

your cooperation on this measure and the able assistance of David Kavanaugh of your staff.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman, *Committee on Resources, Longworth
House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: Thank you for your letter dated June 3, 2004, regarding H.R. 884, the "Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act." As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over Section 3(c)(3) of S. 618, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 884. I appreciate your agreement to amend the text of H.R. 884 and include the language passed by the Senate, thus avoiding any potential Constitutional problems. Further, I appreciate your recognition that this agreement does not prejudice the jurisdictional interests and prerogatives of the Committee on Ways and Means on this provision or any other similar legislation, and it should not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation with this issue. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
AMELIA, OHIO NATIVE ARMY
SERGEANT CHARLES A. KISER,
WHO DIED IN IRAQ

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Army Sergeant Charles A. Kiser, a brave soldier, who died Thursday, June 24, 2004, in an explosion near Mosel, Iraq. Sergeant Kiser is a native of Clermont County, OH, an area I represent.

Sgt. Kiser grew up in Amelia, OH, attended St. Bernadette School, and began competing in track in the third grade. He graduated from McNicholas High School in 1985, where he was a champion sprinter and later a member of the University of Cincinnati's track team. It is said that he was one of the most talented sprinters ever at U.C. Several of Sgt. Kiser's records still stand at U.C., including the 300 yard dash indoors and the 300 meters.

After a year at the University of Cincinnati, he left to join the Navy. He spent 7 years in active duty, mostly in Italy, where he met his wife, Debbie, who was also in the Navy. Sgt. Kiser followed that with 7 years in the Naval Reserve.

They settled in Wisconsin, and had two children, Alicia and Mark. Two years ago, Sgt. Kiser joined the Army Reserve and trained at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. He left for Iraq in late 2003 with the 330th Military Police Detachment, based in Sheboygan.

Close to his family, Sgt. Kiser grew up with six women: his mother and five sisters, all of whom still live in the Clermont County area. Last night, there was a community-wide cele-

bration of Sgt. Kiser's life at the Clermont County Courthouse in Batavia.

All of us in the Cincinnati area are grateful for Sgt. Kiser's service to our country, and express our deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

THOMAS F. FARLEY RETIRES AS
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S NORTHERN
VIRGINIA DISTRICT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Tom Farley to transportation efforts in northern Virginia. For the past 11 years, Tom has served as district administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) northern Virginia district which is the most populated and congested area of the Commonwealth.

District administrator for northern Virginia is a difficult job which often bears the brunt of public scrutiny. He is often on the front line when someone has a complaint about roads, snow, or potholes. Nevertheless, Tom has excelled because he is adept at bringing people together to find transportation solutions.

In the course of his career, Tom has worked with hundreds of citizens, homeowners, community groups, and elected officials. Tom has personally been a friend to me and helped with many projects that have benefitted the 10th District. He has also been involved in almost every major transportation issue in northern Virginia in the past 11 years including the Springfield Interchange, the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Route 50 traffic calming, the Fairfax County Parkway, and the Capital Beltway Safety Study.

I want to thank Tom for his contributions to northern Virginia and wish him the best as he retires from VDOT knowing that he has been a true public servant to the people of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCIL MEMBER-
AT-LARGE, DONALD K. TUCKER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant from my district. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to recognize Councilman Donald Tucker for his 30 years of service to the City of Newark. This is a major accomplishment, and its celebration is a well deserved honor for Councilman Tucker. Having served on the City Council and Southward Democratic Committee with Councilman Tucker, I can attest to his dedication to our community and would like to share a few of his many passions, projects, and accomplishments with you today.

Since 1974, Councilman Tucker has devoted his time and energy to the pursuit of enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Newark. As the senior member of the City Council, he has the historical perspective that

makes him a nationally prominent municipal leader. In addition to serving as the President of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBCLEO) for four years, he was on the Executive Board of the National League of Cities. He has been pro-active in his efforts to assist in making Newark a "Model City." Councilman Tucker is founder and State Chairman of the renowned Black Issues Convention (NJBIC). Under his leadership, NJBIC is the longest serving State Black Issues Convention in the country. He is the main operative of the annual "Newark Day" observance in Atlantic City during the State League of Municipalities Convention.

In addition to his duties as a Councilman, Donald Tucker finds time to serve the community in other ways. He serves on several advisory boards and has received numerous awards and citations for his dedicated service. Always an advocate for children and senior citizens, Councilman Tucker is the founder of The Centre, Inc., a community services multipurpose center that serves these individuals.

I salute Councilman Tucker for his dedication to our community and I am proud to have him in my district. Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Councilman Tucker, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our sincere congratulations and best wishes as he celebrates 30 years of service to Newark's deserving citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS S.
CURREY FOR HIS HEROIC SERVICE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Francis S. Currey for his heroic service during the Second World War. I am very pleased to submit this tribute to Sergeant Currey, as the Town of Fallsburg in Sullivan County, New York prepares to celebrate "Francis Currey Day," designated for July 10, 2004. The day of festivities will pay homage to the outstanding and invaluable service that Sergeant Currey provided to our nation during World War II, which earned him the Medal of Honor. Mr. Currey is the only living native of Sullivan County to have received this distinguished award.

The details of Sergeant Currey's courageous actions are chronicled in a citation dated July 27, 1945 and signed by President Harry S. Truman. At the time of the events depicted in the citation, Francis Currey was nineteen years of age. It reads as follows:

"Sergeant Francis S. Currey, U.S. Army, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 120th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division. He was an automatic rifleman with the 3rd Platoon defending a strong point near Malmedy, Belgium, on 21 December 1944, when the enemy launched a powerful attack. Overrunning tank destroyers and antitank guns located near the strong point, German tanks advanced to the 3rd Platoon's position and, after prolonged fighting, forced the withdrawal of this group to a nearby factory. Sergeant Currey found a bazooka in the building and crossed the street to secure rockets meanwhile enduring intense fire from enemy tanks and hostile infantrymen who had

taken up a position at a house a short distance away. In the face of small arms, machine gun, and artillery fire, he, with a companion, knocked out a tank with one shot. Moving to another position, he observed three Germans in the doorway of an enemy-held house. He killed or wounded all three with his automatic rifle. He emerged from cover and advanced alone to within 50 yards of the house, intent on wrecking it with rockets. Covered by friendly fire, he stood erect, and fired a shot which knocked down half of one wall. While in this forward position, he observed five Americans who had been pinned down for hours by fire from the house and three tanks. Realizing that they could not escape until the enemy tank and infantry guns had been silenced, Sergeant Currey crossed the street to a vehicle, where he procured an armful of antitank grenades. These he launched while under heavy enemy fire, driving the tankmen from the vehicles into the house. He then climbed onto a half-track in full view of the Germans and fired a machine gun at the house. Once again changing his position, he manned another machine gun whose crew had been killed; under his covering fire the five soldiers were able to retire to safety. Deprived of tanks and with heavy infantry casualties, the enemy was forced to withdraw. Through his extensive knowledge of weapons and by his heroic and repeated braving of murderous enemy fire, Sergeant Currey was greatly responsible for inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the enemy, for rescuing five comrades, two of whom were wounded, and for stemming an attack which threatened to flank his battalion's position."

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the Town of Fallsburg in honoring Francis S. Currey, who repeatedly risked his life in order to protect his fellow soldiers and to halt the Nazi offensive near Malmedy, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. The enemy offensive that Sergeant Currey thwarted may have prolonged the duration of the War in Europe and cost the lives of many more American soldiers had it been successful. It is with great pleasure that I hereby recognize Sergeant Currey's courageous and selfless actions and express my deep gratitude and appreciation for his tremendous service to this country.

A TRIBUTE TO GREATER FREE
GIFT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Greater Free Gift Baptist Church in recognition of the church's 50th year of existence, serving as a place of spiritual leadership in the community.

The Free Gift Baptist Mission was first organized on May 9, 1954 in the Home of Reverend J.W. McCray on 714A Monroe Street in Brooklyn, New York. The church leaders included Deacon Lee Gains who was chairman of the deacon board; Deacon Brodie who was treasurer; Sister Gertrude Ortry who was the church clerk; and Deacon Roosevelt Kirkland who served as chairman of the trustee board. There were about 25 charter members.

On the following Sunday, worship services were also held at 494 Lexington Avenue, where Reverend Wayne was pastor. In June of that same year, the church occupied its premises at 77 Sumner Avenue. On October 24, 1955, an Advisory Council meeting of the Eastern Baptist Association was held for the purpose of recognizing Free Gift Baptist Church as a regular Baptist church. In September 1956, the pastor, members, and many visitors and friends marched from 77 Sumner Avenue to 1058 Myrtle Avenue.

In June 1959, Reverend Daniel Webster Batts was called to serve as pastor of the church. In 1961, the Free Gift Baptist Church due to legal reasons changed its name to Greater Free Gift Baptist Church. Under new leadership, congregants continued worshipping at 1058 Myrtle Avenue. In 1962, membership was instructed to look for larger and better quarters, and through the help of the Almighty, church members located its present site at 146 Stockton Street. On December 12, 1991, the church lost its pastor Reverend Dr. Daniel Webster Batts and for three years while under the leadership of the Deacon Board, the church searched for a new pastor.

Finally, on February 26, 1995, the church installed its current pastor, Reverend William Raymond Whitaker, Jr. and since then the ministry has continued to grow. Under Reverend Whitaker's leadership, the church now has a ministerial staff consisting of three ministries, a nurses unit, the Greater Free Gift Bible Institute, which includes a General Bible Class and Child and Youth Evangelism Classes, an in-house library, a remedial reading assistance class, a basic computer training class, two vans, the D.W. Batts Fellowship Hall as well as the formation of the Drama and Dance Ministry and Serenity on Stockton Street. In May 2003, the main sanctuary and the D.W. Batts Fellowship Hall were renovated.

Mr. Speaker, the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church has served as a religious sanctuary for 50 years, inspiring spiritual growth, knowledge and understanding in the community. As such, the church is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable congregation.

HONORING COLONEL JACK V.
SCHERER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and an admirable leader, COL Jack Scherer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District.

On July 12th, COL Scherer will step down as Memphis District Commander after finishing his 3-year term. He leaves behind a legacy of infrastructure and development all along the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, to Rose-dale, Mississippi.

COL Scherer has served his country with distinction as a member of several troop as-

signments including as Platoon Leader, Company XO and Battalion Logistics Officer for the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). He also commanded Company E (Mobile Assault Brigade), 1st Engineer Battalion, and 82nd Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized).

His wide-ranging experience in the field and with the Defense Logistics Agency in Ft. Belvoir, VA, has led to a vision and knowledge of water-borne infrastructure far exceeding the norm. The rivers and levees, especially the Mississippi River and tributaries, of our area have not known a greater advocate than COL Scherer; his absence from our future efforts will be terribly apparent.

In addition to his infrastructure development, COL Scherer has been involved in many humanitarian relief operations. Deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Guard, he was the Multi-National Division (North) Engineer. While there, he coordinated the work of eight national engineer units supervising land mine-removal operations.

COL Jack Scherer is a hero not only for his courage and leadership as Army colonel, but for his commitment to the infrastructure our region is so reliant upon. On behalf of the Congress, I extend deep appreciation to COL Scherer for his leadership and his dedication to making the area's waterways efficient and practical.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP
SHALOM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Camp Shalom, the Madison Jewish Community Council's Day Camp. Camp Shalom has become the oldest day camp in the entire Madison area. It continues to serve children without regard to race, gender, religion, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disability, or national origin.

During the past five decades, Camp Shalom has fulfilled its commitment of never denying a child access to its facilities due to family finance. It maintains a nurturing, safe, educational, and enjoyable camp experience for children from ages five through thirteen.

From 1954 through 1999, Camp Shalom made its home in Madison's Wingra and Olin Parks. Since 1999, it has been located at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus in Verona. The new facility has an aquatic center, community center, art center, and basketball courts, enabling children to enjoy a diversity of activities while at day camp. Camp Shalom also operates the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Aquatic Center in a joint venture with Madison Schools—Community Recreation. This joint venture exemplifies an ideal partnership between the non-profit and public sectors.

I wholeheartedly congratulate Camp Shalom for fulfilling a fifty year mission of service to the children and families of the Madison-area community and significantly contributing to the advancement of peace.