

the priorities of our national government, and "Teaching from the Heart: Celebrating Ten Years of Horizons Alternative," a film that guides the viewer from the school's founding with archival footage through the present with student interviews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to John Tweedy for making films that speak to our community socially, culturally, and artistically. We thank him for his film achievements and look forward to appreciating his films for many years to come. I wish him, his wife Beret, and his children, Paige and Marcus, good health and happiness in their future.

CELEBRATING THE RAWLINGS MUSEUM AND THE MAN WHOSE LEGACY MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rawlings Museum in Las Animas, Colorado, and to pay tribute to the man whose legacy made this dream possible.

The Pioneer Historical Museum, which celebrates the history of Bent County, will be housed in the newly restored 106-year-old Odello Lodge building. The project is being spearheaded by the local Pioneer Historical Society and the Bent County Development Foundation, and is funded by a generous gift from Robert Hoag Rawlings, publisher of the Pueblo Chieftain. The gift was given in honor of Mr. Rawlings' late father and civic leader, John W. Rawlings.

Mr. John W. Rawlings served in the Army during World War I and was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant shortly thereafter. While in the service, he met Dorothy Hoag who he married in April 1920. After Mr. Rawlings and his wife were discharged in 1919, they took residence in Monte Vista, Colorado and had three children: John William Jr., Robert Hoag, and Dorothy Louise.

In 1941, Mr. Rawlings became president of First National Bank in Las Animas and later became chairman of the board. He was active in the community and sought to promote progress in southeastern Colorado. Mr. Rawlings served as president of the Las Animas Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, Mr. Rawlings was an influential member of the Agriculture Committee of the Colorado Bankers Association and served as the president of the local Lions Club.

As the Rawlings Museum progresses and exhibits begin to open, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. John W. Rawlings and honoring his lifetime of contributions to the Las Animas community.

TRIBUTE TO CORETTA SCOTT KING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to remember the late

Coretta Scott King. Our nation has lost one of its great leaders, but her memory will live on forever. Her legacy will live on so that future generations will continue to know and fight for the compassion and equality that she treasured so dearly.

With the passing of Coretta Scott King, our country has lost a leader; a leader who dedicated her life to doing what was right and what was just. In order to carry out her legacy—and that of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—we must each individually dedicate ourselves to the causes they so passionately believed in.

Equality, justice, and opportunity drive the human spirit forward, and by working on behalf of these principles, Coretta Scott King advanced the causes of mankind. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family. Our nation will miss her greatly.

As we reflect on Coretta Scott King's legacy, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Her life reminds us that we must continually fight to secure and protect our freedoms. In her courage to act, her willingness to meet challenges, and her ability to achieve, she embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

After she married Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as a young pastor he began his civil rights work in Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. King worked closely with him. She organized marches and sit-ins at segregated restaurants while balancing an equally daunting task: raising their four children. She held the family together as it endured the tragic events surrounding Dr. King. Even after her family home was bombed in Montgomery, she persevered—at a time when most would have given up. Those children, Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Alpertine are as much a part of her legacy as her dynamic civil rights work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise in honor of the legacy and life of Coretta Scott King. Her determination and dedication has made our world a better place to live, and I am proud to honor her legacy.

HONORING TONI AND DAVID "GOOGIE" WILLIS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Toni and David "Googie" Willis of Dunkirk, New York for their leadership in raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

This amazing pair of dedicated people have been the organizers for the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association for many years.

Their countless hours of volunteer work should never go unnoticed. These unsung heroes give their all in the effort to raise funds so that others may have a better life.

Through the years Toni and Googie have helped raise \$65,000 for the cause. Without their devotion and passion this would never be possible.

Toni and Googie have given their all for a wonderful cause without stopping to think of themselves, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

THE "NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM ACT OF 2005"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that prior to the end of the 1st Session of the 109th Congress, Subcommittee Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Chairman DON YOUNG, Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR, and I introduced H.R. 4650, the "National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005."

We have seen in the Gulf Region what can happen when hurricane and flood protection infrastructure is inadequate or fails to perform.

The National Inventory of Dams shows that 45 percent of all Federal dams are at least 50 years old; and that 80 percent of them are at least 30 years old.

We know less about the status and capabilities of our levees. We do not know how many levees there are in the United States, we do not know how old they are, and in many cases we do not know who constructed them or who is responsible for their operation and maintenance. There has never been a national inventory of levees.

Over the decades, levees have been built by different entities, at different times, and to different standards. They have been linked together to provide a protective system for a city, but with such a mixture of conditions, the true level of protection may be in doubt.

Every day the Nation's engineers and scientists learn more about the reliability and limitations of dams and levees. New techniques and materials are discovered in the laboratories. Without investments in infrastructure, we cannot benefit from what we have learned.

What is the condition of our hurricane and flood protection infrastructure? What should it be? Do we need to make policy changes to be sure that we are making the best investments of taxpayer dollars? Before we make a massive investment of taxpayer dollars, we need to do an inventory of levees across the United States.

That is why today we are introducing the "National Levee Safety Program Act", to get an inventory of levees in the United States and work with the States to encourage them to develop their own levee safety programs.

We have worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle and the various groups to advance the goal of improving the infrastructure in the most cost effective manner. We have received favorable feedback from diverse parties. The National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005 embraces innovative solutions for these parties and I urge members to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO IRVIN "MIKE" FAULKNER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin "Mike" Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. Mr. Faulkner passed away on December 12, 2005, and is survived by his wife

Eleanor, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Mike was born in 1919 in Blackwell, Oklahoma. Growing up during the Great Depression, he faced many hardships, but with great determination and a strong work ethic he strived to achieve a better life.

At the onset of World War II, Mike Faulkner answered his country's call. Serving in the Third Army, Mike was involved in many major battles throughout Europe. He stormed the beach at Normandy, survived the Battle of the Bulge and participated in the liberation of Dachau. It was at Dachau that Mike saw the cruelty of the Nazi regime. Mike later shared his story in a documentary on the concentration camps to remind generations to come of some of our world's darkest history.

Upon returning home, he moved to California where he attended Fresno College, known today as California State University—Fresno. He obtained a degree in Biology and a teaching credential. In 1955, he became a teacher with the Madera Unified School District. Many will remember Mr. Faulkner as their favorite biology teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

In 1960, the science teacher married his beloved Eleanor and together they raised 3 daughters, Glenda, Shirley and Joyce Ann as well as 2 foster children, John and Carolyn Sue Vogel.

One of the crowning achievements of Mr. Faulkner's career in education was as Principal at John Adams Elementary School in Madera, California. As Principal, he was known as a strict taskmaster who was quick to punish you when you did wrong but equally quick to recognize and reward a job well done.

Retirement couldn't keep Mike Faulkner out of the classroom. He continued to lend his years of experience to troubled youth at the Juvenile Hall and the Sugar Pine Continuation School. He served as a substitute teacher at Madera High School and when he wasn't substitute teaching, he spent time baking, sharing stories with friends, and caring for his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin "Mike" Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Irvin "Mike" Faulkner and to express the condolences of a grateful Nation to the Faulkner family.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN TESSIERI ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
FROM THE U.S. HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Democratic Members and staff of the House Science Committee to recognize a long-time member of the Committee staff—Vivian Tessieri.

Vivian will be leaving the Science Committee early next month after nearly 30 years of devoted service. She is one of the longest serving staff members in the history of the Committee and she will be greatly missed.

Vivian was hired by the Committee on Science in 1977, shortly after legislation

passed to significantly expand committee staffs. At that time, the Science Committee had 7 subcommittees and the minority staff (then Republican) grew from 4 to its present size.

I'm told that the rapidly growing staff needed someone to bring order to the chaos, and Vivian—then a young staff assistant with a number of years experience at the General Accounting Office—fit the bill.

Vivian's job has not been easy. Her first assignment was on an extremely busy subcommittee. Vivian jumped right in and brought unprecedented discipline to the operation.

Staff who worked with her assured me that Vivian's years on the Energy Subcommittee were some of its most productive—laying the foundation of energy policy still adhered to today. Vivian excelled at her job and was quickly promoted. When the Full Committee's legislative clerk retired in the early 1980s, Vivian was the obvious choice for that position.

She brought her enthusiasm for organization, common sense to ask questions, and savvy communications ability to the position and it has never been the same.

Generations of members and staff assume that Committee events automatically run smoothly and flawlessly, but the fact is that Vivian has been the force behind the Committee's administrative success.

Even in the midst of her daily workload—endless archiving, copying and maintenance of Committee records—Vivian has always found time to take a personal interest in staff members' legislative issues and keep them informed of related topics moving forward outside of the Science Committee's jurisdiction. She has a keen eye and depth of historical Committee knowledge that is unparalleled.

Only one other Committee employee has worked for the Republicans, then the Democrats, then the Republicans once again. This is a testament to Vivian's unparalleled professionalism and devotion to her job.

Those who have worked alongside Vivian through the years say that to describe Vivian is to combine a high level of competence with an unfailingly helpful, professional and friendly manner. She has been a delight to work with, always dependable and conscientious in her work, while maintaining her serenity and good cheer under pressure.

Vivian loves this institution. Her commitment to her work is a testament to her genuine desire to see members, Committees and staffs succeed for the constituents they serve.

People like Vivian do not come along very often and many times we don't realize their true value until they have gone. Regrettably that time has come. Vivian, we wish you nothing but success and happiness as you take your immense talents to the private sector.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD CUPIT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief Richard Cupit for 43 years of service to the Mundy Township Fire Department and community.

Over the past 43 years, Chief Cupit has saved lives, homes, and businesses. His ac-

tions have directly impacted the quality of life in Genesee County. His courageous actions saving a life in 1988 and the Chief's assistance during the Clara Barton Nursing Home disaster are just two of many acts that have been singled out by the State of Michigan and Genesee County.

The Mundy Township community has changed since Chief Cupit first started working as a fire fighter for the township in 1963. As he moved up through the ranks the community grew and the nature of firefighting changed. His work with the 800MHz Committee, the Hazmat Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Genesee County, Michigan and International Fire Chiefs associations, reflect his strong commitment to serving the people of this community. As the director of county fire department coordination he exhibited the ability to work with a diverse group of peers with competing priorities and often under stressful and life threatening circumstances.

I ask the Congress to rise with me today and congratulate Chief Richard Cupit on a long and illustrious career as a fire fighter and a Fire Chief and extend our best wishes to him as he enters a new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR WWII U.S.
ARMY CHAPLAINS

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism and courageous act of self-sacrifice of four U.S. Army Chaplains. On a chilly February day in 1943 during the perilous times of World War II, these four soldiers selflessly gave their life jackets to their fellow comrades as the USS *Dorchester* sunk to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. The chaplains may have perished on that fateful day but their memory of sacrifice lives on forever.

The chaplains included: LT George L. Fox, LT Alexander D. Goode, LT Johnny P. Washington, and LT Clark V. Poling. The four honorable men represented differing religious faiths ranging from Catholic to Jewish to Protestant. Not only did each chaplain teach of their respective religion, but with their humble act exercised their faiths inherent principles of goodwill and charity toward others.

I would like to commend the American Legion Argonne Post No. 71 in Brewster, New York, who on Monday, February 6, 2006, will remember the four Army chaplains in ceremony. Honoring the requests of the Argonne Legion post I gratefully join them in remembering February 5th as Four Chaplain's Sunday. As a Nation, it's imperative that we follow the lead of the American Legion and join in honoring these four brave and courageous soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM LEPSCH

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Lepsch on the occasion