Up Program and, to date, there have been more than 44,000 events that bring much needed car seat inspection services and education to families across the country.

Safe Kids is well on its way to checking one million child safety seats. Part of this success can be attributed to Jack Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Auto Malls. In February 1999, Jack teamed up with Safe Kids Montgomery County in my home state of Maryland to hold a car seat check-up event. At that event, Stephen Guarino, who was then 5 years old, was moved into a booster seat for a better fit just one day before the family vehicle was hit by a truck. Mrs. Guarino and the police officers on the scene credit the saving of Stephen's

life in that crash to the services received at the check-up event.

Since that incident, Fitzgerald Auto Malls has hosted hundreds of check-up events. Working with Safe Kids Montgomery County, local government agencies, and police and fire departments, Fitzgerald Auto Malls has inspected more than 35,000 child safety seats. The dealership hosts monthly car seat inspections free of charge for anyone in the community. If the monthly events are not compatible with a family's schedule, that family is encouraged to call the dealership to schedule a private appointment. This service is only possible because Jack Fitzgerald has personally paid for his employees to become nationally certified car seat technicians. In fact, more than 80 Fitzgerald Auto Mall employees have been trained to check a child's car seat for misuse.

I am honored to commend Jack Fitzgerald and the entire Fitzgerald Auto Malls family for their outstanding contributions to and involvement in our community. I applaud them for being a role model for all public/private partnerships and for their steadfast commitment and determination to keeping kids safe on our Nation's roads. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack Fitzgerald, a remarkable advocate for America's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on January 29, 2008, I was unable to be present for the final rollcall votes.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:

Roll No. 27—"aye."

Roll No. 28—"nay."

HONORING HARTFORD, KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the city of Hartford, Kentucky, located in the First Congressional District of Kentucky. On February 3, 2008, Hartford will celebrate its bicentennial birthday. This community in western Kentucky is among the oldest towns in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the third largest city in western Kentucky. It probably has one of the most unique yet welcoming slogans, "Home of 2,000 Happy People and a Few Soreheads."

Hartford was settled before 1790 in an area that was often a scene of bloody strife between American Indians and 18th century pioneers. There is evidence that a settlement was made at the present site of Hartford in 1782 and this was the first fortified settlement in the lower Green River Valley of western Kentucky.

The source of the town's name is uncertain. There is one tradition that a man named Hart ran a ferry there, hence the name Hart's Ford, which later became Hartford. Another tradition found in reminiscences of early times is that

the town was so called because animals including deer, the male of which the English forebears called a "Hart" had a regular crossing or "Ford" at the location of Hartford on the banks of Rough Creek.

The town of Hartford was formally established as "400 acres of land heretofore designated and laid out for a town, in the county of Ohio, on Rough creek, on the land of the late Gabriel Madison, inclusive of the out and in lots by an Act of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, enacted February 3, 1808."

Madam Speaker, Hartford has a rich history from its pioneer founding to the battle of brother against brother during the Civil War. Some of Hartford's famous past residents include Virgil Earp, brother of Wyatt Earp of the OK Corral acclaim, and impressionist painter Charles Courtney Curran, whose works hang in the Smithsonian Museum of Modern Art.

Hartford, Kentucky, is a progressive community welcoming those from near and far to visit or make their home in this inviting community. Opportunities from tourism to high tech industry attract visitors and new residents in this community located in the heart of western Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring to the attention of this House the historical significance and sense of community that the citizens of Hartford, Kentucky, have as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of a great American city.

HONORING CMW & ASSOCIATES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the contribution of a small business in my district to granting foreign workers their certifications necessary to work in this country. CMW & Associates, a female owned and 8(a) company located in Springfield, Illinois, has assisted the Department of Labor in Chicago in assuring that per Secretary Chao's directive, there is no longer a labor certification backlog.

Recently, Secretary Chao commended her staff at the Office of Foreign Worker Certification. "Behind every application is a person or group of people, waiting to come to our country and work in jobs for which no qualified U.S. worker can be found. The Permanent Labor Certification program is really proud about people—their hopes and their dreams of greater opportunities, and reunification with their families." Secretary Chao presented a certificate of recognition to Bill Carlson, Administrator of the Office of Foreign Labor Certification for his leadership role.

I want to recognize the Department of Labor for its exemplary work in expediting the processing of granting foreign workers their certifications necessary to work in this country, both on a permanent and temporary basis. And I want to thank Charlene Turczyn, CEO of CMW & Associates for her role in making sure America is able to obtain the skilled workforce necessary to make U.S. employers successful. As is often the case, small businesses play an integral role in the success of our government's ability to achieve its goals.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, a lot of brilliant economists have spent a lot of time over the last few weeks telling the American people what we already know: our economy needs help. The debate goes on over whether today's economic conditions will become an official recession, but most people aren't interested in official definitions. We want help now.

Fortunately, members of the New Direction Congress, meeting on a bipartisan basis, have developed an economic stimulus package that will get America moving again.

There's a lot to like about the proposed stimulus package.

The package provides support immediately. American families will receive help by June, in time to stop America's economic slide before we find ourselves mired in recession. This timely action is the result of a feeling in Congress that getting things done for the American people is more important than scoring political points.

The package will put money in the hands of working families who need it most. By helping families too poor to pay income tax, this proposal shows both compassion and common sense. We know that poor families are more likely to spend their rebate checks immediately, and that means more money flowing into our economy more rapidly.

And, finally, the package will not purchase short term growth at the expense of long term prosperity. This legislation does what must be done, but, more importantly, it does no more than is necessary. It contains no giveaways to any interest group, no pork barrel spending and no rushed changes in our tax code. The bill provides targeted, temporary stimulus. As a result, it will secure our present without burdening our future with debt.

But the package that we pass today is not perfect.

We have helped millions of families, but too many seniors still need our support. We have provided relief to millions of workers, but those who have seen their jobs disappear still face an uncertain future they did nothing to earn and can do little to change. We have provided temporary relief to millions of taxpayers, but we must renew the clean energy tax credits that give us hope for a stronger national economy and a more sustainable world.

Our work is not over.

We should celebrate today's accomplishment, but we must recognize that it is a first step, not a final one. Let's take the bipartisan spirit that has been kindled in the House and use it to do the work that remains to be done.

HONORING JOAN MANN

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a wonderful woman

and friend. Joan was a devoted wife to Earl Mann of 49 years and mother to two daughters, Paula and Laura. For 29 years, she worked for the Woodlake Elementary School as a teacher's aide and was active in the Parent-Teachers Association. She served on the Tulare County Grand Jury, was active in her church and served as the local representative of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She loved to write poetry, sometimes about events or people in her life. The following poem is one of her family's favorites.

I'VE SAILED UPON LIFE'S SEAS

I've walked upon the shores of life
A-kicking up the sands
I've met each eye that chanced my way
And shook each friendly hand.
I've sailed upon the seas
To cross to other places
I've met each smile with smiles to spare
And cherished those dear faces.
The song I've sung along the way
'Tis joyous and carefree
It tells of life, of wondrous times
And speaks of days to be.
And when my days on earth are through
God grant me one last thought
I'd love to do it all again
Remembering what life's taught.

Joan Mann's life demonstrated her love of her family, her community and her country. Mrs. Joan Mann of Woodlake, California, passed away January 24th. She will be greatly missed.

**IN HONOR OF DARRELL L. FANT,
DIRECTOR, HIGHLAND PARK DE-
PARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Darrell L. Fant, Director of the Highland Park Department of Public Safety (HPDPS).

After thirty-two years of dedicated service, Darrell will be retiring from HPDPS on February 29, 2008. The Town of Highland Park has been privileged to have such a devoted public servant working on their behalf to ensure Highland Park stays a safe and family friendly area in the heart of Dallas. He has served in various roles such as Public Safety Officer, Lieutenant, Assistant Shift Commander, and Captain before taking on the leadership role of Director. His colleagues affectionately refer to him as "Chief" as he has earned their respect and demonstrated exemplary performance. In addition, he has received numerous commendations, thank you letters, and awards such as the 1984 Firehouse magazine Heroism and Community Service Award.

I know his vision and leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace. The legacy he leaves speaks loudly of the impact he has had on Highland Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for his hard work and dedicated service.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. J.
RUSSELL COFFEY, A PUBLIC
SERVANT AND WORLD WAR I
VETERAN**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, Mr. J. Russell Coffey passed away on December 20, 2007, at the age of 109, and Mr. Coffey was 1 of 3 surviving veterans of World War I. Mr. Coffey was a student at Ohio State University when the United States joined the war in 1917 and Mr. Coffey enlisted in the Army at the age of 20 and was honorably discharged on December 12, 1918, a month after the signing of the armistice.

Mr. Coffey played baseball and was a track sprinter while in college and received both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Ohio State University, as well as a doctorate degree in education from New York University. Mr. Coffey continued his interest in sports and teaching by officiating high school sports for many years while he taught junior high and high school students in Phelps, Kentucky, at the former Glenwood Junior High School in Findlay and at the former Findlay College. Mr. Coffey served as an instructor at Bowling Green State University from 1948 through 1969, primarily teaching physical education but also teaching archery, psychology, swimming, and driver's education. Mr. Coffey was the director of the university's graduate studies in health and physical education from 1952 to 1968. Mr. Coffey was an active member of the Bowling Green Rotary Club for more than 50 years, and he was named the "oldest living Rotarian in the world" by the club in 2004, and in later years, Mr. Coffey credited physical activity and a healthy diet for his longevity.

The House of Representatives honors the life of Mr. J. Russell Coffey for his dedication to public service as a veteran, teacher, and member of the community.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CARL
A. DIPIETRO**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an outstanding Western New Yorker. On November 19, 2007 a beloved husband and loving father entered into rest. Carl DiPietro lived a very full life filled with love of family and friends. Carl leaves behind a long lasting legacy that stretches from his days in the Navy to the dedication and loyalty he demonstrated each and everyday with his family, at his business or throughout the community.

Mr. DiPietro was a proud business owner of Sparkle Cleaners, a dry cleaning business located in Amherst, NY. It was said that Mr. DiPietro treated patrons and employees alike as family. A hardworking man, Carl was skilled in his craft and was characterized by his children as an "All American Dad" whose love knew no end. A man who cultivated his many interests, Carl loved music and enjoyed play-

ing the guitar; he was an avid photographer and restored antiques. Amidst his varied interests and passion to explore them, his family remained the most important part of his life.

Carl DiPietro was a good and decent man and will always be remembered for his friendly demeanor, his terrific sense of humor and his care free spirit. His strength, courage, strong religious faith accompanied by a will to survive kept him going through the difficult times. When someone you love passes on, pain remains for those left behind. May Carl's wife Elaine, his daughters Linda, Judy, and Donna, his sons Carl and David, grandchildren, extended family and friends continue to live out Carl's memory with love, purpose and fulfillment in their own lives.

Madam Speaker, I am thankful that you have allowed me the opportunity to honor the life of Carl DiPietro and remember the many contributions he made throughout the Western New York community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and memory of Carl DiPietro here today.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. WILLIAM
C. BLACK**

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a great American, Mr. William C. Black, a loving husband, father and grandfather, successful entrepreneur, generous philanthropist, and courageous veteran. Mr. Black epitomized all that is good about our nation and indeed the world. On February 9th 2008, an exceptional group of family and friends with gather to remember and thank a man who dedicated his skills, energy, and love to others. In the course of a remarkable life that began in Bayonne, NJ on June 7th 1930 and continued for sixty-six years thereafter, Mr. Black's work ethic, intelligence, leadership, and basic decency made him a pillar of his community and a source of hope for multiple generations of patients and their families at Jersey Shore Medical Center.

Following graduation from Fordham University in 1952, Mr. Black immediately went to the defense of our nation in the United States Marine Corps. His seven years of service as an aviator in the USMC included duty in Korea and Japan, and a meteoric rise to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. From the Marine Corps, Mr. Black carried with him a fighting spirit and sense of purpose that helped him to become President of the New Jersey Zinc Company, our nation's pioneer zinc producer and originator of all zinc alloys that revolutionized the modern die-casting industry.

However, it was after retiring from New Jersey Zinc that Mr. Black's life reached its zenith. From his tireless work to improve the facilities of the Jersey Shore Medical Center, the "Mary V. Black Pavilion" was christened and thousands of trauma patients owe their health and lives to that state-of-the-art facility. This month at the 2008 Jersey Shore Sweetheart Cancer Ball, Mr. Black and his family will be recognized for their work to cure that devastating illness. I will never forget the moment my four year old daughter was diagnosed with

a malignant brain tumor. Though we have never met, I know that there is a direct connection between my daughter's health today and the life of greatness lived by William C. Black. I personally thank him for his work and know his legacy will forever live in the gratitude of untold numbers of other cancer survivors, their families and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this chamber pause to remember William C. Black, and to thank his wonderful wife Barbara, his accomplished sons, William Jr., Michael Paul, and Christopher for their love and dedication to one another, Jersey Shore Medical Center, and our blessed country.

COMMEMORATING CARTER BLOOD CARE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Carter BloodCare on pioneering the processes of the blood care/capture industry operations.

Carter BloodCare (CBC) worked closely with the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center and successfully implemented a methodology that has significantly achieved process improvements, increased productivity and doubled capacity while reducing floor space. These new changes were the result of CBC collaborating with Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (an initiative of the U.S. Department of Commerce NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership program) by participating in their training course: Fundamentals of Lean Enterprise. The Lean program was an "outside the box" way of thinking in the blood collection industry but it has proven to be an overwhelming success for CBC. This system allowed CBC to identify and correct problem areas, reduce needless work and create a more productive work flow. Their adoption of the Lean Philosophy approach will serve them well for years to come.

I commend Carter BloodCare for transforming the processes of the blood care/capture industry and providing lifesaving units of blood to the people of Texas efficiently and expediently. It is an honor to represent Carter BloodCare in the 24th District of Texas.

HAROLD MILLER RECEIVES COMMANDER'S CHOICE AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Harold Miller, who has been selected to receive the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Business Alliance Award for the Commander's Choice Category. This award program recognizes businesses and individuals who have made outstanding efforts in partnering with DLA to provide supplies and services to America's war-fighters.

The Commander's Choice Award is given to a person whose dedication and commitment to the DLA mission affects the quality of life for

U.S. women and men in uniform. Mr. Miller is the Aerospace Global Pricing Compliance Leader for Honeywell Aerospace, located in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona. He has consistently led Honeywell from the inside to integrate DLA's mission requirements into corporate culture and daily work processes. Through his tireless work, Mr. Miller has allowed DLA to provide superior customer support on Honeywell parts. He has an unsurpassed willingness to take risks and a strong commitment to making things work. Both of these characteristics have enabled DLA to navigate around potential crisis situations.

Mr. Miller should be proud of his accomplishments. Again, I say congratulations on the award and thank you for a job well done.

THE GLOBAL PEDIATRIC HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to introduce the Global Pediatric HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Act. I am pleased to be joined by Congresswoman KAY GRANGER. This legislation will strengthen our commitment to preventing the new transmission of HIV infections in children. The legislation builds on the successful PEPFAR programs aimed at reducing mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDS.

The legislation provides a comprehensive, five year strategy to prevent new HIV infections in children and ensure that the treatment of children infected with HIV keeps pace with their infection rate. We can achieve the birth of an HIV-free generation.

Reducing mother to child transmission and providing treatment to HIV positive children was one of the goals of the original PEPFAR legislation. The PMTCT or the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services were a critically important prevention effort included in the PEPFAR legislation. As we begin the process to reauthorize these programs we must use this opportunity to strengthen the original goals and mission of PEPFAR.

Every day more than 1,000 children around the world are infected with HIV; approximately 90 percent of those infections occur in Africa. With no medical intervention, HIV positive mothers have a 25 percent to 30 percent chance of passing the virus on to their babies during pregnancy and childbirth. Yet just one dose of an ARV drug given to the mother at the onset of labor and once to the baby during the first three hours of life reduces transmission of HIV by almost 50 percent. We know what works and we now how to reduce HIV babies. We just need to provide the commitment and resources to achieving this goal.

Children account for almost 16 percent of all new HIV infections but represent only 9 percent of those receiving treatment under PEPFAR. Without proper care and treatment, half of all newly infected children will die before their 2nd birthday and 75 percent will not see their 5th birthday.

The bill establishes a target requiring that by 2013 15 percent of those receiving treatment under PEPFAR be children. This target simply keeps pace with the rate of infection.

In addition, it establishes a 5 year target for Preventing Mother to Child Transmission efforts. By 2013, 80 percent of pregnant women receive HIV counseling and testing, with all of HIV positive mothers receiving ARV medication.

The legislation also requires integration of prevention, care and treatment with PMTCT services in order to improve outcomes for HIV affected women and families and to improve the continuity of care.

Prevention is our greatest tool in fighting this pandemic. We have no vaccine or cure. But we can work to achieve an HIV free generation.

I want to thank the work of the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation who have worked to further the cause of preventing mother to child transmission. The Foundation is also a leader in the global effort to provide care and treatment to millions of HIV positive children. The Foundation's recommendations for strengthening PEPFAR are the basis for this legislation. I also want to thank Senators DODD and SMITH who have introduced the Senate version of this legislation. Finally, I want to thank Congresswoman GRANGER for her willingness to work with me on this legislation and for her continued commitment to addressing the global pediatric HIV/AIDS crisis.

I know that my colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee are working to develop a strong PEPFAR reauthorization and I look forward to working with them to ensure that the final bill includes strong PMTCT provisions.

HONORING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 180th Anniversary of the founding of McKendree University, the oldest college in Illinois.

McKendree University was founded in 1828, by Methodist pioneers in Lebanon, Illinois. First named, "Lebanon Seminary," the name was changed in 1830 in honor of William McKendree, the first American-born bishop of the Methodist Church. McKendree University is not only the oldest college in Illinois, but it is also the oldest college in the United States with continuous ties to the United Methodist Church.

While McKendree University is justifiably proud of its rich history and tradition, it continues to grow and modernize in order to attract the quality of students and faculty needed to maintain its excellent academic standing. This continuous evolution was made evident with the recent name change from McKendree College to McKendree University in 2007. This name change reflects the broad range of academic opportunities available at McKendree, including the introduction, beginning in 2004, of several graduate programs. These graduate programs—including education, professional counseling, business administration and nursing—have become so popular that their enrollment now accounts for one quarter of the entire student body.

McKendree has continued to evolve physically as well as academically. The university now includes two campuses in Kentucky as well as the main campus in Lebanon, Illinois. It also hosts off-campus offerings at nearby Scott Air Force Base, in addition to other locations in Illinois and Kentucky. In 2006, McKendree opened the new Hettenhausen Center for the Arts which has rapidly developed into one of the premier performing arts centers in the region.

As McKendree has continued to expand and evolve, it has earned more wide-spread recognition of the excellent academic reputation it has long enjoyed locally. Recent awards and rankings include being ranked among the top 14 percent of "Comprehensive Colleges—Bachelor's" by U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2007 and U.S. News & World Report's "Great Schools, Great Prices" ranking.

McKendree University has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1828, with 72 students in two rented sheds. It now boasts a dynamic, multi-state campus with a full range of extra-curricular offerings to complement its excellent academic programs. Throughout its impressive evolution, however, McKendree University has remained true to its roots. Students still come first at McKendree. The focus of the entire McKendree community on enabling each student to fulfill his or her potential continues to mark McKendree University as "Illinois' First and Finest."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that my wife, Dr. Georgia Costello, received her undergraduate degree from McKendree and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and students of McKendree University on the occasion of their 180th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING WEEK

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of International Networking Week from February 4–8, 2008, and the prominent role my constituents play in preserving our competitiveness in the global economy.

As the co-chair of the U.S.-China Working group and a member of the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee, I know first-hand the importance that international relationships play in both diplomacy and in business.

Of special importance are organizations that create bridges between people for the mutual benefit of their members. As technology continues to bring us closer together, the relationships we forge will be more crucial than ever for companies seeking to grow their businesses.

Whether it is one of the many multinational companies in the 10th Congressional District or a locally-owned small business, networking will continue to play a vital role in the growth of the U.S. economy. From manufacturing to

distribution to the point-of-sale, we are stronger for having people throughout the world work together to expand their opportunities.

PRESIDENT'S FY2009 BUDGET REQUEST

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the budget request that President Bush transmitted to Congress earlier this week. By cutting programs important to working families and ignoring the significant economic downturn our Nation is facing, the administration has yet again demonstrated that its priorities are not those of the American people.

Our Nation is facing the real threat of a recession, and our government should be doing everything in its power to get our economy moving and to protect the American people from financial hardship. While the President has said he wants to work with Congress on an economic stimulus package, his budget request contains a number of devastating cuts to important programs that will make it even harder for our citizens to make ends meet.

Despite widespread recognition that fixing the U.S. economy will require addressing our weak housing market, the President's proposal only adds to the uncertainty that families are facing. This budget would slash funding for public housing and rental assistance programs, eliminating critical aid for lower income families, the elderly and minorities, many of whom may be facing foreclosure as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis. In Rhode Island, 400 families are at risk of losing their homes under the President's cuts to Section 8 vouchers. At the same time, he proposes to slash the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, program, which provides vital funding for economic and community development in our State's cities and counties.

A real economic plan should also include an investment in education and job training programs that will promote new employment and ensure that our workforce can adapt to the jobs of the future. Unfortunately, those programs are not priorities in the President's budget, and even proposed funding for No Child Left Behind, a program that the President touts as one of his biggest accomplishments, does not keep pace with the rate of inflation. If this budget is enacted, Rhode Island would see \$1.5 million less for after-school programs and a cut of almost \$6 million for career and technical education. Even with layoffs happening all across our State, President Bush wants to cut adult employment and training services, which would decrease Rhode Island's One-Stop Career System by half a million dollars.

I am deeply disappointed that the President's budget does not even begin to fully fund special education programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Furthermore, instead of fully funding our children's public schools, President Bush has turned back to the idea of school vouchers, renaming them Pell Grants for Kids. Vouchers will not solve our country's education woes, and naming them after Rhode Island's es-

teemed Senator Pell, who championed public education, is grossly misleading and dishonors the legacy of a great Senator.

The President's budget also fails to make higher education affordable for students with economic challenges. Rhode Island, where college tuition has risen 45 percent in 4 years, would see a \$7 million decrease in educational grants for college students. This budget also raises the funding level of Pell grants only by slashing funding for math and science courses that prepare students for technical programs after high school. To maintain our economic advantage in the coming years, our Nation must invest more in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Cutting these programs is short-sighted and endangers our international competitiveness.

At a time when so many families are having difficulty paying their bills, this budget also shreds the safety net programs that help the poorest Americans. I am extremely disappointed that the President seeks to cut \$570 million from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Despite record heating oil prices, the President wants to slash this program by 22 percent, a cut that would harm our elderly. Ironically, the budget will cause the heating costs of the poor to rise by eliminating the Weatherization Assistance Program. A Federal program that helps people actually reduce their energy consumption. These programs are vital to places like Rhode Island where families are struggling with astronomical heating costs.

The budget also endangers health care programs for our Nation's poor and elderly by placing critical domestic health care programs on the chopping block. The President has proposed nearly \$200 billion in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid over the next 5 years. Unfortunately, he aims to achieve these cuts by reducing reimbursements to health care providers and charging Medicare beneficiaries higher premiums for prescription drug coverage and doctors' services. This could not come at a worse time for the 316,000 Rhode Island citizens that receive care under these vital programs and are seeing the costs of goods rise and their purchasing power fall. Furthermore, the health care slated to receive additional reimbursement cuts under this proposal continue to struggle to properly treat the Medicare population. While I agree that we need to address the long-term solvency of Medicare, any reforms should be implemented in a manner that is responsive to the needs of beneficiaries and providers alike.

Also contained within the President's budget is a suggested increase of \$20 billion over 5 years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. This amount falls drastically short of the bipartisan SCHIP bill passed by Congress in 2007 that would have expanded coverage for millions of children. Unfortunately, the President vetoed that legislation and has instead presented us with a proposal that might well be insufficient to cover current SCHIP participants, let alone cover children who are currently eligible but not yet enrolled in the program. As a longtime supporter of SCHIP, I cannot stress how important this program is to our children, expectant mothers, and parents alike. It is my hope that we will be able to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that this program receives a proper reauthorization.

Federal health care programs are vital not only to our Nation's children, seniors, and disabled, but also to the brave men and women who served our country. While the President's budget includes an increase for VA funding, I highly doubt it will keep pace with the health care demands of our returning veterans. I am also dismayed by his cut of almost \$40 million to medical and prosthetic research, programs that have helped our wounded veterans return to a normal life. Once again, the President has placed the burden of health care cost increases on veterans themselves by proposing to increase co-payments and introduce enrollment fees for VA medical care. Congress has opposed those efforts in the past, and we will continue to do so.

Finally, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am concerned about the impacts of the President's budget on our Nation's capacity for response, resiliency, and recovery in the wake of a national catastrophe. The budget calls for an unprecedented 79 percent cut to the State Homeland Security Grant Program, which awarded \$34.8 million to Rhode Island from 2004 to 2007. The budget would also eliminate the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, SAFER, Grant program and would slash funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, despite clear evidence that more resources are needed to adequately staff and equip fire departments. Local law enforcement would also suffer under the President's budget, which would cut funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, program and to Justice Assistance Grants, JAGS, which have reduced crime in communities nationwide. Our State and local law enforcement must have the resources they need to be effective, and I will fight to block these proposed cuts.

It is obvious that the President's budget does not reflect America's priorities. So, we must ask, what are the President's priorities? While he recommends raising health care costs for veterans, the President wants \$70 billion more to continue the war in Iraq, though Defense Secretary Gates stated today that that number could climb to \$170 billion. While he wants Congress to permanently extend his tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, his budget does not contain a long-term fix for the Alternative Minimum Tax, which if left unaddressed could mean a significant tax increase on our middle class. While he slashes programs for our most vulnerable citizens, his refusal to follow fiscally responsible budgeting practices would mean more deficits in the coming years, burdening future generations with crushing interest on the national debt. These priorities are wrong for America. I am confident that Congress will develop a more humane and careful roadmap for the coming year, and I look forward to working with the Democratic leadership toward that goal.

INTRODUCTION OF COLORADO FOREST INSECT EMERGENCY RE- SPONSE ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing an additional bill to ad-

dress the danger to Colorado's communities, water supplies, and infrastructure from the increasing risk of very severe wildfires on our forested lands.

I have put a priority on reducing those risks since I was elected to Congress. In 2000, with our then-colleague, Representative Hefley, I introduced legislation to facilitate reducing the buildup of fuel in the parts of Colorado that the Forest Service, working with State and local partners, identified at greatest risk of fire—the so-called “red zones.”

Concepts from that legislation were included in the National Fire Plan developed by the Clinton Administration and were also incorporated into the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. As a Member of the Resources Committee, I had worked to develop the version of that legislation that the committee approved in 2002, and while I could not support the different version initially passed by the House in 2003, I voted for the revised version developed in conference with the Senate later that year—the version that President Bush signed into law.

Since then welcome progress has been made—in Colorado, at least—in developing community wildfire protection plans and focusing fuel-reduction projects in the priority “red zone” areas, two important aspects of the new law. But at the same time nature has continued to add to the buildup of fuel in the form of both new growth and dead and dying mature trees.

In recognition of the serious nature of the problem, the entire Colorado delegation—both here in the House and in the Senate, too—worked together to reach consensus on a broad-scale legislative response. The result was legislation—H.R. 3072 and S. 1797, the Colorado Forest Management Improvement Act of 2007—which I introduced last year in the House with the cosponsorship of the entire Colorado delegation and which Senators SALAZAR and ALLARD introduced in the Senate. Together with two bills I introduced last week—H.R. 5216, the Wildfire Risk Reduction and Renewable Biomass Utilization Act and H.R. 5218, the Fire Safe Community Act—the bill I am introducing today is designed to complement the Colorado Forest Management Act to respond to the increasingly widespread extent to which our State's forests are being altered by infestations of bark beetles and other insects.

These insects help to balance tree densities and set the stage for fires and thereby the generation of new tree growth. And when forests are healthy and there are adequate supplies of water, their effects are relatively low-scale and isolated. But under the right conditions—such as drought, unusually warm winters, or when there are dense stands of even-aged trees—the insects can cause large-scale tree mortality, turning whole mountainsides and valleys rust red. And that is happening now in many parts of Colorado, as was made unmistakably clear recently when Federal and State foresters reported that the beetle infestation first detected in 1996 grew by a half-million acres last year, bringing the total number of acres attacked by bark beetles to 1.5 million, and has spread further into Front Range counties east of the Continental Divide.

My goal in introducing legislation dealing with this issue is not to eradicate insects in our forests—nor should it be, because insects are a natural part of forest ecosystems. In-

stead, I seek to make it possible for there to be more rapid responses to the insect epidemic in those areas where such responses are needed in order to protect communities from increased wildfire dangers.

The bill I am introducing today would add a new section to the Healthy Forests Act, which would apply only to Colorado, to specifically address insect epidemics. It would authorize the Forest Service or Interior Department to identify as “insect emergency areas” Federal lands that have already been slated for fuel-reduction work in community wildfire protection plans and that have so many insect-killed trees that there is an urgent need for work to reduce the fire-related risks to human life and property or municipal water supply.

The Forest Service or Interior Department could do this on its own initiative or in response to a request from a State agency or a Colorado political subdivision (such as a county, city, or other local government). After receipt of such a request, a decision must be made within 90 days.

In any such emergency areas, the Forest Service or Interior Department would be authorized to remove dead or dying trees on an expedited basis, including use of a “categorical exclusion” from normal review under the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA. Although categorical exclusions from NEPA are controversial, I believe they are appropriate for these emergency situations.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a more detailed outline of the bill:

COLORADO FOREST INSECT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

This bill, based on provisions in the Udall-Salazar bill (H.R. 4875) of 2006, will add a new section to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to specifically address the forest insect epidemic in Colorado.

It would authorize the Forest Service or the Interior Department, as relevant, to identify as “insect emergency areas” Federal lands in Colorado that have already been slated for fuel-reduction work in community wildfire protection plans and that have so many insect-killed trees that there is an urgent need for work to reduce the fire-related risks to human life and property or municipal water supplies.

The Forest Service or Interior Department could make such a determination on its own initiative or in response to a request from any Colorado State agency or any Colorado political subdivision (such as a county, city, or other local government). The relevant Federal agency must respond to such a request by making a decision within 90 days.

The bill would reduce the extent to which analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, NEPA, must be done prior to implementing fuel-reduction—i.e., thinning or tree-removal projects in insect-emergency areas. This would be done in two ways:

(1) by allowing the abbreviated NEPA reviews to be used for projects on any lands covered by a wildfire protection plan for a Colorado community in or adjacent to an insect-emergency area (the Act now allows this only for projects on lands within 1.5 miles of a community's boundaries); and

(2) by allowing the Forest Service or Interior Department to forego NEPA analysis entirely through use of a “categorical exclusion” with regard to a project involving only lands that are both within an insect-emergency area and covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

Before making a decision to exempt a project from NEPA review, the Forest Service or Interior Department would have to consult with relevant Federal and State agencies, seek comments from the public, and follow existing procedures for such decisions.

HONORING THE COCKE COUNTY NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cocke County Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program for their achievements this past year. In 2007, the Cocke County NJROTC program was ranked number one in the State of Tennessee and number six in the United States in competitions including academics, athletics, and military drill.

In addition to achieving such great accolades in competitions, the Cocke County NJROTC planned, coordinated, and completed 2,153 community service hours in the Cocke County, Hamblen County and Knox County areas during the 2006 to 2007 school year.

The Cocke County NJROTC is a citizen leadership program designed to develop informed and responsible young men and women who embody honor, self-reliance, self-discipline, and respect to authority in a democratic society.

This achievement is a true honor to all the young men and women involved in the Cocke County NJROTC program. The rankings, each respectively, show the dedication and commitment to service and our Nation.

It is exciting for me to see the young men and women of Cocke County NJROTC establishing such high standards at a young age and it bestows great promise for the State of Tennessee and our Nation alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening honoring the Cocke County NJROTC program for their commitment to excellence, dedication, and promise as future leaders of America.

HONORING NANCY HILTON FOR ENCOURAGING OUR NATION'S MILITARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a talented and patriotic citizen, Nancy Hilton, for her efforts to honor and encourage our Nation's military.

Overwhelmed with the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform. Ms. Hilton sought a unique way in which she could personally honor the military. On a road trip to the East Coast, Ms. Hilton decided to hand-stitch an American flag and wasted no time in doing so. On the road with no pattern, she purchased a store-made American flag and created a self-made pattern. Three years later,

after investing 214.5 hours and over 20 miles of yarn, Ms. Hilton proudly displays the 24-by-13 foot, 43 pound flag at her home in Athens, Texas.

In between stitching stripes, Ms. Hilton developed her crocheting ministry, The Love Stitchers. The Love Stitchers dedicate their time and efforts to making lap afghans for people in nursing homes and hospice centers. They also make special red, white, and blue starred and striped blankets for veterans. With 100 members in three cities, The Love Stitchers have made over 1,500 afghans.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Ms. Nancy Hilton not only for her talent, but for her thoughtfulness and devotion in caring for our military, veterans, and seniors.

RECOGNIZING THE LATINA STYLE 50 AWARDS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in 1998, a unique program was launched with the purpose of creating awareness in corporate America and its connection to the growing world of professional Hispanic women. LATINA Style Magazine serves as a reflection of this increasing diversity. Because of the magazine's dedication to informing its readers on career opportunities in corporate America, it was the catalyst for creating a prestigious analysis of Hispanic women's presence there. It serves to show the continued efforts for promoting diversity and providing career advancement for these Latina professionals.

Today we celebrate the LATINA Style 50 Awards, a program which highlights the 50 best companies for Latinas to work for in our country. LATINA Style recruits up to 800 Fortune 1000 companies to participate in a survey regarding their role in increasing the number of Latina professionals in America's workplace. The reports highlight each company's leadership programs, employee benefits and Latina representation in senior positions. This past August, the tenth publication of these studies went to print. Today I stand here honoring this 10th year anniversary of a highly notable and beneficial publication.

Because of the dream of its late founder, Anna Maria Arias, the LATINA Style 50 provides today to Latina professionals a resource when looking for information on mentoring programs, education opportunities, employee benefits, women's issues, and more in corporate America. With these resources we can continue to shed light and improve the status of Hispanic professionals in America's growing corporate world. LATINA Style's passion helps more Hispanic women become aware of companies that are providing nurturing environments, where they can continue to climb the corporate ladder. I commend LATINA Style on their commitment to open more doors to Hispanic women, and for their continued inspiration to all Latinas and Latinos in the United States who seek to serve the vital roles in America's social, political, and economic communities.

HONORING BAHAI COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Bahá'i Community of San Jose's 50th anniversary. The Bahá'i Faith, in just 150 years, has become an independent, second most widespread world religion whose five million followers are made up of more than 2,100 diverse ethnic, racial and tribal groups. The organization has more than 157,000 members in the United States.

The Bahá'i Faith includes teachings that promote the principle of equal rights for men and women, advocate compulsory education, abolish extremes of poverty and wealth, honor work performed in the spirit of service to the rank of worship, recommend the adoption of an auxiliary international language, and provide the necessary agencies for the establishment and safeguarding of a permanent and universal peace. The Bahá'i Communities of San Jose and of the United States operate more than one thousand grassroots social and economic development projects throughout the world.

This faith-based organization not only provides spiritual guidance for their members, but they also provide charitable work to the community at large. Some of their local civic activities include the membership in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Association, membership in the Network for a Hate Free Community, Juneteenth Festival, Second Harvest Food Collections, highway cleanup, and 22 years sponsorship of a service awards banquet recognizing notable individuals and organizations for their community service based on Bahá'i principles. Bahá'i Community of San Jose provides these valuable services at no cost to the Bahá'i Communities of the South Bay and the Santa Clara Valley Community at large.

In their 50 years of dedication and hard work. Bahá'i Community of San Jose has assisted thousands of people. Bahá'i Community of San Jose serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages and serves a diverse population from various ethnic backgrounds.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to have a warm, welcoming, and nurturing organization in my district that appreciates and honors the diversity that makes America, and specifically San Jose, California a most desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN PEDROSO ESQUIVEL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of our colleagues the unjustified arrest of yet another dissident, Juan Pedroso Esquivel, by the totalitarian dictatorship in Cuba.

Recently dictatorship thugs working to stifle free speech raided Mr. Pedroso's home after

someone in the city of Colón posted stickers declaring “CAMBIO,” meaning change in Spanish. The regime charged Mr. Pedrosa on January 7 with the crime of possessing “subversive propaganda.” It is not known yet how long a sentence Mr. Pedrosa will face for this so-called crime. This may be because the tyrannical regime is attempting to scare other peaceful political dissenters by making an example with the unjust arrest of Mr. Pedrosa.

Mr. Pedrosa is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Democratic Party. He has a long history of nonviolent political dissent and has previously faced time inside the repressive gulags of the Cuban tyranny.

Even outside prison the regime's thugs have repeatedly harassed Mr. Pedrosa. According to reports, in September 1998, Mr. Pedrosa was threatened by the despot chief of police in San José de los Ramos, Matanzas province. The policeman publicly said that he had orders to shoot Mr. Pedrosa in the head and then a few days later said he had his gun ready.

A few months later Mr. Pedrosa was summoned to the headquarters of the Sistema Unico de Vigilancia y Protección, SUVP, Unified Vigilance and Protection System, where he was told that he needed to stop his human rights work and “get a job” or he would be charged with the crime of “dangerousness.” However, Mr. Pedrosa was unable to find employment because of his past peaceful political activities. One week later, he was arrested and “convicted” of “dangerousness” and received a two-year sentence in the gulag.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that someone can be sent to a gulag just because a dictatorship suspected he was posting stickers with the word “CAMBIO.” Why are they so afraid of the word “change”? What has them so scared of such a simple and peaceful word? What they are really scared of is anyone in any way challenging their tenuous grip on the Cuban people and putting a spotlight on their condemnable, abhorrent treatment of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, the arrest of Mr. Pedrosa is yet another example of the totalitarian dictatorship's total disregard for human rights in that enslaved island. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Juan Pedrosa Esquivel and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING SCOTTY LIPPERT, JR.

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated community servant and a national leader in his profession.

Scotty Lippert, Jr., is a standout in his field. For twenty-one years, he has worked for Clopay Plastics Products, a global leader in specialty films, extrusion coatings, custom-printing and engineered laminations. As a planned maintenance specialist and lubrication systems leader, he is one of only 745 people worldwide to meet the education, training, and examination standards required to achieve Machinery Lubrication Technician Certification.

Scotty Lippert helped design and construct a lube room that was judged best in the world

by a panel of national and international lubrication engineers. He is beyond doubt an expert in his field, authoring training books on lube-room construction and articles on lubrication systems and lending his services to a number of Fortune 500 companies. Just as importantly, Scotty Lippert's best practices in the field of lubrication, inspired, designed and implemented at Clopay, are now being used by the U.S. Navy.

On November 2, 2007, Scotty Lippert was chosen as the 2007 Kentucky Manufacturing Employee of the Year. He was chosen by a panel of judges on account of his innovation, teamwork, community service, and leadership credentials.

In addition to his dedication to his company and profession, Scotty Lippert serves his community as a magistrate in Bracken County.

Scotty Lippert deserves praise for his contributions to his vocation and community, and I know the citizens of Bracken County and the Fourth Congressional District join me in recognizing his many achievements and contributions to our region.

INTRODUCTION OF EQUITABLE MINERAL LEASE REVENUE SHARING RESTORATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am today introducing a bill to restore the equitable sharing between the Federal Government and the States of revenues from federal onshore mineral leases.

Leasing of federally-owned onshore minerals is governed by the Mineral Leasing Act, which provides that the royalties paid by the producers are split equally between the Federal Government and the government of the State where a lease is located.

This is very important for Colorado, which in recent years has received between \$30 million and \$60 million from this source. And many other States—especially in the West—have benefited as well. In fact, the most recent report by the Interior Department indicates that 34 States received a total of \$1.9 billion pursuant to this part of the Mineral Leasing Act in 2007.

Regrettably, the just-enacted appropriations bill for the Interior Department includes a provision that in effect amends this part of the Mineral Leasing Act by reducing the share of royalty funds going to affected States by 2 percent—so that Colorado and other States will get only 48 percent (instead of half) of the royalties from Federal leases within state boundaries.

My understanding is that this change was prompted—at least in part—as a way to offset some of the costs to the Interior Department of administering the leasing program and the distribution of royalty revenues.

But I do not think such a drastic change in the law should be accomplished by inclusion of such a provision in an appropriations bill, especially when it will have such a serious adverse effect on Colorado and our communities—especially those on the Western Slope—that are experiencing the impacts of

intensive development of Federally-owned natural gas and other energy resources.

Accordingly, our bill would reverse this recently-enacted change and so restore the equitable division of royalty revenues provided by the Mineral Leasing Act.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, it is February 6, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,798 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Madam Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we condemn the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, “The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.”

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: “No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.”

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this

core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet another day has passed, Madam Speaker, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this discussion presents this Congress and the American people with two destiny questions.

The first that all of us must ask ourselves is very simple: Does abortion really kill a baby? If the answer is "yes," there is a second destiny question that inevitably follows.

And it is this, Madam Speaker: Will we allow ourselves to be dragged by those who have lost their way into a darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the predatory survival of the fittest prevails over humanity? Or will America embrace her destiny to lead the world to cherish and honor the God-given miracle of each human life?

Madam Speaker, it has been said that every baby comes with a message, that God has not yet despaired of mankind. And I mourn that those 4,000 messages sent to us today will never be heard. Madam Speaker, I also have not yet despaired. Because tonight maybe someone new, maybe even someone in this Congress, who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,798 days spent legally killing nearly 50 million children in America is enough. And perhaps they will realize that America is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 6, 2008—12,798 days since *Roe v. Wade*—in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I was ill today and was not present for naming bills S. 2110 (Roll No. 23) and H.R. 4140 (Roll No. 24). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. RONALD F. SURAL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I join with those who are recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished constituent Dr. Ronald F. Sural who recently retired. His career was one of remarkable contributions to the practice of medicine, and manifold successes and abiding dedication to the people of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Ron was born in Saginaw, Michigan, and educated in a one-room schoolhouse. He knew he wanted to be a doctor at an early age after seeing how a local physician took care of the people in his hometown and the respect and admiration the physician enjoyed. Not being from a wealthy family, Ron worked to put himself through college and medical school.

Ron is a 1967 alumnus of the University of Michigan Medical School. Shortly after his medical residency Ron joined the United States Air Force as a surgeon. He faithfully served his Nation during the Vietnam War, eventually being promoted to the rank of Major.

In 1974, after retiring from the Air Force, he moved his family to North Carolina after visiting the state only once. He immediately fell in love with Greensboro and decided that it was the place he would raise his family.

Ron served the people of the Greensboro area as a urologist for 33 years, providing help and healing to the young and old alike, sometimes without pay. He never refused to help anyone in need and those patients often showed their appreciation by bringing him vegetables from their gardens or firewood—the only payment they could afford.

He served the Greensboro community through his involvement with the Summit Rotary Club of Greensboro, the Knights of Columbus and as a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. He is a member of the Greensboro Country Club, where he has skillfully won several golf championships.

He is the proud, adoring father of four children, three grandchildren, and the loving husband to his wife of 41 years, Sharon.

Dr. Sural exemplifies all of what is good and positive about the practice of medicine. And now, his 33 year career as a physician, servant and educator has come to a close. He has left an indelible mark on his patients and on the medical professionals with whom he has worked, mentored, advised, and inspired. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we commend Dr. Ronald Sural for being a distinguished physician, father and husband, and an exemplar of strong character and generosity.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Air Force nuclear security; to be followed by a closed session in SR-222.

SR-325

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Aviation Administration.

SR-253

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for defense and war costs.

SD-608

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, and the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ways to address healthcare workforce issues for the future.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Randal Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Richard H. Honaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, Gustavus Adolphus Puryear IV, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, and Brian Stacy Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

SD-138

2 p.m. Judiciary Crime and Drugs Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine federal cocaine sentencing laws, focusing on reforming the 100-to-1 crack/powder disparity. SD-226	cal year 2009 for the Small Business Administration. SR-428A	cal year 2009 for the Department of Homeland Security. SD-342
2:30 p.m. Intelligence To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219	2:30 p.m. Intelligence Closed business meeting to consider certain intelligence matters. SH-219	2:30 p.m. Intelligence To hold hearings to examine the Director of National Intelligence authorities. SH-216
9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine improvements implemented and planned by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the care, management, and transition of wounded and ill servicemembers. SH-216	3 p.m. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Children and Families Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (P.L. 103-3), focusing on a fifteen-year history of support for workers. SD-430	FEBRUARY 21 10 a.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations. SD-226
FEBRUARY 13	FEBRUARY 14	FEBRUARY 27
9:45 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior. SD-366	9:30 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce. SR-253	2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA). SR-253
10 a.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense Homeland Security role, focusing on how the military can and will contribute. SD-342	9:45 a.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine ways to build and strengthen the Federal acquisition workforce. SD-342	FEBRUARY 28 9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Navy, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session. SH-216
Judiciary To hold hearings to examine the state secrets privilege, focusing on protecting national security while preserving accountability. SD-226	10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine one year to digital television transition, focusing on consumers, broadcasters, and converter boxes. SR-253	MARCH 5 9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Air Force, and the future years defense program. SH-216
Rules and Administration To hold hearings to examine ways to protect voters at home and at the polls, focusing on limiting abusive robocalls and vote caging practices. SR-301	10:15 a.m. Foreign Relations Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. S-116, Capitol	MARCH 12 2:30 p.m. Armed Services Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, the future years defense program, and military installation, environmental, and base closure programs. SR-232A
Small Business and Entrepreneurship To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fis-	1:30 p.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fis-	