

Mr. Speaker, let there be no misunderstanding that the King holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society, but who also led a movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality.

It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. No other day of the year brings so many peoples from different cultural backgrounds together in such a vibrant spirit of brother and sisterhood. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you are Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King, Jr. had for America. This is not just an African-American holiday; it is a peoples' holiday. And it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the keys to the fulfillment of his dream.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge all Americans by making your personal commitment to serve humanity with the vibrant spirit of unconditional love that was his greatest strength, and which empowered all of the great victories of his leadership.

May we who follow Martin now pledge to serve humanity, promote his teachings and carry forward his legacy into the 21st century.

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. because he showed us the way to mend those broken fences and to move on in building this land rather than destroying it. He led campaign after campaign in the streets of America and on to the governor's mansion—even to the White House—in an effort to secure change.

Mr. Speaker, today African-Americans have Federal legislation which provides access and legal protection in the areas of public accommodations, housing, voting rights, schools, and transportation. Thank you Dr. King for being the drum major who was able and ready to lead our Nation to greater heights through love and peace.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. SAMUELS

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert J. Samuels, this year's recipient of the Minority Health Leadership Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Minority Health.

Following his own battle with cancer, Bob dedicated his life to helping others in the fight against prostate cancer. He quickly became a passionate and dedicated advocate for men's health not only in Florida, but nationwide, and his visionary leadership has produced significant advances in beating back prostate cancer.

Bob is the founding chairman of the Florida Prostate Cancer Network (FPCN) and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, as well as an advisor on a host of other national committees and task forces that are working to promote cancer research and treatment. In Congress and the Florida Legislature Bob has been a strong voice for increased funds for cancer research. He played a critical role in the passage of the Florida Prostate Cancer Aware-

ness Act and in the effort to secure a \$1 million federal grant to establish a prostate cancer training and research institute at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Numerous organizations, including the Florida Legislature, Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa and The Prostate Net, have honored Bob for his tireless efforts. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank Bob for his commitment to helping those struggling with cancer and thank the Department of Health and Human Services for recognizing Bob's work.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN M. RAINONE UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Susan Rainone upon her retirement, and wish to thank her for her service to our country. Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, MSgt Susan M. Rainone enlisted in the United States Air Force in January of 1986. After graduating from Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, she was sent to Chanute AFB, Illinois to attend the Airframe Repair Apprentice course.

In June 1986, A1C Rainone was assigned to the 6515th Field Maintenance Squadron at Edwards AFB, California. During her assignment at Edwards, she worked as an Airframe Repair Journeyman on a variety of airframes from the small A-37 to a much larger KC-135. In her second year in service, A1C Rainone competed and was selected for Senior Airmen Below the Zone, which allowed her to sew on the Senior Airman stripe six months early. In late 1988, she was promoted to the rank of Buck Sergeant and within the following six months she was notified of her selection to Staff Sergeant. In May, 1989 she completed the Training Systems Specialist course at Sheppard AFB, Texas and returned to Edwards AFB, to work in the Base Training office where she responsible for the training programs of the base. While at Edwards AFB, SSgt Rainone attended the Airman Leadership School and upon graduation was selected as a distinguished graduate, finishing in the top 10% of her class.

After being stationed at Edwards AFB for almost 9 years SSgt Rainone and was transferred to Osan Air Base in the Republic of South Korea. While at Osan, SSgt Rainone served as the Unit Training Manager for the 51st Transportation Squadron. During her tenure she nearly doubled the number of personnel enrolled in college courses. After her tour in Korea, SSgt Rainone was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona where she served as the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Scheduling Element. Here she was responsible for scheduling and updating training for over 3,500 aircraft maintenance personnel.

In September 1998 SSgt Rainone was promoted to Technical Sergeant. She applied and was selected for the position of Training Manager for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds." In April,

1999 TSgt Rainone relocated to Nellis AFB, Nevada where she was assigned as the Unit Safety Representative, a load team member responsible for 50,000 pounds of air show equipment. In October 1999, MSgt Rainone attended the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and again graduated as a distinguished graduate. TSgt was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in December 2002.

MSgt Rainone was reassigned to Vandenberg AFB, California April 2003. She was assigned to the 392nd Training Squadron as the Superintendent, Space and Missile Operations Training Development responsible for managing courses supporting the combat readiness of the nation's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile force. While at Vandenberg, MSgt Rainone completed the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy course by correspondence, earning the Academic Excellence Award by averaging 95% over five closed book exams. One year later, she was moved to Detachment 1, 345th Training Squadron, Naval Base Ventura County, where she is the Chief, Education and Training Programs and Course Manager for Vehicle and Equipment courses.

I wish to commend and thank MSgt Rainone for her leadership and dedication. She is truly a role model and deserves the many commendations and awards that she has received. I wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT "SONNY" SMITH

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Sonny" Smith who was recently inducted into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth Baseball was started as a "grass roots" movement in the small, rural communities of Colorado. The town of Las Animas is no exception, and like most towns, the Babe Ruth program has flourished because of the efforts and actions of volunteers like Sonny who stepped up to the plate to serve others.

Sonny's involvement with Babe Ruth began around 1982. He was the District 2 Commissioner for 10 years and then became the Assistant State Commissioner for the 15 year-old Babe Ruth program. He has held that position from 1992 to the present time.

Sonny has not just been active in Babe Ruth in his community, but in other endeavors as well. He was the Las Animas Ball Association Vice President from 1978-1980. He served as a Las Animas City Councilman from 1982-1986 and was the chairman for the Parks and Swimming Pool committees. Sonny was a member of the Las Animas School Board from 1996-2000. He has been a member of the Bent County Recreation Committee from 1978 to the present time. He served on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Council from 1988-1992, and he has served as a football, baseball, softball, and basketball official from 1978 to the present time.

One of Sonny's most notable achievements was his work on the Ad-Hoc Committee for building the new baseball field in Las Animas from 1998-2004. This field has hosted many

area tournaments, as well as the local Babe Ruth League games.

Where does this man get the energy to accomplish these feats? I believe it comes from a strong desire to see the young people in his community and around the state have an opportunity to participate and excel in the great game of baseball.

Sonny has been a very valuable member of the Colorado Babe Ruth League, Inc. management team. His good-natured attitude and "laid back" style have served him well when handling issues that come up at the various levels of tournament play. He has even worked on Babe Ruth Tournaments for the Midwest Region.

Because of Sonny's love for kids and his commitment to the Babe Ruth program, he has been welcomed into the Colorado Babe Ruth Hall of Fame, and I am proud to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert "Sonny" Smith for his outstanding contributions to his community.

CONGRATULATING KEN STROM,
RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL
AUDUBON SOCIETY'S GOLDEN
EGRET AWARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ken Strom, who is this recipient of the National Audubon Society's Golden Egret Award.

Ken is the Director of Conservation and Public Policy for Audubon Colorado, a graduate of Cornell University, and a Viet Nam veteran.

Ken started his Audubon experience at Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina. For 11 years Ken managed Audubon's Rowe Wildlife Sanctuary, a critical habitat for Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River in Nebraska. Ken's efforts protected hundreds of thousands of these birds so that they could use the same feeding grounds as their predecessors.

Ken coordinated a series of international partnerships for over ten years in which he advised scientists and policy-makers in a number of countries including Russia and Pakistan, countries without a history of wildlife conservation. These unique partnerships allowed Ken to establish conservation strategies for water resources and wetland habitats. Due to his work with Mumtaz Malik in the Northwest Frontier of Pakistan, two protected areas for cranes today exist on branches of the Indus River. In Russia, he was part of team with Serge Smirenski, George Archibald and Noritaki Ishida that established the first private park on the Indus River.

In Colorado, Ken has helped to establish and monitor 53 Important Bird Areas (IBA). Given the state of wetlands in Colorado, this accomplishment stands out. Ken also directed Audubon's highly visible nationwide population and habitat program that engaged hundreds of leaders and 20,000 activists working on education and public advocacy. A result of this significant project, millions of Americans learned about the effects between human population growth and the environment.

Ken served as an instructor and director of Audubon's Ecology Camp in the Rockies, educating teachers, instructors and citizens. He inspired hundreds of people each year to become voices on behalf of conservation.

Ken is also an accomplished writer with a keen sense for describing nature. He is the co-editor with his wife, Pat Waak, of the book, "Sharing the Earth: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Population, Wildlife and the Environment." He is also the author of "Population and Habit in the New Millennium."

Ken Strom is effectively working to fight the good fight to protect and win important victories for wilderness, wetlands and other critical habitat areas. As Audubon honors Ken Strom with its highest award, I believe it is fitting for my colleagues to join me in acknowledging a lifetime of achievement in conservation.

TRIBUTE TO THE 376TH ENGINEER
BATTALION OF HAMMOND, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I take this opportunity to welcome home members of the 376th Engineer Battalion of Hammond, Indiana, and to honor them for their patriotism, their dedication, and their willingness to defend their country. These brave soldiers, known as the Men of Steel, recently returned to Northwest Indiana after completing several missions in Mosul, Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 376th honorably provided security during the recent Iraqi elections, took part in reconstruction efforts within Iraqi cities, provided humanitarian support to the people of Iraq, and courageously disposed of improvised explosive devices. The members of the 376th Engineer Battalion will be recognized at a homecoming ball in their honor, which will take place on January 21, 2006, at the Dynasty Banquet Hall in Hammond, Indiana.

The people of this entire nation, as well as the citizens of Iraq, can be proud of the sacrifice and courage of these fine individuals: CPT Sean Begley, PV2 Alexander Baker, SPC Christopher Bennett, PV1 Adam Branson, SPC David Croyle, PV1 Joseph Gibbs, SPC Jaime Hoch, SPC Muain Issa, SPC Tobey Johnson, SGT Nicholas Kowalczyk, SPC Ashley Sharp, SPC Terry Specyal, SGT Jose Tovalin, SPC Aaron Vance, SPC Michael Vician, SGT Travis Wheatley, SFC William Johnson, SPC Luke Abbott, SPC Daniel Wiley, SPC Joseph Veyette, SPC Enrique Uribe, SSG Mark Tegtman, SPC William Sideris, SPC Aaron Santonelli, SPC Carlos Reyes, SPC Brian Panzik, SGT Donald Mull, PFC William Mills, SPC Angel Lozano, SPC Timothy Bishop, PFC Christopher Boger, SPC Steven Bramer, PV2 David Kuzmar, SPC Jason Loebbaka, SPC Thomas Martinez, PFC Brandon McCormick, SGT David Moake, SSG Stephen Otten, SGT Gershom Parr, SFC Melvin Pennington, SPC Daniel Rubalcava, SPC Vincent Lenart, SPC Allen Hughes, SGT Robert Jaso, SPC Matthew Gabrano, SGT Ryan Bood, SPC Jonathan Bright, SPC Corrie Covelli, SPC Ryan Eder, SGT Michael Guz,

SGT Brian Brandenburg, SPC Joshua Buikema, SPC Jonathan Cuevas, SSG Thomas Kopanda, SPC Paul Gordon, SSG Matthew Hamater, PFC Michael Brunzman, and SPC Michael Coughlin.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the members of the 376th Engineer Battalion, the Men of Steel, for their dedication and courage in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will forever remain heroes in the eyes of their families, their communities, and their country. Let us welcome them home and thank them for their commitment to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

HONORING JAN BORMAN'S COMMITMENT TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the exemplary service that Jan Borman provided for the labor community of western New York.

Jan began her career in the labor force in 1966 as an operator at New York Telephone. She was active as a job steward and then chief steward as a frame tech at the Hertel Central office in Buffalo, NY.

In 1986 Jan was elected area vice president of the Communication Worker's of America, CWA, Local 1122 where she represented New York Telephone, Visiting Nursing Association and Jewish Family Services employees.

As CWA area vice president, Jan extended herself and her talents to several worthy community organizations including: The United Way, Citizens Action, AFL-CIO and the Monsignor Healy Foundation. In 1994 Jan was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Way and was also active on the boards of the Work Force Development Committee, and Independent Health of western New York.

Jan's involvement in organized labor flourished, and she served in several leadership capacities. In 2000, Jan was the first woman ever to be elected as executive vice president of CWA Local 1122. Jan demonstrated her commitment to labor and earned the trust of her fellow members and in 2003 Jan Borman became the first woman President of CWA Local 1122.

Most recently Jan was elected as recording secretary for the Buffalo Council AFL-CIO CLC where she demonstrated her commitment to the organized labor movement.

Jan will be remembered for her dedication and pursuit of just labor causes. Her service enriched the lives of so many men and women who live and work in the western New York area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have worked with Jan Borman. She served CWA Local 1122 proudly and with strong conviction. I would like to thank Jan for her service to our community and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.