

the Citrus County Right to Life, and had recently been elected president of the Florida Right to Life. In addition to participating in these organizations, Mr. Bombly was a devoted family man who enjoyed playing the saxophone.

Mr. Speaker, I know that his family, friends and loved ones miss his presence but are heartened to know that he has passed on to a better place.

RECOGNIZING MR. PATRICK WEST

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick West for his 25 years of service to the people of Paramount, California.

Pat began his career with Paramount in 1980 at a time when the city was being called a "suburban disaster," and was ranked as one of the Nation's worst places to live. Pat was a leading part of a team of local citizens and city employees who made a commitment to turn Paramount around. And turn the city around they did.

For example, to help reduce the high crime and gang problem in Paramount, Pat and other city employees and community leaders developed the GRIP anti-gang youth program. GRIP is now nationally recognized as one of America's longest running and most successful programs at reaching children early in elementary school, steering them away from gang involvement and towards more positive activities.

Pat started work in the city's Recreation Department, where GRIP is located. During 1986–1994 he moved to the Community Development Department where he was responsible for planning, zoning, and housing efforts in the city. Then, in 1994, Pat became City Manager for Paramount. Pat's able hand at community development and city management can be seen today in the thriving business districts of Paramount, and the creative use of suburban revitalization methods, such as pocket parks. Those years in the 1980's and 1990's saw the dramatic transformation of Paramount from suburban disaster status to a model of positive suburban redevelopment, with a city that stands out today for the quality of its city management and the quality of public services that it provides its residents and businesses. Pat West has played a leading role in directing that transformation over two and a half decades.

Pat's roots and life have been spent in our region of Southern California. Born in Inglewood, raised in Huntington Beach, and educated at UC Irvine for a bachelor's degree, and Cal State Los Angeles and Cal State Dominguez Hills for masters' degrees, Pat is truly a local Southern Californian who has done well, and done well for his State and his greater community.

Pat is leaving Paramount after 25 years to take a promotional opportunity working for the larger city of Long Beach where he will head up that city's redevelopment agency and help another city in our region successfully meet the challenges it faces.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Pat West for his

many years of service to the people of Paramount, CA and in wishing him the very best in his work ahead for the people of Long Beach, CA.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA JOEL  
GRAMLING OF ZEPHYRHILLS,  
FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Corporal Joshua Joel Gramling of Zephyrhills, FL, a Marine Corps veteran of the war in Iraq. I am proud to join the entire Zephyrhills community, his friends and family, and his fellow soldiers to welcome Corporal Gramling back safely from Iraq.

Following his enlistment in the Marine Corps in 1998, Corporal Gramling served as a tank gunner for the first four years of his service. Following the completion of his four-year duty, Corporal Gramling decided to re-enlist in the Marine Corps. Activated before the end of the year, Corporal Gramling was deployed to Iraq in March, 2005 where he served in Regimental Combat Team 8.

During his time in the Marine Corps, Corporal Gramling has received two Good Conduct Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal.

Born into the military with both parents serving at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, Corporal Gramling comes from a long line of military veterans. A proud member of three generations of American military men and women, Corporal Gramling continues his family's tradition of service to America's Armed Forces. In fact, twelve members of his family have served in the Gulf War, the Vietnam War and in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Zephyrhills Community is proud to have a native son and proud soldier return home safely from active duty. True American heroes like Corporal Gramling should be honored for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifice in battle.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL HIGH  
SCHOOL NJROTC PROGRAM

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps unit of Central High School in Brooksville, FL for being recognized by the Navy as the 2005 Best Unit in the Navy's Area 7 and runner up as the 2005 Best Unit in the Nation. Both of these prestigious awards are sponsored by the Navy League of the United States.

Central High's NJROTC program is focused on the development of their cadets as model citizens as well as fostering the growth of tomorrow's leaders. In addition to their countless time spent drilling and reviewing on the pa-

rade grounds, the unit has amassed over 5,900 community service hours in a wide variety of community oriented activities. The unit has also pushed its cadets to achieve in the classroom, with several cadets participating in national academic contests, three cadets being awarded NROTC scholarships, and one cadet appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy.

In his application to the National NJROTC Awards Nominating Committee, the Area 7 manager stated that he had never seen a more inspiring event than the Evening Parade conducted by Central High's NJROTC Unit. Working as a team, the unit performed with a flawless precision that was of the same caliber as some of the finest honor guards in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Central High's Area 7 Best Unit award and their number two ranking in the nation, I would like to congratulate all the cadets participating in Central High's NJROTC program and their instructors for their dedication to the cadet program, for their service to the Brooksville community, and for their love of the United States of America. This unit will serve as an inspiration and an example for other NJROTC programs throughout Florida and throughout the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTH HIGH  
SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in North St. Paul, MN, this year marks 100 years of North High School, a pillar of the community since 1905. North High is one of three high schools serving the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, a district which educates nearly 12,000 students each year.

As illustrated by the school's vision statement and exemplified in the work of its faculty and staff, learning and citizenship come first at North High. Generations of students and their families have acquired knowledge, attained skills, and developed values that prepare them for lifelong learning and civic participation in our democratic society.

Learning and growth happen outside of the classroom at North High as well. Students are provided with many leadership opportunities, including participation in more than 25 clubs and organizations, such as National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and Teens Advocating Peace. In addition, North High offers more than 26 athletic team opportunities for both boys and girls to learn the values associated with teamwork and physical fitness.

Many families in Minnesota and in North St. Paul have shared memories and developed lifelong friends because of their North High experiences. My own family has strong connections to North High—both of my children are alumni of North High and I was a student teacher at North High while finishing my bachelor's degree at the College of St. Catherine.

We count on our Nation's schools to help create and support our communities, strengthen our neighborhoods, and educate and prepare our children and youth. North High is a

wonderful example of such a school. It is with great pride and appreciation for the role that students, faculty, staff, and alumni at North High play in North St. Paul and surrounding communities that I submit this statement for the official United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the thousands of citizens in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have lost everything to Hurricane Katrina—their homes, their livelihoods, their families. Assisting people as they rebuild their lives after this unprecedented natural disaster is a moral responsibility of government. Like my colleagues, my top concern remains the search and rescue efforts underway on the ground in this affected region, and I am grateful for the heroic efforts of the relief workers who have joined in this effort.

I am encouraged that the battered Gulf Coast region will receive \$10.5 billion in emergency funding from Congress, funding that will aid critical evacuation and recovery efforts as well as allow this area to begin to recover.

However, the issue is less whether we have the money for this—we will—than whether it will be used efficiently. Despite early warnings regarding the damage a hurricane could cause to this region, it appears the President's budget underfunded countless flood control and prevention projects.

At the same time, there are serious questions regarding the administration's competence in responding to this tragedy. In particular, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's incoherent response in the days following this disaster has been, in a word, unacceptable. The American people, writing and calling our offices here in Congress, are demanding accountability from their government.

In the coming days, they will begin to get answers. But today, I want to urge the President to take responsibility and move the Federal Government to action. That must be our continuing goal.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this emergency funding is a necessary first step on what will surely be a long road to recovery, and I urge my colleagues to support it. In the coming days, I will be working with my colleagues to ensure that it is used expeditiously and appropriately. The American people and the victims of this unprecedented natural disaster deserve no less.

INTRODUCING THE RICE FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Rice Farmers Fairness Act. This

legislation conditions the continuation of farm subsidies in the state of Texas upon the maintenance of rice production. Federal law allows for the continuation of subsidies to landowners who discontinue tenant rice farming on their land. In essence, this means that the subsidy continues to flow in spite of an end to production.

This is a "something for nothing" subsidy of the worst kind! As a result of this provision, there is a very real threat to the agricultural infrastructure. With landowners receiving subsidies in spite of lack of production, the entire warehousing, processing and "value-added" industries are put at risk.

As grain elevators, processors and others see a reduction in demand for their services because of the diminution of production permitted by Federal law, they have a disincentive to continue to provide said services, services which must remain in place in order for those who remain in production to be able to bring to market the rice which they continue to produce. Thus, by way of the decimation of the infrastructure, this subsidy to non-producers comes at the expense of those who continue to produce rice. Therefore, the provisions of Federal law which provide this subsidy actually amount to another form of Federal welfare, taking from producers and giving to non-producers. These destructive government policies have particularly pernicious effect in Texas, where rice farming, and the related industries, are a major sector of the economy in many towns along the Texas coast.

My legislation is very simple and direct in dealing with this problem. It says that those who have tenant rice farmers producing rice in Texas must agree to continue to maintain rice in their crop rotation if they wish to receive subsidies. In this way, we can remove the perverse incentive, which the Federal Government has provided to landowners to exit the rice business and thereby put the entire rice infrastructure at risk.

America's rice farmers are the most efficient, effective producers of rice in the world, despite the many hurdles erected by Washington. The Rice Farmer Fairness Act helps remove one of these hurdles and this makes America's rice farmers even more efficient. In order to enhance our competitive position, we should also end our embargoes of other nations. Congress should eliminate the burdensome taxes and regulations imposed on America's farmers. I hope my colleagues will join me in removing these federally imposed burdens on rice farmers by supporting free trade, low taxes and regulations, and cosponsoring my Rice Farmer Fairness Act.

A CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO ARCHITECT FRANK GEHRY'S WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL ON THE OCCASION OF THE HALL'S INCLUSION IN THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE'S 2005 MASTERWORKS OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE SERIES

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate famed architect Frank

Gehry for having his building, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, included in the U.S. Postal Service's 2005 Masterworks of Modern Architecture series. The hall is one of 12 modern structures in the nation—and the only one on the West Coast—featured in the postal stamp collection now on sale at post offices throughout the country.

As part of this series, the Walt Disney Concert Hall is among a distinguished collection that includes the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, the Hancock Center tower in Chicago and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Located in my congressional district in downtown Los Angeles, the Walt Disney Concert Hall draws national attention to Los Angeles and serves as the centerpiece of downtown's successful revitalization that includes showcasing the area's diverse artistic and cultural offerings.

Occupying a full city block on the historic Bunker Hill, the concert hall serves most notably as the home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and its 3.6 acre site also includes California's smallest state park. Traveling at the intersection of First Street and Grand Avenue, passersby quickly take notice of Mr. Gehry's stunning design. The hall's bold eye-catching exterior is comprised of enormous curves made of stainless steel. Its expansive transparent doors and windows stretch along Grand Avenue and welcome the public to come inside. A futuristic-style external aerial walkway begins on Grand Avenue, and lifts visitors up and across the front of the venue, offering views of City Hall and beyond, and eventually winding around to the garden level on the other side of the building.

The interior of the hall is just as original. Acoustically designed by the world-renowned Yasuhisa Toyota, the hardwood-paneled main auditorium is lauded as state of the art. Even the seating arrangement is insightful. Theatergoers are seated on all sides of the orchestra and the absence of private boxes—common in most concert halls—adds a unique element to the experience.

The history of the origin of this national landmark is as inspirational as Mr. Gehry's creative genius. In 1987, Walt Disney's widow Lillian Disney gave a \$50 million gift to the community to build the concert hall as a way of paying tribute to her late husband's lifelong commitment to the arts.

Sixteen years later, when the building opened its doors in 2003, the completed Walt Disney Concert Hall stood as a proud collaboration of effort, talent and vision. There are many to thank for helping to make the Walt Disney Concert Hall a reality, including, but not limited to, the ironworkers who built the hall's exterior and the many financial sponsors who worked with The Music Center, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, the County of Los Angeles and the Disney family to obtain the funding needed to complete the project.

It is truly because of their devotion and hard work that so many visitors from all over the world have had the opportunity to enjoy Mr. Gehry's architectural masterpiece that stands today.

On behalf of all Angelenos, I congratulate Mr. Gehry for being recognized in this special way by the U.S. Postal Service and, above all, I thank him for giving Los Angeles a cultural and architectural jewel that will surely be enjoyed for generations to come.