

grants and through the Local Action Strategies. The bill supports the continued use of these successful conservation management tools. To be successful in the long-term it is imperative to have the local and regional entities involved in the conservation of coral reef resources from the start.

This legislation also recognizes the important role the Department of the Interior has played in coral reef conservation and would authorize much needed funding for their activities. This bill, however, does not change the fundamental jurisdictions and roles of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce, but recognizes that the Department of the Interior has a role in this endeavor. In addition the bill continues to support and recognize the accomplishments and conservation efforts of the Department of Commerce. Both agencies have participated in coral reef conservation activities and this bill encourages their continued cooperation and coordination.

While the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 has been very successful in restoring and protecting coral reefs, it has had limitations in its grant program. The Coral Reef Conservation Legacy Act would allow for multi-year cooperative agreements between the Federal Government and other agencies, states, territories, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. This multi-year authority will allow more stability in funding for important projects that might now be finalized in or limited to one year.

This legislation also codifies the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. The Task Force has been an important voice for coral reef activities and has coordinated the activities in support of coral reef conservation. This codification recognizes the important work of the Task Force and the indispensable role they have played in the conservation of coral reefs.

The Coral Reef Conservation Legacy Act will continue the ongoing efforts to protect and restore coral reefs. I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves through the legislative process.

#### STATEMENT HONORING ROGER ANDAL

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of Roger Andal, Vietnam veteran and former South Dakota Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, who died on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at the age of 57 from complications after surgery in his battle against Crohn's disease.

I am deeply saddened by the news that my good friend Roger Andal has passed away. Roger lived a life of service to his fellow Americans. He was drafted in July 1969 and was sent to Vietnam that December where he served as a platoon medic with the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Roger served the next five months in the jungle around Pleiku in the central highlands of Vietnam before being hit with shrapnel from a rocket propelled grenade. He spent the following five months in military hospitals before being honorably discharged on April 13, 1971.

Following his tour of duty in Vietnam, Roger became one of the most tenacious and most effective advocates for veterans that South Dakota, or the nation, has ever seen. Roger's cause was righteous and his will was unyielding. But even in those tough and passionate battles on issues he cared about, he also brought a caring spirit, a hearty laugh, and a ready hug that touched all who knew him. Roger relished a good battle, but he was as kindhearted as he was dogged in his pursuit of ensuring that the federal government keep its promises to our nation's veterans. As State Commander of the South Dakota Disabled American Veterans, he was a true leader, who fought the tough fights and led by example. He quietly suffered the effects of his own injuries while working so hard to ease the pain of others, including the physical and mental pain experienced by his fellow combat veterans years after their service to the country.

Today, we remember and honor the noble service and the undeterred commitment of Roger Andal to the United States of America. I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to his family. Roger's commitment to and sacrifice for our nation will never be forgotten. The lives of countless veterans and their families, including my own, were touched and helped by Roger's work, and we all have a heavy burden to carry in his absence. My thoughts and prayers are with Roger's wife Peggy, his children and all his family in this time of sorrow and I look forward to continuing to fight for those things Roger cared about so deeply.

#### COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I also want to add that Mr. MCCRERY wanted to cosponsor H.R. 5252, but was unable to do so because the bill already had been reported by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. I certainly appreciate his interest in cosponsoring the bill nonetheless.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICK JENNINGS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Jennings, who has diligently served the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, of which I am the Chairman, for the past several months.

Prior to Patrick beginning his service with the Subcommittee, he served as the retire-

ment policy expert on law enforcement and firefighter issues for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). In this role, he took the lead for retirement-related input to the Congressionally-mandated OPM report entitled Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits (July 2004). Patrick served as primary expert for advising the Center for Retirement and Insurance Services on competing survivor claims, state laws on inheritance and marriage, and foreign marriages. He also acted as agency representative in administrative litigation before the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, thereby promoting OPM's position in a variety of retirement areas.

Patrick began his service with the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization in January 2005, as a detailee from the OPM. Over the course of the past year and a half, Patrick has proven himself time and again as a man of exemplary professionalism. As Senior Counsel, Patrick's service was of an extraordinary caliber, where he made recommendations on a variety of issues and legislation before the Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patrick Jennings. The dedication he has shown to the work of the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization is greatly appreciated, and he will be surely missed. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF WYNNE ANTONIO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mrs. Wynne Antonio, upon her retirement after 35 years of dedicated service in the Cleveland Municipal School District.

For 35 years, Mrs. Wynne Antonio has loved, nurtured and taught Cleveland's school children with all her heart. She has worked collaboratively with parents to involve them in both decision-making as well as supportive roles. Mrs. Antonio went beyond the call of duty to expose her students to the arts, culture and government of Ohio to prove that a child's education goes beyond the classroom.

In addition to her dedication to her students, Mrs. Antonio has been an active leader in the Cleveland Teachers Union as a building chair, a member of many internal committees, and the chair of Community Relations for the Cleveland Teachers Union Executive Board. On a political level, Mrs. Antonio has been active in local, state and national political campaigns. It is also not uncommon to find this distinguished educator at street rallies for peace, human rights and economic justice. Just this past spring, my office had the privilege of giving her and the students of Carl F. Shuler Middle School a tour of the Capitol building during their visit to Washington DC.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mrs. Wynne Antonio for commitment to education in Northeast Ohio. Mrs. Antonio's dedication to her work serves as a model to her colleagues and an inspiration to us all. I wish Mrs. Antonio many blessed years of happiness and am sure that while her professional career has

come to an end, she will continue to have an affect on us all.

HONORING JAMES A. WILLIAMS,  
DIRECTOR, US-VISIT PROGRAM  
AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of James (Jim) Williams, Director of the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. After a strong tenure heading up US-VISIT, Jim has agreed to take on new challenges as Commissioner of the Federal Acquisition Service in the General Services Administration.

Jim is a selfless public servant, and has been an effective leader at the Department of Homeland Security. US-VISIT is a continuum of security measures that keep America's doors open and our Nation secure. US-VISIT begins overseas, at the U.S. consular offices issuing visas, where visitors' biometrics are collected and checked against a database of known criminals and suspected terrorists. When the visitor arrives at the port of entry, US-VISIT use the same biometrics to verify the person at the port is the same person who received the visa.

Jim understands that strong security measures, when done right, keep the Nation secure and open to legitimate travelers and tourists. He has had the vision and follow-through to oversee the installation of biometric entry procedures at 154 land border ports of entry and at airports and seaports with international arrivals. In turn, US-VISIT has processed nearly 60 million visitors to date, and denied entry to more than 1,100 criminals and immigration violators. At the same time, US-VISIT has not affected wait times at the border and in some instances has actually reduced inspection times. These accomplishments have been appropriately recognized by the ten members of the 9/11 Commission, who gave US-VISIT the highest grade on their final report card.

Thanks in large part to Jim and the team he has assembled, we now have 21st century tools to address our emerging security challenges. These tools are allowing the U.S. to deal more effectively with threats of terrorism, while keeping us competitive in the global economy. I know that Jim will be missed at US-VISIT. I have enjoyed working with him over the past 2 years, and would like to wish him well as he takes on new challenges at the General Services Administration.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARIEL COHEN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ariel Cohen for her remarkable recovery from pediatric stroke and the inspiration she has provided to other pediatric patients at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH).

Ariel's life was profoundly changed on November 30, 2005 when she was struck with a

very rare, often initially misdiagnosed, and almost always seriously debilitating condition—pediatric stroke. Having initially experienced complete paralysis on the left side of her body, Ariel was truly fighting for her life. After eight days in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Ariel entered NRH. Upon her arrival Ariel quickly progressed in the Pediatric Unit at NRH to the point of being able to sit unassisted, and was soon capable of limited weight bearing on her left side.

The first two weeks at NRH saw a striking turn in Ariel's recovery as the strength and control in Ariel's leg, trunk and face progressed rapidly. The Cohen's credit NRH, and specifically the National Center for Children's Rehabilitation, for offering Ariel a well balanced approach to recovery, one that utilized the many disciplines of physical rehabilitation, counseling and aquatic therapy, the most technologically advanced equipment and processes, as well as the incorporation of peer support and an incredible amount of positive reinforcement. Within the first week, Ariel learned to really like and trust her therapists. She looked forward to her sessions, and she was always made to feel successful—no matter how small the gain.

For all that Ariel has received; she has given back—cooking her famous chocolate chip pancakes for the NRH team members who assisted in her rehab, using her own room decorations, surprising a fellow teen at NRH with a room makeover in a well-timed "sneak attack." She was an inspiration for all the pediatric patients at NRH—working incredibly hard with a spirit and determination to recover that has never waned. And while it is true that no 13-year-old girl wants to stand out, Ariel has taken in stride that by standing out, she offers much to other victims of pediatric stroke. From that day in November and Ariel's subsequent ongoing recovery springs a wealth of knowledge on the part of the medical community and, as Ariel hopes, educational resources for other families coping with the effects of pediatric stroke. Every day, Ariel pushes herself to recover more fully, always keenly aware of the gifts she received as a patient at NRH—the keys to own her recovery, mentally, emotionally and physically. As the signs and symptoms of her stroke fade by the day, a complete recovery of use and function now appears probable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ariel Cohen. Her recovery from pediatric stroke is truly an inspiration and her efforts to assist in the recovery of her fellow patients are commendable. When I met Ariel, I couldn't help but be inspired by her determination and passion, which is why I am recognizing her today. She is truly a remarkable young woman, and I wish her the best in her continuing recovery.

INTRODUCTION ON THE IRAQ CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Ms. BARDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Iraq Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act. I serve on the Committee on Armed Services in the House and have

traveled to Iraq 8 times. These trips have allowed me to see Iraq first-hand, to meet with our fighting men and women and civilians serving there, and to learn from them the facts on the ground in that country. This legislation recognizes the complexity of the mission in Iraq and the need for enhanced Congressional oversight based upon comprehensive reporting from the administration.

This legislation is intended to enhance Congressional oversight of our operations in Iraq. This bill would not set a timetable to dictate the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. This bill would require that the President transmit periodically to Congress a consolidated, comprehensive report on the implementation of the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq. This bill would also provide the Congress the vital measures or other benchmarks for Iraq's political, security, and economic development and metrics by which progress towards these benchmarks can be more effectively measured and assessed.

This legislation would affirm Congress's support of our troops and civilian personnel in Iraq, and expresses its concern regarding the continued, deadly insurgent attacks against them. This legislation also would affirm Congress's support for the formation of a democratic, pluralistic, federal, and united Iraq, while urging elected Iraqi leaders to maintain and preserve a national unity government for the Iraqi people. Moreover, this bill recognizes the complex and interdependent nature of the challenges associated with the political, security, infrastructure, and economic development of Iraq, including governance capacity building at and between the various levels of government in Iraq.

The National Strategy for Victory in Iraq, presented by the President on November 30, 2005, is an informative document. The Strategy represents progress toward defining the terms for victory in Iraq. I believe, however, more progress on defining the current mission in Iraq and the benchmarks for achieving victory are necessary. This legislation would require the President to transmit to Congress a report to back-up the Strategy by identifying benchmarks and by using metrics.

It is true that two recent legislative initiatives have required reports along these lines. They are the section entitled "Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq" of House Conference Report 109-72 accompanying H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005, Public Law 109-13, and the U.S. Policy in Iraq Act, Section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Public Law 109-163.

These reports, provided to Congress by the Secretary of Defense, contain useful information. But, when taken together, the reports are not sufficient for Congress to fully exercise its oversight responsibilities pertaining to this war. These reports also do not provide the American people a clear and full picture of what the United States seeks to achieve in Iraq, what the United States Armed Forces and civilian personnel are doing to achieve those objectives, and where we are in the process of achieving them—at the various levels of government within Iraq.

Our service in this body is never more consequential than it is when our troops are in harm's way. Debate regarding issues of war and peace deserves sober reflection, reasoned thinking, critical focus, and balanced