

his job as an executive at Polaroid Corporation where he worked for 11 years. Mr. Reich's return to work demonstrated to his colleagues, in the most basic way, that life with a disability can be productive and fulfilling. In the years following the accident, he went on to pursue his career goals and was appointed to the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department.

It is important to note that Mr. Reich's accident and his recovery took place decades before the Americans with Disabilities Act. At that time, people like Alan Reich, who overcame personal obstacles to move forward with their lives, sent an important message to the world that people with disabilities have gifts and talents to contribute. This message was the foundation of the movement to pass the ADA in 1990, and declare for the first time that disabled Americans have a right to fully participate in all aspects of our society.

Mr. Reich became involved in advocacy for people with disabilities, initially as a volunteer. He later went on to devote his professional life to the cause, serving as the President of the National Paraplegia Foundation—known today as the National Spinal Cord Injury Association—and founding the Paralysis Cure Research Foundation, the National Task Force on Disability and the National Organization on Disability. His vision and work lives on through these organizations, which he fostered and developed.

I arrived in Washington, DC, in 2001, as the first quadriplegic Member of the House of Representatives. My own service in this body would not have been possible without the commitment of leaders in the disability community, who fought to pass the ADA. Alan Reich was one of those people and he was among the first leaders in the disability community here to greet me. I am tremendously grateful for his personal determination and his dedication to creating opportunity for others with disabilities. His work made this country a better place for future generations of individuals with and without disabilities to succeed and thrive. His passing leaves me with personal sorrow, yet as we reflect on the life of this extraordinary individual, I am inspired and honored to have called him a friend.

I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to pay tribute to my friend, and I urge them to support H. Res. 592, a resolution celebrating the life, achievements and contributions of Alan Reich.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY BLAVAT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the pioneers of rock and roll, my dear friend Jerry Blavat. Born and raised in my district, Jerry was attracted to the music business because of his love for the music, not for fame or wealth. Jerry is truly one of a kind. He is as much a part of Philadelphia as cheesesteaks, soft pretzels and the Liberty Bell. A great artist in his own right, Jerry was a dancer on the original Bandstand television program, hosted by Bob Horn. He became a favorite with the viewers and rose

to the head of the coveted "Committee", the group of teens responsible for aiding Horn in the direction of the show.

When he was just 16 years old, Jerry leapt into the music business by managing a national tour for Danny and the Juniors, pushing them into stardom. He got into radio in 1960 and soon was given the title "The Geator With the Heater." He soon coupled his growing popularity on the air (which by 1963 resulted in regional syndication of his program on small stations throughout the Delaware Valley from Atlantic City to Allentown) with appearances off the air at dances, clubs and events. It was not unusual for Blavat to see 5,000 kids a week in person in the mid '60s, nor too much of a stretch to say he'd remember 3,000 of their names the following week. His appearances became so frequent that for a time he needed to use a helicopter just to make it on time from one gig to the next. Today the helicopter is gone, but the frantic schedule is still in place. Throughout the year, he can be found somewhere on virtually any night, and in the summer months he's in weekend residence at Memories At Margate, the New Jersey Shore's hottest night spot which he's owned and operated since 1972.

Jerry Blavat is a true innovator. For instance, he introduced several national dance crazes, such as "The Mashed Potato," "The Stomp," "The Stroll" and "The Jerry Shake."

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Blavat is well known for his artistry, his business talents and his showmanship. But, not enough people know of Jerry's human side. Jerry's work on behalf of the less fortunate. He is extremely generous with his time and his resources, and has earned our City's love and respect because of that fact.

Jerry Blavat keeps us young, keeps us together and most of all, he keeps us dancing. And so, I know that all my colleagues will join me in honoring the Boss with the Hot Sauce, Jerry Blavat.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2005, I was absent from several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall vote No. 642 (Motion to close portions of the Defense Authorization Conference to the Press and Public when matters of National Security are under consideration): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 643 (Rolled Vote on Skelton Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1815): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 644 (Previous Question on Rule for H. Res. 612): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 645 (Adoption of Rule for H. Res. 612): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 646 (Adoption of Rule for H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 647 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Con. Res. 294): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 648 (Final Passage of H. Res. 612): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 649 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 409): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 650 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 575): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 651 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 534): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 652 (Spratt Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4241):

"No"; Rollcall vote No. 653 (Goodlatte/Herseth Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 654 (Stearns Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 655 (Sensenbrenner Amendment to H.R. 4437): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 656 (Norwood Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 657 (Westmoreland Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 658 (Gonzalez Amendment to H.R. 4437): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 659 (Sullivan Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 660 (Motion to Recommit with Instructions): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 661 (Final Passage of H.R. 4437): "Aye"; and Rollcall vote No. 662 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 598): "Aye".

HONORING THE LIFE OF JENNIE MAE FREELAND KELLER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dynamic Hoosier who passed away yesterday December 16, 2005 at the grand age of 79 years old. I knew Jennie Mae Freeland Keller very well and she was truly a very special person. One of six children born into a poor and struggling family from southern Indiana, she was an art and music prodigy. At the age of 15 she moved from Connersville, Indiana to live with her older sister in Indianapolis so she could attend art school classes at Herron School of Art and also attend Shortridge High School—known for its superior music program. Jennie Mae was proud of having gotten straight A's all through school and later in life she would learn she was a Mensa. While at school she excelled with her chosen musical instrument—the cello—though she never read a note of music. It is perhaps fitting that she passed away while listening to the classical music she so loved in life, and with a video of America's most beautiful sights playing in the background.

Described by her children as the "Laura Petrie" of her neighborhood, Jennie Mae always merrily accepted duties, such as collecting for the March of Dimes, or the Cancer Society—all while trying to raise five children. Two of those kids, Elizabeth and Claudia, have long been valuable members of my staff, and my heart goes out to them and their siblings in their time of grief. Mr. Speaker, Jennie Mae Keller may not go down in the history books as someone who changed the world, but she changed the lives of everyone around her or came through her life. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in sending their deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to Jennie Mae Keller's family, and I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of Jennie Mae's obituary in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jennie Mae, Freeland Keller. Born January 30, 1926

An accomplished artist and musician. In 1943 at the age of 17 was awarded the title of Miss World Peace shortly after the end of World War II. A loving and devoted mother and wife. A tireless volunteer for political freedom. A never ending fighter for what was

right, and not just politically correct. Will be sadly missed by all that knew and loved her. May God Bless her.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to join my colleagues in recognizing the 103rd anniversary of Korean American immigration to the United States, and honoring the contributions of the Korean American community to our country.

On January 13, 1903, the S.S. *Gaelic* docked in Hawaii, carrying with it the first wave of immigrants from Korea, and ushering in a new chapter in our nation's heritage. These pioneering individuals—56 men, 21 women, and 25 children—would blaze a trail for more than two million Korean American immigrants and their descendants who live throughout our nation today.

Following World War II and the Korean War, a second wave of thousands of Korean immigrants came to the United States. Like all immigrants, they sacrificed everything they knew to answer the calls of freedom and new opportunity, with the hopes of building brighter futures for themselves in America.

Over the course of one hundred years of immigration, Korean Americans have worked hard to achieve the American dream through their resolve, determination, and an abiding belief in the greatness of this country that we love. While well known and celebrated for its entrepreneurial spirit, the contributions made by the Korean American community to our society extends to all areas of the American fabric and have profoundly enriched our national heritage. Korean Americans have broken down language and social barriers, and fought back against the obstacles of racism and discrimination to succeed in and contribute to all aspects of American life—all.

As Representative of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my privilege to represent a diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including a vibrant and active Korean American community.

In marking the 100 year anniversary of Korean American immigration, the Centennial Committee on Korean Immigration designated January 13 of each year as Korean American Day. By honoring this day, we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of this unique community to our country, and rededicate ourselves to making the American dream a reality for all.

This legislation has my strong support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this vibrant community.

VICTORY IN IRAQ RESOLUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 612, "Express-

ing the Commitment of the House of Representatives to Achieving Victory in Iraq". Because of the severe importance of this issue, I feel it is crucial that I explain my position on this issue. As we are all aware, on Friday, December 2, 2005, 10 United States Marines were killed in a bomb attack on their foot patrol outside Fallujah. The following day, 11 Iraqi soldiers died after insurgents ambushed a joint patrol of American and Iraqi forces just north of Baghdad. In my District of Houston, TX, several Disabled Veterans, family members of current and fallen soldiers, and friends joined in a "call to action" to let this Administration know that enough deaths have amassed in the Iraq war to warrant an immediate plan to redeploy our troops back to the U.S. We see daily examples that define this situation as a crisis that continues to increase. Americans deserve a serious exit strategy—'staying the course' has clearly failed.

I salute our brave women and men who are serving and who have served in our military, as they have been victorious. There is no separation among Americans on our belief that our troops deserve and should receive honor. However, as many defense specialists and other scholars have suggested, our troops continued presence in Iraq may constitute and be the basis for the increased violence. We must transfer authority and oversight to a sovereign Iraqi Government. They should then seek to gain the support of certain Arab nations. There is no success in the mounting bloodshed. The Washington Post reported on December 3, 2005 that sources suggest media groups in the United States might have paid Iraqi press to publish favorable propaganda about U.S. military operations there. With this and numerous other possible incidents that raise suspicion as to the credibility of certain American government officials, the troops are in a very tenuous position in a land foreign to them amid daily attacks by insurgent groups. Let us be proactive in helping to save lives and honor our troops by bringing them home safely.

Part of the plan that I suggest includes the following steps:

(1) acts of American diplomacy in furtherance of the creation of an international coalition of support,

(2) convening of a summit of Arab nations for the purpose of engaging leadership on the question of what steps can be taken to aid this region,

(3) cessation of the redeployment of American troops to multiple tours of duty to the region,

(4) allocation of resources and attention to the over 15,000 injured soldiers and the need for medical and educational services,

(5) establishment of a special memorial to honor those who have fallen in the Iraq engagement, and

(6) establishment and articulation of a comprehensive exit strategy that will result in the redeployment of the troops back to the U.S. and the restoration of sovereignty to the installed Iraqi government. Democrats should distinguish themselves by their alliance on this issue.

Many of the Democratic resolutions, specifically that introduced by Mr. MURTHA, deserve our support. They represent excellent vehicles to distinguish Democrats before the American people. We must do that!

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in furthering these initiatives, and I would like to

thank our troops for their hard work and dedication in keeping us safe.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the Pension Protection Act on a vote of 294–130. I voted in favor of this bill in order to move the legislative process forward because failure to approve pension reform legislation endangers the retirement security of hundreds of thousands of workers. Without changes our pension system, many employers will face even greater pressure to file for bankruptcy to terminate their workers' pension plans. Though I supported H.R. 2830, it is my hope that the final conference report will be a product more closely resembling the version that passed the Senate on a near unanimous vote.

It is my understanding that when the Conference Committee convenes, Education and Workforce Chairman BOEHNER will support including a Senate provision that provides some industries with needed time to address their unique financial circumstances. Without immediate passage of this bill, some defined benefit plans may be forced to default on its payments to retirees.

While not perfect, H.R. 2830, the Pension Protection Act, contains many important provisions that will strengthen our defined benefit system. For example, the Act provides relief to multi-employer pension plans by allowing more affordable and appropriate contributions to maintain their employees' pensions. This will greatly benefit workers in the skilled trades, such as plumbers, carpenters, and transport workers. I was disappointed that multi-employer pensions were excluded from the temporary pension relief that was signed into law last year, and I am glad that this bill provides long overdue relief to secure these workers' pensions.

Though House passage of H.R. 2830 is better than passage of no bill at all, this legislation must be improved during the conference between the House and Senate. I would like to see a bill that does more to protect older workers whose employers convert their defined benefit pension plans to cash-balance plans. Further, this bill provides that the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation guarantee some, but not all, pensions when a factory or plant shuts down. Stronger protections for older workers and insurance for all shut down pension benefits should be included in the final Conference Report.

All workers in every type of industry require immediate changes in our current pension laws if we are to ensure that future generations are able to participate in the defined benefit retirement plans that offer superior retirement security. Failure to pass this bill and move the legislative process forward endangers thousands of workers pensions. Though the Pension Protection Act is not a perfect bill, I am compelled to support this legislation so that our pension system can be changed to assist all employees.