

enemy positions gathering critical and valuable information on major infiltration routes.

The Rangers operated in vast, inhospitable terrains throughout Vietnam. Their prowess, coupled with boat patrols, night ambushes, and stay-behind infiltration techniques were instrumental in thwarting members of the Viet Cong and NVA. According to historical accounts, this company, comprised of merely several hundred men, was able to keep vast numbers of North Vietnamese Army troops occupied, thereby potentially saving numerous American troops.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this incredible company, the Charlie Rangers, and I am honored to have been able to serve in a small way alongside such professional and selfless soldiers. I know my colleagues join me in applauding them for a job well done and share my wishes for a memorable reunion.

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THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF  
CLINTON, IOWA

**HON. JIM NUSSLE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the sesquicentennial celebration of Clinton, Iowa—a community I am very proud to represent in Congress.

One hundred and fifty summers ago, the Iowa Land Company purchased the site of the town and named it in honor of DeWitt Clinton, a former New York governor.

A number of energetic entrepreneurs worked hard to help fuel Clinton's early growth. They rooted the city along the banks of the beautiful Mississippi River; and when a railroad bridge crossing the river was completed a few years after the town was established, the lumber industry boomed.

Logs were floated down the river from Minnesota and Wisconsin to Clinton's sawmills and distributed along the river to other flourishing communities. Clinton was known as the sawmill capital of the country from the late 1850s to around 1900.

The huge log flotillas on the river of Clinton's early days must have been an impressive sight. If you visit Clinton's Eagle Point Park today in the same area, you might see families enjoying a picnic or barges carrying Iowa's bounty down the mighty Mississippi.

Today, Clinton remains full of industrious people determined to make the most of their community's strengths. Clinton's leaders are looking forward to creating even more opportunities for local workers. And every time I meet with a group of Clinton residents, I am always impressed with their incredible enthusiasm and pride in their community.

In another 150 years from now, I am sure Clinton will still be home to the same brand of wonderful people, living in a vibrant, active city by the river.

Happy birthday, Clinton!

DOWNING STREET MEMO HEARING

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Democrats, led by Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, convened a hearing to investigate the so-called "Downing Street Memo." Because I am disappointed with the continued unwillingness of Congress to exercise an adequate level of oversight over the intelligence operations of the Executive Branch, I was therefore pleased to learn that someone was willing to pose questions that have for too long gone un-asked.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, I serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I believe that the Downing Street Memo, which is essentially minutes of a July 2002 meeting of the British Prime Minister and his cabinet, justifies exploring the underlying rationales for the Iraq War. It documents a loyal ally's assertion that the architects of the Iraq war used suspect evidence to support a pre-determined policy. Its authenticity has not been questioned. Such documentation deserves to be probed.

Because of prior commitments, I attended this meeting for about 20 minutes. I later learned through news reports that, after I left, one of the witnesses at the hearing, former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Analyst Ray McGovern, offered repugnant personal viewpoints. Alleging that the war was the product of a U.S.—Israeli partnership to "dominate" the Middle East, Mr. McGovern's statements were insulting, unsubstantiated, and defamatory. There is no justification or excuse for implying that the war in Iraq was the result of any action on the part of the state of Israel, its people, or the American Jewish community. The decision to invade Iraq was the decision of President Bush and a majority of Congress. Ascribing such motives to the pro-Israel community is not simply defamatory—it is anti-Semitic. Mr. McGovern should apologize.

Mr. Speaker, I have been one of the more outspoken members of this body regarding the intelligence that this president used to justify using force against Iraq, how the war has been carried out, and the post-war occupation. I reject Mr. McGovern's statements. His remarks only encourage those who seek to blame Israel and Jews in general for all that ails them. His remarks shed no light on the issue. In fact, they undermined the values of community and equality, which all Americans hold dear.

Sixty years after the end of the Second World War, it is a shame that one of its most notorious sentiments—anti-Semitism—has yet to be eradicated. Each of us has a role to play in combating anti-Semitism whenever and wherever we see it. As a member of the Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism, I ask each of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to confront anti-Semitism whenever it arises.

I hope that Mr. McGovern's offensive and misguided rhetoric does not obscure the purpose of the hearing on the Downing Street Memo. Congress should investigate the extent to which the Bush Administration used questionable evidence to justify a predetermined war. Failure to do so would be an abandonment of our oversight responsibility.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO  
EXTEND AIRLINE WAR RISK  
INSURANCE POLICIES

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation that will extend war-risk insurance coverage for our Nation's airlines for 3 years, through August 31, 2008.

In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, commercial insurance providers invoked their 7-day cancellation clauses on war-risk insurance policies held by U.S. airlines. With the absence of a commercial war-risk insurance market, the Federal Government was forced to step in. Less than 2 weeks after the attacks, Congress authorized the Federal Aviation Administration to begin offering war-risk insurance to airlines, and that authority has been extended a number of times, but is now set to expire on August 31 of this year.

We need to extend the FAA's ability to issue war-risk insurance policies for the financial sake of the U.S. airline industry, which lost approximately \$9 billion in 2004. This program is not a bailout. First of all, it is actually a revenue raiser for the Federal Government. Second, it is considerably more expensive than the war-risk insurance policies held by the airlines prior to September 11th. Four years ago, the airline industry paid a total of approximately \$20 million in premiums per year. Last year, they paid over \$140 million. However, this is much more reasonable than the over \$600 million the Air Transport Association estimates they would have to pay on the open market. This massive jump in premiums could mean the difference between solvency and bankruptcy for many of our struggling airlines. In addition, the commercial insurance policies that exist still contain the 7-day cancellation clause that would allow the insurers to cancel policies in the face of an enhanced threat.

Should the airlines be unable to obtain war-risk insurance policies, they would be forced to stop operating. This would be a crippling blow to not only the aviation industry itself, which employs over 15,000 people in New Jersey alone, but also to the entire United States economy.

Airlines are still a prime target for terrorist attack, which makes war-risk insurance both an absolute necessity and something that can not be offered by the commercial market at a reasonable price. This bill would help our struggling airline industry without costing the Federal Government one cent, and I urge my colleagues to support this small but crucial piece of legislation.

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HONORING DR. CLAUDE H. ORGAN,  
JR.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr., M.D. of Oakland, California. An internationally renowned surgeon and medical educator, Dr. Organ was the second African American to serve as president of

the American College of Surgeons. Throughout his career, he was known for his tireless efforts to ensure the inclusion of African Americans, women and other severely underrepresented minorities in the training and practice of surgery. Dr. Organ passed away in Oakland on June 18, 2005 at the age of 78.

A native Texan, Dr. Organ attended public school in Denison, Texas and received his B.S. degree from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Though he was initially accepted at the University of Texas medical school, he did not attend after school officials discovered that he was black and offered to pay his expenses if he enrolled elsewhere. He instead chose to attend Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, where he received his M.D. in 1952, and where he later completed his surgical residency.

After serving as a Lieutenant Commander MC in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps from 1957 until 1959, Dr. Organ joined the faculty of the department of surgery at Creighton University in 1960. There, he rose to the rank of professor and chair of the department, and later became a professor of surgery at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he served from 1982 until 1988.

Dr. Organ came to Oakland in 1989 to establish and lead the University of California, Davis/University of California, San Francisco East Bay Surgery Department. In that role, he became known for his work in building the department into a highly respected training program, and made a concerted effort to recruit and support African American students, particularly African American women, who were studying to become surgeons. Throughout his career he oversaw the training of dozens of surgeons, all of whom looked to him for guidance as a teacher and a mentor, and strived to emulate the professional and personal excellence that marked his career and conduct.

While practicing medicine and educating residents, Dr. Organ also served as a member of a number of professional and academic medical associations. He was the editor of the prestigious *Journal of American Medical Association's Archives of Surgery* for 15 years, and in 1999 was honored by the American College of Surgeons with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Over the course of his career, he authored or co-authored more than 250 scientific articles and book chapters as well as five books. In addition, Dr. Organ spent many years serving as president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, president of the Board of Trustees of Xavier University, and as president of the Urban League of Omaha.

On Wednesday, June 22, 2005, the family and friends of Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr. will gather to pay tribute to his extraordinary life. In addition to his myriad scientific and academic contributions to the surgical field, Dr. Organ leaves a legacy of excellence in his commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all surgical students and residents. Dr. Organ's work as a healer, a teacher and a mentor changed countless lives, and I salute and thank him for all that he has given to people of the 9th Congressional District, the Bay Area and our country.

IN HONOR OF BART AND CHERRY  
STARR AND THE RAWHIDE BOYS  
RANCH

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House a wonderful program that has helped hundreds of young men across Wisconsin turn their lives around—the Rawhide Boys Ranch.

Forty years ago an idea was born. The idea was to start a program to help troubled boys get a new start on life—a program that would teach them how to become good citizens, husbands and fathers. It was called the Rawhide Boys Ranch, and since opening its doors so many years ago hundreds of boys have successfully passed through the program, becoming positive, productive young men. Today, Rawhide has grown into one of the most successful faith-based programs in Wisconsin, and it has literally paved the way for scores of other organizations dedicated to helping young folks.

In 1965, the year the Green Bay Packers were crowned football world champions, quarterback Bart Starr was one of the most celebrated figures in professional sports. It was then, while his star was shining brightest, that Bart and his wife Cherry were approached by a local businessman and his wife with the dream for Rawhide Boys Ranch. Well, it didn't take John and Jan Gillespie long to sell the Starrs on their dream, and a short while later Rawhide was born. Since then, these remarkable folks have spent countless hours mentoring young men, raising funds, telling others about their amazing program, and serving as shining examples for us all.

Mr. Speaker, when Rawhide Boys Ranch was founded 40 years ago, no one could have predicted it would become such an overwhelming success. It has changed lives, touched hearts, and given families hope that a brighter future lies ahead. And, it is my distinct privilege to recognize John and Jan Gillespie, Bart and Cherry Starr, and the Rawhide Boys Ranch today.

IN HONOR OF THE NBA CHAMPION  
SAN ANTONIO SPURS

### HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to recognize our 2005 National Basketball Association champions, the San Antonio Spurs.

After going head to head for 6 games, the Spurs and the Detroit Pistons met for their final showdown in San Antonio Thursday night. In front of their hometown crowd, the Spurs demonstrated once again why they are the best team in the Nation.

Following a tight and evenly matched first half, the Spurs pulled away from the Pistons in the final quarter to win 81–74 over Detroit, closing out an incredibly hard fought championship series four games to three.

Congratulations are also due to the Detroit Pistons and their coach, Larry Brown, for putting up a battle worthy of a championship series.

With the NBA's number one and number two defensive teams battling against one another for the title, this was an exciting game not only for the Alamo City, but for fans around the Nation and in more than 200 nations around the world where sports fans watched and cheered.

Under the guidance of Coach Gregg Popovich, the Spurs' Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, Robert Horry, Bruce Bowen, Nazr Mohammed, Brent Barry, Beno Udrih, Rasha Nesterovic, Glenn Robinson, Devin Brown, and Tony Massenburg played valiantly to bring the NBA trophy back home to San Antonio. My congratulations go as well to the Spurs' owners, Peter and Julianna Holt, as well as the many other people in the Spurs organization.

Much credit is due to Tim Duncan, who with 25 points and 11 rebounds, was appropriately named the Most Valuable Player of the Finals series. This marks the third time he has won the award for his outstanding athletic skills, leadership and performance on the court.

This is the Spurs' third championship victory in franchise history. They won their first in 1999, followed by their second in 2003. Three titles in 7 years isn't just a magnificent accomplishment—it's a basketball dynasty.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank Coach Popovich and all the Spurs players for an unforgettable season.

HONORING TASK FORCE PHOENIX  
IV, THE 53RD BRIGADE COMBAT  
TEAM

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the great honor to join in ceremonies at Camp Shelby, Mississippi as we sent Task Force IV, The 53rd Brigade Combat Team headquartered in Pinellas Park, Florida to join Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The backbone of this task force operation is a contingent of 1,200 citizen soldiers from Florida National Guard units. They will be led in this operation by Brigadier General John M. "Mitch" Perryman, the first Florida General Officer to deploy and lead a Florida formation in combat overseas since World War II.

These 1,200 patriots from Florida, along with 250 soldiers from units in Tennessee, Kentucky, Iowa, Nebraska, and Vermont, were mobilized in April to begin their training and preparation for this mission to train the Afghan National Army. An advance party from the 53rd Brigade is already in Afghanistan preparing for the arrival of this unit.

The 53rd Infantry Brigade has earned a national reputation for excellence and achievement in service to our Nation and our great State of Florida. It was among the first units in the Nation to be activated following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Their mission was to guard airports, seaports and nuclear facilities.

Members of the 53rd also proudly served side by side with Special Operations forces,