

University invited alumni and friends to join in celebrating the school's many accomplishments and its exciting plans for the future. This event also served as the commencement of the school's first-ever fund-raising campaign, the "2010 Campaign." Through this campaign, George Mason aims to raise more than \$20 million in private funds by June 2010. This funding will enable the School of Information Technology and Engineering to continue its path of national prominence and leadership and to create new programs in the area of information technology in the biosciences including bio-informatics, bio-technology, and bio-engineering.

Led by Dean Lloyd Griffiths, George Mason's School of Information Technology and Engineering is the first engineering school in the United States to focus on information technology rather than the traditional engineering science, and is also the first engineering school to offer a doctoral program in information technology. It was also one of the first engineering schools in the country to be named as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the White House Complex. Additional research areas of expertise within the School of Information Technology and Engineering include genetic algorithms, robotics, learning agents, air transportation, infrastructure protection, and data visualization.

Indeed, while many other colleges are experiencing a decrease in engineering enrollments, student enrollment at George Mason's School of Information Technology and Engineering continues to grow. To compliment the increase in enrollment, George Mason University has committed to raising the quality of the program to an even greater degree by making changes such as hiring a substantial number of new faculty members, leveraging research and donor funding, and enhancing its participation in high school mentorship programs, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating George Mason University's School of Information Technology and Engineering on 20 years of excellence. I look forward to applauding its continued growth and success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDITH ROBLES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Edith Rocio Robles, a dedicated and intelligent woman whom I was fortunate to have served as my Communications Director from September 2001 through August 2005. During her tenure in my office I greatly valued Edith's strong communication skills.

Edith joined my office in 2001 as my Press Secretary. Edith quickly assumed her role as Press Secretary. Edith's strong public relations skills and knowledge of the press, particularly Spanish media, made her a valuable member of my staff and gained her the admiration of her colleagues. In 2002, I promoted Edith to the role of Communications Director in recognition of her hard work and invaluable help to my office.

As a grass-roots oriented Member of Congress, I take great pride in my office's extensive efforts to communicate with my constituents in the 32nd Congressional District about how the Federal Government can be of assistance to them and about the work I'm doing in Congress to improve their lives. As Communications Director, Edith played a critical role in this effort, strengthening my office's working relationships with members of the press and local community activists and overseeing my office's mail outreach program.

While I am sad to see Edith leave, I am confident that the future will bring her great success. I wish Edith and her family good health and wishes. I join my staff in Washington, DC, El Monte and East Los Angeles offices in wishing Edith the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. *Buena suerte Edith!*

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD E. SMALLEY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our nation's greatest minds. Last week, the scientific world and the nanotechnology community in particular lost a giant. Dr. Richard Smalley, the Nobel Prize-winning nanotechnology researcher, died after a long battle with cancer at age 62. Professor Smalley shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1996 for discovering the C₆₀ molecule, a soccer ball-shaped form of carbon called buckminsterfullerene.

A professor in the physics and chemistry departments at Rice University, he was the founding director of the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology at Rice and was director of the Carbon Nanotechnology Laboratory.

It is hard to overstate the role Dr. Smalley played in founding and fostering the development of nanotechnology, one of the most important and exciting new areas of scientific inquiry to arise in the past quarter century. The discovery of fullerenes is one of the earliest and most influential discoveries in the development of nanotechnology. Dr. James Heath, one of his former graduate students on the buckyball discovery who has become a leading nanotechnology researcher himself, described Dr. Smalley as "a Moses for the field. Without a Moses, there's no trip to the promised land."

Dr. Smalley was a key player in the development of the United States' National Nanotechnology Initiative, launched in 2000. His testimony on Capitol Hill, where he spoke about the promise of nanotechnology for treating cancer and other diseases even as he battled the disease himself, made a deep impression on policymakers.

In recent years, Dr. Smalley was an ardent supporter of commercial development of nanotechnology, helping to found Carbon Nanotechnologies Inc. to make sure his discoveries made it to the marketplace where they could benefit society. He was also a scientific adviser to biotech startup C Sixty, which is investigating the use of fullerenes for biopharmaceutical applications.

In 2002, Dr. Smalley embarked upon a crusade to promote the use of nanotechnology to

solve what he described as the No. 1 problem facing humanity in the 21st century—the need for cheap, clean energy. Smalley crisscrossed the country, gave dozens of keynote addresses, testified before Congress and met with countless government, academic and industrial leaders. Some of his friends and colleagues have said that they thought he fought so hard against his disease so that he could one day see nanotechnology deliver the societal benefits in clean energy that he so passionately believed in.

Citizens of the world were fortunate to have Rick Smalley, and will certainly benefit from his discoveries. We owe it to him to continue his efforts to use nanotechnology to solve the need for cheap, clean energy. As ranking member of the Science Committee's Energy Subcommittee, I intend to do what I can to honor Dr. Smalley's memory and continue his good work.

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN VIETNAMESE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese, as leaders and members of the Foundation unite with the Cleveland community in celebration of the grand opening of the Sai Gon Plaza Community Center.

The Community Center, located at the intersection of West 54th and Detroit Avenue in Cleveland in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, was made possible through the determination, conviction and energy of its founder, Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan, who also serves as the executive director of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese.

The Sai Gon Plaza Community Center promises to exist as a vital source of Vietnamese culture and Asian culture, wherein a strong foundation of cultural preservation and intercultural exchange is established. This Center, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Cleveland, will unite citizens of Asian heritage and will serve as a cultural gathering place for people from all international backgrounds. Also included as part of the Center will be a dedication to the people and neighborhoods surrounding the Center. The Center will also showcase a museum and exhibition center, which will be home to the Asian-American Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan, Executive Director of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Ms. Ryan's tireless work and focused vision, supported by the work and efforts of countless members of Cleveland's Vietnamese community and many others, have created a Community Center where bridges of culture will transcend language, time and distance, preserving and promoting the ancient cultural and historical traditions of Vietnamese culture—a culture that spirals back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders—from Vietnam to America.

HONORING THE SUSSEX COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring attention and pay tribute to Sussex County, New Jersey, for their efforts to recognize the heroic feats of our region. In the historic downtown square of Newton, New Jersey, a 34-inch-diameter cast bell is engraved with the words “Sussex County Veterans Memorial 2005.” This memorial is long overdue, but truly represents the liberty, freedom and democracy our brave men and women in the armed forces have fought for. What better time to present this memorial than on the occasion when our Nation pays our respects to our defenders of liberty on Veterans Day.

Defending our country by serving in the armed forces is one of the most commendable achievements and deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. America’s armed forces have time and again fought to protect our homeland and bring freedom and prosperity to the entire world.

We must never forget the sacrifices of these men and women and every effort must be made to ensure that our veterans and all they fought for are never forgotten. The Sussex County Veterans Memorial will remind all Americans of the monumental accomplishments our soldiers have made throughout history. They will be honored, admired and remembered forever.

It is with extreme reverence that I offer my sincerest gratitude to the veterans of Sussex County, New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BLANCHE SPARROW RIVERS IN CELEBRATION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my most senior constituents, Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on November 15, 2005.

Mrs. Rivers, is the third of five children born to Henry Clay and Hattie Brown Sparrow. Since the New Bern school system only offered 2 years of high school, Mrs. Rivers’ father sent her to Durham, North Carolina, to the National Religious Training School where she matriculated to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1927, Mrs. Rivers received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Shaw University. She went on to teach English in the New Bern public school system for 24 years until her retirement in 1951. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that Mrs. Rivers can take credit for shaping many young minds and is responsible for directing the paths of many of my constituents who have grown into productive upstanding citizens.

In June 1932, Blanche Sparrow married Mr. Bishop Singleton Rivers, and in July 1935, Barbara Lucille Rivers was born. Mrs. Rivers is a charter member of the Theta Beta Omega

Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is also a faithful member of the St. Peter’s African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, which her father helped build. She continues to serve as a Captain for the Annual Fundraising Team.

Mrs. Rivers has five grandchildren, Michael, Lisa, Leander, Gary, and Marc, and five great-grandchildren, Morgan, Kristen, Marissa, Kaci and Kori—listed in order of the most senior. She is a beloved member of the community and church. Mrs. Rivers still resides in New Bern with her daughter, Barbara.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Congressional Colleagues and the more than 660,000 constituents whom I represent, I extend my very best wishes to Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers as she celebrates this tremendous milestone. I ask my Colleagues to rise and join me in wishing Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers a Happy 100th Birthday.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4128) to protect private property rights:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of The Private Property Rights Protection Act, H.R. 4128. I have heard from a number of my constituents in New Jersey. They have come to my town hall meetings, sent me emails and called me on the phone, to express their concern about the potential for abuse of the power of eminent domain. I have heard their concerns and I share their concerns. That is why I support this legislation to make clear that local authorities may not use the power of eminent domain solely to increase the tax revenue for the town.

H.R. 4128 is a bipartisan bill that responds to the Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*. Most troubling about the decision was that the Court upheld the right of New London to take private property and transfer it to another private individual for the purpose of increasing the tax revenue of the city. I am glad we are acting today to prevent this from becoming a regular practice.

The rights of property owners were so important to our nation’s founders that they enshrined property rights in our Constitution. They knew that towns and municipalities would need to look after the greater public good and occasionally acquire property with just compensation to the owners in order to use that property for public good. The power of eminent domain has enabled us to make many advances over the years. It was used to create the national railroad system, the interstate highway system, and make telephone, electric, sewer, and water lines available to all our communities. Eminent domain, when used properly, is a critical power of government that has benefited people in New Jersey and across America.

When used improperly, however, eminent domain is a fearsome power. Transfer of a person’s property—particularly their home—to

another private interest solely on the basis of tax revenue is an unwise and dangerous authority. With this bill, Congress is rightly acting to protect private property rights and ensure that property owners will not have their house taken from them by an over zealous town council seeking to increase its tax coffers.

Mr. Chairman, while eminent domain is used across America for beneficial and important reasons that support the public good, we need to ensure that towns do not overstep their powers. H.R. 4128 helps define the boundary lines.

RECOGNIZING SOLANO COUNTY AS ONE OF THE 100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Solano County for its selection as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America’s Promise, the Alliance for Youth.

I am proud that this honor has been bestowed upon our community, but I am by no means surprised. Everyday, we in Solano County are visibly reminded of the commitment of the government and people of Solano County to the health and safety of our children. I want to congratulate the many dedicated parties who have worked so diligently to make Solano County one of the top communities in our country for young people.

Solano County is poised to become the first county in California with health care coverage for 100% of its children. Solano County has been an excellent steward of its share of Tobacco Master Settlement agreement funds, ensuring that it is spent on effective health services.

Solano County’s annual Children’s Report Card is an effective tool for government and non-profit organizations to continually reassess the needs of our youth. Clearly, Solano County is getting it right when it comes to kids.

Organizations such as the Children’s Network, First 5 Solano, the Child Care Planning Council, the Family Resource Centers, the Solano Coalition for Better Health, the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, as well as countless others, deserve credit for this distinction.

Again, I commend all of the people and organizations that continue to work tirelessly to make Solano County one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

AUTHORIZING THE REMAINS OF ROSA PARKS TO LIE IN HONOR IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize