

celebrating those freedoms through the Armenian Weekly Newspaper. In addition to its extensive coverage of news events of interest to the Armenian-American community, over the years, the paper has printed numerous short stories, essays and poems. For example, the stories that initially brought noted Armenian-American writer and playwright William Saroyan to national attention were first published in the Armenian Weekly.

I congratulate Editor Jason Sohigian and everyone associated with this remarkable publication and I wish the Armenian Weekly Newspaper many more years of service and success.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL P. WIEDEMER, U.S. AIR FORCE, DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY AT FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major General Michael P. Wiedemer, Director of the Defense Commissary Agency, for his loyal service to the United States and Virginia's Fourth District.

Major General Wiedemer's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our district and the nation as a whole is to be commended. He has played an instrumental role in overseeing the growth and preservation of the military's worldwide commissary system since he assumed command in August 2002.

Since first being commissioned in the U.S. Air Force over 30 years ago, Major General Wiedemer's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. After four years of service, he served as Chief of Data Automation as part of the 347th Tactical Fighter Wing on the Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. He has served on numerous airbases throughout the United States. His military education is extensive and includes Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College, Defense Systems Management College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Major General Wiedemer also holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree in Industrial Management.

Major General Wiedemer's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, an Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Major General Wiedemer has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to his country. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Major General Michael P. Wiedemer.

CONGRATULATING MR. JEROME W. WATSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. Jerome W. Watson on his retirement from United Steelworkers of America Local Union 1066. Jerome has spent nearly 35 years dedicating his life to the interests of Local Union 1066 as well as his community in Northwest Indiana. His career at Local 1066 has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

Jerome Watson has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. Before joining Local 1066, Jerome admirably served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge in 1969. He began his career at Local 1066 as a Grievance Committeeman in 1976. After being hired by United States Steel as a Motor Inspector Expanded, Jerome faithfully served Local 1066 on the Classification Committee, By-Law Committee, Institute for Career Development Local Joint Committee, Legislative Committee, and as Editor/Chair of the Banner Newspaper Committee. He was Grievance Chairman of Local 1066 from 1985–1991 and again in 1996–2003, and he served as the President from 2003–2004.

Not only has Jerome Watson had many positive accomplishments throughout his career at Local 1066, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs aimed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. Jerome participated in the successful negotiations that resulted in the Ivy Tech/United States Steel craft articulation agreement, which allowed graduated apprentices and trainees to obtain Associates Degrees through credit allowed for previous relevant training and additional Ivy Tech core classes. Along with his many other accomplishments, Jerome has received numerous awards and certificates, including the Q1 award for Union Involvement from Ford Motor Company, the Labor award from the A. Phillip Randolph Institute. He was honored with the awards of merit for Local Union 1066 Banner Newspaper for best local union coverage, best regular column, and best U.S.X. 1986 "lockout coverage." Jerome received certificates of approval from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, and the Ivy Tech State College program of Electrical and Mechanical Degree Program.

Jerome has demonstrated his loyalty by his outstanding service to Local 1066 and his community through his hard work and self-sacrifice. Although Jerome has served on numerous Committees and has dedicated his time to Local 1066, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family. Jerome and his wife Linda have one son, Jerome Jr., and a daughter, Tina.

Mr. Speaker, Jerome Watson has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of Local 1066 the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distin-

guished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Jerome Watson for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment for the record regarding yesterday's passage of the Maloney Amendment to H.R. 4766, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.

The Maloney amendment, which was adopted yesterday by the House by voice vote, stated that no funds may be used to keep a contraception drug as prescription-only if it has been determined to be safe and effective without a doctor's supervision. Let the record state that there is not an oral contraceptive that has been determined to be safe and effective without a doctor's supervision. Current law already requires FDA to make products available over the-counter only when they are found to be safe and effective.

On May 7, 2004, the FDA rejected an over-the-counter application from Barr Pharmaceuticals for the morning after pill because and I quote: "... we have concluded that you have not provided adequate data to support a conclusion that Plan B can be used safely by young adolescent women for emergency contraception without the professional supervision of a practitioner licensed by law to administer the drug." The petitioners for over-the-counter status could not prove that the drug was safe and effective without a doctor's supervision. It is important to note that the Maloney amendment has no effect on current law and merely restates current FDA law and policy regarding prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs.

I am concerned that my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle are attempting to use this amendment to chastise the FDA for its refusal to allow morning-after birth control pills to be sold without a doctor's prescription. I understand that the FDA is being lobbied heavily by the business community and social liberal groups for acceptance of Plan B and other over-the-counter pills that would seek to terminate a pregnancy. I'm encouraged that the FDA is willing to place the concerns of public health above other considerations and I am hopeful that the FDA will continue to resist pressure from these outside interests.

CONGRATULATING VALMONT ON
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CEN-
TER PIVOT IRRIGATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member congratulates Valmont Industries as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of center pivot irrigation.

The introduction of center pivot irrigation in 1954 proved to be a crucial development in agricultural production across the U.S. and around the world. Although these irrigation systems are now a common sight on farms throughout the globe, it is important to remember the vision and determination that led to this innovation half a century ago.

The wide use of center pivot irrigation systems has resulted in increased agricultural yields and greater water conservation. The growing emphasis on water quality and quantity issues have resulted in even greater demand for center pivot irrigation systems, which can now be found throughout the U.S. as well as Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, China, Australia and elsewhere. Valmont can certainly take great pride in the role it has played in facilitating crop production in a more environmentally friendly manner.

Although now a worldwide operation, Valmont's Nebraska roots remain firmly in place. Valmont Industries, which is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, and has its primary manufacturing facility in Valley, Nebraska, now operates 34 facilities located in 14 countries. The company's name is a combination of the two Nebraska communities on either side of the first Valmont plant—Valley and Fremont. Valmont has more 5,200 employees worldwide, with about 1,500 located in Nebraska. This Member is pleased to note that Valmont operates two plants in his congressional district—one in West Point and another in Waverly.

The success of Valmont has truly been a company-wide team effort. However, this Member would like to specifically commend and congratulate Mogens Bay, Valmont's Chairman and CEO; Terry McClain, Senior Vice President and CFO; Bob Meaney, Senior Vice President; and Tom Spears, President of the Irrigation Division. Certainly, this Member would also like to extend his thanks and congratulations to Bob Daugherty, Valmont's founder.

COMMUNITY CHURCH 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The 121 Community Church on its outreach mission and dedication to the community. Five years ago, friends Ross Sawyers and Michael Moss founded a church in a living room. Today, 121 Community Church has volunteers all over the world including Australia, Guatemala, Mexico and Russia. Church membership has grown from 50 mem-

bers to 400. On Sunday mornings, anywhere from 600 to 750 people attend the three Sunday services.

In celebration of their fifth anniversary, the members of 121 Community Church wanted to do something truly unique. They decided to model a service project after the popular cable TV show, Trading Spaces. The project, called "Aiding Spaces," provides free renovations to five families who cannot afford proper renovations. The families will be selected from five different areas of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The renovations will be filmed by video crews and be created into a mini reality television series that will be aired at the churches 50th Anniversary celebration in September.

Church membership includes a number of general contractors, electricians and plumbers will lend their services. Their donated work is estimated at nearly \$150,000.

I congratulate the efforts of 121 Community Church and their generous celebration. I am certain they continue their wonderful community outreach projects in the future. Through their church, members are able to make a substantial difference in each other's lives. The church should take pride in its hard work and commitment to service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Thursday, July 15, I was unavoidably absent for Rollcall No. 384, to table the appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

TRIBUTE TO MISHELLE
TOWNSEND

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, CA, are exceptional. We have been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give of their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Michelle Townsend is one of these individuals.

Mischelle Townsend has lived and worked in the Inland Empire most of her life. Today she retires from public service, where she will be greatly missed.

Mischelle Townsend came to Riverside County after five years working with the aerospace industry, North American Rockwell Corporation, including direct support of the Apollo Project. She then entered the public sector, where her time and talent has been vital to the growth of the Inland Empire. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Redlands and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Twenty-two years Riverside County has been privileged to have Mischelle Townsend,

as the Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO is a state regulatory commission responsible for jurisdictional changes such as the incorporation of new cities, annexations and formation of new special districts. Under Mischelle's tenure at this agency, three cities were established in seven years: Moreno Valley, La Quinta and Cathedral City.

Mischelle Townsend later served six years as Assistant Chief Administrator Officer, where her responsibilities included: preparation of Riverside County's annual budget, development of policy recommendations from 33 county departments and agencies, administration of an \$18 million Special District Augmentation Fund, preparation of the annual Capital Improvements Program, and chairmanship of various task forces and policy advisory committees.

She then moved onto Director of Riverside County's General Services Agency and eventually moved into her current position as Registrar of Voters on July 31, 1997. As Registrar of Voters, Mischelle has been widely recognized as an innovator in modern election services.

Outside of the office, Mischelle has been equally giving of her talents. Her community involvement includes, but is not limited to: President of the Executive Council for the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA/Inland Empire); Vice President/Volunteer Personnel for the Inland Empire Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America; past member of the Board of Directors for Alternatives to Domestic Violence; Soroptomist International of Riverside; and, active member of Crossroads Christian Church.

Mr. Speaker, Mischelle Townsend's tireless passion for her profession and community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire, California. She has been the heart and soul of many innovative projects and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that the community is equally grateful for her service and salute her as she retires from professional service.

CONGRATULATING SISTER MARY
SIMON ON RECEIVING JUDITH
STANLEY COLEMAN AWARD
FROM THE VISITING NURSES AS-
SOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Mary Simon for receiving the Judith Stanley Coleman Award from the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey. The award is given annually to a community leader who exemplifies a positive attitude, significant service in health care, vigilance and passionate advocacy for community health issues, and strong networking in the community. Sister Simon is a tremendous person whose heart is full of compassion for her fellow humans and she fully deserves of this prestigious award.

Sister Mary Simon has taught in various grammar schools throughout the diocese of Trenton over the past 19 years. In 1975, upon