

missed rollcall votes 229, 230, and 231, for family reasons. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 229; "aye" on rollcall 230; and "aye" on rollcall 231. I request that my comments be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate section.

#### INTRODUCING THE TAX INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE RECYCLING (TIER) ACT

#### HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Tax Incentives to Encourage Recycling (TIER) Act, legislation to address the problem of electronic waste in this country.

Electronic waste is a growing problem. Computer capability doubles every 18 months. This means that individual consumers and businesses must replace their computer equipment more often now than ever.

In 2000, I introduced legislation that has since become law to refurbish old computers for libraries and classrooms. However, often times the donated equipment is too outdated to be refurbished and must be thrown away. This equipment has small amounts of mercury and lead and increasing quantities of it end up in our landfills.

To address this growing problem, some states, including my home state of California, have introduced laws mandating user fees. These hidden taxes only serve to further widen the digital divide. By increasing the cost, more people will be unable to afford computers for their homes. This is unacceptable. As elected representatives, we should be working to increase access to computers and the internet, not putting them further out of reach for many Americans.

My legislation, the TIER Act, addresses the problem of e-waste by giving tax credits to computer manufacturers that implement recycling programs. The primary expense in computer recycling is the transport of the equipment from a home or business to the recycling center. This legislation will provide the incentive to facilitate the transport of the old equipment to a recycling center.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. CANTOR, for cosponsoring this important legislation. By providing incentives for recycling, we can keep the costs of computers reasonable and protect our environment.

#### RECOGNIZING ROB AND SHERRI VINES

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rob and Sherri Vines for their life-long contributions to the Congregation Emanu El and the Inland Empire community of Southern California.

Rob and Sherri Vines have been active and loyal members of their congregation for over 30 years. Exemplifying the best in humani-

tarian leadership, they continue to earn respect and admiration from people of all walks of life. Mrs. Vines serves the congregation in numerous capacities, including teaching at the School of Jewish Living and serving three terms as Sisterhood President in the Inland Empire. She is also a member of the congregation's executive committee of community service, having coordinated numerous events for San Bernardino County residents.

Robert Vines, a workers' compensation attorney, has been a member of the California State Bar since 1973, serving as the Deputy District Attorney for San Bernardino County from 1973-1975. In addition, he proudly serves as President of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of San Bernardino County. He is President of the Greater Inland Empire's Applicants' Attorney Association. He also serves in various offices with the Board of Governors of the California Applicants' Attorney Association. Mr. Vines has earned countywide recognition as one of the top ten attorneys in the Inland Empire.

Rob and Sherri Vines received the Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award as a testament to all the hard work, love and energy they have exemplified throughout their lives. This award memorializes Rabbi Feldheim's values of unconditional love and loyalty to one's synagogue, service to the community, and a character imbued with humility and loving kindness to others.

I salute Rob and Sherri Vines on the occasion of being awarded the Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award and wish them continued success and prosperity.

#### CONGRATULATING MISS OLIVIA EVANS UPON RECEIVING THE SPIRIT OF WOMEN FOUNDATION'S REGIONAL SPIRIT OF WOMEN AWARD

#### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a few moments today to recognize an extraordinary young woman from Nashville, Olivia Evans.

Olivia is 13 years old and was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes three years ago. Rather than allowing this disease to defeat her, Olivia has become a tireless advocate for diabetes research and the search for a cure. I first met Olivia in my Nashville office this spring and was impressed from the start by both her courage and charisma.

I am proud to say that her advocacy has also recently won her wider recognition. Olivia was just named the winner of the Spirit of Women Foundation's regional youth Spirit of Women Award for her work on behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. This award is generally reserved for young women aged 14 and older, which makes Olivia's achievement all the more remarkable. In addition, Olivia was one of only two Tennessee delegates to the 2003 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Children's Congress, which came to Washington to raise awareness about diabetes research among national policymakers.

Type 1 diabetes currently afflicts 1.3 million Americans, and there are 13,000 new diag-

noses of juvenile diabetes every year. Olivia is fighting hard to educate all of us on the importance of funding research and finding a cure. The sooner we find a solution, the sooner we can ensure that Olivia will grow to lead a life that is unburdened by the complications of diabetes.

I applaud the Spirit of Women Foundation for recognizing this remarkable young woman, and I congratulate Olivia on her achievement. I call on my colleagues to further honor Olivia and the thousands of American children like her who live with diabetes by supporting all efforts to find a cure now.

#### IN MEMORY OF SGT. 1ST CLASS TROY "LEON" MIRANDA

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Sgt. First Class Troy "Leon" Miranda, who died on May 20, 2004, in Iraq. Leon was 44 years old and of Wickes, AR, part of my Congressional District. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Those who knew Leon well say he was destined to be a soldier from an early age. He signed on with the Army Reserve in 1984. In Iraq, a staff sergeant in the National Guard, he served as a commander of his unit, specializing in combat warfare, germ warfare, and chemical warfare. Leon was deployed last October in large part due to his specialized training.

The Miranda family received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal on Leon's behalf. Leon lost his life while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to him for his courageous spirit.

Leon gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a brother, son, hero, and friend. My deepest condolences go out to his parents, Bobby and Carlos, and his brother, Phillip. I know Leon was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him well.

#### AMADOR COUNTY 150TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 150th birthday of Amador County. June 14, 2004 marks the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the incorporation of a county rich in history and culture.

This land named Amador was once home to Miwuk and possibly other Native American tribes. In time, non-Indian trappers and explorers traversed this land, ushering in a new era. As early as 1843, hired hands for John Sutter worked the land then known as Pine Woods, to manufacture items needed at Sutter's Fort. Later, families of the hired hands came to settle. After gold was discovered in January 1848, the area was flooded with gold seekers.

Many small mining settlements sprung up along the area's streams and became the foundation of today's historic towns.

Resting firmly in the middle of two different jurisdictions, the communities of Amador were divided between Calaveras County and El Dorado County. Citizens became dissatisfied with the lack of a true identity, and organized a community to be separate and independent from both counties. Thus, just four short years after California officially became a state, electors voted to form the County of Amador.

The County has grown to include over 18 cities and communities, yet still maintains its small-town atmosphere. Boasting of areas known as California's Hidden Nugget and The Heart of the Mother Lode, Amador County has been diligent to preserve the past, enrich the present and build towards the future.

I am honored to commemorate this epic year in the history of the County. This Sesquicentennial Anniversary marks 150 years of pioneering a quality environment for generations of citizens. Please join me in celebrating the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Amador County.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and mourn the passing of one of the greatest Presidents in American history—Ronald Wilson Reagan. This leader was a man of clear vision, principle and conviction, a great communicator, and an individual who had perhaps one of the greatest influences on my life.

An eternal optimist with a can-do spirit, President Reagan once said in my hometown of San Diego: "You know, the United States was never meant to be a second-best nation. We set our sights on the stars, and we're going for the gold."

He also believed that this forward-looking superpower Nation could transform the global picture.

He came to the job armed with one underlying philosophy: Freedom. Freedom for the economy, for individuals, our Nation, and people around the globe.

Ronald Reagan brought our economy back to life. It was his policies that ultimately put Congress on a course to the fiscal discipline that spurred a balanced budget and economic growth.

President Reagan followed through on his pledge to restore our military, and he brought back the pride associated with serving this Nation.

Despite the rhetoric and good intentions of those on the other side of the political spectrum, it was Ronald Reagan who actually initiated the disarmament of whole classes of nuclear weapons. Perhaps his greatest legacy will be that of bringing an end to the cold war. Staring down repressive governments and challenging them to a new way of life, he brought freedom to millions of people around the globe.

Using old Navy terms to describe his first term, President Reagan once said, "We've

taken control of the ship of state and changed direction. And what are we going to do now? Well the way I see it, it's all ahead full, no turning back."

For his imprint on history, for his legacy which will be felt for generations to come, this Nation owes President Reagan a debt of gratitude.

I am pleased that one of the President's many legacies is the Navy's newest nuclear carrier, the USS *Ronald Reagan*. That ship recently set sail from Norfolk for its rightful home in San Diego.

Throughout his political career, President Reagan always concluded his campaign in San Diego. He called it his "lucky City." It is only fitting that our shining city on the hill, San Diego, will be called home to the USS *Reagan*. This ship is perhaps the most fitting tribute to Ronald Reagan's legacy of strength and security, to the imprint he had on our past and the promise that we hold for the future.

We anxiously await the arrival of the *Reagan*, and welcoming it to the lucky city. The way I see it, it's all ahead full, no turning back.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FERNANDO OAXACA

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great admiration and pride to honor a very special man, Fernando Oaxaca, former businessman, government official, political activist and founding director of HispanicVista.com.

Fernando Oaxaca passed away on Friday, May 28, 2004, after making invaluable contributions to the Latino community and realizing a long list of accomplishments. He earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1950 at the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy presently known as the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP). His work in the aerospace industry paved the way for other Latinos to have opportunities in the aerospace industry in the 1960s.

Fernando Oaxaca was a pioneer in broadcasting and co-founder of Coronado Communications, one of the first public relations firms in California to specialize in the Latino market. In 1967, he became one of the original founding members of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly.

Throughout his career, Fernando Oaxaca has served as a consultant and advisor to many organizations. His passion and strong convictions led him to become the Chairman of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF). His weekly column "Oaxaca Journal," published in HispanicVista.com inspired many and conveyed the values and principles of our country and its democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the late Fernando Oaxaca, for his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of the Latino community.

#### BACK TO WORK INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 3, 2004*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to today's ill-conceived bill.

Today, we should be creating jobs to replace the more than 2 million that have been lost the last three years. 38,000 private sector jobs and 43,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Minnesota alone since January 2001. This bill does nothing to replace them.

We should be investing in our Nation's existing workforce training infrastructure. Last year, the Dakota County Workforce Council in my district helped over 1,000 dislocated workers and their resource rooms served nearly 40,000 individuals. Even more people could have received job training assistance with adequate funding for our One-Stops.

Instead, the Republican leadership's bill gives unemployed workers a voucher—up to \$3,000—instead of the job training they need and deserve.

This bill ignores the real problems facing our working families.

I have heard from Minnesota's workforce professionals who are worried that without new money, job training funds will be diverted under this plan, reducing funding for proven, successful job training programs offered by workforce training centers in my district.

Congress needs to help the unemployed now, not start new, unproven programs.

We should be extending unemployment benefits for the 1.5 million workers who have exhausted their current benefits, including over 26,000 Minnesotans who lost their benefits because Congress failed to act in December.

Workers in my district aren't asking for new employment vouchers. They are asking for jobs.

We are passing a bill that creates no new jobs while limiting worker access to existing training services. These vouchers undermine benefits for the long-term unemployed who can already access job training services.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.

#### MOURN THE LOSS, RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICE, AND ULTIMATELY, CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THREE AMERICAN HEROES

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss, recognize the sacrifice, and ultimately, celebrate the lives of three American heroes.

These three men, Lt. Erik McCrae, Sergeant Justin Eyerly, and Specialist Justin Linden, were ours. To Oregonians, they were—they remain—a part of us.

They chose to answer the call of their nation. Each of them understood the sacred duty of military service—they knew the special bond formed by soldiers under arms—and they died fulfilling that duty with honor.