

and energy production, and help support their local job markets in the process. I encourage other hospitals and institutions in Vermont and across the country to study the potential of this new system for their own facilities and to duplicate it where appropriate.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY KIRKSEY**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Kirksey, former Mississippi State Senator, veteran proponent of civil rights and retired Tougaloo College professor.

Henry Kirksey personified the face of bravery. He was the lead plaintiff in most of the redistricting cases brought in Mississippi to bring the state into compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Mississippi was a dangerous place to do so. This was instrumental in opening the door to the creation of fair redistricting plans throughout the State. In 1965, Kirksey filed suit against the State, challenging county-wide election of State Representatives and Senators. That suit resulted in the adoption of single-member legislative districts in 1979.

We blacks elected in the State of Mississippi today owe that election more so to Henry Kirksey than anyone else. As a result of Kirksey's sacrifice, Mississippi today appears to have more African American elected and appointed officials at every level of government than any other State in the Nation. Kirksey's service as a plaintiff, expert witness and community organizer has led to the election of almost 600 African-Americans to public office in Mississippi. As part of this process, Kirksey became the first African American elected to the Mississippi Senate since Reconstruction.

He became known for filing the lawsuit that led to Jackson changing its form of government in 1985 to the mayor-seven-member council system. He also was a member of the group that fought for reapportionment changes in the late 1970s that led to a record number of black candidates being elected to the Legislature. Kirksey was instrumental in challenging the districts from which state court judges ran, resulting in more diversity on the bench.

As a noted map-maker, Kirksey was significant to the formation of Mississippi's majority-black 2nd Congressional District, which I have the distinct pleasure of representing today.

I applaud the life and legacy of Henry Kirksey.

**SUPPORT FOR MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES**

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. McCaul of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our military forces need and deserve ample resources and superior technological capabilities to remain strong, which requires ongoing de-

velopment efforts by both the public and private sector.

In fact, some of the military's most innovative technologies are being developed by small companies. Two examples are in the 10th District of Texas, with each of these Austin-based companies developing a technology with significant military value. To accelerate the availability of these new technologies for military applications, I have recommended that funding support be included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2006.

One of the technologies is a unique 3-D holographic imaging system developed by Zebra Imaging, which will soon be deployed by the Army in Iraq for intelligence and operational uses. The \$2.25 million requested for this technology would advance the current non-portable imaging system to a field deployable unit for combat forces, with this capability available within 24 months. Army intelligence and operational units have urged the acceleration of this development effort because of the strategic and tactical value to combat troops, which the requested funding seeks to achieve.

The second technology is in the field of micro-electronics and involves RF MEMS switches and relays under development by TeraVicra Technologies. These micro devices, which provide enormous advances in the size, capabilities and performance of military electronics, are key to achieving faster and more powerful network communications, radar and satellite systems. The \$2.25 million requested will accelerate TeraVicra's development work, specifically supporting a program to bring RF MEMS switches to a production-ready status and available for a variety of military applications.

These two technologies are recognized within the military as crucial developments, and I hope the Defense Appropriators provide the necessary funding to quickly bring them to operational use.

**A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN PERMANENT, SELF-CLEANING AIR FILTERS FOR MILITARY VEHICLES**

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. McCaul of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a new technology in permanent, self-cleaning air filters for military vehicles operating in high-dust environments, such as in the Middle East.

A company in my district, Signature Science LLC, and its partners are proposing to adapt, integrate and fully test a new self-cleaning air filter technology developed for military vehicles that will save the Department of Defense millions of dollars annually by eliminating the cost of disposable air filters in addition to reducing maintenance costs of vehicle engines. Diesel engines on military vehicles currently use disposable air filters that require frequent changes to protect engines from the damage caused by dusty environments. In Iraq for example, these filters must be replaced after as little as 16 hours of use on some vehicles operating there.

Signature Science's technology for a permanent, self-cleaning air filter will save American

tax dollars while avoiding logistical problems for the military such as operational burdens, decreased fuel efficiency and increased security risks.

For these reasons we need to advance this technology beyond the research phase in the very near term, and I believe that the Defense Appropriators would be serving the national interest by funding the development and testing of these air-filter prototypes for our military vehicles.

**H.R. 4550, THE NATIONAL HEPATITIS B ACT**

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act. Mr. DENT from Pennsylvania and I have partnered in this bipartisan effort to address the needs of Americans afflicted with chronic Hepatitis B.

Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious public health concern here in the United States and worldwide. The Hepatitis B vaccine is the most effective way to prevent chronic Hepatitis B and its deadly implications of liver cancer and liver failure. Yet, vaccination rates remain low and Hepatitis B is one of the most commonly reported vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S.

Chronic Hepatitis B is often called a "silent disease" because more than two-thirds of those infected with Hepatitis B have no recognized symptoms. Without appropriate screening and management of the disease, one in four Hepatitis B carriers dies from liver cancer or liver disease. Early detection reduces the likelihood that the virus is unknowingly transmitted to others. Unfortunately, many of those who become infected with the disease do not recognize the symptoms until after they have developed significant liver damage or have already passed it on.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned because Hepatitis B is one of the greatest health disparities affecting the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans are chronically infected with the Hepatitis B virus.

We all have constituents affected by this disease. More importantly, we have the ability to stop the spread of this disease. Last May, I was pleased by the strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the resolutions supporting National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. We also had tremendous bipartisan interest in the Hepatitis B "Aim for the B" Congressional Briefing held on July 21, 2005.

We know that there is hope. We have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better shot at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that needs to be done. We need to increase public education about Hepatitis B, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, raise awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic Hepatitis B, and help increase the length and quality of life

for those diagnosed with this life-threatening disease. We need to improve state-by-state tracking of trends, incidences and prevalence of chronic Hepatitis B.

I urge all my colleagues to come together to prioritize this public health issue and support H.R. 4550.

**RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENT-HEADED AND OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS**

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, there are more than six million grandparent-headed and other relative-headed households in the United States. In my home state of New York, 9 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. These relatives have opened their hearts and homes to children who can no longer, for a variety of reasons, live with their parents. During this holiday season, I would like to recognize these relatives for providing safety, shelter, food, and love. Their kindness and generosity is acknowledged. I extend my most sincere appreciation for the selflessness these families demonstrate and note that their selflessness provides a benefit not only to the children under their care but also to the community at large.

**HONORING CAREY HOBBS**

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of Mr. Carey Hobbs. I have had the pleasure of knowing Carey Hobbs for more than 20 years. He is a man who loves his country and cares deeply about his community. He is selfless and unassuming. He is a dedicated family man and a devoted Christian, and I am very proud to call him my friend.

Following his graduation from high school in Abilene, Texas, Carey Hobbs began his life-long association with Texas Tech University as an undergraduate student. After earning his degree, Carey Hobbs joined the military in 1958 and received a commission in the United States Marine Corps. During his five years of active duty, he flew jet fighters and also served as a test pilot.

Over the course of his professional career, Carey Hobbs has become a successful small business owner and a leader in the textile industry. He is a true entrepreneur, who has helped drive innovation and job creation. Since 1972, he has been the President and CEO of Hobbs Bonded Fibers in Waco, Texas. He holds several patents and has served on board of directors for both the National Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry and the National Cotton Batting Institute. For eight years, he was a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Industry Sector Advisory Committee for Trade Policy Matters for Textiles and Apparel. In 1988, Carey Hobbs

was named Small Business Person of the Year for the Dallas District.

Through the years, Carey Hobbs has remained a steadfast supporter of his alma mater, Texas Tech University, and higher education in Texas. He has served on the Texas Tech Board of Regents and was President of the Texas Tech Alumni Association National Board of Directors. He has also dedicated his time to enriching higher education through his service on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and as a participant in Texas A&M University's Visiting Executive Program.

Carey Hobbs is an important and positive role for the youth of Texas. He is an active member of the Stonegate Community Church in Waco. He serves on the board of World Hunger Relief and the International Medical Education Foundation, which is working to build a hospital in the Ukraine. Carey Hobbs is also a devoted family man. He and his wife Brenda have five children: Larry, Terri, Angela, Andy and Cindy.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas and a longtime friend of Carey Hobbs, it is my honor to recognize him for his outstanding achievements in business and in life. Carey Hobbs has truly made his community and his country a better place.

**TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Texas State University Football Team that made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Division 1-AA playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, Texas State University, which is located in San Marcos, Texas, represented their school with tremendous pride and ability. The Bobcats finished the season with an 11-3 record and a Southland Conference championship, their first conference championship since 1983.

In only his second year, Head Coach David Bailiff and staff have taken the Bobcats from a good record in 2004 to a great one in 2005. Coach Bailiff and his staff will attempt to bring the national championship to San Marcos next year, a title that would be a restoration of the powerful tradition of Division II national championships in prior years.

Texas State football players have made their school proud off the field as well. Several players have spent time in area San Marcos elementary schools mentoring the children in the community. The team was also honored to have six student-athletes named to the conference's All-Academic team, a testament to the dedication the coaches and players have to achieve in the classroom as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Texas State's outstanding football season and I thank you for this time.

**IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA CONACCHIO**

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Conacchio, who will be honored by the Queens Board of Elections on January 26, 2006 for her 25 years of dedicated service.

Barbara's career with the Queens Board of Elections began in January of 1981, when she was hired as a temporary employee. Less than a week later, realizing what a great asset Barbara was, the Board of Elections offered her a permanent position. Seven years later, in 1988, the Board once again recognized her outstanding work and promoted Barbara to Administrative Assistant, where she performed masterfully. In June of 1991, she was appointed as Chief Clerk of the Queens Board of Elections. Over the past fourteen years, Barbara has held this post with remarkable poise, leadership and distinction.

Despite her hectic career, Barbara has voluntarily served our community through a number of organizations. She is a Past-President of the Knights of Columbus—General Father Sherman Shine Columbiettes, a member of the Queens Historical Society, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Mitchell Gardens Co-op.

While Barbara has had a distinguished and praiseworthy career at the Board of Elections, and is celebrated as a community leader, her family—her husband of 30 years, Ronald, along with her two daughters, Amanda and Lisa, and two granddaughters, Brianna and Tiffani—remains the source of her greatest pride and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I rise to commend Barbara Conacchio. The accolades bestowed upon her for the 25 years of outstanding service she has given to the Queens Board of Elections are entirely deserved. I know all my colleagues in the House will join me in honoring Barbara for her outstanding work and wishing her many more years of success.

**TRIBUTE TO DORENA KNEPPER**

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my California colleague Howard "Buck" McKeon to honor a talented individual, Dorena Knepper, on the occasion of her retirement as director of Government Affairs at California State University, Northridge. Due in no small part to Dorena's hard work, guidance and support, CSUN has become one of the largest and most prominent universities in the California State University system.

Just last year we congratulated Dorena upon the celebration of her 40 years of public service at CSUN. During her impressive tenure, Dorena has made an exceptional contribution both to the university and to the greater community. Working with her on Federal appropriations and other legislative