

the slopes of his beloved state. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize John's tremendous enthusiasm and contributions to the sport of skiing before my colleagues here today.

John learned to ski while serving with the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he returned to Colorado where he graduated from the University of Colorado and went on to a career in the insurance business. John's true passion, however, was on the ski slopes. As an instructor, he has spent over thirty years teaching his craft. John's commitment to the sport has earned him several prestigious awards, such as the USA Ski Instructor of the Year and the Ski Country USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to John Tillema and his zest for life and the sport of skiing; a passion that I am sure resonates throughout his many students over the years. I would like to thank him for his contributions before this body of Congress and nation today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks John for your service.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
RETIREMENT OF DAVID HAYES—
SECRETARY/TREASURER OF
BLUFF CITY LODGE 660, INTER-
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MA-
CHINISTS AND AEROSPACE
WORKERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of David W. Hayes, the Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Bluff City Lodge 660, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in East Alton, Illinois.

David Hayes has honorably served the area and the union in a number of capacities for nearly 45 years—27 of those as an officer of the union. The local that Dave represents has over 4400 retirees and workers at 14 area businesses—Olin Corporation, Beall Manufacturing, Conoco Phillips, Lenhardt Tool and Die, Owens-Illinois, Rotary Ram, Dugan Tool and Die, Dooling Machine Products, ASF Key-stone, Gebco Machine, M&W Machine and Gear Shop, Cooper B-Line and the Warren G Murray Development Center.

Dave started his career at Olin in 1959 and held in-plant positions with the union that included Steward, Committeeman, Lodge Trustee, Recording Secretary and Chairman of the Mechanical Groups. He was elected as the full-time Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Bluff City Lodge 660 in 1989 and has been re-elected four times since. He has served as the First Vice President of the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor for the past 15 years and has represented the Federation on the Board of Directors of the Greater Alton/Twin Rivers Growth Association. He has been the Labor Representative on the United Way Partnership for many years, serving on both their Executive Board and Personnel Committee. As part of the Federation of Labor, Dave served on their Political Committee for

many years and has served on both the 12th and the 19th Congressional District COPE Committees.

Each year, Dave is also responsible for organizing the Alton, Illinois Labor Day parade. During the two-month Olin strike, Dave was responsible for the payments of over 2.1 million dollars in strike benefits to the 2,538 Machinists on strike at Olin. Dave has been the recipient of the 2001 Labor Leader of the Year Award presented by the Federation of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of David Hayes and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the month of February is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the often overlooked achievements and contributions of African-Americans throughout our country's history.

Although African-Americans settled the American frontier alongside British colonists, it was not until the establishment of "Black History Month" in 1926, that they were afforded the respect and dignity they are rightfully due. If not for the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first noticed a glaring disparity in historical texts and established the "Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History," the stories of prominent and influential African American men and women would still be hidden in the shadows today.

The choice of February as the month of celebration honors the birthday of two important figures in the history of African-Americans. The first is Frederick Douglass, a leader of the abolitionist movement during the Civil War, as well as a prolific author, newspaper editor, and dedicated civil servant. The second is none other than our sixteenth president of the United States, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln. The month of February also marks the anniversary of important events such as the birth of civil rights leader W.E.B. Dubois, the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment granting black suffrage, the first black senator and the establishment of the NAACP.

I proudly represent the 17th district of New York, which is rich in African-American history. From early politicians to entertainers, African-Americans in the Bronx, Westchester, and Rockland counties have contributed to our nation. This month I would like to recognize Denzel Washington's contribution to our culture through his talented work in film. A native of Mount Vernon, this actor, producer and director is one of only two African-Americans to have received an academy award in the best actor category. While living in Mount Vernon, Denzel Washington was an active community member taking advantage of the Boys' Club of America. Today he continues his work as a leading spokesman for the organization, as well as a being an outstanding supporter of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and an AIDS-hospice called The Gathering Place. Through his talent and dedication, Denzel

Washington has left his mark as a positive leader in our community and important contributor to our culture.

I am always inspired by the community spirit and leadership I witness from African-Americans in New York and around the country. It is my hope that as we commemorate Black History Month in the future, we will continue to celebrate the many achievements and rich culture of African-Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GREENE
BAKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man from my district. Robert Greene Baker, of Grand Junction, Colorado, passed away recently at the age of eighty-eight. Robert will be remembered as a patriot and devoted community member, and it is my honor to recognize his life and accomplishments before this body of Congress here today.

After serving his country as a Marine in World War II, Robert returned to Colorado. He later married his best friend Mary, a loving marriage that lasted sixty-three years. Together, they raised three wonderful children. Robert spent almost four decades with the Public Service Company of Colorado, earning the title of supervisor. Upon retiring, Robert was fortunate to enjoy time spent fishing and traveling to a variety of exotic locations with his family. Robert was also passionate about giving back to his community. He could be found volunteering for a variety of civic organizations, such as the Mesa County United Way, Grand Junction Planning Commission and the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Robert Greene Baker. Robert served this nation and he leaves behind a legacy of dedication and commitment to his family and community. My heart goes out to his family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

FREEDOM FOR ANGEL JUAN MOYA
ACOSTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Angel Juan Moya Acosta, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Moya is a tireless advocate for the freedom of Cuba. He is the founder and president of the Alternative Action Movement, a member of the Independent National Labor Federation and a signatory of the "All United" manifesto that asked for changes in Cuban society and demanded the release of all political prisoners.

Mr. Moya has dedicated much of his work to the cause of freedom for the Cuban people. However, under Castro's totalitarian regime,

Mr. Moya has been constantly harassed and arrested for his pro-democracy activities. In December, 1999, Mr. Moya was detained after participating in a peaceful demonstration to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One year later, in December, 2000, Mr. Moya was sentenced to one year in the Cuban gulag and 10 years confinement to his home province, Matanzas. According to Amnesty International,

The sentence was reportedly imposed because, in the course of a mass celebrated at his home in November 2000, prayers were said for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including calls for them to be amnestied.

Following his release from the totalitarian gulag, Mr. Moya resumed his peaceful quest to guarantee fundamental human rights for every citizen of Cuba. On August 15, 2002, Mr. Moya received the second annual Pedro Luis Boitel Freedom Award for his courage in carrying out nonviolent civic resistance in totalitarian Cuba.

As part of the Cuban tyrant's brutal March, 2003 crackdown against pro-democracy activists, Mr. Moya was once again arrested. In a sham trial, Mr. Moya was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Moya is languishing in the wretched filth of Castro's totalitarian gulag, simply because he is an advocate for freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Angel Juan Moya Acosta and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMENDATION OF THE JAVITS-WAGER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAM

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a startling statistic—the 50 percent unemployment rate of people with disabilities in America. For those with severe disabilities, the number is even more—it is 70 percent. People with disabilities face many barriers to employment, including everything from transportation to contending with the prevailing attitude surrounding the disabled, but many of them want to work. They want the opportunity.

All too often, people focus on the disability of a person, not the *ability*. But people with disabilities *want* to work, and *can* work. It's up to us to recognize the potential of all Americans and provide the opportunities needed to reverse this statistic and to allow people with disabilities to become self-sufficient, independent, tax-paying citizens.

To that end, I am proud to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. The JWOD Program provides people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and

quality of life. Through the JWOD Program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs.

In the United States, the program serves 40,000 people in the disability community and generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD. 972 lives were changed. For many out of that 972, it was the first time they had a job, drew a paycheck, had the experience of being independent. These are things many of us take for granted, but for some—particularly people with disabilities—it means the world.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do so on February 26th, which is National Disability Day. More importantly, let us all remember everyday that everyone has an ability—everyone has something to share for the greater good. America truly works best when all Americans work. I commend the JWOD Program, its supporters, and its participants for making a difference where it is needed most.

HONORING JOHN A. CANNING, JR.

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, colleague and leader of Chicago's business community, John A. Canning, Jr.

On February 1, 2004, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made an exemplary choice when he appointed John A. Canning, Jr. as a Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

John A. Canning, Jr. is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Madison Dearborn Partners. Based in Chicago, Madison Dearborn Partners is one of the largest and most experienced private equity investment firms in the United States.

Prior to co-founding Madison Dearborn Partners, John spent 24 years with First Chicago Corporation, most recently as Executive Vice President of The First National Bank of Chicago and President of First Chicago Venture Capital. Mr. Canning has more than a quarter century of experience in private equity investing.

John's service to Chicago's business community is matched only by his commitment to Chicago's philanthropic community. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Jefferson Smurfit Group plc, Norfolk Tides Baseball Club, LaSalle National Bank, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Children's Inner City Educational Fund.

In addition, John lends his vast experience to the Boards of Trustees of The Big Shoulders Fund, The Chicago Community Trust, Denison University, Dublin City University Educational Trust, The Field Museum, and Northwestern University. A common thread among John's contributions and the goals of these organizations is their shared dedication to community service.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of his first board meeting, I want to wish John Canning continued success as he puts his vast knowledge and wide-ranging expertise to work for the American people. The citizens of Chicago and indeed the country are fortunate to have him at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS MESARIC

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life of a fellow Coloradan. After over a decade of fighting with a rare illness, Chris Mesaric from Montrose, CO, sadly passed away recently at the age of thirty-five. Chris was a loving husband, proud father, and devoted son. He will be missed by many, and I think it appropriate that we remember his life here today.

When Chris was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia, he was given only days to live, but Chris decided that he would not accept waiting around to die, vowing to fight his ailment to the fullest. Regardless of the amount of pain that Chris may have experienced during treatments, he never let on to his suffering and instead focused on spending time with his family and those he loved. He is survived by his parents Frank and Linda, his wife Robin and two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Chris Mesaric. He was a beloved man who overcame obstacles, always lived life to the fullest, and was an inspiration to many. The Montrose community and State of Colorado will truly miss him. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

TEXAS TEACHER GPO LOOPHOLE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of equality in Social Security law for all working Americans. Today we're having the final round of debate on a bill that will bring about fairness and equity to a system under scrutiny. While this bill covers many other topics, for Texans, this bill is about closing an unjust loophole.

For 95 percent of America's working husbands and wives, there is a rule that says people may collect only the higher of spousal benefits or retirement benefits, but they cannot collect both. . . . That is—unless you're in the Texas Teacher Retirement System. The Texas Teacher Retirement System is a substitute for Social Security, their version of the dual entitlement rule is called the Government Pension Offset.

The dual entitlement rule applies whether a married couple works in jobs such as a nurse and a small business owner, a Social Security covered teacher and an accountant, or a lawyer and an electrical engineer, they both pay into Social Security and are both subject to