

who rely on financial aid and federal student loan programs to gain access to higher education. By cutting spending on student loan programs by more than \$10 billion, we are renegeing on a commitment to these young Americans. At a time when college costs are rising faster than inflation, the bill proposes the largest cut in the history of the student loan programs.

Food stamps are an important layer of protection to ensure the very poor are able to feed themselves and their families, the most basic necessity. However, today's bill will reduce food stamp assistance by approximately \$800 million over five years, and more than 200,000 people will lose their eligibility.

I am pleased to see that Republicans have removed the provision permitting drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, this was not a response to the public's overwhelming opposition to ruining this pristine wilderness area. Rather, it is a cynical ploy to gain a few votes from Members who would not otherwise vote for this bill.

I have outlined only a few of the many reasons every Member should oppose this legislation. So many of its other cuts would have negative impacts on our communities, such as reduced child support enforcement, which means more than \$50 million in lower payments for Rhode Island's single parents.

If Republicans want a balanced budget, which this bill does not even begin to provide, they should learn from the past and reinstate what works: PAYGO budget rules and responsible tax and spending policies. Together, America can do better. We should be working together to address true priorities, like access to health care and soaring energy prices. I urge my colleagues to reject this travesty and instead focus on meaningful deficit reduction based on fairness and shared sacrifice.

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**IN RECOGNITION OF THE COLONY, TX, FOR HOSTING THE WALL THAT HEALS EXHIBIT**

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Colony, TX, for hosting the moving exhibit The Wall That Heals, honoring the 58,349 fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War who paid the ultimate price in service to our country. The exhibition features a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

"Bringing The Wall Home" to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the memorial to exist, once more, among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit, known as The Wall That Heals, allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of "facing The Wall" to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The Wall That Heals also features a Traveling Museum and Information Center providing a comprehensive educational component to enrich and complete visitors' experiences. The museum chronicles the Vietnam War era and the unique healing power of the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, while the information center serves as a venue for people to learn about friends and loved ones lost in the war.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize The Colony for hosting The Wall That Heals. I am proud to represent a city dedicated to promoting education about the impact of the Vietnam War.

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**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN LEE**

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**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with sadness the passing of John Lee of Attleboro, MA. Mr. Lee died on October 22 at the age of 85.

John Lee was an academic and athletic star at Attleboro High School and later at Providence College. After serving his country in World War II as a captain in the Army Air Corps, he returned home to establish a successful, 53-year law practice. A towering pillar of his community, John Lee served as Attleboro city solicitor, legal counsel to the towns of Plainville and West Bridgewater and the Norton, Foxboro and Seekonk School Departments. He also served as a member of the Attleboro School Committee.

As Plainville Selectwoman Andrea Soucy recently said, Mr. Lee was not only a brilliant lawyer, but also a person of the highest character. "He had tremendous integrity. He had the highest of ethics. He was very, very special," Ms. Soucy said.

In addition to his beloved wife Muriel, Mr. Lee is survived by 7 of his children and 16 grandchildren. Mr. Lee could always be seen at his grandchildren's games and activities.

John Lee represented the very best of citizenship, honor and integrity. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in sending our condolences to Muriel, the entire Lee family and all of those who knew and loved him.

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**HONORING THE 278TH REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM OF THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD**

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**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, few words sound as good as "welcome home."

This is especially true for our men and women in uniform returning from the Middle East where they've been battling terrorism.

In Tennessee we're celebrating the return of our State's 278th Regimental Combat Team. We couldn't be prouder of them, and we want them to know how grateful we are.

Their service and dedication should inspire us all. They placed others above themselves. They fought not to conquer but to free. They fought to put right a terrible evil in this world. They fought so that others might know hope and freedom.

And they fought so that future generations of Americans would not have to live with the terror that we know all too well.

Their deeds placed them among the elite few in American history—in world history.

As Tennesseans, we know the separation has been rough and the days have seemed longer with them so far from us.

Their return has answered our prayers and we're so glad to have them back where they belong.

We are proud of the brave and noble thing they have done for us, and for our country. And we can't thank them enough. We will never forget those 10 among them who aren't returning, those 10 who made the ultimate sacrifice. They will live on in the freedom they've helped preserve. Their families and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

From a grateful, grateful Nation we salute them, and we salute their families.

God Bless America and our 278th.

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**NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN**

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**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank certain organizations and individuals for their outstanding work on the important, but often overlooked, issue of pollinators. As you know, pollinators are vital to food and medicine production, and their irreplaceable ecosystem services and declining populations merit attention and protection.

I am happy to say that significant progress is being made. On October 21, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, NAPPC, signed a joint memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agreement proposes protecting pollinators on the nearly 100 million acres of habitat over which the Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction. These lands, combined with another 200 million acres protected by the U.S. Forest Service, attest to the growing momentum behind this issue.

The successes of these organizations are impressive and encouraging, as is the dedication of certain individuals. On October 20, four such individuals were awarded the First Annual NAPPC Pollinator Advocate Award.

Don Pedro Cahun Uh, of Mexico, was recognized for his outstanding efforts to preserve not only traditional Mayan culture, but also the declining populations of the Yucatan Peninsula's native stingless bees.

Dale Bosworth, chief of the USDA Forest Service, pioneered pollinator awareness among U.S. Government agencies and paved the way for the protection of native plants and their pollinators on almost 200 million acres of land.

Bruce Knight, chief of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, exhibited exemplary leadership in the creation of a highly successful pollinator habitat program.

Ron Krystynak, of the Canadian Embassy, was recognized for taking a lead role in North American pollinator conservation, and for his holistic approach to sustainable agriculture and ecology.

These individuals represent a variety of perspectives and a singularly effective leadership on this issue. Their achievements will carry us closer to the goal of sustainable ecosystems and communities.

## RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVID

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous and extremely valuable asset to public education in the United States.

I am referring to the Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID program that began in my hometown of San Diego 25 years ago.

Since then, it has helped hundreds of thousands of underachieving students across the United States learn the study habits and the skills needed for college. It has also helped thousands of students excel in the core subjects of reading, math, and the sciences.

Mary Catherine Swanson, a school teacher at San Diego's Clairemont High, created AVID in 1980 because she wanted to find a way to help students with mediocre academic records.

What has happened since then is nothing short of amazing.

AVID has grown from one classroom to 2,200 middle and high schools in 36 states.

The program emphasizes individual achievement while teaching new study habits. In addition, AVID encourages goal setting and works to lift self-expectations and self-esteem in students.

Nearly 260,000 students have benefited tremendously from these ground-breaking teaching methods.

Amazingly, over 95 percent of those who complete the AVID program attend college and nearly all of these students return for their sophomore year.

It is difficult to choose from the thousands of success stories produced by AVID. I am inspired each time I hear one of these stories.

Please allow me to share just a few of these stories with you today.

Some of you may remember Joanna Hayes for winning Gold in the women's 100-meter hurdles during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece.

Joanna's teachers remember her for her drive and determination to achieve in her classes.

Earlier in high school, however, Joanna faced a problem. She was a promising student athlete and knew she could likely land an athletic scholarship at a number of schools around the nation.

Unfortunately, her grades were low and she did not possess the academic credentials to attend her dream school, UCLA.

Joanna's high school guidance counselor told her about the AVID program and how it had helped a number of students greatly improve their grades.

She signed up and her grades began to improve dramatically.

She attended UCLA and became a world-class athlete attributing a great deal of her success to AVID.

I was also moved by the story of Truong-Son Vinh who arrived in the United States when he was 9 years old.

He fled Saigon just before it fell into the hands of the North Vietnamese in 1975. Tragically, his father was killed during the war.

Truong-Son Vinh's family ended up in San Diego where he found the AVID program.

With the help of AVID, he maintained an "A" average and excelled in math and the sciences throughout high school.

He applied the skills and study habits he learned through AVID and earned degrees in mechanical engineering and applied math from the University of California at San Diego and a master's degree from Cal. Tech.

This was just the beginning for Truong-Son Vinh.

After college, he went to work for NASA and contributed to the Space Shuttle program during the 1980s.

He later returned to school and earned a Ph.D and an MBA.

Mr. Speaker, it is stories like Joanna Hayes and Truong-Son Vinh's that have inspired me to introduce a resolution recognizing AVID and honoring the program on its 25th anniversary.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this resolution with my friend and colleague from Delaware, Congressman CASTLE.

Because of AVID, thousands of students have had the opportunity to achieve in our public schools and have had the opportunity to go on to college.

Again, this program has far exceeded anyone's expectations.

I thank Mary Catherine Swanson for having a vision and working hard to implement this vision beginning with one classroom at Clairemont High.

In addition, please allow me to thank the administrators of the AVID program for their hard work promoting the program on a national level.

Also, the work the teachers and tutors do in the AVID program is nothing short of amazing. Because of their dedication, AVID has turned the lives around of thousands of our young people.

Finally, I would just like to take a moment to recognize the students who had the courage to take on the rigorous academic track required by AVID and who had the desire to one day go to college.

I introduce this resolution today to honor AVID and all it has accomplished.

If we are to eliminate the achievement gap in the United States, I believe we need to build upon the programs that have already decreased the size of the gap successfully.

AVID is clearly one of these programs.

We will also need to turn to AVID and other proven programs already showing success in assisting our kids make gains in the areas that our nation is lagging far behind. I refer specifically to math and the sciences.

If we are to be competitive in the world economy, we need programs such as AVID to help our children excel in math, the sciences, and other key programs.

## IN HONOR AND TRIBUTE OF JOAN DIDION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joan Didion, established author, wife and mother. Her current novel, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, traces

her journey through one year after her husband's sudden death and her daughter's grave illness.

Joan Didion was born in Sacramento, California and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Didion is the author of five novels and eight books of non-fiction. Her distinguished works and publications were collected into *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* released in 1968 and *The White Album* in 1979. These books established Didion's name as an author and observer of American politics and culture with deepening personal reflections mixed with analysis.

Didion married John Gregory Dunne, also an established writer, in 1964 and together they had a daughter, Quintana. The family lived in California until moving to New York City in 1988. In 2003, their family was shocked to learn that Quintana had a fatal illness. Months after learning their daughter's bad news, John suddenly died.

They had just returned home from visiting their daughter in the hospital. Joan later learned her husband died of a massive coronary attack. Unable to bear with the grief that settled in, Joan began writing what turned into her latest book, *The Year of Magical Thinking*. This book chronicles her feelings and memories after John's death and the sickness of her daughter. Sadly, even after a brief recovery, Quintana died months after Joan finished the book.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Joan Didion on her accomplishments as a writer and her courage as a grieving wife and mother. Her unwavering strength during difficult times should be an inspiration to all of us.

## HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY TO MAGGIE KATIE BROWN KIDD

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fulfill an annual obligation to wish a happy birthday to Ms. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd. This year, it is my distinct pleasure to wish Ms. Kidd a happy 101st birthday. Although her birth date is December 8th, she will be celebrating with her family on November 25, 2005.

Ms. Kidd has led a long life of devoted service, always lending a helping hand to any of her relatives or neighbors. She carries on the tradition of her beloved husband "Doc" who earned that nickname precisely for such a reputation. So in addition to celebrating her birthday, we are celebrating another year of her contributions to our community. To mark this occasion and her contributions I am awarding her a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, Maggie's children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren in wishing her a happy 101st birthday.