

continued to grow as a producer and distributor of shell eggs and other egg products in the Southern California marketplace and beyond.

Eventually, Norco Ranch successfully became one of the largest suppliers to the retail food chains in Southern California, employing nearly 500 people throughout the Inland Empire. Additionally, the business that once started with 100 chickens grew to have 8 million chickens producing egg products.

In 2000, Harry sold Norco Ranch so that he could focus his energies on his philanthropic interests. Harry is a founder of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. and was President of the Lodzer Organization, which is a non-profit philanthropic association of Holocaust Survivors.

Having lost their original marriage certificate after the war, Harry and Hilda decided to renew their wedding vows to commemorate their 60th anniversary. Their grandson Michael Rubinstein, who will shortly be ordained as a rabbi, will perform the ceremony and provide them with a new marriage certificate. They will also be joined by their four children, Ruth, Mary, Howard and Frances.

I want to congratulate Harry and Hilda on this wonderful occasion and end by sharing with you the sentimental words that accompanied the ceremony announcement: "Each believing the other to be a giver of love, a sharer of sorrow, a bearer of joy and a reason for life, they decided to renew their wedding vows."

EXPRESSING THE GRAVE DIS-
APPROVAL OF THE HOUSE RE-
GARDING MAJORITY OPINION OF
SUPREME COURT IN KELO V.
CITY OF NEW LONDON

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I voice my opposition to the Supreme Court's recent decision granting local governments the power to seize private property for economic development. The Constitution protects an individual's right to own a home free of government intervention, and ensures just compensation for any property taken in the name of the greater public good, such as vitally necessary roads or water projects. The Court erred in its determination that private development interests constitute a legitimate public good. Private interests should not justify the bull-doing of homes in a working-class neighborhood. This divided decision, *Kelo v. New London*, may represent an open invitation for abuse by local governments and private developers at the expense of hardworking Americans who have a right to their property. While I oppose the Supreme Court's decision, I also believe in the separation of powers and do not believe it is appropriate for Congress to seek to punish the Court for its decision. It is my hope that the Supreme Court has another opportunity to correct this bad decision, and provide greater protections for homeowners.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALAMO SCOUTS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments and storied history of the Alamo Scouts. The Alamo Scouts were the forerunners of the Army Special Forces "Green Berets." Without their determined efforts, the United States Army's path to victory in the Pacific would have been much harder.

I mention the Alamo Scouts today not only because they were the soldiers who had the skill and tenacity to accomplish the most top secret missions of World War II, but because as the years go their numbers are dwindling. I feel that it is important that all here today recognize the accomplishments of The Alamo Scouts and that we all pay tribute to them before they are lost to us forever.

The Alamo Scouts' role in history has remained obscure for many years, though their role in defeating the Japanese was crucial. Their training was rigorous and their missions were top secret. Of the thousands of soldiers who the military selected, only 138 men completed their training and became Alamo Scouts. Men like Robert L. Shirkey, Zeke McConnell, and Conrad Vineyard completed their training and went on to participate in missions that saved the war. It was an Alamo Scout, Galen C. Kittleston, who discovered the Cabanatuan prison camp that led to the release of hundreds of prisoners of war who would have surely died otherwise. It was an Alamo Scout, Robert Shirkey, who discovered that General Tomoyuki Yamashita, The Tiger of Malaya, had returned to Northern Luzon. This gave General MacArthur the information he needed to recapture the Philippines.

Most remarkable, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that despite the Alamo Scouts' daring and dangerous missions and despite the weeks and months spent behind enemy lines, not one Alamo Scout was ever killed in action. Even though they had the ability to defy death on the field of combat, many Alamo Scouts are no longer with us. Of the 138 original Alamo Scouts, only about 20 are still with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you, along with the other members of Congress, will join me in honoring the Alamo Scouts and recognizing their invaluable contribution to America's success in World War II.

H.J. RES. 10, FLAG DESECRATION
RESOLUTION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I believe burning the flag is an offensive and disrespectful act. However, I oppose H.J. Res. 10, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

Rather, I rise in support of the amendment offered in the form of a substitute, H. Amdt.

337, which would ensure that the First Amendment right to free speech is protected and that any statute enacted by Congress attempting to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag would remain consistent with the First Amendment.

I have confidence my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can agree that the liberty and freedom guaranteed by our Constitution, and symbolized by our grand old flag, is our Nation's greatest strength. Everyday, the freedoms that surround us in our homes, schools and places of work here in this chamber, are a constant reminder of what our flag means, and what has been sacrificed to ensure its lasting stability and continuity in our Nation. Every day Congress is in session, we pledge allegiance to this flag, "and to the republic for which it stands."

The willful destruction of our Nation's flag is, indeed, deeply offensive. The flag is a symbol of our national unity and a source of national pride, and our flag deserves to be treated with respect at all times. Yet, despite my love for my Nation and the flag, and my deep appreciation for the men and women who yesterday and today fight and live their lives defending our Nation, I cannot support this resolution.

We must take heed of the constitutional parameters that will be reduced as a result of this amendment. One of our most cherished liberties is our freedom of expression. Every individual in America is truly free to express his or her opinions, without threat of hindrance or persecution. From time to time we undoubtedly may disagree with another's opinion. However, this does not mean that their views should be constricted by the Constitution. If we place any limits on this freedom, we are opening the possibility that further limitation can be placed on our freedom of expression at a later time. This resolution, H.J. Res. 10, will indeed serve to reduce that freedom which is so crucial and essential to the maintenance of a strong, vibrant democracy.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 256, IN RE-
MEMBRANCE OF THE BRAVE
SERVICEMEN WHO PERISHED IN
THE APRIL 24, 1980, RESCUE AT-
TEMPT OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES
IN IRAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the lives and endeavors of eight brave soldiers who perished in the April 24, 1980 rescue attempt of American hostages in Iran. Their courageous, and ultimately fatal, effort was an extraordinary example of bravery and sacrifice. They risked their lives for the sake of the freedom of others. It is important that we remember them and commemorate their effort, not only for the sake of their memory, but for ours as well. These American heroes provide us all with examples of sacrifice and commitment to country, with models of bravery and strength whose attitudes we may attempt to emulate.

On November 4, 1979, a mob of Iranian students, calling themselves Imam's Disciples, seized the United States embassy in Tehran. Out of 90 embassy employees, 66 were taken

captive as hostages. By mid-November, 14 of the hostages—the women and African-Americans—had been released, but 52 remained.

President Jimmy Carter initially attempted to diffuse the situation through diplomatic and economic means. He froze Iranian assets, ceased oil imports from Iran, and expelled numerous Iranians from the United States. Unfortunately, these measures proved unsuccessful, and when the Iranian government issued a set of demands for the release of the hostages, President Carter approved the plan for a secret rescue mission called Operation Eagle Claw. In his words, "I ordered this rescue mission prepared in order to safeguard American lives and protect America's national interests, and to reduce the tensions in the world that have been caused among many nations as this crisis has continued."

On April 24, 1980, six C-130 transport planes set off to rendezvous with a group of nine U.S. military helicopters at a remote desert location, southeast of Tehran. Each vessel carried American soldiers ready to do whatever it took to rescue their fellow Americans.

Unfortunately, the rescue was not meant to be. Two helicopters broke down and one was damaged upon landing at the rendezvous point, and the mission was forced to abort. As if the hostages not being saved on that night was not disappointing enough, the real tragedy followed immediately thereafter. One of the helicopters clipped a C-130 transport as it took off. Tragically, the helicopter crashed, killing eight United States servicemen and injuring four others.

Mr. Speaker, these servicemen embarked upon their mission with one objective: to leave no man behind. It is imperative that today we do the same. We must honor the fallen soldiers and their memory. We must learn from their bravery and their determination. We must preserve the memory of each and every one of the courageous men who lost their lives in this valiant effort. In short, Mr. Speaker, we must never forget the sacrifice they made for their fellow soldiers. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

COMCAST LEADERS AND ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three students in the Third District of Kansas who are being honored for their community service, leadership skills, positive attitudes and academic achievement. On August 10, 2005, the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program will award these students with grants to aid their pursuit of higher education. These students were nominated for this scholarship by the principals of their respective high schools, and they have distinguished themselves, their schools, and their community by being selected from a nationwide field of nominees. It is my honor to recognize each student, their school, and their hometown by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Samantha Brown, Olathe Northwest High School, Olathe, KS.

Adam Doll, Olathe South High School, Olathe, KS.

Lorie Wadell, Olathe North High School, Olathe, KS.

COMMENDING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS CHIEF JUDGE ANNICE WAGNER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, because of my personal admiration and friendship, I am particularly pleased to rise today to introduce a resolution that gives me personal pleasure even beyond the pleasure I would normally have in commemorating the service of District of Columbia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Annice Wagner. Judge Wagner's distinguished service for almost 30 years to the courts and to the people of the District of Columbia is documented in this resolution, also introduced in the Senate by Governmental Affairs Chair, SUSAN COLLINS. I am pleased to ask the House as well to express its gratitude to Chief Judge Wagner.

Judge Wagner was first nominated as an Associate Judge by President Jimmy Carter in 1977, re-nominated by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, and appointed Chief Judge in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. Under Judge Wagner's leadership, the Court has benefited in many ways while growing in respect by the profession, the bar and the Congress. Recently, along with other officials, I helped Judge Wagner break ground on the renovation of the historic Old District of Columbia Courthouse (Old City Hall), a project she has long championed as the new home of our highest court, which Chief Judge Wagner has so successfully led. The Chief Judge led the court through a historic transition after the federal government for the first time assumed financial responsibility for the D.C. courts. Although the President always has appointed the judges of the D.C. courts, the District of Columbia alone was responsible for the costs until passage of the District of Columbia Revitalization Act of 1997. Joining the financial responsibility with the appointing power helped the District emerge from its worst financial crisis in a century. However, the transition required changes in many details of operations, and the leadership of Chief Judge Wagner was critical to the success of this important transition.

When Judge Wagner was Annice Robinson and I was Eleanor Holmes, we were close friends and classmates at Dunbar High School. Annice was known then for her top academic achievements, her leadership skills, and her ability to bring people together. No one who knew Annice Robinson would be surprised that she would become Chief Judge of the highest court in her hometown or that she would leave her signature on the Court and on our city.

We are fortunate indeed that Chief Judge Wagner will assume senior status enabling the courts to continue to tap her years of experience and dedication. The Bar of the city, our elected officials, and our residents have been the direct beneficiaries of Judge Wagner's extraordinary service. Because of the role of the federal government in our local government,

Congress shares in the pride and gratitude of the city and the profession for Chief Judge Wagner's service. I ask the House to join me in endorsing this resolution of appreciation and commendation for the service of Chief Judge Annice Wagner.

SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 3200 the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Enhancement Act of 2005. Honorable SHELLEY BERKLEY, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, joins me as an original cosponsor of the bill.

H.R. 3200 would amend and make permanent certain provisions of Public Law 109-13, the War Supplemental, as they pertain to the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs, which expire on September 30, 2005.

Specifically, this bill would make permanent the maximum increases in coverage for both Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance from \$250,000 to \$400,000, and make permanent the increments of SGLI coverage a servicemember may elect from \$10,000 to \$50,000. It would also require the military service Secretary concerned to notify a servicemember's spouse or an unmarried servicemember's next-of-kin, in writing, if the servicemember declines coverage or chooses an amount of coverage less than the maximum, as well as ensure that a servicemember's spouse be notified if the servicemember designates someone other than the spouse or child as the policy beneficiary. Finally, the bill would amend the new Traumatic Injury Protection program, established in Public Law 109-13, to allow a servicemember to opt out of the program.

Mr. Speaker, Congress recognized the need to enhance VA insurance benefits provided to our servicemen and women and did so in the Supplemental. This bill builds on the provisions enacted in Public Law 109-13 and ensures that servicemembers are provided with adequate insurance options to protect their families and loved ones.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO NORTH MIAMI AVENUE CHURCH OF GOD

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I join the North Miami Avenue Church of God and its members in giving thanks to Almighty God on the wonderful occasion of the rededication of their expanded sanctuary.

The church had its beginning at a prayer meeting in November 1977 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hitchman. The church obviously