He gave generously of his knowledge and perspective, providing information and analysis to the Sejm as it developed the institutions, policies, and procedures so necessary to a vital, democratic national legislature. During several missions to Poland, he advised on the establishment of parliamentary rules and procedures, committee structure and function, and support services to members, committees, and party organizations.

In 1996, Dr. Rundquist was appointed a Fulbright Professor of Politics at Warsaw University, and also served as a visiting professor at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. During the following two years, he lectured widely and continued to provide support and analysis for the Polish Parliament and its members, providing informal assistance to the Sejm as it drafted a new constitution, and even advice on the official translation of the new constitution into English.

His service to the United States Congress has continued uninterrupted throughout this period. His recent projects and publications have included authoritative studies on guaranteeing the continuity of Congress, especially the House of Representatives, in the event of terrorist attacks, and ground-breaking analysis of the Senate power sharing agreement of 2001–2002.

Accompanied by his wife, Ellen, and CRS colleagues and friends of many years, Dr. Rundquist was awarded the Order of Merit at a ceremony held at the Polish Embassy on September 29. 1 extend my sincere congratulations to this dedicated servant of Congress and the American people for his many distinguished accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF GILDA'S CLUB OF NEW YORK CITY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gilda's Club of New York City, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. In 1995, Gilda's Club opened its doors in honor of the late Gilda Radner. While most well-known for her work as a comedienne, Radner's legacy carries on in the Club because of her wish that people living with cancer, as she did so bravely, would find a community with which to talk and seek comfort while fighting the disease. A festive gala, "Celebrating Gilda," will be held on November 4th to mark the success and progress of Gilda's Club over the past ten years.

Gilda's Club, a non-profit organization with both of its branches located in my Congressional district, was founded upon the premise that "when cancer happens, it happens to the entire family,'' a message so eloquently conveyed by Radner herself. Gilda's Club is premised on the belief that while doctors can treat the physical effects of cancer, the emotional effects of the disease must also be treated. The Club provides a comprehensive emotional and social support community for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer in any way, free of charge. Its Basic III Plus membership provides programs ranging from Support and Networking Groups, to education in Lectures and Workshops, to a playful yet supportive atmosphere for children in Noogieland, all designed to channel strength, hope and solidarity to all participants.

The current membership of the Club is 3,615, and the Club has now passed the milestone of 100,000 member visits. An organization with a resolute mission, a compassionate heart, and an intrinsic sense of humor, Gilda's Club is a valued asset to the New York community. Testimonials, such as that of one member who said that "this club has shined light and hope into some of the darkest corners of my life,'' coupled with the growing membership numbers are a clear indication of the Club's magnificent achievements. I am delighted to wish Gilda's Club a joyous and memorable 10th anniversary celebration, and to convey my sincere wishes for a thriving and prosperous second decade.

CONGRATULATING DR. LINDA BUCK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we marvel at the wonders the Hubble Space Telescope has brought us. We gaze in amazement at the images beamed back from a rover on Mars. As astonishing and inspiring as these discoveries are, sometimes you don't have to go very far for a major discovery.

In fact, sometimes the wonder is as close as the nose on your face. We learned that earlier this week with the announcement that Dr. Linda Buck from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center had won a Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr. Buck and Dr. Richard Axel of Columbia University will share a Nobel for their pioneering research on the sense of smell.

The more we learn about the human body, the more amazing we know the human body is.

On behalf of the people in the 7th Congressional District, I want to congratulate Dr. Buck.

This is the third time that the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has been home to a Nobel laureate. That is an extraordinary achievement in and of itself.

This is a proud moment for Seattle, Fred Hutch and our distinguished research scientist.

Thank you Dr. Buck for an individual achievement that we can all share.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida—the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for over 30 years, works every day to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by this disease and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through almost 60 chapters in more than 125 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together the SBAA and the West Michigan Spina Bifida Association, the Spina Bifida Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Spina Bifida Association of Upper Michigan, and the Southwest Michigan Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and these local Spina Bifida organizations in Michigan for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my state.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Over 1,500 babies are born with Spina Bifida each year. There are three different forms of Spina Bifida with the most severe being Myelomeningocele Spina Bifida, which causes nerve damage and severe disabilities. This severe form of Spina Bifida is diagnosed in 96 percent of children born with this condition. Between 70 to 90 percent of the children born with Spina Bifida are at risk of mental retardation when spinal fluid collects around the brain.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75 percent. Progress has been made in educating women on the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control shows an increase in consumption of vitamins with folic acid by 8 percent over 2003. Since the Food and Drug Administration decision to fortify enriched grains with folic acid, CDC has documented a 26 percent decline in these birth defects.

Although this is good news, we will still have babies born with Spina Bifida who need intensive care and families that need guidance and support in caring for and raising these children. The result of this neural tube defect is that most babies suffer from a host of physical, psychological, and educational challenges, including paralysis, developmental delay, numerous surgeries, and living with a shunt in their skulls in an attempt to ease their condition. Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also must be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

After decades of poor prognosis and short life expectancy, breakthroughs in research combined with improvements in health care and treatment children with Spina Bifida are now living long enough to become adults with this condition. However, with this extended life expectancy people with Spina Bifida now face new challenges in the fields of education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions, aging concerns, and other related issues.

I am proud to cochair the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus with my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus brings increased attention to this condition and advances initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida. So far we have 43 members, and I encourage my colleagues to join the Caucus.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our nation. The Spina Bifida community and our nation owe a tremendous debt to the SBAA for its work over the past three decades. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization and its chapters will lead the effort for decades to come. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE DIAGEO SPIRIT OF AMERICA HUMANITARIAN RAPID RESPONSE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF FLORIDIANS IN THE WAKE OF BOTH HURRICANE CHARLEY IN AUGUST AND HURRICANE FRANCES IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the Diageo Spirit of America Fund and its efforts during the recent devastating hurricanes that hit Florida in August and September. As we Floridians have dealt with the aftermath of these storms, it became apparent that the most precious commodity needed to jumpstart the road to recovery was electricity. Without this precious commodity, our relief workers were left literally in the dark to sort out what steps needed to be made to restore order, security, and normalcy to our devastated state.

Recognizing this need and even before either Hurricane Charley or Frances made landfall, Diageo was poised to help our cause by bringing four giant portable generators to the areas most likely in each storm's path. These generators were made available to relief workers in St. Lucie County and throughout each storm's most devastated areas.

Diageo's generosity and unique foresight helped us literally jumpstart our move down the road toward recovery. Diageo's generators were first put to task by providing power to operate Hardee County's only solid waste facility, a facility critical to public health in crisis situations. Two additional generators were used to power a local campground being used as a temporary shelter for displaced families.

In my district, Diageo helped us after Hurricane Frances by supplying one of these generators to power the Port St. Lucie pumping station, sending safe drinking water to the homes and shelters of over 88,000 residents of Port St. Lucie and the surrounding area. Water usage was restored to my constituents much faster than in hurricanes of the past because of the Diageo Spirit of America efforts. The others were used at the will of the Fort Pierce Emergency Operations Center wherever the need was greatest

This assistance effort is part of Diageo's ongoing humanitarian efforts. In the hours and days after 9/11 Diageo and its employees provided numerous relief activities and assistance. In December 2001, Diageo brought the first corporate humanitarian airlift to war-torn Afghanistan by delivering more than 100,000 pounds of food and emergency supplies to 800 orphans in Kabul. In June of 2003, the company chartered a DC–8 plane and brought a cargo of food, medicine and school supplies to Baghdad, becoming the first American company to embark upon a humanitarian mission into Iraq. In November, Diageo provided more than 12,000 turkeys to the Connecticut Food Bank so that 72,000 disadvantaged families could celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. And this past June, the Diageo Spirit of the Americas Airlift brought in and distributed emergency supplies to flood victims in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Diageo's Spirit of America Humanitarian Aid Missions are facilitated by the Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit humanitarian aid and development organization which provides humanitarian aid worldwide. Diageo is the world's largest total beverage alcohol company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Diageo North America and its Spirit of America Fund for its rapid response to the crisis created by these hurricanes. Their ongoing generosity and understanding of this crisis and these others throughout the world represent the finest and most compassionate qualities in America.

HONORING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan celebrate their national day. I join with my colleagues here in the House in congratulating them on this solemn and happy occasion.

The United States and Taiwan have a long history of friendship and a tradition of democracy which bind our two nations. Despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between Taiwan and America, our economic, political, and military ties are strong and continue to grow.

For decades, the freedom and individual rights afforded to Taiwan's citizens have shown as a beacon in the darkness to the millions of oppressed Chinese citizens across the Taiwan Straits. Taiwan is a model for the mainland on many fronts, from its growing democracy to its robust economy.

I am proud to say that the United States has always been an uncompromising partner with Taiwan, making sure that our ally has the means to defend its democracy in the event of attack from mainland China. While peace in the Taiwan Straits has been fragile at times, the people of Taiwan continue to stand tall and firmly committed to their freedom.

I salute their courage and strength and know that the American people join with them in celebrating this important anniversary of liberty and democracy in East Asia.

HONORING ROBERT J. MANN

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our "Homegrown Hero," Robert J. Mann. As the founder and executive director of Bridging the Gap Inc., Bob is being honored by the organization on October 15, 2004, for his leadership and vision which transformed greater Kansas City into a collaborative and interconnected community of environmental awareness, advocacy and reformation.

Thirteen years ago, Bob created Bridging the Gap, an environmental movement of volunteers who created and maintain our first 15 local community recycling centers. It has since grown into a regional, multifaceted environmental movement involving businesses, governments, schools and thousands of volunteers. Under Bob's leadership all segments of the greater Kansas City community have become interconnected and established partnerships working together to make a difference and improve Kansas City's quality of life, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. During a decade of creating change for a healthier community, Bridging the Gap succeeded in educating the public through environmental publications and speakers bureaus, hosting special green events for environmental awareness and advocacy, and ballot initiatives that brought curbside recycling to Kansas City.

I have been an ardent supporter of Earth Day since the first one in 1970, when I showed my support by bicycling to my job as a schoolteacher and discussing with my students the responsibility each individual has to our global environment. Since 1997 my Earth Day celebration has come to include Bridging the Gap's Earth Day Walk, an eagerly anticipated annual celebration and fundraiser for more than 1,000 Kansas Citians. More than 5,000 area residents attend the Party for the Planet at the Kansas City Zoo, another Earth Day event sponsored by Bridging the Gap.

Bridging the Gap Inc. has grown dynamically and now includes: RecycleFirst, Kansas City's curbside recycling education program; Keep Kansas City beautiful, a beautification project involving more than 7,700 volunteers for 165 metro wide cleanups; Kansas City Wildlands, a natural and wild places restoration and conservation project; Environmental Excellence Business Network, an education