

loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.”

We owe gold star mothers and their families a debt that can never be fully repaid. I hope all Americans will take this opportunity to recognize and thank America's Gold Star Mothers.

CONGRATULATING COMMISSIONER  
NANCY WHITE

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Commissioner Nancy White, who is the recipient of the 2005 Alexander Macomb Woman of the Year Award from the March of Dimes.

Nancy White has dedicated her life to educating and improving her community. After Mrs. White received her Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her Master's degree from Wayne State University, she began her 22-year career in the Fraser Public School District. She served as a teacher, counselor, and coach.

In 1992, Mrs. White was elected by the people of Fraser and southern Clinton Township as their representative on the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. Since then, she has dedicated the last seven years to the County Board. Her strong leadership was recognized by her fellow board members and she was elected in January 2005 to serve a two-year term as chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

Mrs. White is committed to efficient and responsive County government. She lives out this commitment by creating a Strategic Visioning Task Force, a forum for Mayors throughout the County and endeavoring to work on a bipartisan basis. She was the Co-Chair of a County-wide effort to defend the County's military installations in the recent BRAC process. She has traveled to the Middle East on a trade mission with other government and business leaders from Southeastern Michigan.

Mrs. White's excellent leadership skills are not only utilized on the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. She served as chair of the Macomb County Community Mental Health Board and co-chair of the Clinton Township American Red Cross Blood Drive.

In 2002, the community acknowledged Mrs. White's leadership and commitment. She was awarded The Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of America for her many outstanding contributions as a mentor and community leader.

Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to work in collaboration with Mrs. White over a number of years and to see first hand her commitment and devotion to improving communities throughout Macomb County. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioner Nancy M. White as she receives this distinguished award.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. Among my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress are participating in the life of this community and the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. On July 25, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus signed a reciprocal Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Ship Boarding Agreement, which is aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Cyprus was the first EU member to sign this agreement. Earlier this month Cyprus became a signatory to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Finally, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Cyprus offered both its condolences and assistance to the victims of this horrible disaster.

I am saddened that the commemoration of Cyprus' Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that Cyprus continues to be illegally occupied by the Turkish military forces, in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. However, I remain hopeful that an end to this division will be achieved.

Cyprus and the United States have a great deal in common. We share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law. Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty.

I am encouraged that since the Turkish occupation regime partially lifted restrictions on freedom of movement across the artificial line of division created by Turkey's military occupation, hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have crossed the U.N. ceasefire line to visit their homes and properties or areas of their own country that were inaccessible to them for nearly 30 years. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots bodes well for the successful reunification of Cyprus.

In the times we are facing, it is clear that divisions among people create harmful, destructive environments. We must find a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem. The relation-

ship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY COLA PROTECTION ACT

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to the House of Representatives, I made a promise to thousands of seniors in South Dakota that, if they would send me to Washington, I would fight for them, stand by them, and make their voice heard. To help keep that promise by protecting the retirement income of nearly 100,000 South Dakotans from rising health care costs, the "Social Security COLA Protection Act" was the first piece of legislation I introduced upon my arrival.

Today, I am reintroducing the "Social Security COLA Protection Act" because the situation facing seniors in South Dakota and around the country is just as dire today as it was a year ago.

For retirees who depend on Social Security benefits to live, the only defense against increasing prices for food, clothing and energy is an annual cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA. However, rising Medicare premiums are diminishing the purchasing power of this yearly increase in benefits.

Over the last 5 years, monthly Medicare Part B premiums have nearly doubled. On September 16th, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that Medicare beneficiaries will pay an additional 13 percent out of their Social Security checks in 2006. This marks the third consecutive rise of more than 10 percent and exceeds the 12 percent increase Medicare's trustees predicted in March. Every dollar that goes toward rising Medicare premiums is one less South Dakota's seniors can use to pay for groceries or utility bills.

We're not wealthy in South Dakota. Retirees in South Dakota clip coupons. They put off buying the things they need. They live modestly because that is what they must do to get by. It is no exaggeration to say that retirees in South Dakota need every penny of their COLA. Not just so they can maintain a basic standard of living—but so they can live with dignity.

My legislation protects retirees by ensuring that no more than 25 percent of their COLA can be absorbed by the increase in Medicare premiums. Next year, it would protect 100,000 South Dakotans who otherwise would see their scarce dollars taken from food, clothing and other essential purchases. For those who depend on Social Security to pay their bills, this legislation will help them save enough to buy new clothes, extra medicine or just a plane ticket to visit the grandchildren.

Last Congress, my legislation had the support of 116 members of the House and of prominent advocacy groups for seniors such as the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Alliance for Retired Americans and Families USA. I hope that Congress will take up and pass this legislation quickly, because the need for it is real and immediate.

This fall, just as Medicare premiums go up, temperatures in South Dakota will be going down. Seniors will sit at their kitchen tables, reading through the bills, and they may wonder yet again how they are going to make it through the month. We owe it to them to do better. I will work to see that we will.

FREEDOM FOR VIRGILIO  
MARANTA GUELMEZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Virgilio Maranta Guelmes, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Maranta Guelmes is a pro-democracy activist and a delegate of the 24th of February Movement. The movement is named for both the commencement of the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue movement were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictator's fighter jets. The 24th of February Movement desires and struggles for freedom in Cuba.

Because of his belief in freedom and democracy, Mr. Maranta Guelmes has been a constant target of the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to Amnesty International, he was arrested and imprisoned in the totalitarian gulag on December 6, 2002. On May 19, 2002, he was again detained and interrogated by the dictatorship. In that interrogation, he was told to abandon his activities with the 24th of February Movement.

Mr. Maranta Guelmes, knowing full well the heinous repression that awaited him if he continued to advocate for freedom for the people of Cuba, never wavered in his convictions. Unfortunately, on May 18, 2004, in a sham trial, Mr. Maranta Guelmes was sentenced to 3 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Maranta Guelmes is locked in a dungeon because he desires freedom for Cuba. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that anyone, anywhere, is imprisoned in sub-human gulags simply for their belief in truth, freedom and democracy. At the dawn of the 21st century, mankind must no longer tolerate prisoners of conscience in any form, in any place, in any country. My colleagues, we must cry out for the immediate and unconditional release of Virgilio Maranta Guelmes and all prisoners of conscience in the totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL PEPE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about

a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself to improving the lives of those around him. Dr. Paul Pepe is a fine member of my home community of Dallas, Texas, and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his contribution in emergency medical services from the American College Emergency Physicians. The award, presented by U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona in Washington, D.C. on Monday, September 26, 2005, recognized Dr. Pepe for his achievements during a 30 year career that included education and service to numerous city, state and federal agencies.

Dr. Pepe, a protégé of Drs. Leonard Cobb and Michael Copass from the University of Washington in Seattle, may be best known as one of the lead authors of the initial 1991 American Heart Association publications.

Dr. Pepe co-authored a comprehensive Early Childhood Center curriculum for K through 12 school children, and he championed statewide training of middle school students using high school seniors as instructors in both CPR and automated external defibrillator use. In addition, he helped to forge the exact language and subsequent passage of one of the most liberal Good Samaritan Laws ever enacted in any state regarding AED use by bystanders. Translating all of these ambitious CPR initiatives into major media events—and ultimately thousands of lives saved—Dr. Pepe has been labeled in some educational circles as a "Mentor to Millions."

Dr. Pepe has been a longstanding member of the National Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support committees of the American Heart Association. He has also served on national ad hoc committees for various AHA activities including its upcoming National Mass CPR Training Day initiative.

In addition to his AHA duties, Dr. Pepe also serves as the Emergency Medicine and Trauma Consultant to such diverse entities as the White House Medical Unit, ABC News and the National Basketball Association Trainers. Most recently, he trained the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, and several dozen of his highest ranking senior staff members in CPR and AED use.

A ubiquitous and popular world-wide lecturer and author of hundreds of published scientific papers and abstracts, Dr. Pepe has been featured routinely in many network and prime-time broadcasts. He has won multiple health policy, community service, academic and professional society awards, both here and abroad, and he has provided consultation for multiple foreign governments regarding the coordination of emergency health services.

Dr. Pepe is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He is a tremendous asset to Dallas, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live and a safer place to grow up. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues and the North Texas community in congratulating Dr. Pepe on a job well done.

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA  
BUTLER

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and distinguish one of America's fin-

est—United States Marine Lance Corporal Joshua Butler of Altoona, PA. Butler, who dreamed of being a U.S. Marine since he was four years old, protected hundreds of his fellow comrades from suicide bombers mounting an attack with trucks, explosives and no regard for human life.

Butler was stationed in Iraq along the Syrian border, and while guarding the base's perimeter from a lookout tower his post was attacked. Butler sprayed the first suicide bomber with 20 or 30 rounds causing him to veer off at the last moment to miss his target. The truck, filled with explosives and manned by a suicide-mission insurgent, crashed through the improvised barrier the Marines had built up along the edge of the base. After being knocked down by the blast, Lance Corporal Butler remained focused, alert and ready. Through the smoke of the blast, he saw a red, suicide-driven fire engine coming toward the base. Butler fired 100 rounds onto the vehicle. After the truck was hit by a grenade, launched by Pfc. Charles Young, its explosives were detonated outside of the base but within 50 yards of Butler. Debris from this blast sprayed the length of 4 football fields and knocked down soldiers as far as 200 yards away. But no Marines were seriously hurt, including Butler.

Lance Corporal Butler's actions saved the lives of hundreds of his fellow Marines and marked a significant victory against the insurgents in Iraq. The suicide bombers mission was thwarted by Butler's courageous and timely reaction. An estimated 21 insurgents were killed that day while 15 were reported wounded.

Lance Corporal Butler—You are a U.S. Marine and a hero, and across the country Americans are proud of your leadership. Thank you for serving when your nation called.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
APRIL RENETTA LOVE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of April Renetta Love of Hope, Arkansas. April was born on May 1, 1985 in Texarkana and passed away this month in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I wish to recognize her life and achievements.

A 2003 honors graduate of Hope High School, April was a junior at the University of Arkansas and was majoring in Political Science, Communications, and African-American Studies.

April was extremely active in a wide array of campus organizations at the University of Arkansas. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Order of the Eastern Star Youth Fraternity and Young Democrats. Her interest in politics extended beyond campus and she spent the summer of 2005 interning for the Congressional Black Caucus in the nation's capital, when I had the privilege of meeting this bright and talented young woman. April was also an accomplished musician and served as the church pianist for seven years.

April will forever be remembered for her contagious smile, her leadership and for her commitment to furthering her education. My