

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE MEMORY OF COACH KAY YOW

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Kay Yow, one of the highest-achieving college basketball coaches in the history of the sport. One of only six Division I head women's basketball coaches to achieve 700 career victories, Coach Yow led the women's basketball team at North Carolina State University from 1975 to 2009. She continued her winning coaching career even as she faced a 22-year battle with breast cancer.

In 1975, Yow was hired as the head coach of the women's basketball program at NC State as well as the head coach of both the softball and volleyball teams and the coordinator of women's sports. A female leader amidst a mostly male coaching staff, Yow found immediate success as she took her first squad to the Women's National Invitation Tournament and completed the season with a 19–7 record. Since then, Yow has coached some of the nation's most well known players, including WNBA All-Stars like Andrea Stinson, Chasity Melvin (NC State's all-time leading scorer), Genia Beasley, and current Assistant Coach, Trena Trice-Hill.

Yow is part of an elite group of eight Olympic coaches chosen to lead USA Basketball in the pursuit of an Olympic gold medal in women's basketball. Yow served as an Assistant Coach on the 1984 gold medal-winning coaching staff and three more gold medal-winning teams, including the 1979 World University Games, the 1983 Pan American Games, and the 1984 R. Williams Jones Cup. Yow also was part of the 1983 World Championship club that earned a silver medal.

She served as Head Coach of the 1988 gold medal-winning Olympic team in Seoul, Korea as well as the gold medal winners at the 1981 World University Games, the 1986 Goodwill Games and the 1986 World Championship Games. She was the first coach to win two Olympic gold medals since women's basketball was first included in the Olympics in 1976.

In April of 2008, Coach Yow received the Mildred "Babe" Zaharias Didrikson Courage Award from the United States Sports Academy, recognizing her achievements in the face of serious personal challenges. Yow missed 16 games during the 2007 season to receive treatment for the cancer that was first diagnosed in 1987. Upon her return to the team in 2007, she led the Wolfpack on an inspirational run to the ACC Championship game and to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament.

Cancer took the life of Coach Kay Yow on January 24, 2009. Throughout her life, Coach Yow sacrificed to continuously be a mentor and friend to her players and make them the best players they could be. Madame Speaker,

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at the passing of one of North Carolina's greatest coaches, a woman who was one of the most admired and respected coaches on the national and international scenes. Her perseverance and dedication in the face of a deadly battle with cancer is an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO ANN SWENSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Ann Swenson of Norwalk Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Ann Swenson on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Ann in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING THE WORK OF SUPERVISOR MIKE REILLY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor one of our districts' most hard working public servants, Mike Reilly of Forestville, California, who has recently retired from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

For twelve years as County Supervisor, Mike represented Sonoma County's 5th District a vast rambling, and fantastically beautiful place that encompasses the entire 53 miles of Sonoma County's coast, redwood forests, vineyards, the Russian River, and the western edge of our largest city, Santa Rosa. Known as "West County," the 5th District is Sonoma County's most progressive with a vibrant and diverse population of ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic backgrounds. Mike Reilly, with his intelligence, people skills and encyclo-

pedic knowledge of politics represented every one of his constituencies.

Mike is a Bay Area native born on May 27, 1944 in San Mateo, California. Always interested in politics, his first office was senior class president at Hayward High and later, student body president at Chabot College. Mike was an Army volunteer and served two years in Okinawa. The young veteran returned to the Bay Area after completing his tour of duty and began working as a youth counselor. He became one of the founders and eventually Executive Director of the Hayward-based Project Eden, a non-profit organization that offered drug counseling to the city's "street kids."

In 1977, Mike moved to Sonoma County to begin working for the county's drug and alcohol program, again as a counselor to youth. Mike settled in Forestville and soon became active in west county politics, no doubt influenced by his neighbor, Ernie Carpenter, who became the 5th District Supervisor in 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, Mike served as Administrative Assistant to state Assemblyman Dan Hauser, whose 1st District ran from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. During his tenure with Hauser, Mike was a key player in the designation of the Lost Coast Sinkhole Wilderness Area for public use, drafting initial legislation banning oil and gas development in Northern California state waters, the restoration of the Point Arena Pier, and regional issues pertaining to fishing and timber extraction.

In 1986 Mike Reilly became Executive Director of West County Community Services, a non-profit that grew from a 70's era all volunteer "River Switchboard," to an organization offering a variety of services for people of all ages. Under Mike's leadership, West County Community Services developed an excellent drug and alcohol abuse programs, led in the establishment of the Russian River Senior Center and the Sebastopol Teen Center and opened a homeless shelter. For thirteen years, Mike also served as a trustee for the Forestville Elementary School District and the West County High School District.

When Supervisor Carpenter announced his retirement from public office in 1995, Mike Reilly embarked on a grueling eighteen month campaign to successfully succeed him. Mike's hard fought campaign and subsequent service allowed him to coast to two unopposed reelection victories in the years ahead. These were not years without challenges, however, including huge floods on the lower Russian River in 1997 and 1999, years of underfunded services in rural areas and the heavily urbanized Roseland area in the district, and a sometimes lonely role as an environmental advocate on the Board of Supervisors.

Despite these difficulties Mike was able to forge agreements that led to county support of home elevation program on the flood prone Russian River, the formation of the Russian River Redevelopment District, and ordinances regulating forest conversions and vineyard grading, as well as untangling hundreds of

• 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.

county problems for his constituents. Mike was also a powerful presence on the County's Open Space and Agricultural Preservation District, and instrumental in protecting thousands of acres of land under county ownership or conservation easements.

During the same 12 years, Mike also served on the California Coastal Commission, including two years as the Commission's Chair. He has been recognized by statewide environmental groups as having the strongest conservation record of any of the publicly elected members of the Commission.

I would also note that Mike Reilly is a key player in moving forward the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, a bill that would provide permanent protection for the entire Sonoma Coast. Mike led successful efforts to endorse the bill by both the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission. With our new Administration these efforts will result in passage.

This year Mike is celebrating another 12-year anniversary, his marriage to Judi, which took place on January 25, 1997, in a home in Guerneville in the midst of a flood emergency. Mike and Judi, their three daughters, Kimberly, Sheri and Kelly, as well as Kelly's husband Stewart and their son, Stetson, and Sheri's fiancée, Will, make up a loving and supportive family with great political energy and philosophies.

Although Mike has retired from the Board of Supervisors, we will not let him leave us. He continues to serve as a board member of Coastwalk, California's unique coastal education program and on New Ways to Work, a national non-profit that is finding ways to train youth for the new economy. Knowing of Mike's energy, his intelligence and his savvy, his can-do attitude, we expect that although Mike will be able to play more golf now, he will continue to exert his powerful and positive influence on our community and our world.

Thank you, Mike Reilly.

THE LAST DOUGHBOY TURNS 108

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this week, Madam Speaker, the very last American doughboy, Mr. Frank Buckles, turned 108 years old.

Of the 4.7 million Americans that were mobilized during the First World War, Frank Buckles is the very last of his generation.

His remarkable life began in Bethany, Missouri where he was born in 1901, during the administration of the 25th President of the United States, President McKinley. At the tender age of 16, Mr. Buckles fibbed his way into the Army when he enlisted to fight in the First World War. He was rejected by several recruiters, but he was not deterred until he finally found a recruiter that would take him. He joined the United States Army, and he drove an ambulance in Europe during World War I.

Throughout his life, Mr. Buckles served in the First World War and was held as a pris-

oner of war by the Japanese for three years during World War Two.

At the incredible age of 108, Mr. Buckles has lived through 46 percent of our nation's history.

Today he resides on the family farm he purchased near Charles Town, West Virginia after the war.

Mr. Buckles is one of the forgotten veterans of a forgotten war. He is the lone survivor.

During WWI nearly 116,000 U.S. warriors gave their lives for this country. The service and sacrifice of those men and women changed the tide of that stalemate war and ensured victory for the Allies. But when they returned to the United States there were no parades or major memorials established to honor them.

Despite the fact that WWI was the first war to be fought on three continents and was the first industrialized conflict, it remains a largely forgotten war.

Today we have three memorials to the major wars in modern U.S. history on the National Mall: the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial, but no national memorial for WWI.

World War I should not be forgotten because there are few photographs and no blockbuster movies to tell the story.

That's why I introduced the Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act. My bill would restore the District of Columbia's World War I Memorial and expand it to also serve as the location for a national World War I Memorial.

After 90 years, of no national recognition it's time these doughboys were given the thanks that they are due—after all they are the "Father's of the greatest generation."

Madam Speaker, it's time to honor the Lone Survivor of World War I and the other doughboys that went to war in the forgotten war to end all wars.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK ZIRKELBACH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach, the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army National Guard, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his state and country.

For the last 39 years, BG Zirkelbach has served faithfully and honorably. BG Zirkelbach enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in the Non-ROTC College Student State OCS Program at Iowa State University in 1970. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from Iowa State University in 1970 and graduated from the United States Army War College in 1998.

In 1972, BG Zirkelbach was commissioned and qualified as Field Artillery and Signal Corps and commanded in both branches. He served as Commander, 67th Troop Command, Iowa Army National Guard and entered the Title 32 AGR Program in 1985. BG Zirkelbach

also served as Chief of Staff, Iowa Army National Guard, where he directed and supervised the activities of the State Area Command, Iowa Army National Guard Staff.

BG Zirkelbach has a long list of military awards and decorations which include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon.

I commend Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent BG Zirkelbach, and it has been a pleasure working with him during my time in the United States Congress. I wish him a happy retirement from the Iowa Army National Guard and all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING PAMELA A. KINDIG OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pamela Kindig on the occasion of her retirement as Auditor-Controller of Napa County. Pam has served her community honorably and the voters rewarded her by re-electing her five times to her post.

Mrs. Kindig began her career in public service as Auditor-Controller when she was elected in June of 1986. Six terms and 22 years later, she is retiring as one of the preeminent public figures in the Napa Valley. She has been a leader amongst her peers, serving as President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Bay Area Chair of the California State Association of County Auditors.

Mrs. Kindig is known around Napa County as a superlative mentor to family and friends; a lover of reading, fine dining, golf, and above all, her grandchildren. By all accounts, Mrs. Kindig is the epitome of what a public servant should be: a tireless worker, a pillar of integrity, and someone with the utmost respect for the people she serves.

For the past 22 years Mrs. Kindig has given back to the community by serving on the boards of Napa-Solano United Way, Napa Emergency Women's Services, First Napa Federal Credit Union and Soroptimist International. She also hosts a monthly book review program on a local radio station, is a member of the Napa Valley Symphony and a founding member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Pamela Kindig for her years of dedication on behalf of the people of Napa Valley. She has been a model citizen and leader in Napa County and her presence there has enriched the lives of everyone in the community. I join her husband Russ, daughters Kimberly and Kirstin and three grandchildren in thanking her for her service and wishing her a lifetime of fulfillment.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER AXNESS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Jennifer Axness of Southeast Webster—Grand Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Jennifer Axness on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Jennifer in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT WILLIAM W. PRIOR, SR. OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, William W. Prior, Sr. of Brooksville, Florida. Wounded by an enemy torpedo during an engagement in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, Mr. Prior's service to our Nation will forever be remembered by this Congress.

Born in Tampa, Florida, Mr. Prior spent the early part of his career as a commercial fisherman and was one of five brothers who joined the military during World War II. As someone who loved the sea, when it looked like America might become involved in the war, Mr. Prior joined the United States Navy. Two of his brothers joined the Army, and two joined him in the Navy. While he was hoping to be stationed on a small boat, Mr. Prior was assigned as an aviation radioman and went to Seattle, Washington to begin his service. From there he and his crew were sent to Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

After just a few months on the job, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the Alaska military members were placed in the midst of some Pacific Coast fighting. While many Americans are not aware of this fact, part of the Aleutian Island chain in Alaska was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. On August 30, 1942, Mr. Prior's ship the USS *Casco* was anchoring in harbor at Nazan Bay close to an island under control of the Japanese. It was at that time that his ship was struck by a torpedo, and Mr. Prior was wounded by shrapnel and knocked unconscious. His

former squadron commander found him and flew Mr. Prior back to Dutch Harbor, where he received surgery to save his leg from amputation. Eventually sent to a naval hospital in California, Mr. Prior was discharged in 1943 from the Navy because of the severity of his wounds.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like William W. Prior, Sr. should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Prior with his long overdue Purple Heart. His family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

REMEMBERING ALMONT TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF PAUL WILCOX

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Almont Township Fire Chief Paul Wilcox who sadly passed away on Thursday, January 8th after a hard fought battle with cancer. I offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to all his family members and friends and hope they can find comfort and ease during this very difficult time.

As a former township and State elected official, I had the pleasure and opportunity to meet and work with Chief Wilcox on several issues. I know his leadership, integrity and community service will be greatly missed throughout Lapeer County and the entire State of Michigan. He truly was a great person.

Chief Wilcox amazingly fought fires in the Almont area for over 40 years and served as chief for 23 years. But he took his call of public duty beyond the walls of the fire station by serving in numerous roles such as an instructor at the Lapeer County Fire Academy during the 1970s, Almont and Imlay Township building inspector, member of the 9-1-1 Committee, Lapeer County EMS Committee, National Volunteer Fire Council and as President of the Michigan Fire Chief's Association just to name a few.

Again, I cannot stress enough how great of a loss this is for not only Almont but both Lapeer County and Michigan. Chief Wilcox was an innovative leader and faced any challenge head on. I can remember recently visiting the station and meeting with him and fellow firefighters about a year and a half ago to present a FEMA grant. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help the community. He always sought to improve the departments' services and resources for the residents he so proudly served. He was a tireless advocate for the volunteer fire service and took his message and mission to the national level. He raised the bar and set high standards which all future chiefs and firefighters will now need to live up to.

I am extremely grateful to have known Chief Wilcox and for the chance to have called him a friend. Chief Wilcox had announced his intention to retire this spring but unfortunately wasn't afforded that opportunity. Without question, he will be greatly missed but rest assured certainly not forgotten. I offer my sincere gratitude and thanks for his lifetime of dedicated

work and service. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of those who knew Chief Wilcox and may he receive eternal rest.

TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN CONWAY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Gretchen Conway of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K-12 schools.

I congratulate Gretchen Conway on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Gretchen in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLUSTER-BASED ECONOMY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Cluster-Based Economy Enhancement Act of 2009. This proposal is designed to stimulate collaborative interactions between businesses in regional economies to produce innovation and create jobs.

"Clusters" are geographic concentrations of competing, complementary, or interdependent business entities or industries that do business with one another and have common needs for talent, technology, and infrastructure. The bill recognizes that such clusters boost competitiveness and growth of a region as a whole.

As the recent economic turmoil has highlighted, American industries must become better equipped to thrive in the increasingly competitive global economy. Rather than continuing to see skilled workers move abroad, we need to take actions conducive to the creation of new employment, both through traditional means of expansion and in-sourcing of foreign jobs. As we do so, we must be mindful that there are regions within America, like Central and Northern New York, that continue to struggle disproportionately demanding we seek ways to overcome those challenges to economic development they face.

In response, this legislation would authorize up to \$50 million for cluster-based economic

development grants to state and local governments, colleges and universities, and nonprofit economic development organizations to further enhance economic development. Of note, this initiative would make those entities within the five regional development commissions, authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) eligible to apply for such grants. It is important to note that these recently created bodies are configured to encompass some of our nation's poorest areas. In addition to the Northern Border Regional Development Commission, which I worked to create, the other commissions include the Delta Regional Authority, the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, and the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would not only help increase America's economic competitiveness, it would also create new opportunities in areas like Northern and Central New York, that are particularly in need of economic opportunities. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact the Cluster-Based Economy Enhancement Act of 2009.

NYU'S JOHN BRADEMAS AWARDED
HONORARY DEGREE BY UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take note of an honor received last month by former Member of Congress, John Brademas, who served for 22 years in the House of Representatives from the then Third District of Indiana.

He was awarded, by the University of Barcelona, the honorary degree of doctor of laws, his 54th honorary degree.

A Democrat, John Brademas was, during the Administrations of six Presidents of the United States, an active member of the House Committee on Education and Labor where he authored or co-authored legislation to support schools, colleges and universities; support for libraries and museums; and programs for children, the elderly and the disabled.

In his last four years in Congress, John Brademas was Majority Whip of the House of Representatives.

Defeated in his campaign for reelection in 1980, John Brademas was shortly thereafter invited to become president of New York University, the largest private, or independent, university in the United States. John Brademas led the transformation of New York University from a regional—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut—commuter institution into a national and international residential research university.

John Brademas graduated from Harvard University, with a B.A., with high honors, in 1949; then went on to Oxford University, England, as a Rhodes Scholar, for three years, 1951–1953. At Oxford he earned a Ph.D. with a dissertation on the anarcho-syndicalist movement in Spain from the mid-1920s through the first year of the Spanish Civil War, 1936. The anarchist movement in Spain was

centered in Catalonia and, therefore, the research brought him to Barcelona on a number of occasions. His study was published in Spanish, in Barcelona, in 1974 by Ariel under the title, “Anarcosindicalismo y revolución en España, 1930–37,” in a translation by Dr. Joaquín Romero Maura.

In presenting the degree, Professor Mercedes Vilanova spoke of John Brademas' service in the U.S. House of Representatives and of his legislative record there as well as of his leadership at New York University, now, she said, “one of the premier universities in the world, a rival of Ivy League universities like Harvard or Yale”. She added that John Brademas had been named “one of the four most important persons in American higher education”.

Presiding at the ceremony was the Rector of the University, Dr. Dídac Ramírez i Sarrió.

Said John Brademas, “To receive an honorary degree from one of the outstanding universities of Europe, indeed, the world, is profoundly gratifying.

I am especially appreciative of this honor because of my interest throughout most of my life in Spain and, in particular, Catalonia.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that John Brademas' former colleagues and his many friends will be most pleased at this latest honor he has received.

I ask consent to insert at this point in the RECORD the text of John Brademas' remarks on receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Barcelona on December 1, 2008. His statement follows:

Rector Ramirez, Professor Vilanova, members of the faculty and students of the University of Barcelona, and friends, to receive a grado honoris causa from one of the outstanding universities of Europe, indeed, the world, is, of course, profoundly gratifying.

This honor comes from a country, Spain, and a region, Catalonia, to which I have devoted considerable scholarly attention and so is particularly meaningful for me.

You have been told, in the generous words of Professor Vilanova, about my life—my education, my career as a Member of the Congress of the United States and as President of New York University—and of my activities in a variety of organizations dedicated to the arts and the humanities.

But, of course, I am especially appreciative of this honor because of my interest throughout most of my life in Spain and, in particular, Catalonia.

I had the good fortune, as you have been told, of studying at two of the greatest universities in the world, Harvard and Oxford. While in grade school, I read a fascinating book about Mayan civilization. I started learning Spanish, then as a high school senior hitchhiked to Mexico and, as a Harvard undergraduate, spent a summer with other college men working in Aztec Indian villages in rural Mexico. I wrote my senior honors thesis at Harvard on the Sinarquista movement, a far right-wing peasant movement important in Mexico in the late 1930s and early '40s.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST MOVEMENT IN SPAIN

At Oxford, I wrote a doctoral dissertation on Spain and, by way of preparation, reading the seminal book by Gerald Brenan, *The Spanish Labyrinth*, on the origins of the Spanish Civil War, I learned that Spain was the only country with a mass working-class movement, based not on the ideas of Karl Marx but of Bakunin and Kropotkin, the anarchist theorists.

So I wrote to Brennan, then living in Málaga, to ask his advice on how to go about studying the anarchist movement in Spain. He responded that I should see the headwaiter of a Spanish restaurant in the West End of London, an anarchist, who in turn put me in touch with the headquarters of the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo, the anarcho-syndicalist organization, then in exile in Paris. This was in 1952, I remind you, and Franco was in power. I was warmly received by the officials of the CNT in Paris.

Indeed, they arranged meetings for me in Toulouse and Bordeaux with Federica Montseny, the anarchist leader, and José Peirats, the historian of Spanish anarchism.

My interviews with Montseny and Peirats were immensely helpful to me and opened doors to others here in Barcelona as well as to an important collection of materials on anarchism in Spain, located in The Netherlands, in Amsterdam, at the International Institute for Social History.

My supervisor when I wrote my dissertation was the British historian of Spain, Raymond Carr.

Here I must note, as you have been told, that my study of the anarcho-syndicalist movement was published, in Spanish, in 1974 in Barcelona, by Ariel, under the title, *Anarcosindicalismo y revolución en España (1930–1937)*. The translation was done by my friend, also a scholar at Oxford, Joaquín Romero Maura, descendant of the respected Spanish leader, Miguel Maura.

SERVICE IN CONGRESS

I like to say that although I studied anarchism, I did not practice it! For only months after I completed my study and returned from Oxford to my hometown in Indiana, I became the nominee of the Democratic Party for election to Congress from my native constituency. I lost that first race, in 1954, then served on the Presidential campaign staff of Adlai Stevenson in 1956, a year when both Stevenson and I lost a second time. But I ran a third time, and in 1958 was first elected to the United States House of Representatives. I was then ten times re-elected and so served in Congress for 22 years.

A member of the Committee with responsibility for writing education legislation, I took part in writing all the laws enacted during those years, 1959 to 1981, during the Administrations of six Presidents—three Republicans: Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford; and three Democrats: Kennedy, Johnson and Carter—laws to assist schools, colleges and universities; students who attend them; the arts and the humanities; libraries and museums; and measures to help children, the elderly, the disabled.

You will not be surprised that as a member of the Democratic Party in my country and, indeed, as a citizen, I rejoice in the election last month of Barack Obama as President of the United States and of Democratic majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Defeated for reelection in Ronald Reagan's landslide victory in 1980, I was shortly thereafter invited to become president of New York University, the largest independent, or private, university in the United States, with some 50,000 students.

Given my background I directed particular attention at NYU—as we call the University—to encouraging the study of other countries, and I established a Center for Japan-U.S. Business & Economic Studies in our School of Business; a Remarque Institute for European and Mediterranean Studies; a Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies; with help from the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, a professorship in Hellenic Studies; and, with funds from CITGO, the U.S. branch of Venezuelan Petroleum, a chair in Latin American Studies in the name

of Andrés Bello, the Venezuelan leader and tutor of Simón Bolívar.

And there is also now a Center of Islamic Studies at NYU.

In addition, there are thousands of students from countries all over the world attending classes in New York City, and particularly important, New York University now has a number of centers abroad—in London, Paris, Prague, Florence and Ghana. We have just celebrated the 50th anniversary of NYU in Madrid, an opportunity that enabled me recently to have the privilege of an audience with His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I of Spain. And we are now opening campuses in Abu Dhabi, Buenos Aires and Shanghai and before long will do so in Mexico.

KING JUAN CARLOS I OF SPAIN CENTER AT NYU

But, of course, I take particular pride in the creation at NYU of the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, a Center for the study of modern Spain, a Center I dedicated just ten years ago in the presence of His Majesty, the King; Her Majesty, Queen Sofía, of the Greek Royal Family; and the then First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Here I note that we have established a foundation to raise funds to support the activities of the Center. I am President of the Foundation; His Majesty, King Juan Carlos, has graciously agreed to serve as Honorary President; Jesús Sainz Muñoz, of Promo Madrid, is Vice President.

In 1983, I had the privilege of awarding an honorary degree to His Majesty and announcing the creation of a professorship in his name under which we have invited leading scholars of modern Spain to lecture at New York University, including Raymond Carr, Francisco Ayala, José María Maravall, Hugh Thomas, Jon Juaristi, Estrella de Diego, Victor Pérez-Díaz, Juan Goytisolo and Baltasar Garzón.

The founding Director of the Center was Professor James Fernández, who served with great dedication from 1995 until 2007; he was succeeded by another outstanding scholar of Spanish culture, Professor Jo Labanyi. I here must also salute the Director of the King Juan Carlos Center office in Madrid, John Healey, who has known Spain for many years.

Another distinguished leader who has lectured at our King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center is a longtime friend, someone well known to all of you and with whom I met only weeks ago in New York City, the distinguished former Mayor of Barcelona and President of the Generalitat, Pasqual Maragall i Mira. I also saw Mayor Maragall, by the way, at the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute, of which I am a trustee, where we were hosted by another friend of many years, president of the Institute, Inmaculada de Habsburgo.

Pasqual's contribution to the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center was consolidated in 1998 when he spent a semester as Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Center. Under his direction, the Center organized an international symposium, "A World of Cities," attended by mayors and other urban leaders from Latin America as well as Spain and the United States.

As you can see, my relationship with Catalonia does not end with my study of anarchism. An important chapter revolves around the University of Barcelona, as I shall explain.

CATALAN STUDIES AT NYU

When in 1981 I became president of New York University, I was approached by Xavier Rubert de Ventós and the then new Mayor of Barcelona, Pasqual Maragall, together with the Rector of the University of Barcelona, Dr. Antoni Badia i Margarit, and Mary Ann Newman, at the time an NYU graduate stu-

dent. They all urged me to create the Càtedra Barcelona-Nova York, a program of Catalan Studies and educational exchange between our two institutions. The City Hall of Barcelona and the U.S.-Spain Fulbright Commission financed the project.

In the first years of the Càtedra, which lasted from 1983 to 1986, NYU hosted, among others, Martí de Riquer, Xavier Rubert de Ventós, Eugenio Trias, Lluís Izquierdo, Pep Subirós, Mary Nash and Jordi Llovet.

Anthony Bonner offered a four-part seminar on Ramón Llull to coincide with the publication by Princeton University Press of his groundbreaking translation, *Selected Works by Ramón Llull*. There were also lectures by Miguel Roca, David Rosenthal and, I am pleased to say, Mercè Vilanova. By the way, I must here note an excellent article by Professor Vilanova, "Anarchism, Political Participation and Illiteracy in Barcelona Between 1934 and 1936", published in the *American Historical Review*.

The Catalan language classes at NYU also bore fruit. One of the most prominent North American specialists in Catalan art, Professor Robert Lubar of the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU, studied Catalan in his program. He has been the mentor of a generation of Catalan experts, including two NYU professors, Jordana Mendelson and Miriam Basilio, and the curator of the current exhibition on Joan Miró at the Museum of Modern Art, Dr. Anne Umland.

Two years ago, the office of President Maragall of the Generalitat earmarked funds to establish the Catalan Center at New York University through the Institute Ramón Llull, which also provided funds to teach Catalan language and culture in our Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The Catalan Center at New York University, led most ably by Mary Ann Newman, has proved to be a dynamic partner in the NYU Center for European and Mediterranean Studies and a close partner of our King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center.

For example, the Catalan Center, organized two years ago, has sponsored the following events:

"A Mediterranean Mirror," an exhibition of books on Catalan law, an opening attended by President Ernest Benach of the Parliament of Catalonia, and Director of the Institut Ramon Llull, Josep Bargalló.

The Catalan Center has also sponsored a symposium titled, "Exalted by the Old, in Love with the New", to accompany the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum, "Barcelona and Modernity: Gaudi, Picasso, Dalí".

The Catalan Center has collaborated as well with the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on three events involving Catalan culture: a Pere Portabella film series; an exhibition on Salvador Dalí, "Art and Film"; and the current exhibition on Joan Miró.

Last September, The Catalan Center also co-hosted a conference on "The New Mediterranean," in cooperation with the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), an institution based in Barcelona that promotes research and dialogue on the North-South relationship in the Mediterranean.

Only weeks ago, I add, Professor Vilanova joined us in New York for a symposium on the distinguished Catalan novelist, Mercedes Rodoreda.

And last month, by way of illustrating our efforts to cooperate with other relevant organizations, the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center hosted, with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, which promotes discussion of the Spanish Civil War, "La Despedida", an event to recall how the people of Barcelona, in October 1938, bade farewell to the volunteers from many nations who came to defend the Republic.

So you can see from what I have told you that our university has made a serious, in-

deed, deep, commitment to the study of Catalonia and of Spain.

I trust you will understand, therefore, from what I've said, why I am so profoundly moved by the honor that the University of Barcelona has done me today.

I accept this honor not solely for myself but for my colleagues at New York University who share my dedication to the study of Spain and the study of Catalonia.

De tot el que us he explicat es desprèn que la nostra Universitat ha assumit un compromís seriós i, de fet, profund amb l'estudi de Catalunya i d'Espanya.

Per tant, espero que entendreu, per tot el que he dit, per què em sento tan profundament emocionat per l'honor que la Universitat de Barcelona m'ha atorgat avui.

Accepto aquest honor no només per a mi, sinó també per als meus companys de la Universitat de Nova York, que comparteixen la meua dedicació a l'estudi d'Espanya i a l'estudi de Catalunya.

¡Muchas gracias!
Moltes gràcies!

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON DYKSTRA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Shannon Dykstra of Nora Springs-Rock Falls Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Shannon Dykstra on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Shannon in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING THE WORK OF SUPERVISOR MIKE REILLY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor one of our districts' most hard-working public servants, Mike Reilly of Forestville, California, who has recently retired from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

For twelve years as County Supervisor, Mike represented Sonoma County's 5th District, a vast rambling, and fantastically beautiful place that encompasses the entire 53 miles of Sonoma County's coast, redwood forests, vineyards, the Russian River, and the

western edge of our largest city, Santa Rosa. Known as "West County," the 5th District is Sonoma County's most progressive with a vibrant and diverse population of ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic backgrounds. Mike Reilly, with his intelligence, people skills and encyclopedic knowledge of politics represented every one of his constituencies.

Mike is a Bay Area native born on May 27, 1944 in San Mateo, California. Always interested in politics, his first office was senior class president at Hayward High and later, student body president at Chabot College. Mike was an Army volunteer and served two years in Okinawa. The young veteran returned to the Bay Area after completing his tour of duty and began working as a youth counselor. He became one of the founders and eventually Executive Director of the Hayward-based Project Eden, a non-profit organization that offered drug counseling to the city's "street kids."

In 1977, Mike moved to Sonoma County to begin working for the county's drug and alcohol program, again as a counselor to youth. Mike settled in Forestville and soon became active in west county politics, no doubt influenced by his neighbor, Ernie Carpenter, who became the 5th District Supervisor in 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, Mike served as Administrative Assistant to state Assemblyman Dan Hauser, whose 1st District ran from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. During his tenure with Hauser, Mike was a key player in the designation of the Lost Coast Sinkyone Wilderness Area for public use, drafting initial legislation banning oil and gas development in Northern California state waters, the restoration of the Point Arena Pier, and regional issues pertaining to fishing and timber extraction.

In 1986 Mike Reilly became Executive Director of West County Community Services, a non-profit that grew from a 70's era all volunteer "River Switchboard," to an organization offering a variety of services for people of all ages. Under Mike's leadership, West County Community Services developed an excellent drug and alcohol abuse programs, led in the establishment of the Russian River Senior Center and the Sebastopol Teen Center and opened a homeless shelter. For thirteen years, Mike also served as a trustee for the Forestville Elementary School District and the West County High School District.

When Supervisor Carpenter announced his retirement from public office in 1995, Mike Reilly embarked on a grueling eighteen month campaign to successfully succeed him. Mike's hard fought campaign and subsequent service allowed him to coast to two unopposed reelection victories in the years ahead. These were not years without challenges, however, including huge floods on the lower Russian River in 1997 and 1999, years of underfunded services in rural areas and the heavily urbanized Roseland area in the district, and a sometimes lonely role as an environmental advocate on the Board of Supervisors.

Despite these difficulties Mike was able to force agreements that led to county support of home elevation program on the flood prone Russian River, the formation of the Russian River Redevelopment District, and ordinances regulating forest conversions and vineyard grading, as well as untangling hundreds of county problems for his constituents. Mike was also a powerful presence on the County's

Open Space and Agricultural Preservation District, and instrumental in protecting thousands of acres of land under county ownership or conservation easements.

During the same 12 years, Mike also served on the California Coastal Commission, including two years as the Commission's Chair. He has been recognized by statewide environmental groups as having the strongest conservation record of any of the publically elected members of the Commission.

I would also note that Mike Reilly is a key player in moving forward the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, a bill that would provide permanent protection for the entire Sonoma Coast. Mike led successful efforts to endorse the bill by both the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission. With our new Administration these efforts will result in passage.

This year Mike is celebrating another 12-year anniversary, his marriage to Judi, which took place on January 25, 1997, in a home in Guerneville in the midst of a flood emergency. Mike and Judi, their three daughters, Kimberly, Sheri and Kelly, as well as Kelly's husband Stewart and their son, Stetson, and Sheri's fiancé, Will, make up a loving and supportive family with great political energy and philosophies.

Although Mike has retired from the Board of Supervisors, we will not let him leave us. He continues to serve as a board member of Coastwalk, California's unique coastal education program and on New Ways to Work, a national non-profit that is finding ways to train youth for the new economy. Knowing of Mike's energy, his intelligence and his savvy, his can-do attitude, we expect that although Mike will be able to play more golf now, he will continue to exert his powerful and positive influence on our community and our world.

HONORING WILLIAM MARK FELT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a singular American who helped our democracy triumph in one of our darkest moments.

I speak of William Mark Felt, a former Associate Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who was instrumental in uncovering the great abuse of presidential power known as Watergate. Mark Felt died on December 18, 2008, in Santa Rosa, California in my district, more than 30 years after retiring from a career that included major roles in the turbulent and sometimes troubling history of the FBI.

It was Mark Felt's role of whistleblower in the Watergate affair that led to the resignation of President Nixon that will forever ensure his place in history. For Mark Felt was "Deep Throat" the inside informant of Bob Woodward of the Washington Post. Mark was the person who that lent credibility and verification to Woodward's and Carl Bernstein's investigation of what lay behind the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters at the Watergate Hotel.

Over the next two years, Americans learned that the Watergate break-in was conducted by the same team of burglars who had attempted to discredit another whistleblower, Daniel Ellsberg, who had leaked revelations about government lies about the Vietnam War to the New York Times. Through the press and congressional investigations they discovered that the President of the United States had his own illegal slush fund which his subordinates used to bankroll political espionage; that high ranking executive department officials were privy to these illegalities, that a presidential "enemies list" existed, and that the executive branch used its powers to punish those enemies through tax audits and extra-legal investigations.

We had a president that had set himself above the law, a man who abused the trust of the people of the United States and his own oath of office. Fortunately, Mark Felt stood up and decided not to allow the FBI to be a tool in these dark schemes. In the shadowy cavern of a parking garage in Washington, DC, Mark Felt, risking his job, his reputation, his personal liberty (in a time before whistleblower protection laws) told Bob Woodward what the FBI had uncovered about Watergate, ensuring that its findings would not be suppressed.

In the late summer of 1974 when President Nixon's own party leaders in the Senate told him that impeachment was inevitable, he resigned, ending what had become an imperial presidency. The ship of state had righted itself; the system worked, however imperfectly.

Mark Felt's moment in history has a lesson for us. One man standing up to tyranny can make a difference, and the truth can indeed set us free.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE FITZGERALD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Julie Fitzgerald of West Des Moines Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K-12 schools.

I congratulate Julie Fitzgerald on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Julie in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

IN HONOR OF DIANE YOUNG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Diane Young of Pajaro, California. Diane passed away on January 28, 2009 at the age of sixty-five, after leaving the Pajaro community a better place to live and work. She was an extraordinary community leader who needed no official title to make a significant difference in the lives of every resident of Pajaro.

Diane was born on November 25, 1943 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She graduated from Southwest High School in Minneapolis. After meeting her late husband Pete, they both embarked on a path that would lead them to a small Central Coast community that could greatly benefit from their generosity of heart and tireless commitment to helping others achieve their dreams, particularly the youth of Pajaro.

In 1983, she launched Young's Tire Service with her husband and son in Pajaro, California. Diane Young prided herself on the family business, which she maintained and participated in throughout her illness. Her old school business habits were rooted in an unshakable work ethic. Because she did not rely on computers for her business operations, Young's Tire Service was able to continue serving the community through the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and a massive flood in 1995. There was never a shortage of customers congregating at the shop, and the influx of well wishers following her death speaks to how Diane touched the hearts of everyone she met.

It was Diane's business that became the catalyst for her lifelong community activism. After three violent killings, one of which occurred right outside her store, Diane decided she wanted to see a safer community, one filled with happiness and pride, not fear. She organized Together in Pajaro to accomplish this goal. TIP is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to community improvement and safety. Diane, along with her late husband Pete, founded Boy Scout Troop 505 15 years ago, to provide constructive alternatives for youth in Pajaro. These two organizations are just a small measure of Diane's dedication and contributions to making her community, as well as the lives of those who live in it, not only better but more meaningful.

Madam Speaker, Diane Young touched the hearts of everyone she came into contact with, and was a pillar of her community. I am certain I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Diane's two children, her son Pete Young of Pajaro, California and daughter Shelia Young of Oakley, California.

REGARDING IRAN'S ENDORSEMENT OF ANOTHER HOLOCAUST DENIAL CONFERENCE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share my profound disappointment in the con-

tinued extraordinary anti-Israel rhetoric and policies of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He is again endorsing a conference that denies the horror—indeed, the existence—of the Holocaust and that places blame for much of the world's woes with the people of Israel.

Tehran's Sharif University of Technology conference, entitled Holocaust? A Sacred Lie by the West, is in and of itself disturbing. It is evidence that the hatred that underlies the violence in the Middle East is, regrettably, alive and well. But, for the head of a nation to lend the imprimatur of government support to such an event is real cause for alarm. President Ahmadinejad, in his statement of support for the conference, stated that the "Zionist regime is the 'illegitimate child' of the Holocaust phenomenon." This is dangerous rhetoric.

There are millions of peace-loving peoples in the Middle East—Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians, Iraqis; indeed from every nation of the region. They will never be able to experience peace and security as long as hatred like this is spoken, taught, and endorsed by the leaders of the region.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has just announced his intention to run for another term as Iran's President. I am hopeful that the people of Iran will send him a message that they want to live in peace with their neighbors and that they want to put an end to the cycle of violence and hatred that conferences like this one epitomize.

TRIBUTE TO LIZABETH FOX

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Lizabeth Fox of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Lizabeth Fox on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Lizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
FERS RE-DEPOSIT ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the FERS Re-Deposit

Act, which will help incentivize former federal employees to return to the civil service by allowing them to buy back into the Federal Employee Retirement System.

In no short time, the federal government will face a serious workforce shortage crisis. In ten years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

The FERS Re-Deposit Act will begin to help with the coming workforce shortage. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the federal government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work in the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to re-entering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector and in businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the federal government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back into government service.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by supporting the FERS Re-Deposit Act.

IN COMMEMORATION OF MR.
SANTONIO HOLMES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the achievement of Mr. Santonio Holmes, who on February 1, 2009 was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLIII.

Mr. Holmes was born in Belle Glade, FL, a part of my Congressional district. Mr. Holmes came from humble roots and through hard work and dedication, he made it to the National Football League (NFL). Mr. Holmes' athletic prowess and entrepreneurship developed from an early age; as a young boy growing up in Belle Glade, he would catch rabbits by hand

and sell them. Mr. Holmes attended Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, where he excelled in football, basketball and track. He went on to attend College at Ohio State from 2003 to 2005, where he starred as a wide receiver. In 2006 he was picked 25th in the first round of the NFL draft.

Mr. Holmes' performance in the Pittsburgh Steelers' victory over the Arizona Cardinals was nothing short of tremendous. He caught 9 receptions for a total of 131 yards. It was his last reception, however, that was most significant. With less than a minute remaining, the Steelers trailed the Cardinals 23–20. Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, in an improvised play, lofted the ball toward the right corner, over the hands of three defenders. Mr. Holmes leaped to get it and managed to drag both feet in bounds, his toes barely scraping the grass before he tumbled out of bounds. This touchdown and the subsequent conversion gave the Steelers a winning margin of 27–23.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Holmes' recognition as the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLIII is well deserved. Mr. Holmes' personal story also highlights the promise and opportunity of our great nation, that all Americans, even those from the most humble of backgrounds, may achieve tremendous things. I am extremely proud to congratulate Mr. Holmes and encourage my colleagues to join me in doing so as well.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS
GREENBOWE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Dr. Thomas Greenbowe of Iowa State University, who has been named the 2008 Iowa Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The U.S. Professors of the Year is a prestigious program that honors outstanding college and university instructors across the country. National and state U.S. Professors of the Year Awards are given each year to teachers across the country that have touched and elevated the lives and careers of their students. Dr. Greenbowe has an accomplished history as a Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State which began in 1990.

I congratulate Dr. Thomas Greenbowe on his well-deserved Iowa Professor of the Year Award, and I'm certain that he will continue to improve Chemistry and Science education for many years to come. It is a great honor to represent Dr. Greenbowe in the United States Congress, and I wish him continued success.

THE MILITARY DOMESTIC AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for service members and their families if they become victims of violence. It also will strengthen programs to prevent violence against fellow soldiers and military families.

Unfortunately, sexual assault and domestic violence are pervasive and serious problems throughout all branches of the military. In March 2008, the Department of Defense (DoD) released their fourth annual sexual assault report, which stated that there were 2,688 reports of sexual assault in 2007. Although this is down from the 2,947 allegations of sexual assaults reported in 2006, the DoD changed their reporting requirements from calendar year to fiscal year, so there is no way to tell if this reflects a decrease in sexual assaults or not. In 2006, there was a 24 percent increase in reported sexual assaults compared to 2005. In 2004, the DoD reported 9,000 incidents of spousal abuse. A 2005 Sexual Harassment and Assault Survey of the Service Academies found six percent of females and one percent of males said they were sexually assaulted in 2004–2005, and less than half the females who experienced sexual assault reported it. In this same survey, 60 percent of female cadets indicated sexual harassment was about the same as when they first enrolled at their academy.

While the DoD has been making efforts to improve its prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence, victim services remain incomplete and inconsistent among the various branches. There have been reports that victims advocates, charged with protecting the victim's rights, have been denied resources to do their job, and in some instances been forced off the base all together. Furthermore, DoD policies are not codified in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and do not offer the same level of rights and protections afforded to civilian victims. Perhaps most importantly, victims are unable to seek confidential counseling and treatment without fear that their records might become public if they press charges against their assailant.

My bill, the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act, seeks to bring military law up to par with civilian laws by establishing a comprehensive approach for the military to address domestic violence and sexual assault among our soldiers. Specifically, this bill will:

Establish an Office of Victims Advocate (OVA) within DoD, bring the Family Advocacy Program under OVA, and create a Director of OVA to oversee and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to cases of family violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with the military and among military families

Codify rights, restitution policies, treatment and other services for victims within the UCMJ, including creating comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law

Strengthen policies for reporting, prosecuting and treating perpetrators of violence

Create counseling and treatment programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of service men and women, or military family members, victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Our Armed Forces must be able to guarantee the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling, treatment, and justice.

If a victim cannot access essential care for fear of stigma, threats to their career, or because they just do not know what resources are available, the military will continue to lose valuable female and male soldiers. These men and women who serve our country in uniform put themselves in harms way to protect our nation from threats at home and abroad. They deserve the same rights and protections as the civilians whose freedoms they protect. My bill ensures service members are adequately protected when dealing with the horrible tragedy of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the military's lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential treatment and response.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH
LORENTZEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Elizabeth Lorentzen of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Elizabeth Lorentzen on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Elizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BUDDY
HOLLY, RITCHIE VALENS, J.P.
"THE BIG BOPPER" RICHARDSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their

lives on what would become known as "The Day the Music Died." Fifty years ago today, on February 3, 1959, a plane crashed near Clear Lake, Iowa, killing Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson, and the pilot of the plane Roger Peterson. These musicians individually and collectively influenced a generation.

Charles Hardin Holley, the singer known as Buddy Holly was born on September 7, 1936 and was a pioneer in rock-'n'-roll. He was raised in a musical family and found his calling in rock-'n'-roll in 1955. Buddy Holly shared the stage with many of the artists who were influenced by his work, such as Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, The Beatles, and the Rolling Stones, prior to his untimely death at the age of 22.

Ritchie Valens, born Richard Stevens Valenzeula, was equally influential in his brief musical career. Born of Mexican decent, Valens was raised on mariachi and flamenco guitar music. He later used this influence to develop the unique Spanish language rock so many grew to love, such as in his hit "La Bamba," which was originally a Mexican Folk song.

Jiles Perry Richardson, Jr., known as "The Big Bopper", was a disk jockey, singer and songwriter who thrilled fans with classic recordings such as "Chantilly Lace," and wrote such as "White Lightnin'" for George Jones and "Running Bear" for Johnny Preston. Fifty years later after their death, their songs continue to grace the airways and influence many musicians today.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the lives of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson for their lives were cut tragically short but whose music will continue to live on.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GERALD SCHOENFELD

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerald Schoenfeld, who, as chairman of the Shubert Organization for more than 3 decades, was instrumental in revitalizing theater in New York and in making Broadway a national brand.

The Shubert Organization owns and operates theaters in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. On Broadway, where it is preeminent in theatrical influence, the organization owns 17 theaters, most of which are in my Congressional District. Additionally, the Shubert Foundation provides major support to nonprofit theaters and dance companies across the country.

Gerry Schoenfeld believed that the Shubert Organization was much more than a custodian of theaters. In fact, the organization invested in and produced many significant plays and musicals, winning numerous Tony Awards. With his friend and business partner Bernard Jacobs, Gerry Schoenfeld was involved in presenting or producing everything from popular blockbusters, like *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, to critically acclaimed productions like *The Life & Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *Amadeus*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *The Real Thing*, and *The Heidi*

Chronicles. Again with Jacobs, Schoenfeld was instrumental in moving A Chorus Line from the New York Shakespeare Festival to Broadway, where it ran for 15 years.

Gerry Schoenfeld knew all the players, big and small, in the Broadway theatrical community and in the world beyond it. His dedication to Shubert employees was legendary. He knew everyone from the box office workers to the backstage crewmembers by name, and often spent his Saturdays making the rounds of the Shubert theaters, personally ensuring that things were running the way he wanted them to.

Perhaps one of his most important contributions lay in his tireless efforts to demonstrate how powerful an economic engine the theater industry is, not only for New York, but also for the nation. Still another achievement was his success in spearheading the effort to make New York's theater district and the surrounding Times Square area family-friendly destinations.

A native New Yorker, Schoenfeld attended local public schools, graduated from the University of Illinois, served in the Army during World War II, and earned a law degree from New York University's School of Law. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a faculty member of Columbia University's School of the Arts. American theater suffered a true loss with the death of Gerald Schoenfeld on November 25, 2008 at the age of 84.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that Gerald Schoenfeld, who left such an important legacy to Broadway and to America, be remembered and honored.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ENHANCE- MENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, Nearly 16 years ago, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA, PL 103-3), legislation that allows employees to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member. Because of this landmark legislation, tens of millions of Americans have been able to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

Building on the successes of the FMLA, today I will introduce legislation that would allow more workers to take leave to care for their family members and allow parents to take leave for parent-teacher conferences and family members' doctor's appointments.

The Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act would broaden protections under the FMLA to allow employees in companies with more than 25 employees to take family or medical leave. Current law applies only to companies with 50 or more employees. The legislation would also provide up to 24 hours per year of unpaid Parental Involvement and Family Wellness leave, which will allow parents and grandparents to attend parent-teacher conferences or to take their children, grandchildren or other family members to the doctor for regular medical or dental appointments. In

these trying economic times, it is more important than ever that family members be able to take time off of work to care for each other, without the risk of losing their jobs.

Then-presidential candidate Obama endorsed this concept in a June, 2008 speech in Albuquerque, NM, saying, "With more and more households headed by two working parents—or a single working parent—it's also time to dramatically expand the Family and Medical Leave Act. Since more Americans are working for small businesses, I'll expand FMLA to cover businesses with as few as 25 employees—this will reach millions of American workers who aren't covered today. . . . We'll allow parents to take 24 hours of annual leave to join school activities with their kids."

On behalf of America's families, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in support of the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act.

COMMEMORATING STONY BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark an important milestone in the civic life of Stony Brook, New York, a picturesque college town on the shores of Long Island Sound. In 1909, a small group of volunteers founded the Stony Brook Fire Department, beginning a tradition of service that has continued uninterrupted for 100 years.

The job of volunteer firefighting has changed significantly in the past century. Fire alarms in Stony Brook are no longer broadcast with church bells, and the Fire Department's original hand-drawn chemical firefighting apparatus has been replaced with state-of-the-art equipment.

However, Madam Speaker, the spirit of volunteer firefighters remains undiminished, and is as vital today as ever before. I join their neighbors in thanking the Stony Brook Fire Department for 100 years of protecting the community and wish them the best as they enter a second century of service.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR FLORIDA VETERANS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

MR. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the lives and legacies of the late Ernest Holman, John Joseph Sweet, Nathaniel Henry Winger, and Pedro Aguero. Following years of courageous, dutiful and patriotic service to their country while serving in the United States Army, these four men found themselves homeless and without families.

After dedicating years of their lives, these four brave and patriotic men answered the call of duty by risking their lives to serve and protect our Nation. As citizens we owe these men an overabundance of gratitude and respect for their compassion, commitment, and dedication

in safeguarding our freedoms. As a result of their bravery and the bravery of so many other Americans, millions have enlisted in the American Armed Forces.

Veterans such as Messrs. Holman, Sweet, Winger, and Aguero suffered from a complex set of factors that affect all homeless individuals—an extreme shortage of affordable housing, a livable income, limited access to health care, which is exacerbated by a lack of family and social support networks. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates nearly 196,000 veterans are homeless on any given night and approximately 400,000 veterans experience homelessness during the year. Homeless veterans are in dire need of housing, nutritional meals, physical health care, substance abuse aftercare, and mental health counseling. Messrs. Holman, Sweet, Winger, and Aguero are quintessential examples of the deeply tragic treatment dealt to our Nation's homeless veterans.

In July of 2007, the then Senator Barack Obama stated, "As long as there are veterans or veteran family members searching for shelter on the streets . . . we have failed in our duty to honor our commitment of the brave men and women who chose to serve." I am confident that President Barack Obama's administration will sympathize with the plight of homeless veterans and correct these injustices.

Messrs. Holman, Sweet, Winger, and Aguero inspired our Nation with their dedication and heroic efforts during their respective tenures in the Armed Forces. They will forever be recognized for their honorable services.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Ernest Holman, John Joseph Sweet, Nathaniel Henry Winger, and Pedro Aguero for their contributions to the United States of America and safeguarding its freedoms.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NANOTECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the introduction of the Nanotechnology Advancement and New Opportunities (NANO) Act.

The NANO Act is a comprehensive bill to promote the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology in the United States. The legislation draws upon the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology, a panel of California nanotechnology experts with backgrounds in established industry, startup companies, consulting groups, nonprofits, academia, government, medical research, and venture capital that I convened with during 2005.

Nanotechnology has the potential to create entirely new industries and radically transform the basis of competition in other fields, and I am proud of my work with former Science Committee Chairman Sherry Boehlert on the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003 to foster research in this area.

But one of the things I have heard from experts in the field is that while the United States

is a leader in nanotechnology research, our foreign competitors are focusing more resources and effort on the commercialization of those research results than we are.

In its report *Thinking Big About Thinking Small*, which can be found on my website, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology made a series of recommendations for ways that the nation can promote the development and commercialization of nanotechnology. The NANO Act includes a number of these recommendations.

In addition, the bill addresses concerns that have been raised about whether the federal government is doing enough to address potential health and safety risks associated with nanotechnology. The NANO Act requires the development of a nanotechnology research strategy that establishes research priorities for the federal government and industry that will ensure the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology. This strategy will help to resolve the uncertainty that is one of the major obstacles to the commercialization of nanotechnology—uncertainty about what the risks might be and uncertainty about how the Federal government might regulate nanotechnology in the future.

The NANO Act also includes a number of provisions to create partnerships, raise awareness, and implement strategic policies to resolve obstacles and promote nanotechnology. It will: create a public-private investment partnership to address the nanotechnology commercialization gap; establish a tax credit for investment in nanotechnology firms; authorize a grant program to support the establishment and development of nanotechnology incubators; establish a Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for "nano-CAD" tools; establish grant programs for nanotechnology research to address specific challenges in the areas of energy, environment, homeland security, and health; establish a tax credit for nanotechnology education and training program expenses; establish a grant program to support the development of curriculum materials for interdisciplinary nanotechnology courses at higher education institutions; direct NSF to establish a program to encourage manufacturing companies to enter into partnerships with occupational training centers for the development of training to support nanotechnology manufacturing; and call for the development of a strategy for increasing interaction on nanotechnology interests between DOE national labs and the informal science education community.

I look forward to working with Science and Technology Committee Chairman GORDON to incorporate these provisions as his committee works to reauthorize the Nation's nanotechnology research and development program.

THE THOMASVILLE BULLDOGS ARE SUPER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, while the Super Bowl may be over, we cannot close the books on this football season without mentioning a high school in my district that truly defines the word super. On behalf of the citi-

zens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the varsity football team of Thomasville High School for winning the North Carolina 1-AA, championship. The Bulldogs won the title on December 13, 2008, with a convincing 42-13 win over East Bladen High. This adds to the winning history at Thomasville High, which will place an 8th championship trophy in its collection.

This year's championship, which was won at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, North Carolina, meant that the Bulldogs, who were led by Head Coach Allen Brown, completed an undefeated 16-0 season. The Bulldogs are accustomed to winning; Thomasville has won 4 of the last 5 State championships in their division.

While there were many strong efforts, the championship win was a team effort led by seniors Chris Brooks, D.J. McLendon, Brad Wilkes, Dujan Ingram, Brandon Moss, Heath Stroud, Martez Wilson, Vince Sanders, Alex Parham, David Coard, Desmond Hare, Robert Benjamin, Darius Baxter, Thomas McLendon, and Roberto Duhart, juniors De'arius Dow, Jonathan Hinson-Brady, Malcolm Ivory, Brandon Lucas, Ralph Woods, C.J. Campbell, Tywon Little, Demonte Kearsse, Brandon Royall, Vince Gobble, Mark Green, Tariq Camp, Joe Baranowski, and Kevin Green, along with sophomores Isaiah Williams, Robert Davis, Ian Flowers, John Campbell, Devonte Gordon-Hunter, Lawson Hodges, Lawrence Thomas, Steven Stanly, Jaquan Daniels, Sherrod Young, Kesean Green, and James Boyd.

Also assisting the team during this incredible season were assistant coaches Roger Bryant, Sam Captain, Heath Williamson, Nick Sweitzer, Jaz Tate, Tyler Tobin, Stan Baranowski, Brandon Staton, and Richard Herman, community coaches Vince Brown, Ed Courtney, Kemp Harvey, Don Osborne, and Benjie Brown, trainer Kenney Coker, AV Crew Travis Leonard, Wade Loftin, Casey Medlin, and Adam Oakley, middle school head coach Kelvin Carraway, and team doctors David Williams and Robin Williams.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to congratulate Principal Dirk Gurley, Athletic Director Woody Huneycutt, Head Coach Allen Brown, and everyone affiliated with the Thomasville High School Bulldogs on having another great season and for winning the North Carolina 1-AA football championship yet again. The Bulldogs are super once more.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD D. BURNS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Richard D. Burns, Executive Director of New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Community Center. Mr. Burns proudly serves as the longest-serving Executive Director of any LGBT organization in the United States.

A graduate of Hamilton College and the Northeastern University School of Law, Mr. Burns has built a long and distinguished career of public service, diligently leading a number of important service and advocacy organizations through the years.

This year, while celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Center has grown to become the largest LGBT multi-service organization on the East Coast and the second-largest LGBT community center in the world. More than 6,000 people and 300 groups meet there every week. As a mark of his achievements, Mr. Burns was inducted into OMB Watch's Public Interest Hall of Fame at their 25th Anniversary celebration in September 2008.

Before joining The LGBT Center in December of 1986, Mr. Burns acted as President of the Board of Directors and as Managing Editor of the Gay Community News in Massachusetts.

Mr. Burns has served on the Board of Directors of the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee since 1987. In addition, he is an active member and past Co-Chair of CenterLink, an association of LGBT Community Centers which he co-founded in 1994. Today, CenterLink is the national voice for nearly 150 LGBT community centers across the country as a result of his dedication.

Mr. Burns also serves on the Citizen's Advisory Committee of New York City's Human Resources Administration and is the founder of the New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network. And Mr. Burns is a member of the Steering Committee of the National LGBT Executive Directors Leadership Institute, a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's National Policy Roundtable.

Today I rise to recognize and congratulate Richard D. Burns for 22 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population of New York, and for his groundbreaking work as Executive Director of The LGBT Center.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK ZIRKELBACH

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army National Guard, Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach, and to express gratitude for his many years of extraordinary service and leadership. General Zirkelbach is retiring after almost four decades of service with the National Guard. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 1970, and has served as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army Guard since August 2001. As Deputy Adjutant General, he's helped lead the Iowa Guard through the transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force, and has overseen the deployment of thousands of Iowa National Guard members to combat zones like Iraq and Afghanistan. General Zirkelbach has been a strong advocate for Iowa National Guard members, and has no doubt made an incredible difference in the lives of many Iowa Guard members and their families during this challenging time. He's also served as an incredible resource for me and my staff. It's been my privilege to work with General Zirkelbach on issues of importance to the Iowa National Guard, including ensuring that soldiers who served in Iraq received the education benefits they deserved, and working

to ensure that they receive the respite leave benefits that they are owed from the Pentagon. I thank General Zirkelbach for his invaluable service to the National Guard, the state of Iowa, and the United States, and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

ACTION IN COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) as an exceptional community organization, setting a high standard of service for individuals and organizations in Prince William County.

Established on November 1, 1969, ACTS is guided by the mission to alleviate hunger, homelessness, and domestic violence, and help people achieve self-support in the Prince William area. A small group of dedicated volunteers and clergymen founded ACTS in response to the need for coordinated community action. ACTS now serves over 45,000 people a year. The organization's growth is a testament to the effectiveness of its programs and ability of its staff and volunteers.

ACTS opened the area's first food bank and first dedicated homeless shelter. In 2008, two new facilities opened to accommodate the success of ACTS programs. The Eastern Prince William Safe House provides refuge for victims of domestic violence, and the new Family Services Center offers job counseling and life skills classes to women, children and families struggling with the hardships of homelessness. These facilities will help to restore hope and opportunity to those whom otherwise would endure pain and isolation.

ACTS continually receives top marks for program efficiency and delivers results that genuinely change lives. Citizens hoping to improve their community and the lives of their neighbors have a capable partner in ACTS.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for this organization's accomplishments and their steadfast commitment to charity.

HONORING JOHN REAP, THE 2008 METROCREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to John Reap, the 2008 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." John's dedication and contributions to the Metrocrest community, which consists of Addison, Carrollton and Farmers Branch, have been both dynamic and exceptional. The Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce presents the award on January 30, 2009, and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to John for the deserved award and his many years of selfless service.

John is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of Town North Bank, N.A., in

Dallas. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Bank. John has been at Town North Bank for twenty-eight years, the last fourteen serving in his current position.

An active community member, John has served with a variety of civic organizations including the American Heart Association, the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, the Metrocrest Senior Adult Services, the Carrollton Farmers Branch Independent School District Educational Foundation, the University of Arkansas Alumni Association, and the North Texas Region Committee for the University of Arkansas Campaign for the 21st Century. John served for seventeen years in both local and state capacities for the American Heart Association in Texas, and was Chairman of the Board of the American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, Inc., from 1992 until 1993.

John earned a banking graduate degree from the University of Virginia in 1977, a master's degree in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in 1971, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas in 1970. He also served as a faculty member for several years at the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I join the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce in applauding the merits and commitment John Reap has displayed to our community. John's tireless passion for community service has contributed greatly to the betterment of those around him, and I am extremely grateful for his service. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I salute John for his achievement as the 2008 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" and wish him many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. E.B. TURNER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a giant among giants, a friend of all citizens from all walks of life, and a man whose hand was always extended to those who wanted to reach for their dreams—Dr. E.B. Turner of Lumberton, Robeson County, NC.

Dr. Turner, who passed away October 5, 2008, was an inspirational leader, dedicated public servant, and renowned pastor for generations of Robesonians. Sixty years earlier in 1948, Dr. Turner, who had just finished divinity school at Shaw University, made the trip south down I-95 to Lumberton to become pastor at First Baptist Church in South Lumberton. Never planning to make Lumberton his home or become involved in public service, Turner was challenged by the opportunity to make a difference. And through wisdom, perseverance, and drive, he truly did. From housing to infrastructure to economic development to education, Dr. Turner made a lasting impact on the future and quality of life for hundreds of thousands of citizens.

In addition to his public contributions, Dr. Turner faithfully served the First Baptist Church for 57 years as Pastor. Through his love of God and his willingness to share the

good news with all, Dr. Turner not only changed lives, he changed hearts.

I knew Dr. Turner personally. He and my father, Dr. Douglas C. McIntyre, served on the City Council together in the 1970s. Later, Dr. Turner and I served together on the board of the newly chartered Lumberton Economic Advancement for Downtown, Inc, to help revitalize the downtown of our city. He and I were involved in many political activities together, and he appointed me to serve on the Robeson County Human Relations Commission. He encouraged me when I first ran for Congress to "do something that people can see and feel and touch." And, indeed I have kept those words in my mind and heart throughout the years as an inspiration when working on projects and programs to help folks back home in southeastern North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, our nation inaugurated our country's first African-American President, Barack Obama. President Obama, and the next generation of political leaders, stand on the shoulders of men like Dr. E.B. Turner who paved the way for their success.

May God's blessings continue to shine upon Dr. Turner, his wife Georgia, daughters Andrea and Rosalind, and all of his extended family.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD T.
BORKOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of United States Veteran Richard T. Borkowski as he receives the 2008 Veteran of the Year Award by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Borkowski began his service in the United States Army Infantry Division in 1950, the first year of the Korean War. Following the war, he married Evelyn, and together they raised two children—a daughter and son. He worked for nearly thirty years at the Standard Oil Company. Though his military tenure had ended years earlier, Mr. Borkowski never forgot the soldiers who served with him, and he always felt a kinship with the men and women who would serve after him.

For the past sixteen years, Mr. Borkowski has dedicated more than 5,000 volunteer hours at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. Mr. Borkowski helps disabled veterans get to religious services on Sundays, delivers snacks and treats to bed-bound veterans, and compassionately listens and talks to veterans about past military service and life experiences that form common bonds of friendship and understanding. Mr. Borkowski is a life member of the Parma Veterans Center, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Korean War Veterans.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Richard T. Borkowski, upon his selection as the 2008 Veteran of the Year by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County. Mr. Borkowski's commitment to the welfare of the veterans of our community brings an element of hope, light and friendship to the lives of those he

serves—thereby strengthening the foundation of our entire community.

**A BILL TO ENSURE ADEQUATE
AIRLINE COMPETITION BETWEEN
UNITED STATES AND EUROPE**

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in the past year, our attention in aviation policy has been trained on the survival of the U.S. airline industry, battered by reduced demand, and volatile fuel prices. This emphasis has been entirely appropriate. But we must not lose sight of the longer term issue of ensuring that when the airlines return to financial viability there will be enough competition to offer consumers good service at reasonable prices.

I have become increasingly concerned with the decline of competition in international markets, particularly between the United States and Europe. These markets used to be served by independent carriers from most European countries, and by a number of U.S. carriers. Increasingly, the market has come under control of three alliances composed of one or more U.S. carriers and several European carriers.

The alliances began with "code sharing" in which one airline would sell tickets on the flights of another airline as though the flight was its flight. These arrangements have been defended as providing better and more convenient service for consumers.

In recent years, the airlines in alliances have worked to take the process to the next level, asking the Department of Transportation, DOT, and the Department of Justice, DOJ, to grant the members of the alliance antitrust immunity to jointly plan services and fares over international markets served by the alliance. When immunity is granted, there will not be competition between the immunized carriers in the markets involved.

Antitrust immunity has been granted for a number of alliance operations, and requests are pending for antitrust immunity for most other significant alliance operations. If these requests are granted, competition in the U.S. to Europe markets will be largely reduced to competition among three alliances.

I believe that the time has come to reassess the wisdom of allowing the continuation of the reduced level of competition, which results from antitrust immunity for alliances. I am introducing legislation to require a major study of whether the benefits to consumers of alliances with antitrust immunity outweigh the adverse effects of the resulting loss of competition. Following this study, DOT will be required to review its policies and make any needed changes. There may also be a need for further legislation.

After any new laws and policies are in place, all grants of antitrust immunity for alliances will be reviewed for conformity with those laws or policies. This review is now permitted under the terms on which immunity was granted. When DOT granted immunity for alliances, it wisely reserved the power to amend, modify, or revoke the immunity at any time. My legislation provides that no antitrust immunity for alliances may continue beyond three

years from date of enactment of the legislation, unless DOT affirmatively decides that the immunity should continue under any new laws and policies.

A more detailed consideration of U.S.-European aviation trade shows that this market is now dominated by three major alliances: Star (United/Lufthansa), SkyTeam (Delta-Northwest/Air France/KLM) and oneworld (American/British Airways). These alliances have strong market power. Combined, the Star, SkyTeam and oneworld alliances account for almost 80 percent of the total world airline capacity, 78 percent of world revenue passenger kilometers, and 73 percent of passengers carried. These three alliances control over 87 percent of the traffic between the United States and Europe.

The DOT has the primary responsibility to review proposed airline alliance agreements and antitrust immunity applications for international operations. The DOT typically grants immunity if the parties to the agreement would not otherwise go forward without it and it finds that the immunity is in the public interest. One other major factor that also drives DOT's analysis is whether an Open Skies agreement exists between the United States and the country of the foreign air carrier. The DOJ, though a party in the antitrust immunity process, does not have a primary role in reviewing alliance/antitrust applications. However, the DOJ does make recommendations, and supplies data and policy input to DOT on these issues.

In 2008, the DOT granted the SkyTeam alliance antitrust immunity to coordinate schedules and prices, and operate as though they were one carrier. Since the granting of the SkyTeam application, Continental Airlines has filed an application to join the already antitrust-immunized Star alliance, and American Airlines and British Airways filed an antitrust immunity application for the oneworld alliance.

Once antitrust immunity is granted, the airlines involved are removed as competitors in highly traveled international markets. As DOT noted in the SkyTeam decision:

Upon implementation, the 4-way JV [joint venture] will bring all transatlantic services offered by the venture participants under the control of the venture. Committee and working groups, composed of senior representatives from each airline will jointly plan and manage capacity, pricing and financial settlement. The 4-way JV attempts to align the economic incentives of the participants to create what is known in the airline industry as "metal neutrality." Instead of competing among themselves for a greater share of revenue by trying to carry passengers on their own metal (aircraft), the participants agree to pool revenues and costs so that they become indifferent as to which carrier operates the service.

In essence, the granting of antitrust immunity is a de facto merger of these airlines over the routes involved. Evidence also suggests that when immunity is granted to an alliance, there is a decline in competition from carriers not in the alliance. Case in point: in 1990, the New York JFK-Paris market had six competing airlines, today there are only three. Of the three remaining carriers in the market—Air France and Delta, which are part of the immunized SkyTeam alliance—have approximately 75 percent of the market share. Another major market, Chicago to Frankfurt, is dominated by Star members United and Lufthansa, which control an 85 percent share; the Amsterdam-

Atlanta market will now be controlled by newly immunized SkyTeam members Delta and KLM.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure received testimony in May 2008, which indicated that domestic competition could be hampered by immunized alliances. Concerns were expressed that U.S. members of immunized alliances could use the profits realized as a result of anticompetitive behavior to subsidize domestic flying.

In addition, fares in markets dominated by alliances have increased. In a summary of its 2005 study on immunized alliances, the Brattle Group noted that "there is evidence that immunized alliances have undertaken actions that raise their rivals' costs of interlining at certain alliance-dominated hubs. The decline in competition at these hubs is further evidence of market power: immunized alliances have gained market share at their respective European hubs even as their fares have risen." The Brattle Group also expressed concern that even if "inter-alliance competition is sufficient to discipline fares to destinations that can be served through more than one hub, it cannot do the same for destinations better served through a particular hub. Passengers to those destinations may be 'captive' to the dominant alliance at the hub, in the absence of non-alliance competition."

As early as 1999, the Transportation Research Board (TRB), in its study *Entry and Competition in the U.S. Airline Industry*, expressed concern about the impact that global alliances with antitrust immunity may have on competition. The TRB stated that "although some travelers in connecting markets might benefit from these alliances, the potential gains to travelers in mainline markets—gateway to gateway routes where allied airlines were once main competitors—are not evident, and it is possible that these travelers are losing out."

The TRB also expressed concern about the long-term impact of alliances on unaffiliated U.S. carriers, noting that the effect of such alliances could be exclusionary and "ultimately forcing some unaffiliated U.S. airlines out of international markets by diverting their feed traffic and weakening their overall route structure to the detriment of domestic competition."

We cannot afford to be complacent about the threat to competition posed by these immunized airline alliances. To begin the discussion, I am introducing legislation that calls upon the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to study:

(1) The legal requirements and policies followed by the DOT in deciding whether to approve alliances and grant exemptions from the antitrust laws under 49 U.S.C. §§ 41308 and 41309;

(2) Whether there should be any changes to those policies or the legislative authority under which DOT determines whether to grant antitrust immunity; and

(3) Whether the DOT should exercise the right it has reserved to amend, modify or revoke any antitrust immunity previously granted.

Importantly, this legislation would sunset all immunity grants three years after the date of enactment. This is necessary to ensure that if the GAO finds that policy changes are needed, DOT will have the time to examine and implement them. U.S. and foreign air carriers can then reapply for antitrust immunity under any new policies adopted.

The GAO study will focus on the impact of immunized alliances on competition and customer service. It is important to assess whether these immunized alliances have resulted in a reduction of competition, increase in prices or other adverse effects or have used their market power to foreclose rival airlines from competing at alliance dominated hubs. Moreover, the GAO will be tasked with analyzing whether network size plays a role in adversely affecting competition and whether there is sufficient competition among immunized alliances to ensure consumers will receive benefits similar to those conferred by non-immunized alliances.

In addition, the bill directs the GAO to determine whether DOT's and DOJ's different regulatory and antitrust responsibilities for international alliances have created any significant conflicting agency recommendations and whether, from an antitrust standpoint, requests for antitrust immunity should be treated as mergers, and subject to a traditional merger analysis by the DOJ.

As the Brattle Group noted, the "move towards alliances has brought increased concentration to the transatlantic market, which highlights the importance of competition among alliances. This argues for caution on the part of regulatory officials in evaluating proposals likely to result in further increases in concentration. At a minimum, any substantial expansion in the scope of antitrust immunity offered to particular alliances (or combinations of alliances) should require compelling evidence that there are economic efficiencies that would justify the expanded immunity and that could not be achieved absent the immunity."

This bill is an important step forward in determining whether DOT's antitrust policies are sound and whether the DOT gives appropriate consideration to the impact that the granting of antitrust immunity might have on competition here and abroad.

As the evidence indicates, these immunized alliances hold great market power and have the potential for exercising that power to the exclusion of non-immunized carriers, thereby reducing competition in the international marketplace, as well as disrupting domestic competition. If these immunized mega-alliances are allowed to proceed unchecked, the end result may be trading government control in the public interest for private monopoly control in the interests of the industry.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives RAÚL GRIJALVA, HENRY WAXMAN, BARBARA LEE, LYNN WOOLSEY, FORTNEY PETE STARK, and ELIJAH CUMMINGS, I am reintroducing the "Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act" which will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area, ensure that the prosecution of such crimes is a priority, and chart their progress toward eliminating them.

In states with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Because not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-based hate crime. By collecting data on gender-based hate crimes, we send the message that we will not tolerate the violence targeted toward women throughout our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING MR. GERALD BORDERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the milestone of a long time friend of mine, Mr. Gerald Borders. On January 20, 2009 Gerald Borders of Dallas, Texas retired, completing a 44 year career with Texas Instruments. Mr. Borders' career spanned a remarkable amount of change. In 1963, when he began his career as a contractor, Dallas suffered from segregated schools, public accommodations and facilities—including within Texas Instrument plant sites. He choose to coincide his retirement on the day of the Inauguration of Barak Obama, our Nation's first African-American President.

I know that Mr. Borders thoroughly enjoyed his opportunities with Texas Instruments, in particular the time he spent as a full-time loaned executive to Paul Quinn College, a historically black college in the southern sector of Dallas. His time with Paul Quinn lead to a passion that would define the later phase of his career: education and economic development in the within that same southern sector in Dallas. One of Mr. Borders many projects mobilized tens of thousands of volunteer tutoring in Dallas's public schools. Mr. Borders was a tireless advocate of the Dallas Together Forum, which leveraged the purchasing power of major corporations toward economic inclusion for minority and women owned businesses. He conceived of and administered the Texas Instruments Community Involvement Team, which commits philanthropic resources to diversity initiatives for investment in neighborhood non-profits. He is a tireless volunteer for the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and among other roles, serves as chairman of their African American Leaders Society.

Mr. Borders' knowledge, communications skills and leadership ability made him a highly sought after business leader by elected officials. For the past 15 years, I have requested that he host my Brain Trust Summit in Washington DC with the Congressional Black Caucus—an event that highlights the challenges and opportunities of science, engineering and math education within the African American community nationwide.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Mr. Gerald Borders a well deserved retirement and a joyful and fulfilling future.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS.
BEATRICE ELLIOTT

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Beatrice Elliott from the Third District of Georgia on her 104th birthday, a truly remarkable achievement meriting acknowledgement.

Mrs. Elliott, or "Mrs. Be" as she is most commonly known, celebrated this milestone on Jan. 8.

I want to commend Mrs. Be not only on reaching her extraordinary age but also on what she has managed to achieve over the years as an upstanding member of her community. Mrs. Be worked for more than 40 years as a teacher in Carroll and Coweta county school systems. The longevity of her tenure in the school system is a testament to her nurturing and caring attitude toward students and her commitment to the future generations of this country. Mrs. Be has played a significant role in expanding students' horizons and in building the stepping stones to academic and professional success for hundreds if not thousands of students.

Past students, family and friends hold Mrs. Be in high regard and have sincere respect for her character. It is no surprise that, after 104 years, Mrs. Be has amassed a large group of friends and a family that extends across four generations.

Mrs. Be's parents, the late Rev. and Mrs. William Parks, introduced her to the church at a young age. Her religious faith has played a central role throughout her long life. Mrs. Be now worships at Resurrection Baptist Church after spending many years as a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist.

Madam Speaker, I call on the U.S. House of Representatives to join me, Mrs. Be's family and the people of Georgia's Third Congressional District in celebrating Mrs. Be's significant milestone and wishing her a happy birthday. She is an inspiration to those who know her.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD ABOLITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to restore financial stability to America's economy by abolishing the Federal Reserve. Since the creation of the Federal Reserve, middle and working-class Americans have been victimized by a boom-and-bust monetary policy. In addition, most Americans have suffered a steadily eroding purchasing power because of the Federal Reserve's inflationary policies. This represents a real, if hidden, tax imposed on the American people.

From the Great Depression, to the stagflation of the seventies, to the current economic crisis caused by the housing bubble, every economic downturn suffered by this country over the past century can be traced to Federal Reserve policy. The Fed has followed a con-

sistent policy of flooding the economy with easy money, leading to a misallocation of resources and an artificial "boom" followed by a recession or depression when the Fed-created bubble bursts.

With a stable currency, American exporters will no longer be held hostage to an erratic monetary policy. Stabilizing the currency will also give Americans new incentives to save as they will no longer have to fear inflation eroding their savings. Those members concerned about increasing America's exports or the low rate of savings should be enthusiastic supporters of this legislation.

Though the Federal Reserve policy harms the average American, it benefits those in a position to take advantage of the cycles in monetary policy. The main beneficiaries are those who receive access to artificially inflated money and/or credit before the inflationary effects of the policy impact the entire economy. Federal Reserve policies also benefit big spending politicians who use the inflated currency created by the Fed to hide the true costs of the welfare-warfare state. It is time for Congress to put the interests of the American people ahead of special interests and their own appetite for big government.

Abolishing the Federal Reserve will allow Congress to reassert its constitutional authority over monetary policy. The United States Constitution grants to Congress the authority to coin money and regulate the value of the currency. The Constitution does not give Congress the authority to delegate control over monetary policy to a central bank. Furthermore, the Constitution certainly does not empower the federal government to erode the American standard of living via an inflationary monetary policy.

In fact, Congress' constitutional mandate regarding monetary policy should only permit currency backed by stable commodities such as silver and gold to be used as legal tender. Therefore, abolishing the Federal Reserve and returning to a constitutional system will enable America to return to the type of monetary system envisioned by our nation's founders: one where the value of money is consistent because it is tied to a commodity such as gold. Such a monetary system is the basis of a true free-market economy.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand up for working Americans by putting an end to the manipulation of the money supply which erodes Americans' standard of living, enlarges big government, and enriches well-connected elites, by cosponsoring my legislation to abolish the Federal Reserve.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTON- OMY ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, As we approach a vote on the D.C. House Voting Rights Act of 2009, it is not too early in the session to begin the next steps necessary to make the residents of the District of Columbia genuinely free and equal citizens. Other than to voting rights, the highest priority for District of Columbia residents in the 111th Congress

is their right to control the funds they themselves raise to support their city. Budget control is essential to the right to self-government. Therefore, today, I am introducing the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2009 to give the District the right to enact its local budget without annual congressional oversight.

As a practical matter, permitting the city's budget to become law without coming to Congress would have multiple and immediate benefits for both the city and Congress. For the city, a timely budget means: eliminating the uncertainty of the congressional process that has a negative effect of the city's bond rating, which adds unnecessary interest costs for local taxpayers to pick up; significantly increasing the District's ability to make accurate revenue forecasts; and reducing the countless operational problems, large and small, that result because the city's budget cannot be implemented when enacted by the city. Of the many problems that would be eliminated, none is more important than aligning the school year with the typical state government July 1st fiscal year, instead of the congressional fiscal year, which starts in October, after the school year has begun.

Leaving the local enactment to the District would bring benefits to Congress as well. The D.C. budget often has had to come to the floor repeatedly before it passes because of controversial attachments, often of interest only to a few members who sue the D.C. appropriations to promote their pet ideological issues. Members then complain about the time and effort spent on the smallest appropriations that affect no other members. No budget autonomy bill can eliminate the possibility of riders because there are countless ways to attach riders, but our bill reduces the likelihood that unrelated riders will hold the city's local budget hostage and sometimes the appropriations process itself.

I am gratified that Congress itself has moved toward the position embodied in this bill. Congressional experience with the District's budget has matured, and neither party has made changes in recent years. At the same time, increasing recognition of the hardship and delays that the annual appropriations process causes has led Congress to begin freeing the city from the congressional appropriations network. In 2006, Congress approved the Mid-year Budget Autonomy bill, offering the first freedom from the federal appropriations process, the most important structural change for the city since passage of the Home Rule Act 36 years ago. As a result, the District can now spend its local funds all year without congressional approval instead of having to return mid-year to become a part of the federal supplemental appropriation in order to spend funds collected since the annual appropriations bill. Moreover, during the past few years, appropriators have responded to our concern about the hardships resulting from delays in enacting the D.C. appropriation. I appreciate our agreement that has allowed the local D.C. budget to be in the first continuing resolution, permitting the city, uniquely, to spend its local funds at the next year's level, even though the budgets for federal agencies are often delayed for months. This approach has ended the lengthy delay of the budget of a big city until an omnibus appropriations bill is filed, often months after October 1st.

There is no risk to the Congress passing the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act. By

definition, Congress will retain jurisdiction over the District of Columbia under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution because the District is not a state. Since, therefore, Congress could in any case make changes in the District's budget and laws at will, it is unnecessary to require a lengthy repetition of the District's budget process here. The redundancy of the congressional appropriations process is its most striking feature, considering that few if any changes in the budget itself are made.

The original Senate version of the Home Rule Act provided for budget autonomy, and 210 years of redundant processing of a local budget and delays occasioned by the extra layer of oversight offer conclusive evidence that the time is overdue to permit the city to enact its local budget, the single most important step the Congress could take to help the District improve managing the city.

Members of Congress were sent here to do the business of the nation. They have no reason to be interested in or to become knowledgeable about the many complicated provisions of the local budget of a single city. In good times and in bad, the House and Senate pass the District's budget as is. Our bill takes the Congress in the direction it is moving already based on its own experience. Congressional interference into one of the vital rights to self-government should end this year with enactment of the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act.

BETTY SEMBLER OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA SELECTED FOR FLORIDA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Mrs. Betty Sembler, who I have the privilege to represent, has been named to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame for her lifetime of work to protect our nation's youth and adults from the scourge of drug abuse.

Florida Governor Charlie Crist selected her to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame in recognition of her three decade war on drugs. This is an effort she has taken on with great passion at the local, state and federal level. Betty has been a delegate to the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America and a member of the Governor's Drug Policy Task Force in Florida. She has served on the board of DARE Florida and DARE America, a national organization that provides anti-drug education to elementary and middle school students.

Betty also took her battle worldwide as she served as Vice Chairwoman of DARE International and fought against international drug legalization efforts around the globe while traveling with her husband Mel, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Australia and Italy.

Back home in Pinellas County, Betty was the Founder and President of Save Our Society from Drugs and the Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., nationally and internationally recognized non-profit organizations that promote sound drug policies, drug free workplaces, high school and college drug awareness and education programs, maintain one of the nation's largest libraries of anti-drug lit-

erature and reports, disseminate reliable scientific information, and help with the development of international drug free standards through The International Taskforce on Strategic Drug Policy and The Drug Prevention Network of the Americas.

In addition to her tireless work against drug abuse, Betty has also found time to serve on the Board of the Florida Holocaust Museum; the Florida Governor's Mansion Foundation; the Florida House in Washington, DC; and the University of Florida Brain Addiction Research Advisory Council.

Betty's non-stop work against drug abuse and in so many other philanthropic efforts have been honored nationally. In May 2005, she was named as an honorary Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Agency and in March 2008, the Drug Enforcement Agency Museum Foundation presented her with a Lifetime Achievement Award. She has also been recognized by the Houston Drug Free Business Initiative and in 2000 the Girl Scouts of the Suncoast Council named her a "Woman of Distinction."

Madam Speaker, I have known Betty Sembler for many years not only as a constituent but as a dear friend and I can tell you that no one works harder for our community, our state and our nation. She has fought the war against drugs block by block, state by state and nation by nation. She is called upon by medical, government and law enforcement leaders for her advice on combating illegal drugs and on drug education campaigns.

And she has represented the United States with great distinction as the First Lady to Ambassador Mel Sembler. She has been most gracious in forging special relationships with the leaders of some of our nation's greatest and most critical allies.

In all of these endeavors, Betty Sembler has served with a special spirit and energy that has amazed all who have come to know her. Her greatest passion though, is for her family. Mel, her husband of 56 years, and Betty are the proud parents of three children and 11 grandchildren. They are special Americans who have always kept their priorities in order—faith, family and country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Betty Sembler for her lifelong service to our nation and in congratulating her on being inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND L. HARGROVE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of my dear friend, Raymond L. Hargrove. He was a great American, a believer in the free enterprise system, and a kind and generous man.

Born and raised in Texas, Mr. Hargrove was a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the Schreiner Institute. In 1964, he founded Hargrove Electric Company, which quickly became one of most successful businesses in Dallas. He founded the Greater Dallas Electric League and served as its first president.

He was always active in our community and leaves a legacy of public service and philanthropy. He deeply believed in serving this great Nation and giving selflessly for the greater good. As a member of the United States Navy, he proudly served in World War II. His generosity extended to numerous causes such as the Salvation Army, United Way, Children's Medical Center of Dallas, and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. Mr. Hargrove recognized the courage of our law enforcement men and women and did as much as possible to support them. He was also a passionate advocate of the Texas Rangers, serving as a Director Emeritus for the Texas Rangers Association Foundation.

He cared deeply for his family, friends, and community, and it was evident to all who knew him. I am honored to have known him and called him my friend. He will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, my dear friend and former colleague Roger Bone passed away recently, and I needed to travel to North Carolina to pay my respects. Unfortunately, due to these travel arrangements, I was unable to vote on one measure on the House floor.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Senate Bill 181, The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. Further, I would have voted "no" on the motion to recommit the bill.

Had I been present, I would also have voted "yea" on the motion to move to consideration of House Bill 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

HONORING THREE DEPARTING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, I would like to commemorate the departure of three notable members from Commission, with which I have had the honor of serving. These three individuals have helped promote the preservation and use of America's documentary heritage, helping those in our country and from abroad understand American democracy, history, and culture.

Margaret Grafeld of the Department of State of the United States joined the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in June 1998 and has served with distinction for the past decade. Currently Director of the Office of Information Programs and Services, Ms. Grafeld has been with the Department since 1974, shortly after her graduation from

George Washington University, and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program, Information Resources Management College, National Defense University.

In previous assignments, Ms. Grafeld served as acting director of the Office of Freedom of Information, Privacy, and Classification Review, and in other positions relating to information management and policy, privacy, access, litigation, appeals, and special projects. She was also involved with the State Department's Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation.

Her role on the Commission has been distinguished by her careful reading and consideration of the applicants, her sense of public duty, and her expertise on records management, particularly in the area of electronic records and public access. She has been the consummate public servant, always prepared to scrutinize and adjudicate applications, and render forthright and honest advice on public policy.

The Commission thanks Peggy Grafeld for her dedicated service and contributions to its programs with our sincere respect and affection.

Barbara Fields of Columbia University joined the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in 2001 and has served as representative of the Organization of American Historians with distinction. During her ten-

ure on the Commission, Dr. Fields has cast a keen eye on the historical importance of the documents and records of our applicants.

A graduate of Harvard University and Yale University, Dr. Fields has brought a remarkable breadth of knowledge to the Commission. A MacArthur Fellow from 1992 to 1997, she is one of the leading scholars on the history of slavery in the United States. She made a notable appearance on Ken Burns's documentary series, "The Civil War," and her publications include *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland during the Nineteenth Century*, which won the John H. Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association; and she co-authored with members of the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, *The Destruction of Slavery*, which won the Thomas Jefferson Prize of the Society for the History of the Federal Government; *Slaves No More: Three Essays on the Emancipation and the Civil War*, and *Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Emancipation, and the Civil War*.

Her role on the Commission has been distinguished by her discerning intellectual curiosity. The Commission thanks Barbara Fields for her dedicated service and contributions to its programs with our sincere respect and affection.

Charles T. Cullen joined the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in 1990 and has served with distinction as rep-

resentative of the Association for Documentary Editing.

Dr. Cullen is a tireless advocate for the vital importance of documentary editing, always adhering to the highest standards, and in service to the public good. President and librarian emeritus of the Newberry Library, Dr. Cullen has been associated with that highly respected center for research and public access since 1986. Previously, he taught at Averett College, the College of William and Mary, and Princeton University, and worked as the editor on the *Papers of John Marshall* and the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. He has written or contributed to more than thirty books and articles, and has lectured widely on subjects relating to the age of Jefferson, the scholarly use of computers, and the role of humanities research libraries. An early advocate for the use of computers in scholarly editing, he received the Association for Documentary Editing's Distinguished Service Award in 1987.

His role on the Commission has been distinguished by a relentless insistence on quality and by his leadership on many issues, not solely scholarly editing, and he will be sorely missed. The Commission thanks Charles Cullen for his dedicated service and contributions to its programs with our sincere respect and affection.