

citizens, namely African Americans, from integrating into society after centuries of slavery, felon disenfranchisement laws prevent ex-offenders from reintegrating into society after retribution.

Statistics on felon disenfranchisement indicate that Congressional action is clearly warranted. The Sentencing Project estimates that 4.7 million Americans, or 1 in 43 adults, have currently or permanently lost the right to vote as a result of a felony conviction. 1.4 million or 13 percent of African American men are disenfranchised, a rate seven times the national average. Given current rates of incarceration, 3 in 10 of the next generation of African American men can expect to be disenfranchised at some point in their lifetime. An estimated 676,730 women are currently ineligible to vote as a result of a felony conviction. These statistics have prompted state responses. Most recently, Alabama, Nevada, Wyoming, and Connecticut, have adopted legislation that expands voting rights for ex-felons. We must now act at the Federal level.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE RUTH MCCLENDON

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Ruth Jones McClendon for her dedicated service to the people of Texas.

Ruth McClendon has been a tremendous advocate for public safety and public health in the State of Texas. She is the creator of the Neighborhood Cellular on Patrol program, which has won acclaim from President George W. Bush for its effectiveness in reducing crime. She founded the Community Crime Prevention Network to fight neighborhood crime, sponsored legislation to support community policing and increase penalties for church burnings, and hosted a seminar with constituents to help them respond to gang activity.

While in the legislature, Representative McClendon passed two children's asthma bills, for which she received the American Lung Association of Texas Public Policy Award for 2001. She created a medical academy to prepare medical students to practice in inner city neighborhoods, and worked to pass a bill to dedicate \$400 million for a pediatric cancer center in San Antonio.

Her legislative activity has brought her numerous awards, including listings in the World's Who's Who of Women and Who's Who in Texas. She is a graduate of Texas Southern University, and holds an honorary doctorate from Guadalupe College Theological Seminary. She was the first African-American woman elected to the San Antonio City Council, and was named a 2003 Headliner by the San Antonio Chapter of Women in Communications.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Jones McClendon has been a tireless and effective public servant, and a role model and guardian for her community. She deserves our gratitude, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize her for her work.

#### SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to the great South Park High School in Buffalo, New York which this year is celebrating 90 years of excellence in educating Western New York's young people.

Ninety-one years ago this week, on St. Patrick's Day, the people of South Buffalo broke ground at 150 Southside Parkway for the construction of what would become City of Buffalo Public School Number 206.

That same year, on June 1st, the cornerstone was placed at PS 206, also known as South Park High School, marking the institution as the fifth public high school built in the City of Buffalo.

On September 7, 1915, the doors of South Park opened; welcoming 680 students and 32 faculty members.

Home of the Sparks, the South Park faithful proudly display their school spirit through the black and red tradition.

Over the last nine decades the teachers and administrators at South Park have motivated, nurtured and educated thousands of Buffalo's youth, preparing each for the road ahead and providing all with the tools necessary to pursue a limitless future.

I am proud to call myself an alumnus of South Park and grateful for the wealth of knowledge and values I have obtained through my experiences at the school.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Buffalo's South Park High School and wish the institution continued success in instilling pride and excellence in Western New York young people for decades to come.

#### CONGRATULATING BETTY MILLER ON RECEIVING THE JOSEPH F. SAPORITO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

##### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Betty Miller, who was recognized at a reception held February 20, 2005, at the Grammercy Ballroom in Pittston. The Sunday Dispatch has chosen Betty Miller as the recipient of the Joseph F. Saporito Lifetime of Service Award.

My good friend Betty Miller is a selfless woman who has devoted her life to making life better for others. Of all her accomplishments—and there are many—Betty is perhaps proudest of the Wyoming Monument Association. She is in her 47th year as president of this organization, and she was preceded by her mother-in-law. Sarah Perkins Miller was president for 35 years.

The Association has more than 350 members—all women—many of whom are direct descendants of those who died in the Wyoming Massacre of July 3, 1778. Betty's ances-

tors, William Reynolds and Elias Roberts, are listed on the Monument among the victims of the Wyoming Massacre.

The first attempts to build a memorial date back to 1809. In the spring of 1841, the women of Luzerne County came together under the name Ladies Luzerne Monumental Association and raised the money for the monument. In 1860, the State of Pennsylvania gave the title to the land to the Wyoming Monument Association.

I was pleased to work with Betty in getting the Wyoming Monument rightfully listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Betty is proud of the Monument and proud of the role women have played in its history.

Betty became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution 60 years ago. She has served as the First Vice President General of the national organization, making her the highest-ranked Pennsylvania member ever. Betty just stepped down after her second stint as chair of the Wyoming Valley Chapter.

Betty has served as state president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Pennsylvania, president of the Wyoming Woman's Club, and chair of the board of the Luzerne County Library System.

Betty has been actively involved with the Greater Pittston Salvation Army Advisory Board for 22 years and served as chair of the board on two occasions. During the latest Red Kettle Campaign, Betty—at the age of 88—rang a bell for the Salvation Army for 6 days in a row, from 9 in the morning to 5 in the evening.

In 1976, she was appointed to the Bicentennial Commission and participated in planning the nation's observance of its 200th anniversary. She received a special commendation from the governor for her role in the Bicentennial.

Betty volunteers at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. Betty was presented with the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Membership Award by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia and later received the Humanitarian Award for "distinguished service to her fellow man."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this fine lady who has given so much of herself. She is most deserving of accolades from The Sunday Dispatch.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND WORK OF SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER ZORAN DJINDJIC

##### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 2003, Serbia's Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic was brutally assassinated in broad day light on the streets of Belgrade, Serbia.

As Serbia's first democratically-elected, non-communist Prime Minister following the fall of Slobodan Milosevic, Zoran Djindjic brought to his office and the people of Serbia more than democracy and freedom—he brought with him the hopes and dreams of the Serbian people. Under the oppressive rule of tyrannical dictators and autocrats, the Serbian people were emotionally and physically battered and scarred by years of ethnic civil-war and bombings. Prime Minister Djindjic promised them a better future filled with peace and prosperity.

Along with other democratic allies, and anti-war protesters, Zoran Djindjic effectively protested and toppled the corrupt regime of Slobodan Milosevic through a steadfast, determined, yet peaceful process.

Along with his fellow reformers, Mr. Djindjic created the Democratic Party, and led it to a series of successful electoral victories, ultimately culminating in Mr. Djindjic's ascension to the post of Prime Minister of Serbia on January 25, 2001.

During his 2 years in office, Prime Minister Djindjic worked tirelessly to shed the image of a "backward" Serbia. Under his effective leadership, Prime Minister Djindjic systematically realigned Serbia with the Western ideals of democracy, reform and capitalism.

Through a heroic and selfless act of courage, Prime Minister Djindjic arrested and extradited the man he helped remove from power, and sent Slobodan Milosevic, and his fellow fugitive war criminals to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague (ICTY) where they were indicted and tried.

Prime Minister Djindjic went to great lengths to bring foreign investment and capital back into Serbia's economy by embracing free market concepts, thus laying the groundwork for Serbia's long-term fiscal security and prosperity.

In addition, Prime Minister Djindjic advanced Serbia's relationship with the Trans-Atlantic community. By centering Serbia's foreign policy initiatives, Prime Minister Djindjic has positioned Serbia to become a working and peaceful member of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Mr. Djindjic worked relentlessly to improve the lives of everyday Serbs through economic development, structural and political reform, and an open, and peaceful foreign policy.

Unfortunately for the people of Serbia, Mr. Djindjic's work was cut short by an assassin's bullet outside his office on March 12, 2003.

So, on this day, let the House of Representatives remember the life and work of Mr. Zoran Djindjic, Prime Minister of Serbia, and let us hope and pray for a better and more prosperous future for the people of Serbia, and the whole Balkan region.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 10, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and could not cast a vote on final passage of H.R. 3—the Transportation Equity Act. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE SENATOR JEFF WENTWORTH

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth.

Senator Wentworth has deep roots in Texas. A fourth generation Texan, he graduated from Alamo Heights High School, went to college at Texas A&M, and received his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. He has been serving the public in many capacities for most of his adult life: his previous employment includes one year as a university system regent; six years as a county commissioner, three years as a congressional assistant, and three years as an Army counterintelligence officer.

He served five years in the Texas House of Representatives, and was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1992. He is currently the Senate President Pro Tempore, and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He chairs the Texas Legislative Tourism Caucus, and remains a practicing lawyer, with the firm of Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal, LLP.

Senator Wentworth is now in his fifth term, and continues to work tirelessly for the more than 700,000 constituents in his district. Jeff Wentworth is a genuine American success story, and a tremendous advocate for the people of San Antonio and for all the people of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of State Senator Jeff Wentworth.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANNE L. BLUMENBERG

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Anne L. Blumenberg, founder of the Community Law Center in Baltimore. Anne, who recently retired as the Law Center's long-time executive director, has been instrumental in developing legal strategies to empower neighborhoods and communities.

Anne is a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to improving our community. Over the years, she has performed groundbreaking work in the areas of low-income housing acquisition, community-based planning, coalition building and community advocacy. Through her efforts, the Community Law Center has become a leading advocacy organization for community and economic development in distressed neighborhoods. She has led the way in fighting predatory real estate practices that have been so destructive to many Baltimore neighborhoods.

A graduate of Catholic University's Columbus School of Law, Anne founded the Community Law Center in 1983, becoming its executive director in 1986. The Community Law Center's philosophy has been that access to

lawyers could help revitalize neighborhoods. Initially, most of the work focused on public safety. In recent years, that focus has shifted to real estate and economic development. The Center's successes include: enactment of legislation giving community groups legal standing in drug nuisance cases and legal action against owners of vacant properties.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Anne L. Blumenberg for her work in helping neighborhoods and communities maintain some degree of control over their destinies.

#### THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER GRODSKY

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jennifer Grodsky, a dedicated, intelligent and compassionate woman whom I have been very fortunate to have as my Legislative Director for the past four years.

Jennifer joined my office shortly after I was elected to Congress in 2000. Having received excellent training as a Legislative Assistant for former Congressman Julian Dixon of California, Jennifer quickly assumed her role as Legislative Director with great ease and competence. She played an instrumental part in establishing my office protocol and creating a strong legislative staff.

As Legislative Director, Jennifer has coordinated my legislative agenda with much success. She has overseen my introduction of numerous bills, including two which have become law. Her extensive knowledge of the legislative process and a wide array of public policy issues has proved invaluable to my office. Since Jennifer's first day in the office, she has approached each and every task I have given her with the utmost professionalism and dedication.

Jennifer's keen understanding of the health care challenges facing my district and the nation has been particularly important to me as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health. Jennifer has organized numerous briefings and events to heighten awareness about accessing affordable health care and persisting racial and ethnic health disparities, including spearheading very successful events sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic, Black, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses in Los Angeles, California, and Miami, Florida. Jennifer played a lead role in developing the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act, the Democratic Caucus' comprehensive bill to address racial and ethnic health disparities, and shares my strong concern for the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. Her passion for improving our nation's health care system, particularly for the Latino and other minority communities, is one of Jennifer's strongest attributes.

As my appropriations staffer for the past four years, Jennifer has helped me to secure millions of dollars in federal assistance for important projects in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley, including the expansion of the Azusa Health Clinic and the development of computer training classes at Project Amiga