

off to an excellent start. During the two-day planning symposium, representatives of the National Library, The Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History, the National Archives and the Ministry of Culture were in attendance as were some of the country's leading scholars in the field of Afro-Colombian Studies. All have gone on record in support of this effort. Eduardo García Vega, Director of the Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó, has made a major commitment to the effort. There is already an academic program in Afro-Colombian Studies and plans are underway to offer a Masters Degree in the field. A full floor of the new technology building that is currently under construction has been designated to house the Center. It is scheduled for completion and occupancy in June 2006. Members of the faculty and staff of the University are already working with the Rector to make the Center a reality. Finally, Georgetown University's (Washington, D.C.) Colombia Program and the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá have thrown their full support behind this effort.

Among the unique features of the Center is that it will house a 21st century archive. The Center will conduct oral histories and document through film, audio, and audiovisual media contemporary Afro-Colombian cultural expressions. And it will collect and preserve some printed records. But the central archive of the Center will be a virtual one. Using the 21st century Internet technology, the Center will assemble a comprehensive virtual archive of print, audio, and audiovisual resources documenting Afro-Colombian history and culture. Developing a virtual resource will allow libraries, museums and archives that currently house Afro-Colombian materials to participate in the development of this national program without having to give up their original materials. Once online, the materials will be accessible throughout the country as well as throughout the world. Researchers and scholars will be able to conduct their research without having to leave their homes or their institutions. This national digital archive on Afro-Colombian cultural expressions will be the centerpiece of the Center's larger program of research, education, and celebration.

I cannot begin to underscore the importance of this initiative. While we at the Schomburg Center attempt to document the global black experience, we are clear that no single institution can carry out such an ambitious agenda. Every country in the world that has large African descended populations needs a Center that is focused on preserving the records of their past. We have done an extraordinary job of documenting the African-American experience in the United States and our collections contain representative documentation of black people around the world. A national documentation center such as the one contemplated in Colombia will go a long way toward preserving the Afro-Colombian heritage for the Colombian people as well as filling this important gap in the documentation of the global black experience.

TRIBUTE TO LEILANI SPERBER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Leilani Sperber whose sunny disposition and compassionate heart touched many lives in northeast Colorado. Leilani was born in Holyoke, CO and

spent most of her life in Phillips County. She and her husband Gary taught school for a few years before settling in Holyoke where Leilani was a full-time mother and homemaker. Together they raised a daughter, Shawn and two sons, Eric and Mark.

Leilani always had time to nurture friendships and gently encourage those she encountered each day. Her generosity and deep faith led to her involvement in numerous church activities including serving on the Missions Committee, teaching Sunday School, sponsoring the youth group, helping with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes High School Huddle group, and participating in two mission trips to Mexico.

Leilani always followed wherever her strong convictions led her, but she did it with a kind heart and was always respectful of the needs and concerns of people around her. She worked on numerous community projects. She was actively involved in the Friends of the Library and served as president. She worked to get the Heginbotham Library in Holyoke in the register of historical places. She was also part of the effort to raise funds and help restore the Peerless Center in Holyoke. She was a huge supporter of local sports, especially when her husband was coaching or her children were participating. Leilani also was actively involved in the Republican Party and served as precinct chairman and delegate to the State Conventions.

When her children were out of the home, Leilani's eagerness to learn and grow led her to return to school and earn her Master's degree in agency counseling. She worked for Centennial Mental Health as a counselor before taking a position with the Haxtun Hospital as a Social Service director. While in this position, Leilani organized a cancer survivors support group.

Leilani's life was a lesson in how to enjoy life, honor God, care for others, face difficulties with courage, and make a positive impact on the world. I am proud to honor Leilani who is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. "Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the way of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, but you exceed them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:25-30) Leilani was a precious, beautiful woman.

HONORING MICHAEL SCOTT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished tenure of Michael Scott, president of the Chicago Board of Education. Michael recently announced that he will retire from the board on July 21, 2006. Chicago's public school students and parents will miss the dedication and professionalism he has brought to the public schools and his service to the city.

Michael was raised on the west side of Chicago, attended St. Philip's High School and later earned a B.A. in urban planning from Fordham University. He first became involved in local government after spending many years as a developer. His early dedication to the betterment of Chicago's communities drew attention from the late Mayor Harold Washington. Michael went on to serve in the administrations of Mayor Washington and Mayor Richard Daley.

In June 2001, Michael Scott was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education, and elected president of the board that same month. For the past 5 years, Michael has dedicated his energy and talents to this challenging and time consuming position, working on a voluntary basis. Under his direction, the Chicago Public Schools have thrived. One of Michael's key initiatives, in partnership with Mayor Daley, was Renaissance 2010, a program that closed underperforming schools and reached out to private donors to build new ones. Together they built the first new Chicago public school in 29 years.

Michael has combined strong managerial skills with an ability to bring students, parents, and teachers together to solve problems and create opportunities. He has worked very hard for the students of Chicago and cares about them deeply. His engaging personality has also helped him build strong relationships with parents and teachers.

Michael's success can be seen in the students' improved math and reading test scores. The schools have also worked hard to reduce truancy. Michael's creativity and innovation have also resulted in new programs such as ballroom dancing and other opportunities for student creativity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a true public servant on the successful completion of his tenure. On behalf of all of Chicago's families, I thank Michael Scott for his dedication and wish him the best of luck in the future.

HONORING ELIZABETH LODAL IN RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Lodal, who is retiring after 40 years of service to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Mrs. Lodal, the principal of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, studied math and physics at Rice University. She began her career as an English and history teacher; later, she was the principal of Joyce Kilmer Middle School and Langston Hughes Middle School. After her tenure in the middle school system, she served as the principal of McLean High School for 10 years. She will be retiring this August, which comes 6 years after she came out of retirement to lead Thomas Jefferson High School at the behest of Daniel Domenech, the former supervisor of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Mrs. Lodal has received numerous accolades, which are all testaments to her dedication to this community. In 1998, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma

mater, Rice University. In addition, she has received the McLean Chamber of Commerce President's Award as the Outstanding Chamber Member and she was awarded the Rabbi Richard Sternberger Social Justice Award for combating racism, bigotry and prejudice in Northern Virginia.

Mrs. Lodal is dedicated to all aspects of the county. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Opera and she is active in the American Boychoir School and Vinson Hall, a Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard retirement community. She lobbied for the renovation of McLean High School in the 1980s. She maintains a strong sense of duty to all students, as she will continue to fight for women's involvement in the math and sciences during her retirement.

Our students are our number one resource. Mrs. Lodal has dedicated her life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 40 years in Fairfax County, she has made a lasting impact on thousands of students. She will continue her remarkable career by representing Virginia as a delegate to the Education Commission of the States.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Elizabeth Lodal and congratulating her retirement after a distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING BLAINE EVAN
STECK FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blaine Evan Steck, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blaine has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blaine has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blaine Evan Steck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DISCOVERY OF AIDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of HIV/AIDS which remains a matter of global concern, even twenty-five years after the first case was diagnosed. June 5, 2006, as the world recognized the anniversary of AIDS, I am reminded that our duty as a world power is to ensure that this epidemic does not continue to devastate lives.

Present day AIDS education is lacking the appropriate resources to spread the message that this disease is preventable. Without these resources and advocates to stand for the cause, HIV/AIDS will continue to infect millions of people worldwide. It is critical that this country and its leaders begin to increase awareness nationwide so that our constituents will understand the causes as well as effects of AIDS while we continue to be outspoken in the fight to find a cure.

Furthermore, AIDS continues to ravage our communities due to the fact that there is not enough federal or state money placed into health initiatives to treat current patients or to find a cure. With the desperately needed funding for medical programs and treatment centers, many new cases can be prevented and persons who have the virus will receive affordable quality medication.

We all have a calling to service our communities by making policies that increase awareness and target funding towards HIV/AIDS. I will maintain my stance that HIV/AIDS affects us all regardless of class, race or sex. Therefore, we must present a united front in the effort to prevent this disease from spreading and remain committed to increasing appropriations for HIV/AIDS, education and treatment.

[From the Washington Post, June 2, 2006]

ANOTHER \$10 BILLION

The Generals in the global battle against HIV-AIDS are meeting at the United Nations this week, five years after another U.N. summit promised an intensified push against the crisis. The target of mobilizing \$7 billion to \$10 billion per year has been met: Last year low- and middle-income countries spent \$2.5 billion of their own money and an additional \$5.8 billion from donors on AIDS treatment and prevention and the care of orphans. But that money has bought less than expected. Rather than hitting the "three by five" target of getting medicines to 3 million people by 2005, the world has put only about 1.4 million people on treatment—a big improvement on the 240,000 who were receiving drugs in 2001 but still well less than half of the number who need medicines immediately. Equally, better-financed prevention efforts have succeeded in driving down infection rates among young adults, notably in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti. But last year there were 4.1 million new infections worldwide. The plague is still advancing.

The summitters in New York therefore confront a daunting problem. The latest U.N. estimate, which may prove as optimistic as the last one, is that fighting the disease will soon require \$20 billion to \$23 billion a year, more than twice the current spending. What's more, this is not a temporary commitment: Once people go on antiretroviral treatment, they need medicines for years; caring for orphans is also a long-term proposition. Assuming that some of the extra resources will be provided by middle-income countries, the rich world may need to reach into its taxpayers' pockets for an extra \$10 billion a year. Official development assistance, which has already jumped by more than two-thirds in real terms between 2000 and 2005, would have to grow by a tenth or so.

Moreover, the effect of that money will be limited unless the world expands its commitment to other development efforts. Donor-financed AIDS programs can suck nurses and doctors out of the rest of the health system, so an increase in AIDS spending requires a parallel increase in general health investment. AIDS flourishes in poor societies because illiteracy and penury make people vul-

nerable; success against the virus depends partly on broader progress. As President Paul Kagame of Rwanda told The Post on Wednesday, there's no use in giving someone antiretroviral drugs if he has no food.

The imperative to raise extra money for AIDS and other development objectives raises an institutional issue. To carry out its commitments of five years ago, the world created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has raised and spent an impressive \$5 billion; the question is whether this venture should be the vehicle for the next step-up in AIDS funding. The fund's critics, notably the Bush administration, rightly say that it has suffered from poor management, that it has occasionally given money on the basis of poor grant proposals and that it has indulged grantees whose performance should have led to a suspension of disbursements. But rather than snipe at the fund, the critics should work to improve it. The fund's structure provides a way of sharing the financial burden globally. The quality of its grants has recently gone up. And centralizing AIDS finance simplifies the administrative burden on stressed officials from poor countries. The fund's entrepreneurial leader, Richard Feachem, has announced that he will leave when his term expires this year. The priority should be to find a replacement who is pushy enough to raise extra money and sawy enough to solidify the institution's management.

AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY AND
GOOD JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 5429, the so-called American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, which attempts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to industrial development.

In March we were reminded of the potential environmental consequences of drilling in the refuge when an Alaskan pipeline leaked 200,000 gallons of crude oil onto the surrounding slope. This is the largest spill ever in the North Slope and a timely caution against opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling.

Because I have visited the Arctic Refuge and seen its unique wilderness first hand, such news strengthens my resolve to protect the refuge and press for real solutions to our country's energy challenges.

This bill would do nothing more than continue our pattern of unchecked consumption. It is another attempt to sell Americans the false promise of easy answers on energy policy.

Our energy situation will not change until Congress gets serious about tackling America's oil dependence. With the booming economies of China and India squeezing global oil supply, and political instability among key oil producing countries like Iran, Nigeria and Iraq, we should expect rising oil prices for some time to come.

This proposal to open ANWR is a short-sighted answer to a long-term problem. I urge my colleagues to vote against the rule and the underlying bill.