However, these methods are haphazard, lack uniformity and rely on local and state rules and regulations, if any, for enforcement. With the advent of private vehicles with daytime running lights as a standard feature, increased traffic congestion in urban areas, road rage and an increase in the number and variety of law enforcement and emergency vehicles, funeral processions have become more and more vulnerable to accidents and other hazardous conditions. Furthermore, with this increased risk comes increased liability exposure for the funeral home and funeral director resulting in increased financial strain. Therefore, the use of Mobile Infrared Transmitters by authorized personnel only as well as increased use of law enforcement personnel as funeral procession escorts would go a long way in addressing this very real problem. My bill would protect the authorized user and impose penalties and jail time for an unauthorized user or seller.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. VICTORIA SOTO CANDELARIA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Victoria Soto Candelaria for her lifelong contributions to her community. Victoria passed away unexpectedly on July 4, 2004. Victoria was a pioneer educator who touched the lives of numerous students, both in and out of the classroom. She was also a union leader, activist, and community advocate, and her numerous accomplishments are worthy of the highest commendation.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a master's degree from Purdue University, Victoria devoted twenty-nine years to the School City of East Chicago teaching English and Spanish. In 1987, she was elected President of the East Chicago, Indiana Federation of Teachers, Local 511, a position she held until 2001. Additionally, Victoria was President of the Indiana Teachers Federation from 1997 until 2003. As well as being dearly loved and respected by her family and community, Victoria was known for her passionate belief in helping to educate the working people in her community.

Victoria strongly believed in the importance of community involvement as well as political activism. She served as secretary of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor and as Vice President of the Indiana AFL–CIO. She also served on the Board of Directors for the Lake County Integrated Services Delivery and for the Lake Area United Way. Victoria was a trustee for Ivy Tech State College and for the Indiana Federation of Teachers. In the political arena, she was a member of the Indiana Governor's Roundtable on Education and a member of the Governor's Commission for Hispanic and Latino Affairs. She was a three time National Education Policy advisor to President Clinton, a delegate to the Indiana Democratic Convention, and a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1992 and 1996. Victoria received invitations to the presidential inaugurations in 1993 and 1997. She was also honored with the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1997.

While her work in the educational and political fields placed extraordinary demands on her time, Victoria always found time to spend with her most important interest, her family. By providing unwavering guidance to her children, she instilled in them the morals and fortitude that have molded her children into successful adults who are raising families of their own. She is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Isabelino, three sons and one daughter, eight grandchildren, and a host of other relatives.

Mr. Speaker, Victoria Soto Candelaria dedicated her life to educating the nation's youth and serving as a leader and role model for all Americans. Because of her lifetime work and achievements, Mrs. Candelaria has been lauded as a tireless, passionate, and visionary advocate of the people. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering Mrs. Candelaria and her outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. She will be admirably remembered and truly missed.

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for one of government's most important contributions to the economic welfare of this nation: providing support for public and private sector research and development.

U.S. businesses and industry have proven extremely adept at developing successful new products from cutting-edge technologies. Many of the technologies that underlie these products and spur economic growth were originally developed with federal support.

The extent to which publicly funded research stimulates further innovation depends in large part on whether it is disseminated under terms that attract the private investment needed to commercialize the research. Private firms, however, are generally willing to commercialize publicly funded research only if they can protect the intellectual property they contribute to this process in a manner that allows them to secure a return on their investment.

The importance of intellectual property rights in driving new research and its commercialization is illustrated by this Nation's own experience in funding university R&D activities. In the 1970s, too little federally funded research was being commercialized as a result of tight restrictions on licensing, varying patent protections among federal agencies, and the lack of exclusive manufacturing rights. Indeed, in 1980 only five percent of U.S. government-owned patents resulted in new or improved products.

In response to this problem, the U.S. Congress in 1980 passed the Bayh-Dole Act, which established a uniform government patent policy and allowed universities and other nonprofits to retain title to federally-funded inventions and to work with private-sector companies in bringing them to market.

By any measure, the Bayh-Dole Act has been remarkably successful and today the federal government provides a majority of all university research funding. According to the last survey on the impact of the Bayh-Dole Act conducted by the U.S. Association of University Technology Managers, in 2000 alone this research spawned 347 new products, 13,032 invention disclosures, 6,375 U.S. patent applications, 3,764 U.S. patents issued from previous applications, 4,362 new licenses, and the creation of 454 new companies. Moreover, universities received $1.26 billion in licensing revenue from these activities. Much of this money in turn is reinvested in further research and development.

Technological innovation and government support for it are central not only to the Nation's economy, but also to the health and vitality of our citizens. With the continued support of the Federal Government—both through funding and through licensing policies that promote commercialization such as those embodied in the Bayh-Dole Act—we can continue to ensure that technology is developed and made available to the private sector in a manner that spawns further innovation, for the benefit of our economy and the health and welfare of our citizens.

SAN DIEGO WATER STORAGE AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, my San Diego Congressional District suffers from the same problem that exists throughout all of the West—a diminishing supply of usable water. As populations increase, and resources are evermore stretched between agriculture, municipal, and environmental uses, we must be smarter with our current water use. To address this problem, San Diego has had great success. In recent months, we completed a landmark deal with our Imperial County neighbors that will provide up to 200,000 acre feet of new water per year for our growing city. San Diego County has embarked on a remarkable regional seawater desalination program to tap the nearby Pacific Ocean. Water efficiency efforts spearheaded by the San Diego County Water Authority have resulted in our ability to rely on the same amount of water we used in the year 1990—even though our population has swelled by nearly 20 percent. This is great progress, but we have more to do.

For this reason, today I am proud to introduce the San Diego Water Storage and Efficiency Act of 2004. The legislation helps the Sweetwater Authority, which administers much of the water supply in my district, make maximum use of the water they manage by enabling them to more fully use their existing reservoirs.

In 1993, the Army Corps of Engineers determined that one of the top methods to ensure greater water reliability in San Diego County was to connect three isolated reservoirs—the San Vicente, which receives raw, imported water, and the Loveland and El Capitan Reservoirs, which receive only local runoff and are rarely full. By connecting the three, we can ensure that the ability to use available water storage is maximized. This legislation authorizes a $3 million federal feasibility study of the reservoir intertie project.

I look forward to working with House Resources Committee Chairman POMBO, as well as Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman CALVERT, both stalwart advocates for our State's water needs, in advancing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will promote conservation and increase the reliability of our regional water supply, and I urge my colleagues' thoughtful consideration of the San Diego Water Storage and Efficiency Act.

FREEDOM FOR MIGDALIA HERNÁNDEZ ENAMORADO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Migdalia Hernández Enamorado, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mrs. Hernández Enamorado is a wife, a mother of three and a peaceful pro-democracy activist. Because she believes that a free and democratic Cuba is the best hope for her young children and every citizen trapped in totalitarian Cuba, she has worked to liberate Cuba from the tyrannical regime.

As a result of the tyrant's brutal March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mrs. Hernández Enamorado, along with her husband Rafael Benitez Chui, went to a police unit in Guantanamo, Cuba, and protested the arrests of Manuel Ubals and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta. Unfortunately, the tyrant's thugs arrested the married couple while they peacefully protested the abhorrent crackdown on their fellow advocates for freedom and human rights in totalitarian Cuba.

On September 18, 2003, after being held in the inhuman gulag for 7 months, Mrs. Hernández Enamorado was ''sentenced'' to 2 years in the despotic gulag for the supposed crime of ''contempt.'' In the same sham trial, her husband was sentenced to 4 years. Let me be very clear, Mrs. Hernández Enamorado's three children are living without their parents because these noble pro-democracy activists believe in freedom.

According to a report from Guantanamo by Ada Kaly Márquez Abascal, Mrs. Hernández Enamorado is being abused by prison guards, suffering from high blood pressure, and ailing from a myriad of physical maladies caused by the deplorable conditions in the totalitarian gulag. It is also reported that she is only allowed to see her children for 5 minutes a week and some weeks she is not even allowed that brief visit.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that Mrs. Hernández Enamorado is languishing in the totalitarian gulag because of her belief in freedom. It is categorically unacceptable that her three daughters are growing up without their parents, and unable to even visit their mother for more than 5 minutes, simply because Mrs. Hernández Enamorado wants them to be raised in liberty instead of repression. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Migdalia Hernández Enamorado, her husband Rafael Benitez Chui, and every prisoner of conscience suffering under the terrorist regime in Havana.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY WERMERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise to pay tribute to Gary Wermers of Pueblo, Colorado. As a science teacher at Heaton Middle School, he has shown commitment toward educating our youth. Gary is a valuable member of his community, and I am honored to join my colleagues in recognizing Gary's tremendous work before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Gary teaches science to seventh grade students at Heaton Middle School in Pueblo. His value in teaching goes well beyond his ability to convey the subject matter in the curriculum as he strives to stress moral and civilized behavior of his students. For his efforts and accomplishments in the classroom, he was recently awarded the 2004 Teacher of the Year Award from the Wal-Mart Corporation. In addition to his time teaching in classrooms, he attempts to connect with students as a mentor in activities where students find interest. He coaches the boys' basketball team, and sponsors the student council and the Fellowship of Christian Hawks.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Wermers has clearly been an outstanding influence on our youth. The community benefits from him as an excellent educator, but it is the individual students who benefit the most from his personal and lasting style of teaching. I thank Gary for his important work in his community, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, high performance computing has become very important to the competitiveness of this country. Supercomputers help us solve some of the most critical scientific, business, and homeland security problems in this nation. I would like to highlight what the citizens in my district working at IBM are doing to advance high performance computing.

I recently visited the Rochester, MN facility of IBM in my district. There I learned about IBM's newest supercomputer, Blue Gene/L.

Blue Gene is an IBM project to build a new family of supercomputers optimized for bandwidth, scalability, and the ability to handle large amounts of data while consuming a fraction of the power and floor space required by today's fastest systems. IBMers in my district are exploring how to harness Blue Gene's massive computing power to model the folding of human proteins. This technique is expected to give medical researchers better understanding of diseases and potential cures.

Two prototypes of IBM's Blue Gene/L now rank #4 and #8 on the latest list of the Top 500 fastest supercomputers. When Blue Gene/L is finished, it is expected to rank #1 on the Top 500 list next year, overtaking the Japan's Earth Simulator.

The citizens of my district and IBM take their commitment to innovation, competitiveness, and the advancement of high performance computing in this nation very seriously. The most advanced supercomputing skills in the world are right here in the United States—and in my district. With the leadership of IBM and the Minnesotans it employs, the innovative advances keeping our county competitive will remain firmly rooted in the U.S.

NATIONAL INNOVATION INITIATIVE

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, America's ability to innovate will determine our citizens' standards of living and competitiveness in the 21st century. I would like to highlight what leaders in my district, IBM and Georgia Tech, are doing to ensure that America remains the most innovative country in the world.

Sam Palmisano, the CEO of IBM, and Wayne Clough, the President of Georgia Tech, launched a National Innovation Initiative last fall through the Council on Competitiveness. They have pulled together hundreds of the nation's top minds from industry, academia, and government to develop a national agenda that will be released in December of this year. An interim report will be issued soon.

These leaders understand that innovation relies on much more than science and technology funding, although that remains important. Innovation is putting new ideas into action to better our lives—a blend of invention, insight and entrepreneurism that launches new growth industries and creates high-value jobs. Innovation can be a new product, process—or increasingly in our economy—a service.

Our future relies on whether we establish an ecosystem of smart policies that recognize how innovation is changing in our global, open and connected economy. The National Innovation Initiative will sharpen our understanding of contemporary innovation and recommend bold action on many fronts to ensure that America has the talent, infrastructure, and investment to succeed.

I salute IBM and Georgia Tech for their leadership; look forward to reviewing the National Innovation Agenda; and pledge to be a partner in keeping the United States at the forefront of innovation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 6, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 326 and 327. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 326 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as amended, to H. Con. Res. 410, Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and rollcall vote 327 on the Motion to