

the phone company, a job which she maintained intermittently after her marriage to Ralph Dewitt Henry on August 22, 1927. During the 1950s, Ralph, an employee at Gulf Oil, was transferred to Texas, where Irma became a nursing assistant at a local hospital. She then started a career at the county office in Pittsburgh, where she worked for several years until her retirement. Wherever she worked, Irma was well known for her extraordinary work ethic.

As much as she enjoyed each of her jobs, Irma has always treasured staying at home with her family. Irma and Ralph raised three sons, Ralph Jr., Herman, and Kenneth, and gained three daughters-in-law, Justina, Phyllis, and Arlene. Irma's husband Ralph passed away on December 8, 1984 at the age of eighty-six; however, Irma enjoys the company of her seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Throughout her life, Irma has been an active member of the community and of the Democratic Party. She was elected committee woman for the Fourth Ward of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania and has always enjoyed advocating for others. Today, Irma is still very active and lives independently in her own apartment. She attends church services at her high-rise apartment and listens to country, western, and gospel music, enjoying the music of Daniel O'Donnell in particular. Irma is also a fan of Jeopardy, never missing an episode, and often spends her afternoons drinking coffee with her friends. Friends and neighbors appreciate her hospitality and her delicious cooking, always considering a meal at her home to be a special treat.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding member of the community. Irma Henry's great dedication to her friends and neighbors and her love of assisting others have inspired those around her to serve the community as much as Irma has done. Irma has touched the lives of many, and all those who know her feel privileged for having had the opportunity to meet such a remarkable woman.

DEATH OF ROSA PARKS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks embodied the modern civil rights movement in the United States. Through her quiet determination to challenge a racist law by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, Rosa Parks sparked massive civil disobedience by fellow African-Americans in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. Her arrest led to a year-long bus boycott and ultimately a Supreme Court decision that outlawed segregation on buses.

In a broader sense Rosa Parks was the conscience of our nation, who forced Americans to confront the racism in our government and society. Her case cried out for action, as our government struggled to implement the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee to provide "the equal protection of the law" to all citizens, regardless of race.

Civil rights historian and author Taylor Branch described Rosa Parks as a "tireless

worker and churchgoer, of working-class station and middle class demeanor." Her case raised the profile of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she was secretary of the local chapter. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. seized on her case and over the next decade rose to national prominence by leading the effort to enact historic civil rights and voting rights legislation in Congress.

America bestowed its highest honors on Rosa Parks later in her life, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Her life and legacy shows us that one person can change the course of history by courageously standing up for what is right. We must honor her legacy by continuing the fight for civil rights and equality under the law, to insure that all Americans, regardless of race, have the opportunity to pursue the blessings of liberty.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and works of an incredible woman and activist, Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Mrs. Parks' act of brave defiance rocked the foundation of American society and inspired generations of civil rights leaders and created a sense of hope for every American facing legal discrimination in this country. Ten years after she refused to give up her seat because of her color, the country changed completely.

What seemed like a small act; refusing to leave her bus seat on a winter day in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, led to a boycott of the Montgomery buses for nearly 13 months by the black community. Her act captivated a nation, solidified a movement, and ignited the candle of hope for an entire generation of blacks.

In 1955, Mrs. Parks was a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair department store, and on that day, in the winter of 1955, she boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus and took a seat in the middle. The bus quickly filled up at subsequent stops and soon a white passenger was left standing. Mrs. Parks refused to give her seat up as the bus driver instructed. In her 1992 autobiography, she said "People always said that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that wasn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more than I usually was at the end of a working day. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." Soon after Mrs. Parks' refusal, the U.S. Supreme Court desegregated Montgomery's bus system.

A museum and library now stands on Cleveland Avenue where Mrs. Parks boarded her bus. She was given the Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. One cannot discuss the civil rights movement without mention of her name, and she will never be forgotten for her role in challenging the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot adequately express my feelings of sorrow at Mrs. Parks' passing. Mrs. Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus in 1955 and took a journey she could never have imagined. But now, 50 years after her

ride, we must remember her journey and renew our commitment to equality for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING DR. SARAH K. NOBLE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO THE HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented individual who has been a dedicated member of our Committee staff for the past year—Dr. Sarah K. Noble.

Sarah came to the minority staff of the House Science Committee in late 2004 as a Fellow on a fully funded scholarship from the Geological Society of America (GSA). Sponsored by GSA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), she has spent her time on the Committee assisting primarily with the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

She is an expert in the field of space weathering and has concentrated much of her academic career on the geological specifics of lunar and planetary studies. She is an esteemed researcher who has presented her work at numerous meetings and conferences. In short Mr. Speaker, we were honored to have a person of her distinction and expertise on our team.

During her tenure on the Committee, Sarah played an important role in our oversight of NASA, with a particular focus on its science and education programs. She also was a valued and tireless participant in developing H.R. 3250, the Democratic NASA Authorization bill. A significant fraction of that legislation was incorporated into H.R. 3070, the NASA Authorization Act that passed the House by a wide margin earlier this year. In short, both her analytic work and her thoughtful perspectives helped us to craft a better bill than otherwise would have been the case.

In addition to her policy and procedural work for the Committee, Sarah was also instrumental in another of our great accomplishments this year—our newly refurbished website. It must be difficult to find a distinguished geologist who also minored in art in college, but we successfully found that person in Sarah. Her vision for our new site helped shape the overall look and feel, easing navigation and broadening its appeal.

Sarah also has a passion for the study of science and mathematics, especially as it relates to inspiring our youth to pursue careers in the field. Sarah translated this passion—one that I share—into a groundbreaking section on our new website designed specifically for science and math teachers and the students they inspire.

The "Science Education & You" portion of the Science Democrats' website is more complete and effective today due to Sarah's input and guidance. Hardly a day goes by that a teacher or policy professional doesn't email with positive feedback on this portion of our website. The federal resources we locate and organize for teachers and students at <http://sciencedems.house.gov> will continue to grow, and Sarah deserves many thanks for helping us launch such a valuable resource.

We are sad to see her go, but Sarah is moving on to the next prestigious phase of her career at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX where she will pursue post-doctoral work.

In a recent AAAS column detailing her Washington, DC experience Sarah wrote, "Scientists have a vital role to play in creating sound science policy and I am thrilled to be a part of that process." Mr. Speaker, Sarah's input as both a scientist and a scholar have been invaluable to our Committee this past year. I thank her for her dedicated service and wish her the very best in what promises to be an exciting career.

HONORING SPECIALIST DANIEL
BARTELS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of Specialist Daniel Bartels. He was killed, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Daniel's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Daniel, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Specialist Daniel Bartels lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of Specialist Daniel Bartels. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL
COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to S. 397, the "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act."

This bill denies for all Americans the right to bring civil suits against gun manufacturers and dealers for negligence or gross negligence in all but a very limited number of cases.

As an example of what this means, say a gun store owner left his shop unlocked and unattended, even just briefly, with guns available for anyone to take. If someone took one of these guns and used it to injure or kill, the victim would have no recourse.

Imagine if I changed my example to one involving a store selling other lethal items, like chemicals. Would people not want to see owner pay for the victim's injuries? Of course.

In fact, the victim in my second example would be able to sue. That's because the immunity S. 397 grants is unique—no other group has such broad and sweeping legal protections. What makes this industry so entitled but others not so?

And, the lawsuits blocked by this bill have in the past, and would in the future, force the industry to change its behavior and protect our safety (such as in the case of the DC sniper).

Don't take my word for it. Mr. Robert Ricker, a former gun industry lobbyist for almost twenty years, in a sworn statement said the following: "Leaders in the industry have long known that greater industry action to prevent illegal transactions is possible and would curb the supply of firearms to the illegal market. However, until faced with a serious threat of civil liability for past conduct, leaders in the industry have consistently resisted taking constructive voluntary action to prevent firearms from ending up in the illegal gun market. . . ."

I know its not a popular viewpoint today, but I believe in our American judicial system. I believe that generally cases without merit are dismissed, cases with merit are properly adjudicated, and sometimes parties will settle for their mutual benefit. As such, Congress need not step in and make decisions on liability, as in this case, for judges, juries, and states across the nation. Let's let our system work as intended.

I urge my colleagues to reject this unnecessary and unwise piece of legislation.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR GER-
ALD ALSIP ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Mayor Gerald Alsip on his retirement from the City of Roseville, Michigan.

Mayor Alsip's exceptional career in public service spans 28 years. He has served the City of Roseville as a city council person for 16 years and Mayor for 12 years. Mayor Alsip's tenure has seen fiscal stability at the city and numerous local projects which have brought vitality and a sense of pride to the community. The new Recreation Center, renovations of the Library/City Hall and Police/Court complex, the opening of the Senior Center, and a variety of new businesses along the Gratiot corridor are highlights of an established community moving forward to serve its residents.

Mayor Alsip's record of accomplishment demonstrates his leadership abilities and his dedication to the City of Roseville and its residents. Jerry Alsip attended and graduated from Roseville Community Schools. He and his wife, Sharon are parents of 3 daughters, Sandra, Shannon and Amanda and proud grandparents of Hunter and Payton with a third grandchild due in November. Jerry Alsip has also been employed for 33 years at the Macomb County Circuit Court-Juvenile Division, currently serving as the Juvenile Division Administrator.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Mayor Jerry Alsip for his years of effective service to the City of Roseville and for his tireless commitment to the well-being of its citizens. With our Congressional offices now located in Roseville, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Mayor Alsip and I extend my heartiest congratulations and warmest wishes as he starts this new chapter in his life.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM RAN-
DOLPH COOK AND PATRICIA
COLETTE GREEN ON THEIR UP-
COMING NUPTIALS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to two people who are bound by their love for each other and by their service to God and our community. It is one of these ties that I want to recognize today, for William Randolph Cook and Patricia Colette Green are getting married on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at Mount Hemon African Methodist Episcopal Church in Miami Gardens, Florida.

They both served their country with distinction and honor in the U.S. Army. Patricia joined the U.S. Army in 1991 and served until 1994, receiving several commendations for service. Patricia is now a middle school teacher at Bob Graham Education Center. William served in the U.S. Army for four years. William now works for the Dade County Police Department in the PST Division and has received several unit citations from the Dade County Police Department.

They are both native Floridians who returned to the State after their military service and decided to serve the residents of Florida by helping to eradicate drugs from the neighborhood and teaching youth in urban North Miami.

I think the quote from Emily Bronte that they plan to use in their wedding program speaks to their commitment to each other, "whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same."

Each is a valuable contributing member of the South Florida family, and together they have truly emerged as leaders helping to foster the empowerment of a people and an overall better quality of life in our community. Our prayers and good wishes go with them for a long and happy life together.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ROSA
PARKS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today America celebrates the life of Rosa Parks. Fifty years ago a brave lady said "no," she would not go to the back of the bus and she helped end a sad chapter in American history. When Rosa Parks refused to move she stood tall for what America is about—for the dignity of every person and for human rights. Rosa