

of the proposed Wilderness and National Scenic Area designations has been endorsed by either the U.S. Forest Service or the Board of Supervisors of the County in which the area would be located.

The legislation has also garnered significant support in the U.S. House of Representatives by several other Virginia Congressmen. U.S. Representatives BOBBY SCOTT (VA-03), JIM MORAN (VA-08), FRANK WOLF (VA-10) and TOM DAVIS (VA-11) are original co-sponsors of the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act. I look forward to working closely with my Virginia colleagues in both the House and the Senate to obtain approval for this worthy legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE UJA
FEDERATION OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the UJA Federation of Bayonne for its outstanding service to the Jewish community. The UJA Federation hosted its Holocaust memorial program on May 3, 2005, in New Jersey.

As an umbrella organization for Jewish residents, the UJA Federation strives to support and sustain the local Jewish community. Apart from development, it focuses on issues related to the Holocaust and the remembrance of that tragic event.

The UJA Federation of Bayonne will soon be hosting its Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance. The keynote speaker will be Edward Mosberg, a survivor of the Krakow Ghetto and the Plaszow and Mauthausen concentration camps, who will share his experience of living in Poland during World War II. The observance will also include readings by children from local Jewish schools and a candle lighting ceremony by local Holocaust survivors. The day will serve as an opportunity to reflect on this dark hour of world history, in the hope that we may gain wisdom for the future by remembering the past.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the UJA Federation of Bayonne for its support and outreach to the residents of New Jersey and its worthwhile efforts to honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust.

FLORIDA'S TENNIS SEC
TOURNAMENT TITLES

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate both the University of Florida's Men's and Women's Tennis teams on claiming the South Eastern Conference's Tournament Titles. The second-seeded and fifth-ranked University of Florida men's tennis team won the SEC tournament for the third time in school history, as the Gators defeated fifth-seeded and 26th ranked Tennessee on Sunday, April 24, 2005 at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex in Athens, GA. With the victory, the

Men's team moved to 20-5 on the year and earned the SEC's automatic invitation to the NCAA Championships marking their 15th consecutive trip. Likewise, the University of Florida women's tennis team staged an unbelievable comeback rallying to win its 4th consecutive and 14th overall SEC Tournament title with a 4-2 victory over third-ranked Kentucky, Sunday afternoon at the Alabama Tennis Stadium. I congratulate both of Florida's Men's and Women's tennis teams on their SEC tournament title and wish them much luck as they head into the NCAA Tournament!

HONORING MR. JOHN PACO

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young American, Mr. John Paco, of San Antonio who has dedicated his life to helping others. Nor would this be the only body to recognize the work of John Paco. The American Ambulance Association has chosen to honor John as a 2005 Star of Life for over 10 years of service in emergency medicine. As lead supervisor for American Medical Response at Randolph Air Force Base, John has been at the forefront of improving the care and streamlining the operations in his unit. John's peers nominated him for this award because they know in a crisis of any sort, John can be counted on. Moreover, John's attitude conveys to his coworkers and patients good will and competence.

In situations where one's health and livelihood hang in the balance, a steady hand, a smile, and cool, quick efficiency can make the difference between surviving and serious, even permanent disability. The same way you and I go to our office and make decisions that may affect the lives of many Americans, John goes to his workplace, but the stakes are much higher. A fraction of a second lost or misused or a thousand other x-factors can mean immediate and irreversible change for a person unable to fight for his or her life.

John's demeanor enables him to quickly connect with others, a skill vital in working with others when the consequences can be so dire. One of John's coworkers has said he will make the best of a bad situation which strikes me as a fitting description for what he does every time he dons his uniform. When someone dials 911, the situation is grave, so having someone as able and devoted as John on the scene ensures both a high level of competence and care. His can-do attitude and efficacy are crucial in a profession like John's and his leadership inspires those who serve under him.

San Antonio is proud to have one of its own commended, especially a person who has given so selflessly of himself and has touched the lives of so many in our community. By giving so much of himself, John his efforts in helping to streamline and improve a number of procedures vital to the timely care of the injured. The PowerPoint presentation he helped develop demonstrated the costs financial and otherwise of ambulance collisions to all involved.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WALTER H.
RICHARDSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Walter H. Richardson, one of Miami-Dade County's quintessential religious leaders. During the Annual Unity Day Celebration held at the Allen Chapel AME Church in Miami last April 24, 2005, Bishop Richardson was honored, along with other distinguished members of our church community. The theme: "United in Christ, Reaching out to Touch Others with God's Love," saliently symbolizes the ministry of this humble Man of God.

It was in the mid 1940s when he came down to Miami from his native Ansonville, North Carolina after accepting the Lord as his personal Savior. Indeed, it was a unique calling that evoked God's choice: ". . . for many are called, but few are chosen." As a young man, he supported himself by getting a job at the old Miami Sears & Roebuck Store. He got engaged to his sweetheart, Poseline McLaughlin, whom he left behind in North Carolina, and she later joined him in Miami after she also accepted the Lord. They got married and were soon blessed with two sons. Their marriage lasted for 49 years until her untimely demise in 1996.

This tribute to Bishop Richardson comes at a time when his ministry is defined by the primacy of his consecration to God's covenant of love and compassion to all those hungering for the good news emanating from the Lord's Gospel. His calling is symbolic of his readiness to reach out to those who seek refuge and solace in the sanctuary of his Church, and bespeaks of God's preeminence in the conduct of their lives.

The longevity of his commitment to the less fortunate has become legendary. When I think of his early work with the civil rights movement, his untiring efforts paralleled much of our nation's history as we struggled through the harrowing challenges of racial equality and simple justice for all. I came to admire him for his understanding and empathy for the "little people and poor folks" of our community. Blessed with a lucid common sense and a quick grasp of the issues at hand, Bishop Richardson's influence continues to be felt at a time when our community needs to put in perspective the agony and dissatisfaction of marginalized blacks and other minorities yearning to belong and pursue the American spirit of optimism.

This is the magnificent legacy of Bishop Walter H. Richardson. My pride in honoring him today and my privilege in sharing his friendship are only exceeded by my gratitude for everything he has sacrificed on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALLIE E.
BROOKS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Professor Allie. E. Brooks, Jr.,

Principal of Wilson High School in Florence, S.C. Mr. Brooks is retiring after 35 years as a public school educator. I join the citizens of Florence and the students of Wilson High School in expressing deep appreciation and gratitude to him for a lifetime of magnanimous service.

Mr. Barnes was born in Florence on January 29, 1946 to the parents of the late Allie E. Brooks, Sr. and Thelma H. Brooks. He is married to Barbara Faye Eaddy Brooks, and they are the proud parents of three children: Deanna Fredrica Brooks, Thelma Susanna Eaddy Brooks, and Allie Eugene Brooks, III and a daughter-in-law, Janelle Hargrove Brooks.

In 1964, Mr. Brooks began his formative education at Holmes Elementary School. He completed Wilson Junior High School, and graduated from Wilson High School, where he is currently serving his thirty-first year as principal. A graduate of South Carolina State University, where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in mathematics, Mr. Brooks received a Masters of Education degree in Education Administration from the University of South Carolina. In addition, he completed an Institute on the Principal and School Improvement at Harvard University.

Mr. Brooks began his professional career as a mathematics teacher at Moore Middle School in Florence. That assignment was followed by tenure as Assistant Principal at West Florence High School before being named Principal of his Alma Mater in 1974.

Mr. Brooks is a loyal member and deacon of Savannah Grove Baptist Church in Effingham, S.C. In addition to his church leadership positions, he is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Florence Boys and Girls Club and the BB&T Bank Advisory Board. He has also been active in numerous civic organizations such as the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Florence West Rotary Club, and served his country honorably for more than two years as an officer in the U.S. Army.

His awards and commendations are numerous and include: Florence Civitans "Citizen of the Year" Award, "Principal of the Year for 2000 Award" by the South Carolina Association of Secondary School Principals, and South Carolina "2004-05 Principal of the Year" by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Allie E. Brooks, Jr. for the immeasurable service he has rendered to our country and his community through his roles as a well loved Principal, highly honored civic leader and incomparable role model. I sincerely thank Mr. Brooks for his personal friendship and life-long commitment to helping others, and wish him a long, enjoyable retirement, and Godspeed.

HONORING HEAD START COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Head Start Community Program of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant

organization I am proud to represent! On May 4, 2005 Head Start is celebrating its Fortieth Anniversary.

Founded in 1965, the Head Start Community Program of Morris County is a nonprofit organization serving approximately 200 low-income children between the ages of three and five and their families. Head Start's comprehensive program continues to demonstrate immense success by being instrumental in preparing children to begin school successfully. They offer a comprehensive approach to early success in school, from medical check-ups to nutritional meals.

Today, Morris County's Head Start program is stronger and more successful than ever. Eileen Jankunis, the Executive Director of the Head Start Community Program of Morris County, her staff, and core of dedicated volunteers are a testament to Head Start's accomplishments. They are ensuring our children, those who need it most, are given the same opportunities as other children to get a "Head Start" in a nurturing environment. Above all, they are demonstrating tremendous focus and dedication to providing every child with the building blocks of learning so that they can succeed in school and later in life.

Head Start is an integral part of establishing a sound foundation for our children. The continued success of Morris County's Head Start program demonstrates that, and I am honored to represent their needs in Congress. Early-childhood development is a key component of our educational system, and Morris County's program is doing a superb job of getting our kids ready for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to honor Morris County's program. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Head Start Community Program of Morris County for their forty years of service! Again, I offer my praise and thanks to their dedicated trustees, administration, wonderful teachers, support staff, volunteers and active parents who work tirelessly on behalf of Head Start's children.

IN MEMORY OF PAT CIMMARUSTI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Pat Cimmarusti, who died this past week after 87 years of service to his family, community and Nation.

I have known Pat for more than 30 years, and he has been a good friend to my wife, Janice, and me.

Pat was born in Santa Monica, California, on January 16, 1918. After service in the U.S. Army, he and Ann Smaldino married on June 7, 1942. They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary last year.

Pat and Ann's first home together was a farm in Malibu, but as they began a family Pat opened a plumbing and contracting business and they settled in Los Angeles. In 1974, they opened an Italian grocery store and vegetable market in Hollywood with their three children. The store and market were an extension of Pat's personality. He loved to cook steak dinners and make his own spaghetti sauce.

He used to take his grandchildren to a farm in Oxnard to handpick tomatoes. The next

day, Pat arose at 4 a.m. and began making spaghetti sauce. By the time family began to arrive, the sauce was halfway done and Pat was preparing lunch for his wife, children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He had a hearty laugh, a warm smile, large brown eyes and great pride in his family.

Community was also important to Pat. He was a member of the American Legion and Elks Club in Pasadena, a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of UNICO National and a member of the Sons of Italy in America. In 2000, Pat was honored as one of the UNICO men of the year. He also was honored by Cardinal Roger Mahony.

Among the events Pat cherished in his life was meeting President Ronald Reagan and being blessed, with his family, by Pope John Paul II in Rome. He equally cherished attending every sporting event and graduation his children and grandchildren were involved in.

Pat is survived by his wife, Ann; his children and their spouses, Loretta Cimmarusti Chicoine and her husband, Richard, and Lawrence and Amalia and Ralph and Hallie Cimmarusti; grandchildren, Patti Chicoine Nelson and her husband, Marc, and Patrick, Ralph, Annie, Larry, Paula and Loretta Cimmarusti; and great-grandchildren, Lauren and Grant Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our condolences to Pat's family and in honoring his loving service to family, community and Nation.

HONORING CHRIS TOMPKINS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Tompkins, a young man whose short but extraordinary life recently came to an end.

I met Chris many years ago during my first campaign for Congress. He held campaign signs for me on street corners, though the signs were nearly as big as him. I could tell then, even at such an early age, that he was a go-getter. I knew that Chris was a special young man who would achieve much. And achieve he did.

Chris served as one of my congressional pages during his junior year of high school. He went on to the University of Florida, where he enrolled in the honors program. He became the University's first Truman Scholar and later served as student body president of Florida's law school.

After law school, Chris worked as a legislative aide to a local state House member where he played an integral role in crafting the State's Y2K plan. Chris then returned to Hillsborough County to become an agricultural attorney. He was elected supervisor of the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District and became heavily involved in Republican politics, serving as a member of the county's Republican Executive Committee for 16 years. He also volunteered his time and talents to many civic causes because he cared about the community in which he lived.

Chris was in the midst of a campaign for the Florida House of Representatives when he