

2000, he participated in the prestigious Toyota International Teacher Program. In 1987, he received the Excellence in Education Award from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, and in 1987 he was chosen as Lansing Catholic Central High School's First Teacher of the Year Professional Excellence Award Winner. But despite these many recognitions, Dan still believes that the work he does with his students is his greatest success. His dedication to teaching can be seen on a daily basis when he stays well after school hours to offer additional assistance or develop new ways to show his students the significance of math in daily life.

Mr. Speaker, education is the cornerstone of our economy and great teachers lay the foundation for greater prosperity. I wish to extend my gratitude to Dan Schab for his many years of service to his students. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Schab for his years of dedication to teaching and his recent selection as Michigan's Teacher of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery early Tuesday morning, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday evening. Had I been present, please let the official RECORD reflect that I would have voted in favor of the following three bills: H.J. Res. 59—Sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists; H. Con. Res. 181—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month; and H. Res. 376—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas".

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JAY BAIRD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Jay Baird has provided outstanding service and contributions to Licking County serving two terms as County Commissioner; and

Whereas, Jay Baird has served the people of Licking County with dedication, diligence, and goodwill; and

Whereas, Jay Baird is an asset treating everyone with respect and a sense of priority, carrying out his duty to the people; and

Whereas, Jay Baird is greatly appreciated by all who have worked with him. He is to be commended for the help that he provided to the citizens of Pataskala and the residents of Licking County.

Therefore, I join with members of Congress and their staff in recognizing Jay Baird for his exceptional work and immense contributions, and wish him the very best in future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MISS CAMPBELL GRACE HALME

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Tracy and Matthew Halme of Tampa, Florida, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Campbell Grace Halme was born on July 20, 2005, weighing 7 pounds, 7.5 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Campbell has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) profoundly improved the lives of approximately 54 million people with disabilities. Before the ADA, employers routinely denied promotions and jobs to individuals based not on skill, but on discriminatory stereotypes about disabilities. The lack of accommodations in the workplace shut people with disabilities out of the job force, resulting in astounding poverty rates. People with disabilities did not even have the legal tools to fight back because no law recognized their grievances.

On July 26, 1990, George H.W. Bush signed the ADA, transforming America into a more accessible country. The ADA gave people with disabilities the right to be accommodated in the workplace, a fair grievance process for discrimination suits, equal access to public services, transportation and telecommunications. People with disabilities are no longer unnecessarily shut away; they have the ability to counteract discriminatory practices and have a fair chance to become productive members of society.

I enthusiastically support the Hoyer Resolution commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the ADA, the largest civil rights achievement since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. By celebrating and recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the ADA, Congress honors the United States' commitment to equality and justice. I hope that by recommitting Congress to the full enforcement and support of the ADA, all members will work harder to reduce the still-high unemployment rate among people with disabilities with the capacity to work. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that recognizes the enormous potential impact of this untapped workforce in our global economy.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. AMANDA PEACH SMITH

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my most distinguished constituents, Amanda Peach Smith. Mrs. Smith, who everyone knows as Aunt Sam turned 100 years old today.

Aunt Sam moved to Philadelphia from Elloree, SC in 1925. She lived in West Philadelphia until 1931, when she moved to South Philly. In the 1950s, she returned to my part of the city, West Philadelphia.

Aunt Sam has a close and loving relationship with her community and with her God. She has been a member of the historic Union Baptist Church since 1927, shortly after her arrival in Philadelphia. A long time usher there, she was a part of the congregation that nurtured and supported Marion Anderson, Philadelphia's most famous opera singer.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Smith is known for her love of gardening and flowers. In so many ways, she has brought beauty and joy to all of us.

I know that all my colleagues will join me today in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

SUPPORT FOR JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my strong support for the President's Supreme Court nominee Judge John Roberts. His personal qualifications are exemplary and are more than befitting for a Supreme Court Justice.

Judge Robert's educational record speaks for itself. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Harvard in only 3 years and also received his law degree there with high honors. Additionally, he served as an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

I believe that Judge Roberts will be fair and non-partisan and serve America's highest court well. According to The National Journal, "John Roberts seems a good bet to be the kind of judge we should all want to have—all of us, that is, who are looking less for congenial ideologues than for professionals committed to the impartial application of the law."

Likewise, his personal integrity is unquestionable. For example, in 1995, Judge Roberts argued the case of Barry v. Little in which he represented a class of the neediest welfare recipients free of charge before the DC Court of Appeals.

Republicans and Democrats alike have also acknowledged Judge Roberts' outstanding character. Democratic lawyers Lloyd Cutler and Seth Waxman and former Republic White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray have cited his "unquestioned integrity and fairmindedness."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Judge Roberts offers everything we could ask for in a Supreme Court nominee. I therefore urge the Senate to hold fair and speedy hearings in order to fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMBAS-
SADOR ALBERT RAMDIN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin is well prepared to serve as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States during the 35th Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has dedicated his life to public service having displayed his vast array of talents in multiple arenas such as Senior Adviser to the Minister of Trade and Industry of Suriname, Chairman and member of several national policy development committees including the "Establishment of the Investment Fund" and "Privatization of State Enterprises" committees, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance of Suriname, and Suriname's non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica, among other endeavors; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has had an extensive history with the Organization of American States including chairing the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin's distinguished involvement with the Caribbean Community has involved serving as Co-Chair of the Central America High Level Technical Committee and as Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations.

Therefore, I join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Ambassador Albert Ramdin to honor and congratulate him in his new position of Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATURAL
MARINA DAY AND URGING MARI-
NAS CONTINUE PROVIDING ENVI-
RONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GATE-
WAYS TO BOATING

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 308, a bill supporting the goals of National Marina Day, and urging that marinas continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating.

In my district on Eastern Long Island, business associated with local marinas is important to vacationers and residents alike. The tourism and fishing industries are two of the most important contributing elements of the local economy, and marinas help these economic engines create much needed revenue throughout Brookhaven and the five East End Towns.

There are more than 12,000 marinas nationally that benefit local communities by providing safe and reliable gateways to boating. The marinas of the United States serve as stew-

ards of the environment, and they actively protect the waterways that surround them for current and future enjoyment.

The Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 13, 2005, as National Marina Day to increase awareness among citizens and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities, and it is important that Congress support this initiative.

As vacationers throughout the country flock to the coasts for well-deserved vacations, it is important that we recognize the significance of marinas. I'd therefore echo the Marina Operator's support for National Marina Day and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2005, I was unavoidably detained on official business overseas.

I respectfully request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 417: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.J. Res. 59); Rollcall No. 418: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 181); and Rollcall No. 419: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 376).

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago—on July 26, 1990—our great Nation made a promise to the disabled community that we have a moral obligation to keep. We said no to discrimination. We said no to sanctioned inequality. We said yes to inclusion and equality.

Today marks the 15th Anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act.

I am immensely proud to have been a part of reauthorization efforts of this important legislation, and I will never forget all of the advocates for the disabled at the signing ceremony on the South Lawn at the White House.

This landmark law sent an unmistakable message: It is unacceptable to discriminate against someone simply because they have a disability. Moreover, it is illegal—in employment, in transportation, in public accommodations, and in telecommunications.

The ADA recognized that the disabled belong to the American family; that a disability need not be disabling. Disabled Americans can share in all our Nation has to offer—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Over the last 15 years, the ADA has allowed hundreds of thousands of Americans to

join the workforce, attend school, travel, or drive a car—many for the first time in their lives. The ramps, curb cuts, Braille signs, and captioned television programs that were once novel are now ubiquitous.

However, the first 15 years of the ADA have not been without challenge. Too often, the intent of the ADA has been misconstrued by our courts, which have given it a narrow construction that its authors never intended.

To date, people with diabetes, heart conditions, cancer and mental illnesses have had their ADA claims kicked out of court because, with improvements in medication, they are considered too functional to be considered disabled.

Together, these decisions represent a dangerous chipping away at the foundation of equality which we poured 15 years ago when the ADA was enacted. And they are a reminder as we commemorate this 15th Anniversary that our work is not done.

This is clearly not what Congress intended when it passed the ADA and the first President Bush signed it into law. We intended the law to be given a broad construction, not a narrow one.

Today, let us renew our commitment to the principles and spirit of the ADA—a law that befits our great Nation, which stands for liberty and freedom. Today, let's commit to keep the promise we made when we enacted the ADA, because while its promise remains unfulfilled, it still is within reach.

Thus, I join my Congressional colleagues and demand that we commit ourselves to expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and all Americans. Only then will we live up to the ideals of equality and opportunity.

RECOGNITION OF PETER DERBY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, staffers do not often receive proper recognition for the hard work they do in government for either Congress or the agencies. Many of us would like to thank one of those deserving of such recognition. That person is Peter Derby, the Managing Executive for Operations and Management at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. Derby has announced that he will leave the SEC at the end of July. He will be leaving a legacy of hard work and accomplishment at that agency. Chairman William Donaldson praised Mr. Derby thusly: "Peter has played a critical role as a trusted Member of our senior management team during a critical period at the Commission. He was instrumental in increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness at the Commission and served with distinction and integrity. Peter will leave a strong and lasting legacy at the Commission."

Prior to joining the SEC, Mr. Derby was involved in a wide array of business and public service ventures which left him well prepared to take over a position of such importance. Peter served as an elected member of the