Rick Flores is an excellent example of a Sheriff who understands the needs of his community. Sheriff Flores spent six years working for the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Flores has experience in providing crisis intervention and counseling for local families.

Sheriff Flores is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Webb County Domestic Violence Coalition's ''Breaking the Cycle'' Award and his induction into the National Future Leaders Hall of Fame by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Sheriff Flores believes that an informed public is better equipped for preventing crime in our streets and neighborhoods. He has organized numerous events and workshops helping to educate Webb County citizens on pressing issues such as drug abuse, sexual assault and teen violence. Rick Flores is an example of proactive law enforcement in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the achievements of Webb County Sheriff Rick Flores.

A TRIBUTE TO MABEL MUNIZ-SARDUY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mabel Muniz-Sarduy who has dedicated her professional career to educating our children.

Mabel has been a student, community resident, teacher, Parent Coordinator, Assistant Principal and now Principal at P.S. 86 in the Bushwick community. As a student she attended the schools in District 32. As a community resident, she has been a youth leader and president of her block association.

Mabel has a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts from Hunter College, a Masters Degree in Reading from Hunter College as well as a professional diploma from Long Island University in Administration.

She began her professional career as a teacher at Saint Martin's of Tours, and then as a teacher at P.S. 86. Next, Mabel moved from the classroom to administration as a Parent Coordinator, an Assistant Principal at P.S. 106, and to her current position as the Principal at P.S. 86.

Mabel strives every day to empower and create a positive image for the community she loves. She is a firm believer that through education you can change your life and impact many others. Holding high expectations, she continues to strive to make sure that our students, educators, parents and community residents are involved in the progress of our students. She is married with two beautiful boys, Rafael and Jeremy.

Mr. Speaker, Mabel Muniz-Sarduy has ably served her community by dedicating her career to educating our students and thereby improving the lives of many New York City residents.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recognize China's National People Congress current meeting in Beijing. One of the most controversial bills under consideration is the Anti-secession Law targeted at Taiwan. If enacted, the law will give Chinese leaders the authority to annex Taiwan by force if Taiwanese leaders are found promoting Taiwan independence. This law is very unfriendly to Taiwan and I understand it has aroused public outcry and protests throughout Taiwan.

Understandably the leaders and people of Taiwan are disturbed by this proposed law. It is their position that Taiwan has never been part of the People's Republic of China. They also feel there is no legal basis or justification for China's territorial claims. I believe the people of Taiwan value a free and democratic way of life and they would like to co-exist with the Chinese people on the mainland peacefully. The economic and cultural relations between Taiwan and China should be developed on the principles of peace, faith, trust and mutual respect.

The proposed law represents a unilateral change of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and threatens regional peace and security. Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has said that he is willing to dialogue with the Chinese leaders and discuss issues of mutual interest including eventual reunification of Taiwan and China. Both Taiwan and China desire peace and co-existence, and they should be able to work out their differences without enacting this new law.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in urging the Chinese leaders not to enact the Anti-secession law.

HONORING PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Paul VI Catholic High School Baseball Team on their 2004 Virginia Independent Schools Baseball Association State Baseball Championship victory.

The Paul VI Panthers of Fairfax County, Virginia won the 2004 Virginia Independent Schools Baseball Association State Baseball Championship by defeating Bishop O'Connell High School 5–0 in the state title championship game. The Virginia Independent Schools Baseball Association sponsors the highest level championship among all private schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Paul VI Panthers, runners-up in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference South Division, qualified for the state title game by defeating Bishop Sullivan High School 12–2 in the state playoffs. The Panthers then went on to qualify for the state title game by defeating St. Stephen's High School 5–3. The Paul VI Panthers completed the season with a strong 17–12 record.

The following team members are recognized for their leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the entire season: Seniors—Ryne Bromley, Dan Cinalli, Sean Fitzgerald, Mike Geraghty, T.J. Guinan, Jose Herrera, Carl Kaczmarek and Jeff Manthe. Juniors—Ricky Blazquez, Scott Eastment, Chuck Evans, Alex Gregory, Justus Hogge, Trey McMenamin, Will Naylor, J.T. Richardson, and Brian Short. Sophomores—Robert Lamas, Zach Miller, Brett Moore, John Polcari, John Ralston and Scott Walsh. Student Manager—Cam Dugger. Head Coach—Billy Emerson and assistants Dave Beach, Tad Davidovich, Jeff Nolan and Tony Salgado.

The Panthers baseball team displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout the regular season as well as postseason tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the baseball team on its successful season. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Paul VI High School for their outstanding and continued success.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Chairman. I rise today to express my support to an amendment to H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users, offered by my colleague, Representative TOM OSBORNE of Nebraska.

The Osborne Amendment would allow the State of Nebraska the opportunity to revisit a state statute restricting length of vehicles used by custom harvesters during harvest season. The length law in Nebraska has been frozen at 65 feet since 1991. Unfortunately, this restriction does not accommodate much of today's modern custom harvesting equipment which often exceeds this length.

Existing laws in surrounding western states currently permit truck length approximately 15 feet longer than in Nebraska. My home state of South Dakota permits commercial vehicle combinations up to 81 feet, 6 inches in length. This inconsistency in state laws creates a significant obstacle for harvesters, who travel from south to north each year, and must reconfigure their equipment in order to legally transport it through the state of Nebraska into neighboring states. This is a slow, expensive, and unnecessary process.

The Osborne Amendment would enable the State of Nebraska to alleviate much of the burden on custom harvesters during harvest time by creating greater uniformity in length laws throughout western agricultural states. Increasing the efficiency by which custom harvesters travel throughout the Midwest will benefit both producers and consumers and I am pleased to voice my support for this amendment.