

communities around the nation. She is to begin her own seminary training later this year.

Mr. Speaker, Anita Burson has been a leader in her community through her commitment to her church, civic organizations and coalition building. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

VETERANS SELF-EMPLOYMENT
ACT OF 2005

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Veterans Self-Employment Act," legislation to establish a five-year pilot program that allows our Nation's servicemembers, veterans, national guardsman, reservists, and qualified others to use part of their VA educational assistance programs to defray legitimate training costs associated with obtaining a business franchise.

Mr. Speaker, franchising is an enormous component of the United States economy. According to a study conducted by International Franchise Association Educational Foundation, nearly 760,000 franchised businesses generate jobs for more than 18 million Americans annually, comprising nearly 14 percent of the Nation's private-sector employment and accounting for \$1.53 trillion in economic output. Over 75 industries utilize the franchise model for distribution of products and services, ranging from familiar restaurants and hotels to home movers, tax preparers, personnel providers and so on. Clearly, franchising is a critical engine of America's economic growth.

When an individual acquires a franchise, the individual must first undergo various types of training, depending on the specific franchise he or she wishes to acquire. Training can include education on specialized knowledge of goods, services, policies and practices of the individual franchise system. Training may also include customer service, daily operational management, business computer systems, inventory control, costing and pricing as well as regulatory obligations.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, American military members, whether as active duty servicemembers or veterans, possess a wealth of experience and abilities. Their training in the armed forces has provided them with high-end skill sets that employers are looking for in the future workforce. Yet outside of what has been provided during their tenure with the military, statistics show that many of our young military men and women have had no formal education or training beyond their high school years.

Mr. Speaker, the "Veterans Self-Employment Act" will allow more veterans to take advantage of the opportunities in franchising by allowing servicemembers, veterans, national guardsman, reservists, and eligible dependent spouses or children to apply a portion of his or her educational benefit to defray the portion of a franchise purchase cost attributable to training. Specifically, in a one-time lump sum payment, beneficiaries will be able to use the lesser of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the remaining Montgomery GI Benefit entitlement or $\frac{1}{2}$ the franchise fee.

In addition, the bill provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs proper authority to oversee and avoid any possible abuse of this program; submit to the Secretary a detailed description of the training program; two year operating rule for franchise businesses; and provide individual progress reports regarding successful completion of individual training, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our Nation's veterans and thus urge floor consideration for the "Veterans Self-Employment Act."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR.
JAMES W. LANE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. James W. Lane.

Last month, he lost his battle to a long-term illness. Dr. Lane was a Charleston urologist, former U.S. Army captain, and civic leader.

As Chief of Staff of the Charleston Memorial Hospital, he eased a hospital merger that resulted in the creation of Charleston Area Medical Center, which is the premier medical facility in the Kanawha Valley.

Dr. Lane was also a teacher of his trade. As the chairman of the Department of Urology at CAMC and a clinical professor of urology at the Charleston Division of the West Virginia University School of Medicine he trained hundreds of young doctors.

Dr. Lane was a member of several local service and community organizations including the Kanawha Medical Society, the Mid-Atlantic section of the American Urology Association, and the West Virginia Health Right, where he was named volunteer of the year in 2002.

Dr. Lane was instrumental in improving the availability of health care in West Virginia. His legacy of humility and compassion for others was attributed to how he lived every day of his life.

Dr. Lane was a pillar of the community and his memory will resonate in the minds of those fortunate enough to have known him and his countless accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
HARLANDALE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEM-
BER GRACIE A. ACUNA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Harlandale Independent School District Board Member Gracie Acuna of my Congressional District.

Gracie Acuna was first elected as Board Member of District four in 1987, and currently serves as Vice President. During her time on the Board she has served in a variety of capacities including President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Gracie holds the honor of being the first Hispanic woman to serve as President of the

Board, which she held for four terms. She has assisted the Board further by serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Curriculum Committee.

Ms. Acuna is actively involved in organizations that affect our community. She has served as President of the Bexar County Federation of School Boards, San Antonio Federation of School Boards, San Antonio Transit Board Member, President of the Harlandale Lions Club, TASB Legislative Advisory Council, and a Life Member of State PTA.

Gracie Acuna is grateful for being elected and feels honored by the confidence the voters have demonstrated in her. She has two sons with her husband Willie, and attends San Jose Mission Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the dedication of Gracie A. Acuna to Harlandale Independent School District.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA GUERRERO
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Gloria Guerrero. For many years, Gloria has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Gloria instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for community service.

Raised in a politically active and community-minded family, Gloria began volunteering in her youth in Monterey Park. Although she was employed full time working for Medicare/Occidental-Transamerica for 25 years, then later at the Chino Valley Independent Fire District for 13 years, she always found time for her community.

Gloria is a 51-year resident of Monterey Park and her involvement with the city of Monterey Park is extensive and impressive. She served on the city's Community Relations Commission for 7 years, serving as chair and vice chair, and on the Arts and Culture Commission for 6 years. She has served on several city committees, including the City with a Heart Committee, Cinco De Mayo Committee, Budget Task Force Committee, Harmony Month Committee and the Fourth of July Committee. In addition, she served as a Panel Judge for the city's Crystal Youth Awards event and an Essay Contest Judge for the Cherry Blossom Festival. She is a long-time member of the Los Angeles Monterey Park Optimist Club, having served as president and vice president. In addition, Gloria volunteered for the House of Ruth and Para Los Niños.

Ms. Guerrero's dedication to the Monterey Park Public Library is evident. She is currently a Library Board of Trustees Member of the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library and a board

member of the Friends of the Monterey Park Library.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Gloria Guerrero. The entire community joins me in thanking Gloria for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

COMMENDING MIKE EAVES FOR HIS WORK AND DEDICATION TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 8TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and praise an individual who has dedicated himself to improving North Carolina. Mike Eaves is a remarkable person in many ways, and I want to acknowledge him for his accomplishments and efforts towards promoting agriculture and rural development.

Mike grew up in Epsom, North Carolina located in Vance county. He is a proud graduate of both Louisburg College and Appalachian State University.

Mike began his work in government when he accepted a job with the Farmers Home Administration. Mike soon moved on to the Farm Service Agency in 1984 where he served as Executive Director of the Richmond County Farm Service Agency. In 2002, due to his strong knowledge of the farm programs and the people, he became the District Director, overseeing 13 county offices as well as being a liaison between the State Office and the County Office. Most recently, Mike has been selected to be the Administrative Officer of North Carolina State FSA Office, effective April 3rd, 2005.

Anyone knows that long-term success depends on future leadership. It will not surprise you to know that Mike has a strong record of leadership and achievements. He has received the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service from the North Carolina Association of County Office Employees. Mike has also received the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service for the Southeast Area and the National Distinguished Service Award for Community Service from the National Association of County Office Employees. Mike's determination to help build and create a better community and a better North Carolina is inspiring.

I am very happy for Mike and his new position in the State Office, but I will tell you that Richmond County and the 8th District of North Carolina will miss his leadership. Although I know you will be watching over us from Raleigh and keeping a close eye on Richmond County, I can't tell you how much I have appreciated your steadfast dedication towards promoting and advancing agriculture and rural communities in North Carolina. Personally, I can't thank you enough for your friendship and the kindness you have shown me since I have been in office. Your assistance has been invaluable to me and my staff.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Mike Eaves' tireless dedication and

his desire to increase the quality of life for Richmond County, the 8th District, and North Carolina as a whole. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help create and sustain a strong agriculture community, and as a citizen of North Carolina, I join many in sincerely thanking him.

I would also like to acknowledge Mike's family that has been there backing him in his efforts and successes. Mike has a very loving family. Mike's wife, Susan, makes a mean lemon meringue pie. I am sure she is as proud as I am of his many accomplishments and his dedication to his profession.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN STUBBS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to commend Captain Jon Stubbs of Searcy, AR, commanding officer of Charlie Company of the 39th Infantry Brigade's 3rd Battalion for his leadership in Iraq over the past year.

Managing a delicate balance between ambassador and soldier, Captain Stubbs has served his nation by bringing hope to a country encompassed by war. He led his company with the strength necessary to win the trust of those in his command and with the compassion needed to bring aid to the Iraqis he bravely protected.

From Searcy and Little Rock, Arkansas to Camp Taji and Adhamiyah, Iraq; amidst machine gun fire, roadside bombs, rocket propelled grenades, the loss of fellow soldiers and friends, Captain Stubbs served as a faultless example of what it means to be a soldier, a leader and an American.

Focused under pressure and diplomatic with the Iraqi people and the media, we could ask for no better ambassador in these most trying times than Jon Stubbs. His efforts led the 39th to reconstruct Iraqi schools, hospitals, irrigation and sewage systems, and new recreational projects for children; none of this would have been possible without Captain Stubbs' leadership.

As Jon Stubbs' wife Jane and daughter Susannah welcome him back, his community has also regained a strong leader. The son of a Methodist preacher, Jon Stubbs epitomizes his faith through his involvement in church youth programs, Sunday school and his continued participation in the education of his daughter and her fellow students. While the men and women in his company willingly follow him into battle, his community can look to him again as a friendly and optimistic voice in their lives.

On behalf of the Congress, I thank Captain Stubbs, Charlie Company and the entire 39th Infantry Brigade for their bravery, diplomacy and strength on behalf of the Iraqi people. The courage demonstrated by Charlie Company reflects considerably on their commanding officer; America's debt to Captain Stubbs' is immeasurable and will never be fully repaid.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I voted against passage of H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan and Tsunami Assistance bill.

In March 2003, before the war began, I wrote to the President with 22 of our colleagues to ask him to specifically define our objectives and to provide an exit strategy. We asked the President a number of questions including: "Under what circumstances will our military occupation of (and financial commitment to) Iraq end? And how will we know when these circumstances are present." We and the American people never received an answer to these crucial questions. Even today, the Administration is unwilling or unable to answer. This is simply unacceptable.

Time and again, the President has requested money to fund the war in Iraq while refusing to answer our questions about this war and provide a comprehensive strategy for bringing our troops home. In our democracy, the Congress controls the purse strings. Before allocating additional funds, we must insist that the administration articulate the conditions necessary to bring our troops home, and push them to do that as soon as possible. The administration's refusal to address that is quite astounding to me and should be of great concern to all Americans who believe in principles of accountability and checks and balances.

In addition to my concerns about a lack of overall strategy and benchmarks for success in Iraq, I am very disappointed with the administration's handling of Iraq spending, in both process and substance. Emergency supplemental spending should be reserved for true emergencies, those instances in which the need for expenditures is unforeseen or unforeseeable. The vast majority of funds in this supplemental fail to meet that criterion. Both last year and this year, the Administration excluded Iraq costs from their budget requests, although most of the costs could be estimated. Shortfalls or additional needs then could have been funded through a supplemental. That is the proper way to manage taxpayer funds.

I want to make it clear that I believe that our men and women in the armed forces serving in Iraq are doing their jobs with great honor. They have my unequivocal support and respect. My vote against this spending bill should not be characterized as a rejection of them or the resources they need to carry out their duties. If this bill had been defeated yesterday, funds would have continued to flow to Iraq tomorrow and over the next few months. Voting down this bill would have allowed ample time for the President to respond to our concerns and resubmit his funding request.