

well as a program for students pursuing careers in early education, and another program aimed at building a network of leaders and activists who focus on education reform, children's issues, health, and ageing.

On Saturday, February 19, 2005, Senator Vasconcellos will be honored in Berkeley, California for these extraordinary accomplishments. Through his commitment to improving education and increasing opportunity for all children, he has not only touched countless lives, but exemplifies the true spirit of public service. I am honored to call him "my friend." On this important occasion, I salute and congratulate Senator Vasconcellos for his invaluable contributions the State of California, our country, and the world.

HONORING CHRISTY CARLSON ROMANO AS SHE IS RECOGNIZED AS A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Speaker James Amann of the Connecticut House of Representatives and Mayor James Richetelli of Milford, Connecticut as they recognize one of the Milford community's brightest stars—Christy Carlson Romano. A literal star of both stage and screen, Christy is a Milford native who has not only shown that talent and hard work can bring great fame and success, but more importantly, how one can use their celebrity to positively impact the lives of others.

Christy is perhaps best known for her current roles on the Disney Channel's "Even Stevens" and for lending her voice to the animated series "Kim Possible." Acting since she was six years old, at only twenty, Christy has developed an extensive background in both theater and screen acting. Her dedication to her craft has given this remarkable young woman a highly respected reputation—especially among her young fans.

However, it is not just her fame that makes Christy such a tremendous role model for young people. Her commitment to her education is a real source of inspiration. This is even more evident when you consider that she has spent the majority of her life balancing both a career and a rigorous academic course load. At twelve she was on the dais of "The Presidents Summit for America's Future" where she met three former U.S. Presidents and as a high school junior she participated in the National Leadership Conference. Today she is a sophomore at Columbia University's Barnard College majoring in Political Science and has already completed a congressional internship with Senator DODD.

In addition to her challenging schedule with her career and studies, Christy still finds time to be active with numerous charitable organizations. The Will Rogers Foundation, the Make a Wish Foundation, the Connecticut Leukemia Society, and the Child Safety Network are just a handful of the groups with which Christy has and continues to be involved. Her good work has certainly touched the lives of many.

Too often, the extraordinary contributions of young people are overlooked. Christy is a

shining example of the tremendous impact young people can have on their communities and the lives of others. That is why it is fitting that Christy is honored with the first "Connecticut's Finest Award" and that today will be proclaimed "Christy Carlson Romano Day" in Milford.

Through Christy's extraordinary contributions both on-screen and off, she has become a true role model for young people everywhere. I am pleased to stand today to join her parents, Sharon and Anthony, her sisters Marcella and Jennifer, her brother Anthony, Jr., Speaker Amann, Mayor Richetelli, family, friends, and fans in recognizing Christy Carlson Romano for her outstanding professional and personal achievements. She is truly one of Connecticut's finest.

CONGRATULATING BEAVER VALLEY BRANCH OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women on its 75th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1930 by seventeen women at Geneva College, the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women has worked to promote equality for all women. They have tirelessly advocated for lifelong education and positive social change, and have met on the first Thursday of every month since 1930.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women that personify civic pride and make the communities that they live in truly special.

TRIBUTE TO BABETTE WISE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Babette Wise, on her dedication to substance abuse treatment and prevention in the Washington, DC, area for nearly a quarter of a century.

As a licensed therapist and director of Georgetown University Hospital's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, Wise has worked with individuals, families, and communities struggling with addiction to alcohol and other drugs. She has helped many people throughout the Washington region transform their lives by providing quality treatment and education.

Her treatment philosophy is based on the acknowledgement that addiction is a disease and that abstinence is the best way to manage the condition. Wise treats her patients with respect and provides a safe place for them to heal.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, I have gained a greater awareness and respect for the problems associated with addiction, and I am working to promote solutions to these problems. I believe that information, education, and awareness about chemical addiction, as well as access to treatment are the keys to combating this horrific disease.

I applaud Babette Wise and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCING BILL TO PROHIBIT ANY REMITTANCE OF U.S. VOLUNTARY AND ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS IF THE UNITED NATIONS IMPOSES ANY TAX OR FEE ON ANY UNITED STATES PERSON OR CONTINUES TO DEVELOP OR PROMOTE PROPOSALS FOR SUCH A TAX OR FEE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prohibit any remittance of U.S. voluntary and assessed contributions to the United Nations if the United Nations imposes any tax or fee on any United States person or continues to develop or promote proposals for such a tax or fee.

The United Nations has for decades been looking for a way to develop and promote a system of direct taxation on American citizens. It is bad enough that the United States has wasted more than \$30 billion thus far on this corrupt and inept organization. U.N. bureaucrats want to find a way to put their hands directly in the taxpayer's pocket and do away with the U.S. Government middle man.

A current example of this determination to tax American citizens is the Law of the Sea Treaty. The "International Seabed Authority" created by the Law of the Sea Treaty would have the authority to—for the first time in history—impose taxes on American businesses and citizens. This treaty may be ratified at any time by the U.S. Senate and U.N. taxation of Americans will become a reality.

This is just one of many examples of the United Nations attempting to impose direct taxes on the American people. If we are to retain our sovereignty and our way of life we must reject completely any such attempt. Our forefathers rebelled against English rule over the issue of "taxation without representation is tyranny." It makes no sense at all more than 230 years later to subject ourselves to such a tyrannical arrangement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

“RAILROAD MAN” RETIRES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Warren Weber, of Sacramento, CA. Mr. Weber served with the California Department of Transportation for over 40 years, and 8 as the Chief of Caltrans Division of Rail.

Warren graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, and pursued his master's degree in Public Administration at California State University, Sacramento. He began his career in the Urban Planning Department, at the Division of Highways. He moved through the ranks at the California Department of Transportation and served as a Supervising Transportation System Analyst, Chief of Rail Planning and Corridor Studies, Assistant Director of Legislative and local government affairs, and finally Chief of the Division of Rail.

Throughout the years Warren was responsible for various activities. He developed the State Rail Plan coordinating his efforts with various public and private organizations.

MARY DOLLISON—A MOTIVATING PERSONALITY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Mary Dollison, of Muncie, Indiana, sees people's needs and selflessly works to help them. Yet her generosity does not stop there. Mary motivates others to do the same. In this way, she continues to dramatically improve children's lives, and as a result, transform the entire Muncie community. The Muncie Star Press newspaper publicly recognized her outstanding community service on December 31, 2004, when they declared her the “Person of the Year” for her work with Motivate Our Minds (MOM).

What began in 1987 as a group of 20 children in her living room has grown into a program of 350 to 400 students who meet for after-school activities in MOM's permanent facility in downtown Muncie. Starting MOMs and shepherding it to its present form was not always easy, though. Over the years, Mary dealt with major budget shortfalls, the lack of a permanent building, and numerous other potential roadblocks that would have caused other people to give up.

Fortunately, Mary persisted, and succeeded. MOMs secretary Lenella Maxwell says of her, “She is just a very giving and loving person. She has a heart for children. She loves God very much, and her family is important to her. She has a very contagious smile. It's just like magic watching when she works with children. She can bring out the best in them. She has a heart of gold, and she wants to just help people.”

Mary recently told the Muncie Star Press, “I'm not happy not working with kids. My reward is just hearing young people or children come back and tell me stories that I've made a difference in their lives. The goal is still the same, help improve the lives of people, and I

think education is one of the ways that we can help do that.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mary Dollison for her tireless service to the Muncie community. She truly makes the community, and the world, a better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 91, Honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (rollcall 39). Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

AIR FORCE VACANCIES

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the United States fights the war against terrorism, some members of the Senate have put politics above the needs of our men and women in uniform by not acting on the nominations of a number of high level Air Force positions. The Air Force continues to play a central role in winning the war on terrorism. Yet, on December 8, 2004, the Senate returned four Presidential nominations to the Air Force without action.

The nominations included two nominations for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general as commanders of Numbered Air Forces, one lieutenant general nomination to a key position in the USAF Headquarters Staff, and one nomination to the rank of general as Commander of the Air Combat Command, the largest Air Force combatant command. I call upon the Senate to immediately act on these nominees.

I also ask for unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from the Air Force Association to President Bush urging leadership of the Executive and Legislative branches to resolve these issues at once. Our fighting men and women deserve no less.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, VA, January 25, 2005.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are a nation at war . . . a war against global terrorism. On December 8, 2004, the Senate returned four Presidential nominations to the United States Air Force without action. The nominations included two nominations for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general as commanders of Numbered Air Forces, one lieutenant general nomination to a key position in the USAF Headquarters Staff, and one nomination to the rank of general as Commander of the Air Combat Command, the largest Air Force combatant command. Today, the leadership of this four star command is temporarily being provided by a lieutenant general at a time when our Air Force is heavily engaged in the Global War

on Terrorism. The acting commander is scheduled to take command of a key Numbered Air Force in the Pacific, but this move has also been delayed pending Senate confirmation of the original nominee.

It is reported that the Senate Allied Services Committee has vowed to keep holding nominations of Air Force senior officers until the Pentagon cooperates more fully in regard to the recent issues surrounding the procurement of air refueling aircraft, which now average 43 years of service. These procurement activities resulted from the Air Force implementation of the refueling replacement acquisition strategy directed by the House Armed Services, House Appropriations, and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Despite the fact that the Secretary of the Air Force and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition have tendered their resignations in order to remove the accountability argument, we still find no action on the general officer nominations. In addition, the USAF is now being led by an Acting Secretary—and on an equally serious note, the Acting Secretary wears three other critically important hats: that of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, the OSD Space Acquisition Chief, and the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He will soon add a fifth critical hat as he takes on the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

This vacuum in senior civilian and uniformed leadership has a deleterious impact on our Air Force and the morale of those who serve, and it is adversely impacting the many fine leaders who are committed to serving their nation. Leaving key positions unfilled for lengthy periods can have a significant impact on the ability of the Air Force to execute its mission. Lack of consistent senior leadership and supervision, which led to criminal prosecution, was cited recently in the case of an acquisition official who served approximately 50% of her time without confirmed appointed leaders above her.

Our Air Force faces not only the demands of today's Global War on Terrorism, but is now entering a critical period where the Military Services are engaged in the Quadrennial Defense Review, planning for the future force, and supporting the Base Realignment and Closure efforts in shaping our infrastructure. These activities will result in key decisions that will directly affect the efficiencies and effectiveness of our U.S. Military. The Air Force and its sister services must also address Presidential Budget Decision 753—a critical decision document which will have significant impact on our current and long term force structure and weapons systems effectiveness. These activities require full-time, focused leadership.

It is imperative that we move forward on nominating and confirming the required civilian and uniformed leadership of our Air Force in this especially critical time. We respectfully urge the leadership of the Executive and Legislative Branches to come together to resolve these issues without delay. The leadership requirements of our Air Force must be addressed now so that it can meet its responsibilities in addressing today's critical challenges. Our nation and those who serve it deserve no less, and our future security requires it.

Respectfully,

STEPHEN P. CONDON,
Chairman of the Board.