

examples of civic duty. As volunteers, they are vital to the Westport community.

The WVEMS volunteers come from all walks of life. Some of them run their own businesses, some are students. They have busy lives, yet they make time because they feel the need to give something back. Some are seniors who worked hard all their life and deserve to sit back and simply relax, yet they go out and volunteer their time and energy for a greater cause.

Over the years, the many awards and distinctions from local, State and national organizations—the Veterans of Foreign Wars, designation as a Connecticut Treasure and National Gold Award for Volunteer Corps from EMS Publications just to name a few—illustrate the selfless dedication with which they help countless individuals in need.

For two and a half decades WVEMS has gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide exceptional service, providing over half a million volunteer hours to date. Their efforts have formed a truly remarkable tradition. Fifteen of the founding members of the WVEMS are still with the Service, regularly putting in time to help others. Each one of them has been designated an American Red Cross Unsung Hero. Today, I want to sing their praise: Edward and Elizabeth Audley; Patricia Audley; Sharon Barnett; Russel M. Blair; Susan DeWitt; Michael Feigin; Richard Frazier; Neil Harding; Thomas M. Keenan; Kathleen Todd; Alan Yoder; Isabel Blair; Alan Stolz; Nettie Skinner; and Pasquale Salvo—you are heroes!

Two other members have been with the WVEMS for a quarter century, and I would like to commend them for their dedication over the years: Jay Paretzky and April Anne Yoder.

I would also like to include all the other active members of the WVEMS: William Puterbaugh; Norman Coltin; Sandra McPherson; Jeffrey T. Lea; Andrew Diniz; Loretta S. Harsche; Marge Costa; Christine A. Evans; Todd M. Smith; Mark A. Blake; Anthony F. Santo; Donald E. Smith III; Thomas F. Burrows; Martha M. McGorry; Elizabeth Slattery; Chris VanDeusen; Diane Salvo; Benjamin Frimmer; Barbara F. Wood; Barbara Babash; Arlene M. Healy; Amy Smith; Linda Canterbury; Albert Bassett; Mary Jane Cross; KC Duffy; Linda Green; Carole Grob; Dorothy Harris; Gordon Joseloff; Chris Sanders; Whitney Cusa; James Flint; Nicole Donovan; Toni Cribari; Mary Minard; Terrence Blake; Michele Brewster; Michael Falbo; Cheryl Jones; Michael Quan; Rico Tiberio; Sylvia Lempit; Susannah Kehl; AnnaLiisa Joseloff; James Hinckley; Nanci Jenkins; David Heinmiller; Rainy Broomfield; Ronald Carkner; Donna Patchen; Robert Redman; Olivia Weeks; Courtenay Quinn; Joseph Devermann; Linda Gale; Jean Marie Wiesen; Nancy Strong; Gregory Coghlan; Paul Resnick; Barbra Utting; Adam Sappern; Nancy Fusaro; Wendy Hill; Megan Watson; Kristin Ancona; Kathryn Min; William Min; Susan Parks; Jamie Talbot; Michael Rickard; Marc Hartog; Michael Engelskirger; Craig Kupson; Elizabeth Jennings; Glenn Eisen; Angela Chichila; Anna Dowdle; Ashley Hawley; Andrea Hoboken; Dustin Schur; Jackie Stenson; Carol Boas; Yannick Passemart; Kerry Volmar; Michael Wilmot; Danielle Faul; David Bodach; Christin Giordano; Zack Klomberg; Jordan Kunkes; Alma Loya; Whitney Riggio; Kimber Roberts; Alicia Wong; Karen Bizzak; Margaret Russell;

Richard Arriaga; Carol Dixon; Gabrielle O'Halloran; Daniel Rappaport; Dora Sweet; Lois Benfield; Adele Donohue; Susan Shewchuk; Nancy Toll; Pamela Nenham; Matthew Rees; Richard Celotto; John Sommers; Caroline Andrew; James Gray; Stephanie Howson; Rebecca Kamins; Kaitlyn Mello; Elizabeth Parks; Christian Renne; Rob Stewart; Emma Trucks; Christina Voonasis; Maryanne Boyle; Robert Dowling; Yashasvi Jhangiani; Maribeth Nixon; and Steve Brothers.

Your service is outstanding!

#### HONORING THE 2004 PROVIDENCIA AWARD RECIPIENT, MR. PATRICK ROONEY, SR.

#### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the achievements of Patrick Rooney, Sr., a constituent of mine from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, in receiving the prestigious 2004 Providencia Award from the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

May 2004, being National Tourism Month, is the perfect time to honor Pat, who owns and operates the Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach and three Irish restaurants called "Rooney's Public House" located at the Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach and Jupiter's Abacoa. I am a patron of those restaurants and can testify to the quality of food and service and to the vibrancy they bring to the surrounding communities.

The Providencia Award was named after the coconut-laden Spanish ship that sank off the shore of Palm Beach in 1878, washing ashore its cargo bringing Coconut Palms to the island and inspiring the name "Palm Beach." Each year, it is awarded to an individual or entity that has made an exceptional contribution to the County's \$2 billion tourism industry. Past recipients include Burt Reynolds, Chris Evert, Jack Nicklaus, Alex Dreyfoos, The Breakers, The Boca Raton Resort and others. This year it belongs to Pat Rooney, who is being honored for his contributions.

Mr. Speaker, in my South Florida Congressional District, home of fervent Miami Dolphin fans, we forgive and overlook Pat's strong allegiance to the Pittsburgh Steelers, which his family owns. We focus rather on the tremendous impact Pat has on our community. Pat serves on the Economic Council, and the Palm Beach County Attractions Association. The Hanley Hazelden Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach, Greyhound Adoption League, Lynn University, and the American Red Cross have also benefitted from his generous philanthropy.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Mac McLaughlin and his team for selecting another great honoree this year. To Pat Rooney, congratulations on this important recognition and I wish you good health and continued success, except when it comes to the AFC Conference Championship.

H. CON. RES. 352

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 352 and to recognize the great contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and to strengthen our bilateral relationship with the people of India.

For decades, people of Indian origin have immigrated to the United States. They have made extraordinary contributions to our Nation, from advancements in science and technology to business development, philanthropy, literature and the arts. Their contributions have helped make the United States a more diverse and prosperous country.

In Minnesota, people of Indian origin have made their presence felt throughout our communities and neighborhoods. Small and large Indian businesses have flourished in Minnesota. Groups like the India Association of Minnesota, the Asian Pacific Policy Roundtable and CAIR Minnesota have worked very hard to promote a strong, bilateral relationship between India and the United States, raising greater awareness toward human rights and regional reform. Other organizations, like the Indo-American Association of Minnesota, have taken the lead in promoting arts, cultural, spiritual and classical music as well as entertainment. Our colleges and universities have also expanded educational exchanges and opportunities between Minnesota and India, fostering new relationships and promoting greater cooperation between our two countries.

Minnesota has also seen a rise in new and exciting Indian-American leaders, including State Senator Satveer Chaudhry, elected in 2000 and representing Senate District 50 in my Congressional District. Senator Chaudhry is the highest-ranking Indian-American elected official in the country. As a friend and a former colleague, Senator Chaudhry's leadership has ensured that Indian-American families in Minnesota, as well as all the families in his district, are well represented.

Again, I support H. Con. Res. 352 and I urge passage of this important legislation. Minnesota has benefited greatly from its Indian-American community and I look forward to strengthening our relationship with our Indian friends and neighbors in the future.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 95, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the budget resolution lays out the framework for next year's Federal Government revenues, spending and borrowing. It is clearly a roadmap for continuing fiscal mismanagement and misplaced priorities.

The budget allows for further tax cuts, which primarily benefit those least in need, while increasing the nation's debt limit to over \$8 trillion. The projected \$367 billion deficit for 2005

is the result of these policies and this does not include funding for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A serious concern for people who care about the environment and the economy is the failure to fund even the inadequate level required by the House passed transportation reauthorization. The Republican budget resolution assumes \$273 billion for transportation, \$11 billion less than the \$284 billion provided in House legislation and \$45 billion less than the Senate-passed funding level. This is wholly inadequate and will have serious consequences for every State in America.

Tax cuts during wartime that benefit the wealthy, shifting fiscal burdens to our children, shortchanging America's priorities, risking the Social Security and Medicare funding on which retirees rely—this budget is at once shameless and shameful.

#### MILLER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON OVERTIME

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative MILLER's Motion to Instruct Conferees on Overtime.

The Bush Administration recently released their final regulations on overtime pay—regulations that originally called for the elimination of overtime pay for millions of workers including America's police and firefighters.

While the final regulations omitted this group at the last possible minute—due to extreme Democratic pressure—let's remember their true intentions, that of eliminating overtime pay to the police and firefighters of America.

It is so hypocritical for the Republicans to come up here and pass resolutions celebrating the New York City fire and police departments—and then cut their pay.

No one enters law enforcement or becomes a firefighter for the money—but Republicans had the audacity to suggest that these hard-working men and women are not entitled to overtime that they and their families depend on.

While they have had the incredible vision to reconsider their original request, everyone in this chamber knows—and more threatening to the Republicans—every police officer and firefighter in America knows—or will know—that if the Bush Administration and the Congressional Republican majorities are back next year, it is a foregone conclusion that they will revisit these overtime regulations and will succeed in their initial dream of eliminating all overtime for all cops and firefighters in the U.S.

The Administration and this Congress have a sad track record of shortchanging police and firefighters, while pretending to stand with them.

And now their revised "compassionate conservative" overtime regulations eliminate overtime protections for millions of other American workers.

I received a letter from a woman in the Bronx who is a dedicated and experienced health care provider.

She, like other health care providers that support us in our times of need, is being told

by the Republicans that she might not be entitled to overtime.

She writes that she is concerned that overtime work without overtime pay will not only hurt workers like her, but will also hurt patients.

How can that be construed as being supportive of American workers or as being supportive of America?

Sadly, this Administration's record does little to suggest that they understand or care about the needs of American workers.

This Administration's record on labor issues is horrific—besides working to destroy the entire concept of overtime pay, they have attacked and tried to eliminate the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage provisions for our road builders and building trades workers.

This Administration has started denying COLAs to federal civilian employees—COLAs they are more than happy to reward themselves with.

This Administration has opposed legislation to allow workers to create unions so that they get better wages and benefits that benefit themselves and their families.

The destruction of 3 million jobs, the serious attempt to eliminate overtime provisions in our country, and working to crack the Davis-Bacon law—this is an Administration that does not care for working people.

Support the Miller amendment and let the Republicans know—you are sick and tired of these overpaid, underworked people trying to cut your pay while raising theirs.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY HO

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Anthony Chung Yi Ho, Senior Officer with the Taipei Economic Council and Cultural Representative and Senior Assistant to the Honorable C.J. Chen, Taiwan's chief representative in the United States. Mr. Ho has been with the Washington, DC, office of the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 6 years, and his presence will be sorely missed when he returns to Taiwan later this year. Mr. Ho is a true asset to the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His leadership and expertise have been invaluable in working with my Washington, DC, staff and many other congressional offices as well.

Traditionally, Idaho maintains a close relationship with the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Idaho State University has developed a strong partnership with the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in large part because of ISU's English and Professional Development Program. This unique program, the only program of its kind in the United States, provides a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Over 40 students have completed the program since its inception in the early 1990s, and many of these graduates now serve their country in diplomatic postings throughout the world. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Language and Culture Training Program at ISU is an excellent collaborative relationship that is strengthening our countries through a better understanding of each of our cultures.

While serving as a Senior Officer, Mr. Ho has worked closely with my office. Largely thanks to his efforts, I have been able to meet and work with many of Taiwan's junior diplomatic officers attending this program at Idaho State University. They are an intelligent, energetic group who are eager to serve their country. They are very interested in gaining as much knowledge and insight as possible during their stay in America and look forward to using what they have learned as they progress in their diplomatic careers.

Under Mr. Ho's guidance, our office has cultivated a valuable relationship with the Taiwan Foreign Ministry. He arranged a dinner among the junior diplomatic officers and myself in Pocatello, and he has also worked with our office to arrange the stay of a junior officer from ISU in our Washington, DC, office. For 2 years, I have had the privilege of hosting a junior officer from the ISU program in the Capitol.

Mr. Ho's excellent collaborative relationship with my office plays a critical role to strengthening relations between the United States and Taiwan through strong communication and a better understanding of each of our cultures. I commend Anthony Ho for his dedication and guidance. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with him, and we will greatly miss him when he leaves Washington, DC.

#### RECOGNITION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the designation by President Bush that the month of May be known as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The more than 13 million Americans who have Asian/Pacific heritage have worked diligently to enrich the culture of our Nation and of our lives.

Asian/Pacific Americans are a growing and welcome force in my home state of Illinois. Their continuing contributions to our communities, whether as large as Chicago, or as medium sized as my hometown of Collinsville, are immeasurable.

Asian/Pacific Americans bring with them a heritage of pride, hard work, commitment to family and faith, and a love of freedom that serves as an example and reminder for all of us.

I am proud of the President for his recognition of the Asian/Pacific American community and of their overall value to our nation's future. I salute the Asian/Pacific American community and join them in celebrating their heritage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record that my vote yesterday on the amendment to H.R. 4200 offered by SUSAN DAVIS of California was intended to be a "no" vote. I oppose this amendment.