

on behalf of the residents of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

**FREEDOM FOR EDEL JOSÉ GARCÍA DÍAZ**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Edel José García Díaz, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. García Díaz is the founder and editor of Centro Norte del País, an independent news agency amidst the dictatorship's mandated propaganda. He has devoted his efforts to printing the truth about the horrors in Cuba under the totalitarian dictatorship. By founding an independent news agency, Mr. García Díaz knowingly risked the wrath of the tyranny; however, he believed that illuminating the nightmare that is Castro regime was more important than his personal safety.

From 1997 to present, Mr. García Díaz has been harassed by the dictator's thugs. According to Reporters Without Borders, his life was threatened by a functionary of the municipality of Caibarien. He was also subjected to detentions, interrogations, and other official warnings. Yet, despite these threats, Mr. García Díaz always returned to his news agency to publish the truth about the regime's monstrous abuse of the basic human rights of the Cuban people.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the tyrant's deplorable crackdown on peaceful pro democracy advocates, Mr. García Díaz was arrested. According to Amnesty International, Mr. García Díaz was accused of writing about the poor physical condition of a school building in Havana and accompanying the article with a photo of the installation. After the conclusion of a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. García Díaz is languishing in Castro's infamous, inhuman gulag because he believes in freedom and democracy. His bravery in the face of oppression is another example of the courage of the pro-democracy activists in totalitarian Cuba. Recently, over one hundred Cuban opposition activists took part in a symbolic vote on November 2nd in Havana. They participated in a mock election for U.S. President at the residence of James Cason, head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba. Once again, the courage of the Cuban activists demonstrated to the world that, despite the consequences of dissent, the Cuban people are unafraid to demonstrate their desire for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable the Mr. García Díaz is confined in an infernal gulag because he believes in writing the truth, freedom of the press, and basic human rights for the Cuban people. As we celebrate the successes of the American democratic process, we must never forget those who continue to fight the evil tyranny 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Edel José García Díaz and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

**HONORING TEDDY "PILLAR OF TRUTH" BENNETT**

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Ms. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, in East Prairie, Missouri, there is no more well-known or better-loved gentleman than Teddy "Pillar of Truth" Bennett. Across our Nation, many fine Americans have met Mr. Bennett and he has had a great effect on their lives. I am certainly one of them.

Mr. Bennett was born in the spring of 1930. He grew up on the banks of the wild and mighty Mississippi River. The usual entree in his Depression-era lunch was a gravy sandwich. Mr. Bennett served our Nation in the Korean war in the U.S. Army. When he returned, he came back to East Prairie. Eventually, Mr. Bennett formed his own business and began to gain fame for his fabulous fish fries. His cooking skills are renowned throughout the Nation—as are his character and his pure heart. The "Pillar of Truth" is a man who knows the age-old axiom that you nourish people with fish as well as with ideas.

Teddy Bennett is more than an entrepreneur or a "people person" or a great storyteller. His whole life teaches us what it is about to grow up in Southern Missouri and make something of yourself. Teddy began his life's journey during the Great Depression. He learned the lessons of hard work and overcoming challenges as he grew up. He didn't set out to inspire us. It just happened that way.

You hear a lot of stories about the Pillar of Truth—but I know lots of things that are true about him: Though he has made many friends, he has never lost one. He makes his living, and his life, out of bringing people together. And he knows that you feed people with more than food. Teddy is a sage—an intelligent, dedicated man who is just as proud of his community as we are of him.

In recent years, Teddy Bennett has fought a war of his own with cancer, but he has not been alone. Every one of his many friends has stood shoulder to shoulder with him. They deserve the thanks of our Nation. Most of all, however, I would like to thank Mr. Bennett for being a trusted friend to the Emerson family and an inspiration in our world. You are our Pillar of Truth.

**HONORING JOHN RITTER FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor John Ritter for his contribution to Clark County Legal Services through the Ritter Charitable Trust. This important contribution of \$175,000 will ensure that victims of violence against women will continue to have access to the legal support they need to protect themselves and their families.

John Ritter has long been a leader in the economic development of Clark County, Nevada. This gift, and other charitable donations

he has made, shows that he is also a leader in meeting the humanitarian needs of our community. John Ritter has shown that, as Southern Nevada continues to experience the fastest growth in the Nation, our community will meet its challenges with the same spirit that has made Las Vegas a world capital of culture, entertainment and quality of life. I look forward to continuing to work with John Ritter and Barbara Buckley, Director of Clark County Legal Services, to fight violence against women. I urge the House to join me in honoring John Ritter for his philanthropy and leadership.

**CELEBRATING 35-YEAR CONGRESSIONAL CAREER OF THE HONORABLE PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLINOIS**

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of this chamber, Congressman PHIL CRANE. Since 1969, Rep. CRANE has served his constituents in the 8th District of Illinois with distinction and dedication. I join my colleagues in celebrating his career in the House.

Born in the midst of the Great Depression, Phil served his Nation in the Army, and went on to earn his doctorate degree from Indiana University. He then began a career in academia, before being elected to Congress. He continued his intellectual interests, going on to write three books, and contributing to various publications.

Congressman CRANE's interest and extensive knowledge of economic issues is well known. He is a champion of free trade, and played a pivotal role in the House passage of NAFTA and the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. As vice chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. CRANE has taken a leadership role on issues of great importance to all Americans, such as Social Security, taxes, and Medicare.

As a leader in the conservative movement and as the senior Republican member in the House, PHIL CRANE has created a record of accomplishment for his constituents and his Nation during his tenure in the House. His legislative accomplishments have made a lasting and positive impact on our Nation, and his leadership in the House has inspired his colleagues.

Although Congressman CRANE will soon leave this chamber, his accomplishments and his legacy will continue to live on. All of us who have had the opportunity to serve with PHIL CRANE are better for the experience, and I congratulate him on his distinguished career.

**CONGRATULATING TEMPLE SAMUEL OR OLOM IN MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate

and join the congregation at Temple Samu-El Or Olom in celebrating the Chanukat Ha-Bayit, the dedication of their new building, sanctuary, and educational complex on Sunday, December 5, 2004.

I wish to recognize and thank Education Vice President, Richard Siegel; President, Michael Backer; Executive Vice President, Michael Slotnick; Rabbi David D. Schonblum; Cantor Ronit Rubin; Temple Administrator Dennis Miller, and the other officers and members of the Board for their immense contributions and accomplishments.

Temple Samu-El Or Olom has been serving the community of Southern Miami-Dade County and, specifically, our Jewish community in South Florida, for decades.

As the synagogue celebrates its 32nd anniversary, I am proud to mention that the congregation of Temple Samu-El Or Olom was the first in Greater Miami to offer multilingual Shabbat services in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Yiddish, and Ladino. Some of its members have even created and published English, Hebrew, and Spanish prayer books for use during their services. Their educational program includes Early Childhood education, as well as an annual scholar in residence program that attracts numerous participants.

I recently visited Temple Samu-El Or Olom, and found it to be a very warm and welcoming congregation. I was also impressed by the breadth of religious, educational, cultural, youth, adult, senior citizen, and social programs that the synagogue offers to people of all ages.

Furthermore, the synagogue's central location in Kendall, and its proximity to Miami Dade College, the Jewish Community Center, nursing homes, elder care facilities, and other institutions enables it to serve the needs of every person in the community.

The motto of Temple Samu-El Or Olom is "The Spirit of Family," and as we celebrate the dedication of the congregation's new building, sanctuary and educational complex, we can look forward to many more decades of the Temple's service to the community.

#### NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL HOMECARE AND HOSPICE MONTH

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, homecare represents a tremendous value for millions of Americans' healthcare dollar by providing a family-friendly and clinically proven way of receiving quality healthcare where they prefer to receive it—at home. Homecare is about superior healthcare and a quality life for at least 8 million households across the United States.

Recent studies of homecare services show that it can shorten inpatient hospital stays, reduce the overall cost of care, improve clinical outcomes, expand patient and caregiver satisfaction, advance functional independence, and reduce the risk of institutional placement. For some Medicare beneficiaries, formal homecare is the most cost-effective strategy for achieving functional improvement.

Homecare does not require brick-and-mortar investments and with the rapid advances in

technology virtually every service, short of surgery, can be delivered in the home. For these reasons, I join homecare patients and caregivers throughout the United States in celebrating November as National Homecare and Hospice Month.

#### HONORING WILLIAM AND MURIEL ELLIOT

#### HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of William and Muriel Elliott for their contributions toward making Americans all across the country aware of the dangers of drunken driving.

Bill and Muriel's quest to bring about this awareness came at a high personal cost, their son, U.S. Navy Ensign John Elliott. John, who had just received his commission to Naval Flight Officer training in Pensacola, Florida, was struck and killed by a drunk driver on July 22, 2000. It was later discovered that the driver responsible for Ensign Elliott's death had been arrested for drunk driving earlier that evening. Having called for a ride, he was picked up by a friend who returned him to his car. Ensign Elliott was on his way home for his mother's birthday party when he crossed paths with the intoxicated driver.

Since Ensign Elliott's tragic death, Bill and Muriel have worked to ensure other families never have to suffer the same tragedy. They created the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers, an interactive educational program designed to promote the use of designated drivers to combat drunk driving injuries and fatalities nationwide. They have also worked with the New Jersey state legislature to enact John's Law. The law makes New Jersey the first state in the country to require that individuals who pick up an arrested driver sign a document accepting custody and authorizes the impoundment of the vehicles of those arrested for drunk driving for up to twelve hours. I have been pleased to work with Bill and Muriel to encourage other states to adopt similar laws by making impoundment programs eligible for Federal Highway Administration grant funds.

For their efforts with the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers, Bill and Muriel have been awarded the National Commission Against Drunk Driving's twentieth annual Citizen Activist award. I wish to express the thanks of the House of Representatives to William and Muriel Elliott and honor them for their tremendous efforts.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR ZELL MILLER

#### HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, as Senator ZELL MILLER retires from the United States Senate, he returns to the State he has served so well for over four decades.

ZELL MILLER of Towns County, GA, has served his State as a State Senator, four-term

Lieutenant Governor, two-term Governor, and U.S. Senator. Though he reached the highest peaks of political success, he never left his roots in the mountains of north Georgia.

Today in Georgia, thousands of young adults have earned college, university or vocational degrees through full scholarships paid for by the HOPE scholarship ZELL MILLER created.

Today in Georgia, thousands of young 4-year-old children attend public or private pre-kindergarten provided through ZELL MILLER's leadership.

As Governor of Georgia ZELL MILLER empowered educators and improved education. His no-nonsense approach to law enforcement made Georgia's streets and neighborhoods safer. Georgia's economy prospers because ZELL MILLER invested in her ports, roads, and infrastructure.

Following the September 11 attacks on America, ZELL MILLER's strong voice, leadership, and commitment to our Country and the safety of our people never wavered. His legacy is a legacy of love of Country, love of Georgia and love of Democracy.

ZELL MILLER has served Georgia and America as a visionary statesman and a patriot. Georgia and America are all the better for his service.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES CARDINAL HICKEY

#### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Cardinal Hickey, favorite son of Midland, Michigan and lifelong servant of God.

Though Cardinal Hickey's faith journey took him to the Vatican and archbishopric of Washington, DC, he never forgot his childhood as Jimmy Hickey, a pupil at St. Brigid School. Often he spoke of his home parish and hometown to colleagues and in homilies.

Cardinal Hickey's name has remained on the lips and in the prayers of those in Midland and at St. Brigid, from gatherings in Cardinal Hickey Hall to praying for him in prayers of the faithful as his health declined.

Ordained in 1946, Cardinal Hickey ascended the ranks of the Catholic Church. He became monsignor in 1963, auxiliary bishop of the Saginaw Diocese 4 years later, rector of the North American College in Rome in 1968, bishop of Cleveland in 1974. He served as archbishop of Washington, DC, from 1980 until his resignation in 2000. Yet all the while, his heart remained in Midland, where he often returned to celebrate Mass and visit loved ones.

As another son of Midland, I was happy to find a friend from home here in Washington. The Hickey children; including the young James, played with my aunt, and Cardinal Hickey later baptized one of my own children. His dedication to aiding those most in need, from AIDS victims rejected by their families to migrants far from home but not far from hope, served as an example to all.

Midland lost one of its own with his passing. Yet we believe that while we miss him in his earthly home, Cardinal Hickey has been called