

in the region." I fully agree with this statement, and feel that it is important to recognize that the spread of freedom and democracy in the region is of great benefit to the entire world, not just Israel. The spread of democracy will directly lead to the spread of peace. There has not been one instance in modern history where a democratic government has gone to war with another democratic government—not one. Achieving such a peaceful existence is of monumental importance to the United States, Israel, and all other nations opposed to violence and terror tactics.

While I certainly do not expect each of my colleagues to agree with me on the question of whether or not we should have entered this war, I do urge all Members of Congress to think carefully about the potential effects that their statements may have, both on the war and on other subjects of a sensitive nature.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LAY KHIN KAY

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Lay Khin Kay, co-founder and chief medical director of QTC Medical Services, Inc., for dedicating the past 23 years of her career to the development of medical claims technology.

Dr. Kay's career began in Burma when she obtained her Doctor of Medicine degree from the prestigious Rangoon Institute of Medicine. She came to the United States to further her education and obtain certification as a Board Certified Internal and Occupational Specialist. Dr. Kay devoted years of service performing disability evaluations at the Social Security Administration where she identified a major disconnect between traditional medical evidence development and rating requirements. The medical evidence collected by an evaluating physician rarely met the expectations of ratings requirements; consequently, long delays and appealed cases increased.

In 1981, Dr. Kay co-founded QTC Medical Services to develop a rating-driven disability evaluation protocol, and worked to educate thousands of evaluating physicians. As technology progressed, Dr. Kay continued to develop new techniques to improve the evaluation process. She created QTC's Medical Knowledge Library, which serves as the main database for KMEP (Dr. Kay's Medical Evaluation Protocol), a web-based application designed to help physicians generate disability medical examination content. Instead of using a standardized physician examination guide, KMEP software produces claimant-specific, protocol-based, field-level evaluation worksheets. These worksheets ensure that each physician will completely and accurately address every medical issue of the claimant according to the corresponding disability program's standards.

In 1997, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded its first performance-based contract to QTC to conduct a pilot program that was established by Congress to perform compensation and pension examinations (C&P) for veterans filing disability claims through VA. QTC now performs about 50 percent of the VA's C&P exams through 10 of its regional of-

fices. In 2003, the KMEP application aided the QTC examining physicians in the production of over 69,000 disability exam reports with near-perfect adequacy ratings.

Dr. Kay's efforts have given disabled veterans a simplified evaluation process, which eliminates the need for retraining, costs less money, and produces timelier quality reports. Thank you, Dr. Kay, for your innovative and cost-effective contributions to the veterans' claims disability process.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTA AND CHARLIE PETERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and to pay tribute to the service of Marta and Charlie Peterson to Mesa Verde National Park. Recently, after over thirty years of dedicated service to our nation park system, the couple announced their retirement. They leave behind a great legacy of dedication and commitment to our lands and I am honored to recognize their service before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Marta and Charlie joined the park service in 1969 on separate journeys. They met while working at adjacent parks in their first year and married soon after. Together they have worked in nine National Parks, acclimating to the changing conditions and terrain, finding happiness in each and every park. After seven years at Mesa Verde National Park, Charlie retires as the chief ranger and Marta retires as the administrative assistant to the park superintendent.

Charlie and Marta's dedication to our National Parks is evident through the numerous awards and recognition they have received over the years. Charlie received the Department of Interior's Medal of Valor and the park service's Harry Yount Award. The Medal of Valor was given for his role in saving his friend from drowning. Working as scuba divers cleaning drains to improve the flood conditions, his friend was pulled into the drain, only to be saved by Charlie. The Harry Yount award honors rangers considered by their peers to be the top rangers in the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Marta and Charlie Peterson before this body of Congress and this nation today. They have provided years of dedicated service to our national parks. I thank them for their hard work and service, and wish them all the best and happiness in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD BARNETT CROWLEY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a distinguished citizen and friend to many in my Congressional District, Mr. Clifford Barnett Crowley, who passed away on July 6 of an extended illness at the age of 92.

Mr. Crowley was a native of Houston County, Alabama where he and his wife, Donnie Vernell Wilkinson, established a family farm. Crowley was well known for his ingenuity and keen ability to adjust to change in agriculture. This skill earned him state wide distinction as Alabama Peanut Farmer of the Year in 1969 and 1970.

Crowley was an active member of Pine Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Dothan, serving as a Sunday School teacher, deacon and trustee. He was also much beloved for his participation in a local musical group which entertained fellow seniors, family and friends.

I offer my condolences to Mr. Crowley's wife and extended family. We have lost a valued and much respected member of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Chairman, on July 7, 2004, I inadvertently voted "nay" on an amendment to the fiscal year 2005 Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations bill (H.R. 4754). I respectfully request the RECORD reflect that I supported the Paul Amendment withholding funds from the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and intended to vote "aye" on rollcall vote No. 333.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL MANUEL ADRIAN CENICEROS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Manuel "Manny" Adrian Cenicerros, United States Marine Corps, a member of the Regimental Combat Team 1 Headquarters Company, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Manuel Adrian Cenicerros was born on November 15, 1980. He was a good son to his mother Angela De La Cruz and a loving husband to his wife Elizabeth. He enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest. His hobbies included drawing and playing the trumpet. Manuel and Elizabeth dreamed of starting a family some day. They lived in East Los Angeles, just a few blocks from my office, before he was deployed.

Manuel epitomized what every man should be—a good son and loving husband, a caring friend and considerate neighbor, a good-hearted young man who enjoyed life and strived to ensure that others did as well.

For love of our country, and to protect its freedoms, Lance Corporal Manuel Adrian Cenicerros volunteered to participate in a convoy mission, not knowing that it would be his last unselfish act of honor and courage. On June 26, 2004, he was killed in an explosion in the Iraqi Province of Al Anbar. Manny was laid to rest on July 6 in Santa Ana, the city of

his birth. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and mother Angela de La Cruz.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following statement appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD behind the votes for Wednesday, July 7, 2004: unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for the recorded Roll Call votes number 326 through number 335, I would have voted in the following way:

No. 326—H. Con. Res. 410—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I would have voted "yes."

No. 327—H. Con. Res. 257—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery. I would have voted "yes."

No. 328—On agreeing to the Manzullo, Velazquez, Serrano amendment to provide \$79.1 million for the Small Business 7(a) loan program, the amount provided last year, to finance more than \$13 billion in small business loans. I would have voted in favor of the amendment.

No. 329—On agreeing to the Flake (Arizona) Amendment prohibiting use of funds to implement new restrictions on gift parcels and other items allowed for travellers to Cuba. I would have voted "yes."

No. 330—On agreeing to the Weiner Amendment increasing COPS funding by \$107 million and offsets that funding by cutting funding for the Census. I would have voted "yes."

No. 331—On agreeing to the Hefley Amendment eliminating funding for the re-engineering design process for the 2010 short-form only Census. I would have voted "no."

No. 332—On agreeing to the Kucinich amendment on funding for the Commerce Department to expand the membership of the President's "Manufacturing Council." I would have voted "yes."

No. 333—On agreeing to the Paul of Texas amendment No. 9. I would have voted "no."

No. 334—On agreeing to the Farr of California amendment prohibiting funds from being used to prevent states from implementing state laws authorizing the use of medical marijuana. I would have voted "yes."

No. 335—On agreeing to the Paul of Texas amendment No. 10. I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO ST. BLASÉ "KC" CHARLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of St. Blasé "KC" Charles in recognition of his significant cultural and economic development contributions to the community.

St. Blasé Charles, better known as KC, hails from the twin island Nation of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. He has been an entertainer for more than 30 years. Famous for his Caribbean-style rendition of the "father of soul," Mr. James Brown, KC is also affectionately known as the "Local James Brown" throughout the entertainment circles in North America and members of his international fan club. Along with his own musical group, the International Band, KC has performed at major events and famous places including the West Indian Labor Day Parade in Brooklyn, the Harlem Day Parade, Manhattan's Annual Halloween Parade, the MGM and Sahara casino in Las Vegas, and the Royal Caribbean and Carnival cruises, just to name a few.

KC's summer concerts were launched in 1989 at his garage at East 87th Street in East Flatbush, Brooklyn where he held a huge block party on Memorial Day. In order to accommodate the growing crowd that came to the yearly event, in 1991, KC moved his Caribbean style street festival to Ditmas Avenue near his East 87th Street garage. The event covered ten blocks. The event continued at Ditmas Avenue until 1996, when KC took his show and a loyal following of thousands to its new home on Atlantic Avenue.

Spanning 10,000 square feet and a maximum occupancy of 4,300, the Hideaway is a spacious outdoor venue located at 2494 Atlantic, in an industrial section of Brooklyn. Since 1998, the Hideaway, which is owned and managed by KC, has been hosting its hallmark Summer Concert Series featuring today's leading soca, calypso, and reggae musical acts from around the Caribbean and here in the United States. Along with top performers, the Hideaway showcases some of the most popular Caribbean-American DJs. It is also equipped with a fully licensed bar, a professional sized stage, and an elevated VIP lounge where performing artist and special guests can view and enjoy the shows.

KC's Hideaway has become a major attraction for thousands of Caribbean music lovers from around the world who are drawn to Brooklyn, the Caribbean Capital of the United States, year after year to celebrate the West Indian Labor Day Carnival season, which begins in May. The venue stages around 66 shows a year and the number of concertgoers has steadily increased over the past three years. The concert grew from an audience of about 80,000 for the season in 1998, to approximately 165,000 for this season.

Mr. Speaker, St. Blasé "KC" Charles has developed and created a major cultural event in his community, which has brought thousands of people to Brooklyn each year to celebrate their Caribbean heritage. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. FLINN, III

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James L. Flinn, III upon his retirement after thirty-five years of outstanding civil service for the United States Army, the major-

ity of which he served at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

An Alabama native, Jim first entered the civil service in 1969 after receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Management from the University of Alabama. Through many challenging and diverse assignments, Jim has distinguished himself by his knowledge and ability to consistently lead others. He has been a constant and stabilizing presence at Redstone and has helped ensure Redstone's high level support of the warfighter.

Mr. Speaker, throughout Jim's remarkable career his hard work and dedication have been an inspiration for others and he has been recognized by his peers through numerous honors and awards. In 2003, he was awarded the Department of the Army Senior Executive Service Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, which is the highest honor a public sector employee can receive. In addition, in 1993 and 1998 he received the DA SES Meritorious Presidential Rank Award and most recently, he was awarded the 2004 National Defense Industrial Association Defense Management Award. Jim also serves on numerous boards and holds many leadership positions in North Alabama. Most recently, he was appointed by the Governor of Alabama to the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, which oversees the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate James L. Flinn on his thirty-five years of service to our country and wish him well in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRINE RICE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand and recognize the selflessness of Patrine Rice of Grand Junction, Colorado. She has committed herself to the community, which is evident through her accomplished record as a volunteer. It is my pleasure to acknowledge Patrine's efforts to make her neighborhood stronger before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Patrine's career as a volunteer began when she moved to Grand Junction in 1986. Ever since, she has shelved books for six to eight hours per week at the Mesa County Public Library. Her work at the library is a natural extension of her years spent as a teacher of foreign language. Nearly eighty years old, self sufficiency would satisfy most at that distinguished age, but not Patrine. In addition to taking care of her yard and her garden, she finds time to dedicate herself to others. Through a program called "Support Our Seniors," she drives other seniors requiring transportation to their destinations. In acknowledgment of her work as a volunteer in her area, she was recently honored with the "Above and Beyond Award" by the Mesa County Department of Human Services and the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Speaker, Patrine Rice's fondness for helping others contributes significantly to make Grand Junction a cohesive community. This