

MAXINE WATERS join me as I rise in honor of a good friend and outstanding public servant, former California State Senator Henry Mello. Henry passed away on September 4, 2004, but will always be remembered for his dedication to the communities of the Central Coast. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but his legacy will live on in many ways.

The son of Portuguese immigrants, Henry was born in 1924 in the rural community of Watsonville, where his mother's family had been farming apples since 1874. He had an eye for business and left Hartnell College after one year to work with his family on the apple farms. At the age of 29, Henry founded John C. Mello and Sons Cold Storage and ran it for 20 years before selling it to Del Mar Food Products in 1973. By this time Henry had found his true calling: public service.

In 1966 Henry officially began his political career with his election to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. He was not afraid of politically charged issues, and in 1972 composed a motion disapproving the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War. Because of his dedication to his constituents and his commitment to the Monterey Bay area, he was elected to the California State Assembly, serving from 1976 to 1980. Henry was then elected to the State Senate, rising quickly to prominent positions, including the majority whip from 1981 to 1992 and the majority leader from 1992 until he left the legislature in 1996.

While in the legislature, Senator Mello was an ardent supporter of many vital segments of our population, especially senior citizens. Senator Mello authored legislation to enact the first programs focusing on Alzheimer's-Respite Care, Adult Day Health Care and the Multipurpose Senior Services Programs. He founded the Senior Legislature and passed legislation to combat elder abuse. In the 20 years that Senator Mello served in the legislature, he authored more than 120 bills on aging and long-term care that have become the law of the land in California.

However, Henry's service and advocacy extended far beyond just one subject. He was also a strong supporter of our ocean's health, authoring legislation to protect fisheries, working to keep off-shore oil away from California's coastline, and petitioning for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He has created many lasting legacies on the Central Coast, including Wilder Ranch and Grey Whale State Parks, which are enjoyed by thousands of people each year. He also supported the creation of the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz, which has made tremendous strides in organic and sustainable farming practices worldwide.

When Fort Ord was slated to be closed by the U.S. Army, Senator Mello introduced legislation to create the Fort Ord Reuse Authority to help the state and the region handle the largest base closure in U.S. history. He was also proactive in transferring this area into civilian use, and helped create the California State University, Monterey Bay on the former base. He was a co-author of the Mello-Roos Act of 1982, which provided funding for education and other public projects through tax-exempt bonds. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake, Henry secured a temporary sales tax increase to help the devastated commu-

nities of the Central Coast, a measure which proved to be invaluable to the local governments in their efforts to rebuild. In his hometown, he is perhaps best known to the general public for helping to raise funds to rebuild the performing arts center in Watsonville after it was destroyed in the earthquake. It was opened in 1994 as the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts, which was particularly fitting because Senator Mello was known for contributing his musical talents on the piano for many state and local functions.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Mello was the consummate public servant and master of the art of compromise. His legacy to the State of California is felt through the landmark legislation that he passed as well as through those whose lives he touched personally. Many of us in the California Congressional Delegation worked closely with Henry throughout our public service careers, and we all wish to extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Helen, and his sons Stephen, John, Michael and Timothy.

RECOGNIZING KYLE MARCOLLA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Marcolla, 2004 graduate of Chillicothe High School. Kyle accepted a golf scholarship at the University of Missouri—Columbia where he is currently a member of the Men's Golf Team.

Kyle is an outstanding golfer, and I know the University of Missouri is excited about his commitment to the fine golf program in Columbia. I also suspect that Chillicothe High School's Golf Coach John Musser wishes that Kyle could remain on his team for many more years, as he has proven time and again that he belongs to an elite class of high school golfers. Kyle was named a Midland Empire All Conference golfer in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004; his entire career at Chillicothe High School. He was a 3A State Qualifier in 2001, District Champion in 2002 and 2004, and 3A All State Top 15 in 2002, 2003, and 2004. In 2003, Kyle won a grueling competition to become Missouri State Champion. The St. Joseph News-Press named him Golfer of the Year in 2003 and 2004. In addition to these accolades, Kyle is the holder of several state golfing records.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Kyle Marcolla and wishing him continued success. Kyle is a great role model for aspiring golfers in our state, and I am proud to serve him in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF JUDGE ANNE KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Judge Anne Kilbane of the 8th Ohio District Court of Ap-

peals—fearless sponsor of justice, inspiring role model, and friend and mentor to many. Her untimely passing marks a great loss for her family, friends and colleagues, and for the people of our Cleveland community whom she served with the highest level of commitment, integrity and honor.

Judge Kilbane's unwavering reliability and strong work ethic were gifts from her parents, the late Thomas B. Kilbane and Nora Kilbane, who emigrated from Ireland to Cleveland. She worked at the Cleveland Health Department, then began her studies at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where she graduated in 1976.

Elected to the bench in 1988, Judge Kilbane's unequalled work ethic and uncompromising professional integrity quickly garnered the respect of most, and ruffled the feathers of some. Armed with a sharp legal mind and even sharper focus on the public she served, Judge Kilbane shattered the status quo by fighting for transparency in and out of the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Judge Anne Kilbane. The courage, vision and integrity that defined her life will be greatly missed along the halls and in the courtrooms of the 8th District Court of Appeals—and will be greatly missed within the hearts of her many friends, including my own. I extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family members, especially her brothers and sisters: Patrick, Mary, Judith, Kathleen and the memory of Thomas, Bryan and Bridget.

Judge Anne Kilbane's life was lived with joy, energy and in unwavering service to others. Her eternal faith in humanity and in the power of justice will continue to serve as an unyielding example and unending force of truth within our legal system, and within the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved her well. Her journey as a first-generation American from the old neighborhoods of Cleveland, to the 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals, reflects all that she was, and all that she gave to us—the possibility to achieve one's dreams; working in service to others; the courage to stand up for what is right; and the integrity to never back down. And Judge Anne Kilbane will forever inspire us all.

STATE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE AND OVERREPRESENTATION IN AMERICA'S PRISON SYSTEMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I, like many members of the Congressional Black Caucus, am moved to speak about the state of the African American male and their alarming overrepresentation in the American penal system.

Sweeping changes in crime control and the drastic modifications of sentencing policies have led to a staggering increase in prison populations. Ironically, although the country is experiencing a decrease in crime rates, the inmate population is increasing. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, the increase in inmate population is

largely due to "truth-in-sentencing" laws that limit early releases, mandatory drug sentences, get tough anti-crime policies enacted in the 1980s and 1990s, and "three strikes and you're out" laws for repeat offenders. Over 2,000,000 prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Nearly 925,000 Americans are convicted of felony offenses in American courts each year and some 600,000 are incarcerated as a result.

As the national inmate population has increased, the impact on minority communities has been devastating. Two-thirds of the prison population are now racial and ethnic minorities, and for African American males in their twenties, one in every eight is in prison or jail on any given day. Even more upsetting is that African American males born today have a one in three chance of going to prison during their lifetime, compared to a one in seventeen chance for white males. At year-end 2003, African American inmates represented an estimated 44 percent of all inmates with sentences of more than one year.

Despite the notion that the Scales of Justice is blind, it is no secret that racial bias plays a deplorable role in the disproportionate conviction and sentencing of African American men compared to their racial counterparts (who are charged with the same or a similar offense). In addition to racial bias, the high rate of minority involvement in the system reflects a complex set of social, economic, and community problems often tied to poverty, lack of access to education, and unemployment.

While some would assert that "if one does the crime, then he must do the time," it is imperative to remember that once these individuals have done their time and "repaid their debt to society," they should not be thrown back into the fray without the proper tools they need to overcome the factors that initially led to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The transition from prison life is inherently difficult, especially for individuals who have served a lengthy sentence and received little preparation for life in a law-abiding society. In addition to being stigmatized with a conviction, former offenders face challenges finding employment, housing, health care, and public assistance. Often they are also alienated from their families and communities. All of these negative outcomes contribute to increased recidivism, public health risks, homelessness, unemployment, and disenfranchisement.

Perhaps the most significant costs of prisoner re-entry are the impact on children, the weakened ties among family members, and destabilized communities. The long-term generational effects of a social structure in which imprisonment is the norm and law abiding role models are absent are difficult to measure but undoubtedly exist.

African American males are a critical component of African American families and communities. I, like my CBC colleagues, remain poised to take action to reverse the negative trends surrounding African American males and their incarceration and to reinforce this group's positive characteristics.

It is for this reason that Congress members JOHN CONYERS, Jr., BOBBY SCOTT, and I introduced H.R. 5075, which identifies programs and policies that would encourage the successful reentry of incarcerated persons into the community after their release. For similar

reasons, I have continually pushed for the reauthorization of the Community Safety through Recidivism Prevention Act (The Second Chance Act of 2004).

Consequently, I co-sponsored Congressman ROB PORTMAN's bill, H.R. 4676, to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community and to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders.

While members of the CBC and other conscientious national and state legislators have worked to reform the prison system and provide programs and policies that eliminate many of the barriers that ex-offenders face upon reentry, there is still much work to do. We will continue to fight for the passage of federal legislation to provide former offenders eligibility for public housing assistance, funding for students loans and grants, and assistance in retaining or re-establishing voting rights. We will also continue to push for legislation that would provide tax incentives to businesses that hire former felons, helping them to become self-sufficient upon reentry.

I sincerely believe that we can assist these men, our brothers, to reach their potential when they return to society. I know that this requires the creation of a support system that begins during their incarceration and continues after their release. I believe that we must not give up on these men, but provide them with the resources they need—during and after their incarceration—to contribute to their families and society in a meaningful way.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Congressman AMO HOUGHTON of Corning, New York, as he retires from the U.S. House of Representatives after 18 years of exemplary public service.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, AMO HOUGHTON was one of those individuals who showed us what a noble calling public service can be. AMO has been a bright, compassionate and valued leader, and he retires as one of the most respected members of Congress, on either side of the aisle. And despite his great responsibilities, AMO always remained deeply rooted in his community, and in our Western New York values.

Throughout his entire career, he remained a fiscal conservative committed to responsible government spending. As the sixth ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, AMO has played an important role in ensuring that our Nation's tax policy was shaped with the best interests of New Yorkers in mind. His service on the International Relations Committee and as vice-chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa allowed him to use his deep understanding of international affairs to manage important foreign relations matters. AMO also earned a reputation for terrific constituent service; it is easy to see why, for he truly cares about the well-being of each and every one of his constituents.

I salute AMO HOUGHTON for all that he has done for Western New York and New York state in his time here in Congress. Our community owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude. I will certainly miss his friendship, his intelligence, and his warm personality; but I wish him all the best in all his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in thanking Congressman AMO HOUGHTON of Corning, New York, for his years of service to Western New York, New York state, and our Nation, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING MOBILE, ALABAMA'S BAKER HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE 2004 MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Baker High School Marching Band for their participation in the 2004 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Baker High School, located in Mobile, Alabama, is without question very proud of the efforts of its band. For several months, the 220 members of this group, both musicians and flag corps participants, worked tirelessly in preparation for a performance which took place in front of thousands of men, women, and children lining the streets of Manhattan, and for an audience of millions watching the parade on television here in the United States and around the world.

The members of the band spent the past two years holding multiple fundraisers to raise the money necessary to make this trip to New York. These efforts, which included gift wrapping, selling coupon books to friends and neighbors in the Mobile area, and bagging groceries at local supermarkets, were extremely successful and provided the band with the means to travel to this event. Even the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan could not dampen either the enthusiasm or determination of these fine young men and women to participate in this Thanksgiving Day tradition.

The one hour, 45-block walk down Broadway from Central Park to 34th Street in lower Manhattan gave the band and flag corps ample opportunity to demonstrate its abilities, and they did not disappoint. The total of 96 songs performed by the band were enthusiastically received by the thousands along the parade route, and their talents were showcased even further when NBC gave the band the chance to perform for its nationwide television audience on that morning's broadcast of the "Today Show."

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Mobile, Alabama, are extremely proud of all of the young men and women who participated in this event. I ask my colleagues to join with me and with the families of all of these students in praising them and their band director, Tripp Morris, for a fine showing for south Alabama and a fine performance for the entire country.