

On Thursday, May 19, 2005, Cal Brand passed away in the City of Columbus, Indiana, an intimate community in my Congressional District and also my hometown. Hundreds of Hoosiers mourned his passing yesterday at the First Presbyterian Church where Cal was an elder, deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher.

Cal Brand founded, owned and operated Brand Inc. Lumber, a successful venture that led to appointments on the Indiana Lumber & Builders Supply Association, the Indiana Building Congress and the National Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association.

In his role as a member of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Cal received both the Community Service award and the Small Businessman of the Year award. He was also a member of various service organizations including the Kiwanis Club and the Columbus Foundation for Youth.

In his respected political life, Cal Brand carried himself in a gentle manner, all while advising Hoosier Governors, U.S. Senators and President Ronald Reagan. He even served as an elected official on the Columbus City Council in 1955 and in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1966–1970.

Cal Brand's confidence and wisdom was outweighed only by his gentle nature and humble attitude. He is the perfect example of a good businessman and citizen. The kind of person every community needs.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the City of Columbus, I extend heartfelt sympathies to the family of Cal Brand, specifically his wife Betty, his daughter Joan of New Jersey; his sons the Rev. D. Calvert Brand of Martinsville and John S. Brand and Jesse R. Brand, both of Columbus; and his seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Living in Columbus, Indiana, means making a commitment to getting involved and improving the community in which you live. Cal Brand embodied that allegiance to his Columbus. He will be deeply missed, and his generosity will never be forgotten.

HONORING MAJOR WILLIAM MCCOLLOUGH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, most Americans probably don't know that there are military men and women who serve their country right here in the U.S. House of Representatives as liaisons between members of Congress and the Nation's armed forces.

These men and women have a critical role in helping Congress do its job, and today, while America is at war, the importance of their work is clearer than ever before.

It is with great appreciation and sadness that I rise to thank one of our finest military liaisons, U.S. Marine Corps Major William McCollough, for his service to this institution and our country as he leaves Washington to join the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment as Executive Officer.

During my time in Congress, I've had the opportunity to work with Major McCollough—and I know that my colleagues who've worked with him will agree—that his leadership, pro-

fessionalism, and friendship have enabled us to better represent our districts.

We will miss Major McCollough, but we wish him well in his new assignment.

PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BAN AND THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Chen Shui-ban and the people of Taiwan, as they celebrate the close of the 1st year of President Chen's second term in office.

Taiwan and the United States share universal values of freedom, human rights, and democracy. Based on these common principles, our two countries work together closely politically and economically. Taiwan is our 8th largest trading partner, and we are Taiwan's largest trading partner. There are more than 270 direct flights between the United States and Taiwan every week and more than twenty eight thousand Taiwanese students currently studying in the United States. We hope that this relationship will become even closer in the years ahead, as President Chen continues his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues here in the Congress have recently written a letter to Lee Jong-wook, Director General of the World Health Organization, asking him to support Taiwan's bid for observer status in the World Health Assembly, the WHO's governing body. Taiwan has a modern, world-class health care system and has lent its talent and resources to people in need throughout Asia and around the world. As such, Taiwan has much to contribute to global health and deserves a place under the WHO umbrella, and it is important that they be given the opportunity to do so.

President Chen continues to call for resumption of dialogue between the PRC and Taiwan to ensure that any resolution of the "Taiwan Question" is through peaceful means. He remains committed to promoting the establishment of a peaceful and stable mechanism for cross-strait relations, a goal that we here in the Congress certainly share with him. Maintaining the status quo between the PRC and Taiwan is of paramount importance to the United States.

Once again, I congratulate President Chen and his 23 million countrymen.

HONORING GRAHAM JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Mr. Graham Jackson. Mr. Jackson was recognized by the North Central Texas College/Small Business Development Center for his zealous business approach and his passionate entrepreneurial spirit.

In early 2000, while working in the classroom support services department at the University of North Texas, Mr. Jackson recog-

nized there was a distinct need for an audio/visual rental service in the Denton area. Electing his mother as his business partner and with some assistance from the Small Business Development Center, Jackson opened Audio Visual Solutions in August 2000.

With clients such as Denton Presbyterian Hospital, the City Hall of Gainesville, and the Denton Civic Center, and with this year's sales estimated to increase three-fold compared to 2004, Jackson has established himself as a true business pioneer.

In addition to Audio Visual Solutions, Mr. Jackson dedicates a considerable amount of time giving back to the Denton community by volunteering at the Denton Children's Advocacy Center and serving on the Board of the Denton Young Professionals organization.

Despite several setbacks along the way, and the fact that over 80 percent of small businesses fail within five years, Mr. Jackson has relied on character and personal perseverance to become successful in his field. It is with great honor I stand here today to recognize a man who not only is the epitome of the entrepreneurial spirit, but one who has devoted his time giving back to the community that has given him so much.

HONORING JOHN LUKES, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to a loyal friend and a tireless advocate for America's workers, Mr. John Lukes, Sr. This Friday, members and friends of UAW Local 599 in Flint, Michigan, will honor the life and legacy of this great man, who died May 23 at the age of 82.

It has been said that "death ends a life, not a relationship," and this is certainly the case with those who have ever come into contact with John Lukes and have benefited from his influence. A longtime Flint resident, World War II veteran, and committed labor activist, John's association with the UAW began October 6, 1949. As a member of Local 599, John served as Alternate Committeeman from 1949 to 1967, and worked as Editor of the Headlight newspaper from 1957–1964. John was elected Recording Secretary for the Local in 1967, a position he held until his retirement, and provided leadership and insight on the executive boards of the Veterans Committee, CAP Committee, and the Health & Safety Committee. On a national level, John operated as National Publicity Chair for the UAW's 30 & Out Committee. In 1977, John was honored with the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award.

Upon his retirement from General Motors in 1992, after 43 years, John continued to work on behalf of his peers through the Local's Retiree chapter, where he served as chairman until 2003. He was also found at the forefront of many community projects.

Mr. Speaker, John Lukes, Sr. was not just a constituent, but also a very good friend. It is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today, however it is also with great pride that I do so. It is people like John, who make it their life's work to improve the quality and dignity of life for us all, that continue to inspire us

to greater efforts. I, along with John's family, and his UAW extended family will truly miss him. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a remarkable man.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY ATHANAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Anthony Athanas, who passed away last Friday in Massachusetts at the age of 93. Anthony Athanas was a prominent Albanian American, the founder and president of the Anthony's fine family of restaurants, and one of the most illustrious business personalities in Boston.

Anthony Athanas was an institution in the Albanian American community. Not only was he an Honorary Consul of the Republic of Albania in Massachusetts, Anthony Athanas was a founding member and on the Board of Directors of the National Albanian American Council (NAAC). He was the community's senior statesman, a winner of the NAAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1999, he and I were members of an historic joint Congressional and Albanian/American delegation to Kosova, Albania, and Macedonia right after the Kosovar war. Anthony told me this was one of the most extraordinary trips he ever took. Upon arriving in Kosova, he kissed the ground and said he never thought he would see the day Kosova would be free. Yet, during this trip, he told a gathering crowd of more than 3000 people in Vranoc, a town which was 80 percent burned by the Serb army, "Today you are free; tomorrow you will become an independent nation." All his life he wanted to visit a free Kosova. It was an honor to be with him when he finally saw it with his own eyes.

Anthony Athanas was born in Albania in 1911 and came to the United States at the age of 5, where he settled with his parents in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His first jobs were peddling fruits and vegetables from a cart, selling newspapers, and lighting wood and coal ovens in restaurant kitchens. He worked his way through various positions in restaurants and hotels throughout New England and New York, gaining invaluable knowledge from chefs, managers and owners. In 1937, he opened his first restaurant, Anthony's Hawthorne, in Lynn, Massachusetts. In the following years, Anthony opened several other successful restaurants.

In 1963, Anthony Athanas opened what would become his flagship restaurant, Anthony's Pier 4, on a Boston Harbor pier. The restaurant was an instant success, garnering acclaim and awards from around the world. Through the years, the restaurant has hosted heads of government, United States presidents, religious leaders, notable artists and writers, athletes, and a virtual who's who from the entertainment world.

Anthony Athanas also served on the Boards of several prominent organizations, including the National Restaurant Association, and was awarded a number of honorary degrees and doctorates.

Anthony Athanas personified the American dream. From humble beginnings in Albania,

he rose through the ranks to become a successful businessman, a national role model, and a vocal advocate for Albanian issues. He serves as an example to us all of the kind of achievement and success possible for those who are capable and willing to strive for something better. He will sorely be missed.

STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2520, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005. This bill is significant because it would encourage one of the most promising, and ethically sound, avenues of medical research in our time: The stem cells within umbilical cord blood.

This is a matter of great interest to me, both because of the importance of the research itself and also because I represent the greater St. Louis area, which is home to the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

Cord blood has proven successful in treating 67 diseases including sickle cell disease, leukemia, osteopetrosis and Diamond Blackfan Anemia. Just last year, a North Korean woman who had been paralyzed for 19 years was seen walking with the assistance of a walker for the media. Only a month prior she had received a cord blood treatment.

This type of extraordinary result demonstrates why we should invest in cord blood stem cells research and treatment.

An early pioneer in cord blood collection and storage, the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank has amassed the second largest inventory of cord blood in the world and has provided the second largest number of cord blood units for transplant. I commend the work of centers like the one at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and am pleased to support his important legislation.

The men and women at the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank deserve our thanks for their integrity, dedication and commitment to bettering human life through ethical research. The promise of adult stem cell research is both substantial and uncontroversial, which is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2520.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out certain things

about H.R. 2419 that leave me troubled. I am quite concerned by significant reductions made in critical programs that are necessary for our nation to maintain a credible long-term nuclear deterrent. The appropriations for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) related to weapons activities was \$6.63B in FY 2005. That amount was reduced to \$6.18B by the committee, a reduction of almost \$0.5B, or nearly 10%.

The Advanced Strategic Computing (ASC) Campaign has made great advances over the past 10 years. We are now able to model things with more fidelity than ever before. This modeling is used to certify the reliability of our nuclear stockpile without nuclear testing. The ASC Campaign was funded last year at a level of \$698M. The administration request for FY06 is only \$661M—a reduction of \$37M over last year's levels. The administration's request was further reduced by the appropriations committee from \$661M to \$501M, coupled with nearly \$22M of earmarks out of the \$501M for extraneous projects, results in a final budget of less than 70% of last year's budget.

These reductions come at the same time we are asking our nation's nuclear laboratories to recertify our nuclear weapon stockpile with science and computing rather than nuclear testing. The committee states that its "recommendation recognizes the Department's inability to achieve the promises of Stockpile Stewardship effort and redirects ASCI funding to maintain current life extension production capabilities pending the initiation of the Reliable Replacement Warhead program." One cannot remove funds from the Advanced Strategic Computing program to fund the Reliable Replacement Warhead program—not expected to yield fruit for a number of years—and expect the labs to continue to certify our stockpile. These programs are not substitutes for each other.

Once again the committee has removed all funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator Study. This is a worth while study, designed to answer whether or not a nuclear earth penetrator is even feasible as a means of holding Deeply Buried Hardened Targets (DBHTs) at risk. It is my understanding that this study will now move to the Department of Defense and outside of the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee.

Inconsistent reductions and increases seem to have been made to the infrastructure construction projects for NNSA. The \$55M administration request for the Chemistry Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory was zeroed out. On the other hand the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility Y-12 National Security Complex recommended funding at a level of \$81M, an increase of \$11M over the request. The committee's reasoning zeroing "the CMRR facility should be delayed until the Department determines the long-term plan for developing the responsive infrastructure required to maintain the nation's existing nuclear stockpile and support replacement production anticipated for the RRW initiative." It is my understanding that this determination will be made by the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board subcommittee which is due to report out in June. The committee claims that its "recommendation does not prejudge the outcome of the SEAB's subcommittee's assessment of