

photojournalism, and a masters degree in electronic journalism in May 1983. Shortly after graduation, he went into education where he taught at the Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District in Los Fresnos, Texas, from August 1999 to May 2000. He also was a teacher with Brownsville Independent School District in Brownsville, Texas, from August 1992 to June 1999. After leaving the education field, he joined the staff of the Brownsville Herald newspaper as copy editor in Brownsville, Texas. He was responsible for page design for daily pages, the Valley Business section and the cover of Valley/State section. Mr. Hall also has worked as a reporter, writer, and photographer for several weekly and daily publications in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Ohio, and Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Michael Hall, editor of the Laredo Morning Times Business Journal, in recognition of his selection as a recipient of the Distinguished Business Awards.

RECOGNIZING MR. KEITH KIRKLAND UPON RECEIVING THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL PAPER CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2006*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Keith Kirkland, the recipient of the 2006 International Paper Conservation Partnership Award.

This award is presented annually to an individual who has achieved significant results in the protection of habitat through a cooperative relationship with a business or company, and Mr. Kirkland, who serves as the Executive Director of The Wolf River Conservancy, is more than deserving.

For more than 20 years, first as a volunteer, and then as an employee of the Conservancy, Mr. Kirkland has championed conservation and has dedicated himself to protecting and enhancing the lands and waters along Tennessee's Wolf River.

Since 2003, when he was appointed Executive Director of the Conservancy, Mr. Kirkland has raised \$12.5 million to support the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Wolf River Restoration Project. This successful project has resulted in ensuring the protection of 17,000 acres and forest and wetlands within the Wolf River flood plain.

Furthermore, Mr. Kirkland has also helped to establish the Ghost River State Natural Area, whose protected landscapes serve as a recharge area for the region's aquifer. The establishment of this Natural Area has safeguarded drinking water for one of Tennessee's fastest-growing areas and habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Kirkland and thanking him for his efforts to protect the forests and rivers of Tennessee. I thank International Paper as well, for recognizing Mr. Kirkland with their award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2006*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 16, I was absent from the House in order to attend the wedding of my eldest son and was forced to miss rollcall vote No. 288. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ROXANNE I. VEDIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 19, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roxanne I. Vedia, Business Services Coordinator for the South Texas Workforce Development Board, on her being selected as a recipient of the "Women in Business Champion of the Year" award by the Laredo Development Foundation's Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Vedia, in her position as Business Services Coordinator for the South Texas Workforce Development Board, oversees the planning, promotion, and implementation of several initiatives that have helped small businesses to develop and prosper in South Texas. Prior to her work as Business Services Coordinator, Ms. Vedia served as a campus service manager for Communities In Schools, a program designed to help reduce the high school drop-out rate. She also previously taught secondary science education for the Laredo Independent School District.

Due to her extensive involvement in several business organizations such as Laredo Business & Professional Women, Financial Women International, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, she has established a philosophy of helping increase business opportunities for women through her present position. Ms. Vedia understands the importance of what it is to be a businesswoman, and it is for this reason she is selected to be a recipient of the "Women in Business Champion of the Year" award.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Ms. Vedia, Business Services Coordinator for the South Texas Workforce Development Board in Laredo, Texas, in recognition of her selection as a recipient of the "Women in Business Champion of the Year" award.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, instead of finding, capturing, or killing the man who viciously attacked our country almost 5 years

ago, the administration misled our country and sent 150,000 troops to war with a country without any credible link to 9/11. Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us mentions Iraq 18 times, but it does not mention Osama bin Laden even once. Not only can we not find bin Laden in Afghanistan, but we can't find him in this resolution either.

If the other side of the aisle is serious about a resolution on the Global War on Terror, they would be better served to get their target correct.

Mr. Speaker, we all support the troops—our brave men and women who selflessly and bravely put themselves in harm's way. That point is not for debate. I carry the troops in my heart every day, and I hope that we work for their safe return home as soon as possible.

This is a time of great anxiety in America, especially for the families of our men and women in uniform, who, as we speak, are serving our country thousands of miles from home, in unfamiliar and often hostile lands. Today's debate should have been centered around a bipartisan resolution that would have allowed all of us to be on the record in support of our troops and against those who would seek to do harm to Americans at home and abroad.

Instead what the Republican Majority has brought before us today not only confuses the War in Iraq with the Global War on Terror, but it is also a transparent effort to divide this body by saying to those who want to start bringing the troops home that we do not support the national security interests of the United States. That is simply not true.

After the terrorist attacks against this country on September 11, 2001, we united behind the effort to remove the Taliban in Afghanistan. That country has made great strides by electing a government, establishing a constitution that grants equal rights to men and women, and opening schools for children who were denied an education by the Taliban. Our investment in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan was both the right thing to do and critical to our security.

Yet our job there is not finished. Much remains to be done to improve security. And most importantly, the hunt for Osama bin Laden continues.

Critical resources that should have been focused on this mission have instead been used in Iraq, a war that was a conclusion in search of a reason, a war of choice rather than of necessity.

Time and again, this Administration used false and misleading information to sell the war to Congress and the American people. The troops were sent into battle without basic equipment, like body armor, night vision goggles, and armored Humvees. We have been playing catch-up ever since to ensure that U.S. soldiers are adequately protected as they serve in Iraq. Just today, the Pentagon announced that 2,500 soldiers have been killed in Iraq. How high will this number go?

Crucially, we invaded Iraq without a plan to win the peace and without enough soldiers to secure a country nearly the size of Texas. In fact, rather than listen to Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki, who suggested that as many as 300,000 troops were required to properly secure postwar Iraq, the Administration ignored him and fired him.

This Administration has repeatedly underestimated the war's cost, which is being funded with emergency spending instead of

through the regular budget process. Rather than hold top advisers accountable for critical and fundamental lapses in judgment, the President praised, retained and even promoted them.

And the Administration and Congress have both failed to conduct any sort of real oversight of this bungled war effort. Billions of dollars have been passed to companies like Halliburton through no-bid contracts, unnecessarily bilking the American taxpayers, but no one has been held accountable. The incompetence in the Administration surrounding the mismanagement of this war is simply jaw-dropping.

All of us are relieved that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi can no longer lead and carry out attacks against American troops and innocent Iraqi citizens. Yet we cannot ignore the fact that Zarqawi gained support for his violent acts because of the instability in Iraq after Saddam Hussein was removed from power.

We have repeatedly asked the President to tell the American people what, specifically, remains for our troops to accomplish in Iraq. How many Iraqi soldiers, as the President himself might say, need to "stand up before our military stands down?" To what extent must the insurgency be defeated? How many attacks per day or per week will we tolerate? Most importantly, how many more young Americans are to give the ultimate sacrifice for a cause that has yet to be defined?

I am a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and a strong supporter of Representative MURTHA's legislation; H.J. Res. 73, which calls for the redeployment of troops from Iraq. Representative MURTHA is one of this body's greatest champions for our fighting men and women. As a veteran, he knows firsthand the dangers of war.

I have the greatest admiration for the Nation's service men and women. We all thank them for their service.

I only wish that we had the opportunity to vote for a resolution that honors the troops but leaves out the political tricks and traps that should not be a part of this debate.

#### HONORING LULA MORALES

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lula Morales, owner of Lula Morales Realty Inc., on her being selected "2006 Laredo Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Business Person of the Year" by the Laredo Development Foundation's Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Morales, a native of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, came to Laredo by way of San Antonio where she attended Incarnate Word High School and Incarnate Word College where she met her husband, Richard Morales in 1989. She has pioneered the way for women in the commercial real estate industry by harnessing the bounty of international trade and investing in economic growth in the city of Laredo in the great State of Texas. She first started out by selling properties but she soon discovered her passion for commercial real estate by developing Regency Park.

Ms. Morales is one of the pillars of the real estate industry in Laredo, Texas, and she helped in the unprecedented economic growth of Laredo through her company, Lula Morales Realty, Inc. Her willingness in reaching her goals by helping others achieve their dreams of owning their own homes or businesses, and going the extra mile for her clients have brought her to where she is today as the 2006 Laredo Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Business Person of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Ms. Morales, owner of Lula Morales Realty, Inc., in Laredo, Texas, in recognition of her selection as the 2006 Laredo Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Business Person of the Year.

IN HONOR OF LINDA T. HARDWICK,  
PH.D.

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Linda T. Hardwick, Ph.D., as we celebrate her exemplary career as an educator, leader and visionary that spans nearly forty years within the Cleveland Public School System.

Dr. Hardwick was born and raised in Cleveland, and is a product of the Cleveland Public Schools. After graduating from John Marshall High School, she enrolled at Central State University and earned an undergraduate degree in just 3 short years. She was awarded a full scholarship to Case Western Reserve University, and completed her Master's Degree in only 18 months. She began her teaching career at Hicks Elementary School, and then was assigned to teach at Harvey Rice Elementary School, where she spent the majority of her teaching career.

Her wisdom, intellect, and obvious joy for teaching gently inspired countless children who were fortunate to have learned from her instruction. Dr. Hardwick set a foundation for students to become lifelong learners by instructing them in various aspects of continuing education, serving as a role model herself. She completed her doctoral studies in education administration at the University of Akron, and soon began serving as assistant principal at Bolton Elementary School. She later became acting principal at Forest Hill Parkway School, where she is currently completing her 15th year as principal. Forest Hill Parkway School was identified by the Ohio Education Trust as one of the highest poverty schools, yet highest performing schools in the State.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Linda T. Hardwick, upon her retirement as a brilliant educator and leader for 37 years within the Cleveland Public School System. Dr. Hardwick's legacy in education is framed by integrity, accomplishment and unwavering dedication to her vocation. The immeasurable impact she's had during her tenure will remain imprinted upon the minds, hearts and lives of her students—especially upon those young minds she has guided down the road of hope by guiding dreams into reality through educational achievement, and her exceptional service will be remembered always.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SANG SU YI

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sang Su Yi, a distinguished member of the business and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Sang Su Yi was born in Kobe, Japan, in 1933 and returned to South Korea right after World War II in 1946. During the Korean civil war, he served at the supply base in the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters Division. At the end of the Korean civil war, Sang Su Yi returned to high school.

Sang Su Yi started his career as a reporter after receiving his bachelor's degree at the University of Han Yang. In 1963, he also served in Seventh Division of the U.S. infantry in Korea. In 1973, when he was offered a job from the Carnival Cruise Line in Miami, Florida, Sang Su Yi decided to enter the new world of the United States of America. In 1976, he came to New York City and started his small business. In 1984, Sang Sui Yi's wife and children immigrated from Seoul, Korea, and joined him in New York City. Since coming to New York City, Sang Su Yi has enhanced his spiritual life. He attends Full Gospel New York Church and has served in various positions. He completed the Bible College with his wife and he is serving the Lord as a deacon in the Church. Currently, Sang Su Yi is the president of the World Mission of Korean Folk Praise. His Folk Praise team, which includes his wife, traveled to many countries to help missionaries to build schools and hospitals in Central and South America.

Additionally, Sang Su Yi is the chairperson of the board of trustees of the Korean Traditional Music Institute of New York. The Korean Traditional Music team has performed more than 1,800 times over last 20 years. They have performed in Washington, DC, Long Island University, Lincoln Center, at the U.N., World Hunger events, museums, local schools, nursing homes, prisons, and almost every parade and major event in New York and New Jersey. Sang Su Yi has received numerous awards including from the chairperson of New York Korean Association, the president of the Long Island Korean Association, a mayor from Guatemala City, a couple of outstanding performance awards from Seoul, Korea, and a leadership award from Full Gospel New York Church.

Sang Su Yi, his wife and his praise team stand ready to travel beyond the United States to support the missionaries around the world wherever help and encouragement are needed.

Sang Su Yi has been married for 48 years; he and his wife have four children and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Sang Su Yi, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Sang Su Yi's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.