Americans reap the lifetime benefits from music instruction in our schools. Music creates timeless memories. Music strikes a chord in all of us.

We must also recognize the economic impact of music. One of the bright spots of the U.S. trade economy is our recording industry. Recorded music generates a trade surplus for our nation and is one of America's leading exports, touching virtually every nation on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Portnow, Mr. Friedman and Recording Academy Chairman Dan Carlin for launching this important initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, in order to deal with the recent floods that struck the Lynwood, South Gate, Watts, and Willowbrook areas of my district, I was absent for rollcall vote 620 on S.J. Res. 22, recognizing the Agricultural Research Service; rollcall vote 621 on S.J. Res. 18, commending the service of Inspectors General; rollcall vote 622 on H. Con. Res. 299, honoring Sargent Shriver; and rollcall vote 623 on the motion to change the meeting times for Tuesday, November 18, 2003, to 10 a.m. for Morning Hour and 11 a.m. for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on each of these rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 620, ''yes''; rollcall No. 621, ''yes''; rollcall No. 622, ''yes''; and rollcall No. 623, ''yes.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 23RD STREET ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 23rd Street Association on the occasion of their Annual Award Luncheon. This year, the 23rd Street Association is honoring Cushman & Wakefield and Kenneth Krasnow for their dedication and service to the community.

Named New York Top Tenant-Rep Firm on Co-Star's Top 50 Manhattan Office Leases list, Cushman & Wakefield is the largest New York-based commercial real estate firm, representing tenants in three of the city's top 10 deals last year. The firm's retail brokers have also won the coveted Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) Retail Deal of the Year Award every year since the award's inception. Cushman & Wakefield is New York City's largest property manager, managing approximately 52 million square feet of property. Founded in New York City in 1917, Cushman & Wakefield now operates 163 offices in 49 countries and employs over 11,000 professionals.

Ken Krasnow, Senior Managing Director for the New York Metro Region, joined Cushman & Wakefield in 1987 and spent ten years as a commercial leasing broker in Midtown Manhattan. Mr. Krasnow rose through the ranks, serving as Director of Business Development and Regional Managing Director for Cushman & Wakefield's Stamford and Long Island offices before his promotion to Senior Managing Director. Mr. Krasnow has responsibility for the firm's offices in midtown and downtown Manhattan, White Plains, NY, Stamford, CT, and Melville, Long Island, with approximately 175 brokers generating $200 million in annual revenue. Recently named one of Real Estate New York's ''40 under 40'' and one of Real Estate Forum's ''next great leaders,'' Mr. Krasnow is responsible for the strategic direction, business growth and development at Cushman & Wakefield as well as profitability of the region for the firm.

Despite his heavy business obligations, Mr. Krasnow has made time for civic and charitable works. He is active in numerous organizations, including REBNY, YM/WREA and the Westchester County Association, and serves as a member of the boards of the National Conference for Community and Justice, St. Mary's Foundation for Children and the Avenue of the Americas Association.

I would also like to commend the 23rd Street Association for its success in enhancing the quality of life for families and businesses in the area bounded by the Hudson and East Rivers from 17th to 28th Street. Incorporated in 1929 by 22 local business people, today's 23rd Street Association has approximately 300 members. Their projects include conducting business-training programs in local junior high schools, mobilizing the community to support a $2.5 million renovation of Madison Square Park, working with the local police to combat drug dealing and other crime, and developing annual summertime concert programming and children's entertainment in the community.

The Association is fortunate to represent individuals and organizations that are so committed to the advancement of their community. In recognition of the invaluable contributions and the selfless efforts of tonight's honorees, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the 23rd Street Association on 74 extraordinary years of service to the community.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1904, HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleague, the Honorable BARTLETT in asking the members appointed as conferees of H.R. 1904 to preserve the language, approved by our Senate colleagues, enhancing the penalties for interstate commerce in cockfighting and dog fighting. Our freestanding legislation (H.R. 1532), which I have co-sponsored with Mr. BARTLETT, already has the bipartisan support of 122 cosponsors, and we are confident of the strong support for this legislation in the House. The House has also previously approved an amendment to the farm bill that covered the core provision of our legislation: increasing the maximum jail time to allow for the imposition of felony-level penalties for violations of Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act.

We are not aware of any organizational opposition to the legislation, except from groups and individuals directly involved in dogfighting and cockfighting activities. On the other hand, we have secured endorsements from a wide range of veterinary, animal welfare, agricultural, and law enforcement organizations. In fact, more than 80 state and local law enforcement agencies have endorsed this legislation, as a necessary complement to their law enforcement efforts.

We believe that animal welfare warrants passage of the legislation. Both dogfighting and cockfighting involve animals pumped up with stimulants to make them more aggressive, whose handlers force them to keep fighting even as they suffer terrible injuries. Children are often exposed to these violent spectacles and taught that such animal suffering is enjoyable entertainment. Some dogfighters steal family pets to use as bait for training their dogs. Others abandon their fighting dogs, leaving them to roam and wreak havoc in our neighborhoods, or end up at animal shelters where they cannot be adopted due to their aggressive training. All in all, animal fighting is a brutal business that merits serious penalties.

However, there is also an economic reason to enact this legislation. In the fall of 2002, there was an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in southern California. The California state veterinarian has documented that the network of cockfighting enthusiasts in the Southwest was primarily responsible for the dramatic spread of this avian disease—which resulted in quarantines in California, Arizona, Nevada and Texas, and an extreme disruption of normal agricultural practices. Before the containment effort was completed, the federal government spent $200 million on containment and compensation, and ordered the killing of 3.8 million birds, primarily from commercial poultry operations. As a result, the Texas Poultry Federation and other agricultural organizations have embraced our legislation. By increasing the penalties for animal fighting, we may be able to shrink the size of the cockfighting industry and prevent future outbreaks of END, or other diseases that jeopardize our agriculture industry.

I thank the conferees for their consideration and hope that they will agree to include the Senate-passed animal fighting provisions in the final Healthy Forests legislation.