

Eureka, Arcata and Fortuna, communities within Humboldt County. The club also worked to bring about educational opportunities for youth through the establishment of St. Bernard's Catholic Schools, Camp St. Michaels and the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 54.

On this occasion, the Eureka Council of the Knights of Columbus will honor Anthony Gosselin, Sr. as the Knight of the Century. This distinguished honor is bestowed upon the late Mr. Gosselin, who led the Knights of Columbus as a founding board member of St. Vincent de Paul, served as a volunteer fire chief for the City of Eureka and as a member of the Humboldt County Water District board for fifteen years.

Mr. Gosselin served in World War I, married Eva Dandurand and had two children, Anthony Joseph Gosselin, Jr. and Beverly Gosselin Inskip. Mr. Gosselin was a tireless volunteer and devotee of the Knights of Columbus for over 65 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the Knights of Columbus, Eureka Council 1067 and the Knight of the Century, Anthony Joseph Gosselin, Sr., for distinguished and extraordinary service to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES EDWARD ODOM TRULY AN OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. James Edward Odom, constituent and friend who recently passed away at the blessed age of 87 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom enjoyed a very full life. He was first and foremost a Christian and dedicated much time as a member of St. Mark A.M.E. Church severing in several capacities. Mr. Odom always made it known that his parents taught him to first acknowledge our Creator in all things; and that is the principle by which he lived his life.

Mr. Odom attributed the many successes in life to his Christian faith. He graduated from Nash Central High School and conducted his undergraduate studies at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He continued his studies at Eckles College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and later graduated from Cortez Peters School of Business Administration in Washington, DC. Mr. Odom went further to study Standard Accounting and Management at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom believed in using each of his many talents as evidenced by his significant involvement and active membership in countless organizations. The list is exhaustive with one affiliation just as impressive and important as the next. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom has indeed left an impression in the Nash County, Rocky Mount area where he served as Chairman of the Human Relations Commission; the First Black County Commissioner of the Nash County Board of Commissioners where he was elected to a four-year term in 1986 following a lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act; member of Unity Lodge #64; mem-

ber of the Trustee Board of St. Marks A.M.E. Church; member of the Little Raleigh Independent Club of Rocky Mount; member of the Helping Hand Club of Little Easonburg, Rocky Mount; past President of the Lay Organization of St. Mark A.M.E. Church and the list is perpetual. Further, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Odom served on the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce; Triangle East; Cities In Schools of Rocky Mount; The Salvation Army; First Union Bank of Rocky Mount; the Rocky Mount Branch of the NAACP; Nash Central Senior Alumni Association; the National Federation of Independent Business and he held countless other posts too numerous to mention.

Mr. Speaker, I learned that in 1980, Mr. James Edward Odom and his loving wife Erma embarked upon one of the most significant and important ventures in their lives; they became the proud owners of Hunter-Odom Funeral Services. I am sure that I speak on behalf of many of my 660,000 constituents whose lives Hunter-Odom Funeral Services touched in the sincere, compassionate and sensitive manner in which they handled bereaved families as they put loved ones to rest.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased and proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding pillar of the Nash County community. It is my wish that God will continue to bless and keep each member of Mr. James Edward Odom's family.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING'S OVERSIGHT OBLIGATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, during this debate on the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I want to call attention to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's (CPB) obligation to ensure unbiased and objective programming.

The U.S. Congress provides the CPB with approximately \$400 million each year. CPB then allocates these funds to the Public Broadcasting Service, National Public Radio, and other recipients. It does so, as the Telecommunications Act makes clear, with the responsibility to ensure that recipients demonstrate "strict adherence to objectivity and balance in all programs or series of programs of a controversial nature." CPB also must see to "maximum freedom of the public telecommunications entities and system from interference with, or control of, program content or other activities."

These two obligations do not contradict each other. Rather, together they circumscribe the lawful activity of tax-supported public broadcasting programmers and program providers. Public broadcasting should enjoy "maximum freedom" from outside "interference or control" so long as it simultaneously demonstrates "strict adherence to objectivity and balance in all programs or series of programs of a controversial nature."

Mr. Speaker, there should be no confusion. These obligations reinforce each other. The

Corporation for Public Broadcasting must implement both on behalf of Congress and the taxpayers.

I commend CPB for creating a new unique office, the Office of Ombudsmen, as a step towards ensuring that these standards of fairness and independent reporting are upheld. Guaranteeing that basic journalistic requirements of objectivity and balance are maintained in public programming is hardly interference. In fact, I strongly believe that the public's trust in public broadcasting rests on just such standards and I will continue to fight to see that they are maintained.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH KOREA'S EFFORTS ON NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tangible, but often under-appreciated efforts the part of South Korea to address an important and urgent humanitarian concern—the resettlement of North Korean refugees.

South Korea has consistently maintained a policy to accommodate all North Korean refugees who have found safe haven abroad by permitting them to resettle in South Korea. The South Korean government also provides necessary cooperation, if the refugees wish to remain in another country, to avoid the forcible repatriation to North Korea against their will.

In the past 50 years, South Korea has resettled more than 7,100 North Korean refugees, an average of 20 persons per year between 1954 and 1997 (878 total), but at an accelerating rate since then: 72 in 1998, 148 in 1999, 312 in 2000, 583 in 2001, 1,141 in 2002, 1,281 in 2003, 1,894 in 2004, and 882 to date in 2005, with an expectation of a total refugee population of 10,000 by the end of 2006.

When North Korean refugees arrive in South Korea, they spend their first 3 months at Hanawon, a facility run by the Ministry of Unification, to receive education, orientation and basic vocational training. They also participate in social adjustment and cultural assimilation programs.

Following their orientation, the refugees are then provided with a variety of resources by the South Korean government that include assistance in finding meaningful employment for 5 years and a permanent residence in cooperation with local municipalities. They also receive general health insurance coverage and seed money to help sustain independent living.

For women refugees—which accounted for 68 percent of all North Korean refugees this year—the South Korean government additionally provides specific female vocational training and assistance with child-rearing and home protection.

For younger refugees, the South Korean government fully subsidizes all education fees through high school. If accepted into public universities, the refugees will receive full tuition including room-and-board. Should a North Korean refugee seek to study at a private university, the related costs will be covered jointly

between the government and the designated institution.

It is important to note that South Korea, for some time, has been working diligently, behind the scenes, without much publicity or due recognition, in order to enhance the security of the North Korean refugees it is seeking to assist.

The aim is to make all refugees and their families self-sufficient within the context of democracy and free enterprise, so that they can be full contributors to South Korean society. In this regard, the South Korean government also works in collaboration with many civic, religious, and non-governmental (charitable) organizations in a comprehensive and coordinated effort to provide a variety of resources and a strong social safety net.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea for their important contributions to help address the urgent humanitarian crisis in North Korea through the “firm resettlement” policy. As a staunch ally of the United States with a mutually comprehensive alliance partnership, South Korea deserves our recognition and expression of support.

HONORING DR. ANA CRUZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my constituent, Dr. Ana Margarita Cruz on having been named Florida Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. I would like to thank her for all the hard work it took to receive this prestigious honor. Dr. Cruz's commitment to education, specifically higher education is very commendable.

Dr. Cruz's area of expertise lies in area of business management, accounting and taxes. She has a diverse background and has been employed in both the private and public sector. Dr. Cruz's extensive experience and qualifications in the field of business have been recognized, as she is currently the Interim Chair for the School of Business at Miami-Dade College for the Wolfson Campus.

As a former educator I understand the importance of an education and the impact a teacher can have on a student's life. I am pleased Dr. Cruz chose such a noble profession, shaping the vision and spirit of the leaders of tomorrow. Once again I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment. I would encourage Dr. Cruz to continue the efforts that have brought her so far and allowed her to touch the lives of so many.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you are aware, this week kicks-

off the enrollment period for the newest benefit available to Medicare recipients, the Prescription Drug Benefit Plan. This benefit allows seniors to continue to purchase their prescriptions, but at a major cost savings. For those seniors currently without drug coverage, or looking for better coverage, this option will be a welcome help in addressing their rising pharmaceutical costs. Extra help will be available for those who need it, and a choice of plans will be available for seniors to pick the one that best meets their needs. The new plans will cover both brand name and generic drugs at participating pharmacies. I encourage all Medicare recipients to take time to learn about the new benefit, talk it over with family and friends, and consider how it can help them pay for their prescription drug needs.

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare eligible seniors will be able to begin benefiting from the optional drug benefit program in which they will receive prescription drugs at a 75 percent discount. Once they spend \$3,600 annually, they will save 95 percent on all drug costs. Economically needy seniors will be eligible for additional assistance. Medicaid recipients will begin to receive drugs through Medicare.

Medicare recipients should review available drug plans as soon as possible. With a broad selection of plans available, seniors are encouraged to review and pick a plan that best suits their needs. In order to assist seniors make this important decision, Medicare has created a call line and website. Seniors should feel free to contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE or www.medicare.gov in order to aid them in making the best possible choice.

Another great new feature of the Medicare Modernization Act, which included the Prescription Drug Benefit, is the new preventative services offered to all Medicare recipients. Medicare now covers a free initial physical exam for all new beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to partake in the free glaucoma, breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer screening, as well as cholesterol, blood lipid, diabetes, and osteoporosis screenings. The preventative screenings and new disease management programs are a way for seniors to be proactive in their healthcare, so as to maintain a high quality of life throughout retirement.

The Prescription Drug Benefit and the preventative services program are important steps in realizing the government's 40-year-old promise to make quality health care available to every eligible senior in the United States. I am proud to have voted for the Medicare Modernization Act in 2003, and am proud of the cost savings it will provide for all Seniors.

RECOGNIZING THE TITAN ROCKET

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of those individuals that developed and built on an exemplarily piece of American ingenuity and technological achievement, the Titan rocket.

For nearly fifty years the Titan rocket system has been serving this country, first as a multi-stage intercontinental ballistic missile

system, and second as a launch vehicle for satellites, and space probes bound for the far reaches of our solar system.

In 1955 Martin Marietta, now Lockheed Martin, was awarded a contract by the Air Force to build an intercontinental ballistic missile that became known as Titan I. Since then, the people of Lockheed Martin have produced successive generations of Titan rockets to serve national needs.

On Wednesday, October 19, 2005, the last Titan rocket was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. From its early beginnings as an intercontinental ballistic missile, to its recent role as a launch vehicle for the satellites of the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, the Titan rocket has played a vital role in the security of our Nation.

The Titan family of rockets also played a pivotal role in the Nation's space program, allowing the early Gemini astronauts to break free of the earth's gravitational hold and launching many deep space probes that have furthered understanding of our solar system.

Mr. Speaker, the longevity of the Titan's service is a testament to the quality of the employees at Lockheed Martin. Thousands of workers have had a hand in producing the rockets, including many second generation family members located in my district. To honor their dedication and superb accomplishments I rise to recognize the fifty years of service the Titan rockets and the employees that built them have given our Nation.

HURRICANE REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3975, the Hurricane Regulatory Relief Act of 2005. As many of you know, a key component of the Gulf Coast hurricane relief and recovery effort is flexibility and adaptability. Entire communities have been uprooted by these unprecedented natural disasters, and bureaucratic red tape must not stand in the way of efforts to rebuild the region. H.R. 3975 bill emphasizes much-needed regulatory relief to help the students, schools, workers, families, and communities affected by the hurricanes. The bill seeks to achieve this goal by prioritizing educational services for displaced students over bureaucratic hurdles. To this end, for one year, the bill would ease requirements for elementary and secondary schools, including:

Maintenance of effort and supplement not supplant funding requirements. Easing these requirements would ensure states and schools can serve students effectively with the resources available. In addition, the bill would allow non-federal match requirements to be waived or modified for affected states.

Deadlines for special education evaluations and reporting requirements. By extending—but not waiving—these deadlines, states and schools would have the flexibility they need to ensure the affected students will have access to the services they need. In addition, the bill expands opportunities for quality teachers to serve displaced students. For example, for