

athletes that have journeyed here to learn, play, and carry these wonderful memories back to their communities across the seas.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me to honor, acknowledge and welcome everyone associated with the International Children's Games, especially the young athletes. Embracing the hope and vision of the Games' founder, Professor Metod Klemenc, these Games exist to promote the spirit of friendly competition, teamwork, dialogue and interaction between children all over the world. Let the day begin—let the games start.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL R. MONEZ,
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel R. Monez, who is retiring as Chief of Police of the City of Napa, in California's 1st District. Chief Monez's outstanding contributions and dedication to our community are truly appreciated.

Dan began his career in law enforcement as a part time Police Trainee for the Berkeley Police Department. He fell in love with the profession and in 1971 he was sworn in as a Berkeley Police Officer. He then went on to work in the Solano County Sheriff's Department. In 1987 Dan was hired as Chief of Police for the City of Napa.

During his time as Chief of Police the Department underwent many changes. In 1987 there were only a few computers at the station, now every office has a computer and dispatch is completely automated. Squad cars have been improved and today every patrol car is equipped with mobile data computers. During his tenure the department began the G.R.E.A.T. program, D.A.R.E. program as well as the School Resources Officer program.

Dan has made many contributions to the community outside his official duties in the police department. He was a member of the Greater Napa Kiwanis Club, the Napa County Hispanic Network and was a founding member of the Napa County Safe Schools Foundation and the "If Given A Chance" scholarship program. He is also a Board Member for Aldea Children's Services and the Family Support Network. The Board of Supervisors appointed him to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and the Family Violence Prevention Committee.

Dan and his wife Diana have two children, Robert and Mindy. In 2002 Dan and Diane were named the Napa County Volunteers of the Year. Dan has taught criminal justice courses at surrounding colleges and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Napa Valley College. Dan is passionate about acting and has appeared in 11 stage plays.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Daniel R. Monez set the standard of dependability, bravery and hard work that should be followed in all communities. His commitment to our community has been shown time and time again. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor him at the time of his retirement and extend our best wishes to him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was absent attending a previously scheduled commitment and missed the recorded vote on rollcall No. 428, on the amendment offered by Representative HEFLEY to H.R. 5006, the Fiscal Year 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 428.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
COMMENDING THE NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC AD-
MINISTRATION AND ITS EM-
PLOYEES FOR ITS DEDICATION
AND HARD WORK DURING HUR-
RICANES CHARLEY AND
FRANCES

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce H. Con Res. 488, a resolution recognizing the hard work and dedication of the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (better known as NOAA) who provide hurricane forecast and warnings to our citizens. In the past month, the state of Florida was hit by back-to-back hurricanes, a tragedy which has not occurred since 1964. The employees of NOAA worked tirelessly to provide timely and accurate warnings to residents of the affected areas. They remain hard at work even at this moment as another tropical storm, Hurricane Ivan, is heading towards the U.S. coast.

Let me name the various offices in NOAA that contributed to accurate forecasts of Hurricanes Charley and Frances: The National Hurricane Center; The Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Morristown; The National Ocean Service, which provided help with storm surge prediction; The National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, which provided the satellite images we all saw on television; The NOAA Marine and Aviation Operation Hurricane Hunters, who fly planes into the hurricanes to gather data; and The Southeast River Forecast Center, which provided flood predictions.

And I would be remiss without acknowledging the additional hurricane reconnaissance missions flown by the Air Force Reserve out of Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Also, I want to acknowledge the work of the local and national media in disseminating NOAA's hurricane forecasts and warnings.

The dedicated employees at these offices worked round the clock, spending days at a time in their offices away from their families and homes that were often directly affected by the hurricanes. I commend these government employees for their service to provide life-sav-

ing warnings and information to the people in the hurricane's path and support them as they continue to provide us with critical information during this (and every) hurricane season.

HONORING REVEREND LEE M.
SEWARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated and righteous South Carolinian on the occasion of his retirement from the ministry after 60 years of distinguished service. Reverend Lee M. Seward will leave his position as the Presiding Elder of the Lancaster District, Columbia Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on September 17, 2004, and he will be sorely missed.

Lee Seward was born one of ten children to Mr. and Mrs. William Seward of Andrews, South Carolina. He grew up in this large family that treasured education and faith, and these virtues shaped his future path.

Reverend Seward's love of learning led him to earn a Bachelor's degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina and a Master's from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He pursued further study at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

In 1967, Reverend Seward was awarded a National Defense Education Act (N.D.E.A.) Fellowship to study Linguistics at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He did his theological training at Dickerson Theological Seminary at Allen University.

In addition to his education, Reverend Seward also learned many of life's lessons during his service in World War II. His commitment to serve his country further manifested itself in his lifelong dedication to education and to his church.

Reverend Seward embarked on a dual career teaching English for 13 years at Roberts High School in Holly Hill, and a combined 12 years teaching at Sanders Middle School and Alcorn Middle School in Columbia, while also serving in the ministry. Eventually the ministry became his primary focus, and he pastored at churches throughout the Midlands and in Charleston.

During his distinguished career, Reverend Seward served as the Presiding Elder of the Columbia District, Kingstree District, Spartanburg District, Georgetown District and Lancaster District for the AME Church in South Carolina. The extensive scope of his ministry is evidence of his extraordinary talent and dedication to his calling.

Reverend Seward, a community activist, is a lifetime Member of the N.A.A.C.P. and has been active in numerous religious and political organizations as well. I number him among my most valued friends and mentors.

He was married to the late Lula Pressley Seward, who was also a good friend and mentor to me.

The two of them had seven children, six boys and one girl. They have three granddaughters, three grandsons, and one great grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Seward

on his tremendous contributions to the ministry. As a teacher and a minister, he has set a very high standard that I hope future generations will seek to emulate.

**CONGRATULATING WHEATLAND
TUBE COMPANY FOR THEIR EX-
CEPTIONAL RECORD IN THE EM-
PLOYMENT OF VETERANS**

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the Wheatland Tube Company, headquartered in Collingswood, New Jersey, as a recipient of the National Outstanding Employer of Veterans Award from the American Legion and the Disabled Veterans of America. This award was presented on September 1, 2004 at the American Legion's 86th National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

The award, given to a select number of firms each year by the 2.7 million member American Legion, is designed to recognize "an exceptional record in the employment of veterans," and committed efforts to give veterans consideration in employment and job training opportunities. Over the past several years, Wheatland has demonstrated considerable dedication to this cause, working closely with the Mercer County, Pennsylvania Career Link program to provide an accessible system through which veterans have access to employment, education and training resources.

No one is more deserving of assistance in securing employment than those brave men and women who give of themselves for the defense of our country. Their training, discipline, and resourcefulness serve as invaluable assets for companies across the country, and I am proud to recognize one such company in my district who has made special and notable efforts in the field. I congratulate the Wheatland Tube Company again and wish them best of luck in their future endeavors in this area and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall votes No. 422 and 423. If present I would have voted "yea."

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an issue that has languished here in the House and in the other body.

Ten years ago, Congress, at the urging of then-President Clinton, enacted sweeping reforms in an effort to crack down on crime. 100,000 officers were added to the law enforcement ranks. Background checks and waiting periods to purchase firearms were made mandatory. And perhaps one of the most important pieces in this omnibus anti-crime initiative, the Assault Weapons Ban (AWB), was brought into effect.

These reforms have worked. In the ten years since enactment, crime in the U.S. has gone down dramatically. Firearm deaths have decreased by 25 percent. The use of semi-automatic guns in crimes has lowered by nearly 50 percent.

But on Monday, September 13th, one of the key policies that has made the past decade an anti-crime success story will be dismantled. Despite campaign promises in 2000 that the law would be reauthorized, President Bush has not lifted a finger to save the Assault Weapons Ban. At the same time, the House and Senate Majority Leadership have consistently opposed efforts to bring the bill up for a vote.

Despite this unwillingness to act, the sad fact remains that the banned assault weapons and copycat versions that gun manufacturers issued to legally circumvent the law lead to gun deaths. Assault weapons are being used in one out of every five killings of law enforcement officers in the U.S. These guns have no use for hunters and very limited use for sport shooting. To most people, this is a common sense public safety issue. Polls have consistently shown that nearly three-fourths of the public support extending the AWB.

On Monday, if we lose the assault ban, which appears to be the case barring a legislative miracle, then we will have lost both a symbolic and practical tool in the fight against gun violence in America. Our streets will once again be less safe. Police officers will have a greater reason to worry about their safety, and gangs, terrorists, drug dealers, and criminals of every description will have greater access to weapons enabling their activities and putting the safety of all Americans at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this body to listen to the American public and do its duty to protect the safety of our citizens. The Assault Weap-

ons Ban should be brought up for a vote immediately.

**CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST AT-
TACK IN THE CITY OF BESLAN,
RUSSIA**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people were struck with dismay upon hearing that on September 1st, 2004, terrorists seized School No. 1 in the city of Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia and held over 1,000 children, teachers, parents, and school employees hostage.

After 53 hours of unspeakable horror, we saw on TV when the hostage-takers began firing on hostages who were attempting to flee and set off explosions in the compound, and when Russian security forces stormed the school compound.

Tragically, as of September 7, 2004, the official death toll stood at 394, plus the 30 terrorists: 186 children are missing. The North Ossetian health ministry said 156 of the dead were children. More than 700 people needed medical help after the crisis. The regional health ministry said 411 remained hospitalized, 214 of them children.

There is absolutely no justification for such acts, which do not represent the will of the average Chechen, who wants the carnage in the Caucasus to cease.

Mr. Speaker, it is the nature of terrorism that every time one thinks there is a limit to the depths to which terrorists can sink, they contrive even more inhumane atrocities. I am particularly repulsed at the use of children as hostages and the subsequent death of many of them.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn, in the strongest terms, this and previous terrorist attacks on innocent citizens of the Russian Federation, and stand in solidarity with the government and people of Russia in combating the forces of international terrorism.

As memorial services are underway in the city of Beslan and elsewhere in Russia, the people of the United States stand with the people of Russia, and send them their prayers. Also, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, allow me to offer our sincerest condolences to the victims of the attack and to their relatives.