

funds for the Pension, the Health and Welfare plan. These advancements have not only helped to significantly improve working conditions; the language and monetary conditions were also greatly increased.

Larry has represented Local 342 countless times at conventions of the California State Pipe Trades Council, the United Association, the Western States Pipe Trades Council and the Western States Pipeline Conference. He's also served on the Executive Boards of these associations as well as the Contra Costa and Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Councils. In 2001, Larry was appointed by the UA General President to the prestigious Laws Committee at the UA Convention in Miami Beach, Florida. On October 26, 2001, Larry was honored as Labor Leader of the Year and recognized by the Contra Costa Central Labor Council, the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council and the California State Senate and Assembly for his service to the community and to working men and women.

Larry not only worked tirelessly for his brothers and sisters of organized labor, he also cultivated friendships within the community. Some of the community projects he has been a part of include, Camp Okizu, the building of the Shepard's Gate home for battered women, the Mother Wright Foundation and the Northern California Special Olympics.

Upon retirement Larry will now have more time to devote to his wife, Debbie, sons Donald and Keith, daughter Dorothy, stepchildren Derrick and Andrea, as well as grandchildren Stephanie, Marshall, Amber and Curtis.

As we wish Larry a fond farewell, we can rest assured that he has left Local 342 financially strong, cultivated a strong symbiotic relationship with the Local's contractors, and helped strengthen the ties with Sister Locals and other branches. Larry's honorable toil has helped cement a positive place within the community for the brothers and sisters of Local 342. We are all beneficiaries of his hard work and we salute his efforts. Cheers to a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRADY KOHN FOUNDATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Brady Kohn Foundation and its founders, Carolyn and Andy Kohn. The Kohns began their foundation to honor a wonderful little boy, their son Brady, whose life on this earth was all too short. The work of this Foundation centers around the use of umbilical cord blood, a safe and painless way to retrieve valuable stem cells, which can be used to save the lives of many Americans. I welcome the initiative taken by the partnership of Christiana Care Hospital, the The Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program at Community Blood Services, and the Brady Kohn Foundation to publicly bank cord blood. This is the first step into truly cutting edge medical research.

I am very familiar with the dedication of The Brady Kohn Foundation's founding members. Carolyn and Andy have worked tirelessly to

achieve a partnership that would enable expectant mothers to have their umbilical cord blood publicly banked at no cost. The Brady Kohn Foundation will be the leader in education, awareness, and promotion of this project, inspiring expectant mothers to bank their cord blood in hopes of saving the lives of others. Christiana Care is an excellent choice for this project as they are home to approximately 7,000 deliveries per year. Of the cord blood collected, roughly 60 percent will be banked and used for medical procedures such as bone marrow transplants, while the other 40 percent will be used for research that has the potential to heal countless diseases in the future.

I recognize the struggle that the Kohns have gone through to reach their goal of providing a public umbilical cord banking system. I would like to thank Carolyn, Andy, and all those involved with this valuable project. I am certain the new public cord blood banking system will have a tremendous impact on many lives in my home state of Delaware and around the United States.

TRIBUTE TO MEDICALERT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize MedicAlert, a company founded by Dr. Marion and Chrissie Colling of Turlock, California in 1956. The MedicAlert system provides identification and medical information in emergencies, alerting emergency medical professionals to preexisting medical conditions such as diabetes, heart conditions, implanted devices, and allergies to medications.

MedicAlert utilizes identification bracelets and the E-Health Key, both of which are to be carried at all times in case of emergency. A 24-hour Emergency Response Center can be reached by calling a phone number on MedicAlert bracelets, allowing direct dialogue with nurses who have access to patients' Electronic Health Record. The emergency contact information available in those records helps make sure that patients' families are contacted in an emergency. MedicAlert provides free training pertaining to the use of MedicAlert bracelets and E-Health Keys for emergency response personnel and the public safety community.

Now in its 50th year, MedicAlert is endorsed by the American Red Cross, the National Institute of Health, the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American Pharmaceutical Association. Over 100,000 medical professionals recommend MedicAlert to their patients. MedicAlert currently receives 3,500 emergency calls a year. MedicAlert has grown to have affiliates in nine countries: Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malaysia, Iceland, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

I am very proud to congratulate MedicAlert on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Over 80,000 people credit MedicAlert with having helped saved their lives in an emergency, and I wish this amazing organization many more years of growth, increased awareness, and success. Four million members worldwide un-

derstand the great importance of this organization and the immeasurable service it provides.

"WHITHER THE SIX PARTY PROCESS?"

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2005, China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the U.S. signed a Joint Statement of principles under which North Korea committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs. In contrast to the hopes surrounding that pledge, the intervening 6 months have brought no substantive progress toward that end, and the Six Party process is beginning to appear moribund.

This circumstance is particularly regrettable because time is on no one's side. Every day of the status quo is another day for the North Korean regime to produce additional fissile material, and another day that the people of North Korea fall further behind the remarkable economic and social march of the rest of Asia. At the same time that the malfeasance of the North Korean government has brought us to this impasse, it remains in the interest of the U.S. to initiate additional dialogue, even if prospects for its success are uncertain.

Alternatively, to continue to maintain a reactive approach—such as placing unrealistic conditions on high-level contacts and other forms of meaningful engagement with the DPRK—cedes too much control to hard-liners in a regime that does not yet feel sufficient pressure or incentive to denuclearize.

We must continually test the intent of North Korea and not miss any opportunity for progress, however improbable. We are also obligated to consistently demonstrate to the other parties in the region that the intransigence impeding progress is not ours. Both of these priorities presuppose dialogue.

Because we control what we say, we ought not fear additional discussions or supplementary avenues of discussion. Conversation is never concession if one is speaking the truth, advancing the national interest.

At all levels of human interaction, including the international strategic level, there exists a significant psychological dimension: Between nations, as between people, the stronger party has greater strategic confidence and thus capacity to take the first conciliatory steps when intransigent differences arise. Given the enormity of the stakes at issue, it behooves the U.S. to take advantage of the greater flexibility we possess to creatively explore possibilities for resolving the challenges posed by North Korea.

One has the sense that due to understandable frustrations relative to past North Korean actions, including cheating on international commitments, the White House has given exceedingly constrained options to our negotiators. But clear-headedness about the nature of the North Korean regime should not cloud the mind about devising techniques and processes to overcome differences.

We have many assets, not the least of which is our professional diplomatic corps.

American professionalism is exemplified by Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who has developed a constructive relationship with all of the parties to the Six Party Talks, including North Korea. The case for sending him to Pyongyang to test the boundaries—and push the implementation—of the Joint Statement is compelling.

In particular, we should not be hesitant to begin considering the utility of negotiat[ing] a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum, as envisioned by the Joint Statement and the recent U.S.-ROK strategic dialogue. Taking the initiative to formally end the Korean War would underscore our peaceful intent in an unparalleled fashion, and remind the Korean people that the U.S. singularly and unequivocally supports the peaceful reunification of the Peninsula. There may be sequencing concerns but forging ahead on this aspect of the statement of principles may increase the willingness of the other parties to exert greater pressure to enforce its critical core—the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula—and provide North Korea greater psychological as well as strategic comfort to accede to concerns of the outside world.

While we speak directly to the North Korean delegation in Beijing at the Six Party Talks and have certain contacts with the North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, there is clearly a problem of communication between our two governments. Accordingly, it is time, perhaps with appropriate *quid pro quo*s, that we explore the feasibility of establishing liaison offices in our two capitals.

For the U.S. to continue to stand pat is to transfer initiative to others, indebting us to the diplomacy of countries that may have different interests, or simply ensconcing the status quo.

It's time for the U.S. to lead.

TRIBUTE TO FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Capitol Heights, Maryland and Reverend Dr. Michael C. Turner, Sr. for their outstanding commitment to the community over the last fifteen years.

Their church home was purchased in May of 2000, and the dedication and cornerstone laying service was held on November 11, 2000. Since its inception the Church has baptized hundreds of new converts, provided structured Bible classes, established a strong and viable Youth Ministry, established mentoring and tutorial programs, and established a 10-week Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

I submit for the record the celebration of the Church's 15th Anniversary with the theme of "Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Stepping into the Future."

RECOGNIZING U.S. SPEED SKATING CHAMPION, JOEY CHEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize U.S. speed skating champion, Joey Cheek, who won Olympic gold on February 13 in the men's 500-meter speed skating event at the winter games in Torino, Italy. Mr. Cheek decided to donate \$25,000 in prize money to "Right to Play," an organization that will use the money to benefit refugees from the Darfur region of western Sudan by using sports to advance development, health, and peace.

Not only is Mr. Cheek an incredibly gifted athlete, he has shown tremendous generosity using his own glory to shed light on the atrocities being carried out by the Government of Sudan against its own people. As co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and having traveled to Sudan five times, I have no doubt that Mr. Cheek's donation will make a difference in the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Darfur.

I insert for the RECORD a State Department news release from February 16. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Joey Cheek for his remarkable accomplishments, on and off the ice.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR- MEN

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Tuskegee airmen. They sacrificed for a Nation they loved even when that love was not totally reciprocated. In 1941, the Army Air Force began a program to train African Americans as military pilots.

This was an era of segregation, when popular opinion was against training African Americans to become aviators, but the individuals of the Tuskegee experience showed the Nation and the world that they were equals. By overcoming many hardships, they cast aside the myths that had allowed segregation, inequity and injustice to prevail in society.

To break barriers, there is often one individual who will pave the way. The catalyst for African American aviation was Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson. When first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, climbed into the back of Anderson's plane in 1941, a new chapter had begun for military aviation in America. His love for flying airplanes began at a young age and throughout his life gave wings to countless African American pilots.

In 1943, the Tuskegee airmen tasted combat for the first time. By World War II's end, the German Luftwaffe would know them as the "Red tailed Devils" and the American bombing crews would refer to them as the "Red Tail Angels." During the war, the four African

American fighter squadrons that made up the 332nd fighter group established their legitimacy with countless victories in the air. They also solidified a legacy of being highly disciplined and capable fighters by flying over 200 escort missions over Germany without ever losing a bomber to enemy fire.

For their service they were awarded high honors, including Distinguished Flying Crosses, Legions of Merit, Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, the Croix de Guerre, and the red star of Yugoslavia. A Distinguished Unit Citation was awarded to the 332nd fighter group for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism" in 1945.

The Tuskegee Airmen fought the Axis powers in Europe and racism at home. Their accomplishments spoke louder than words and provided evidence that led to the integration of our Nation's armed forces. It is important that we continue to acknowledge the sacrifices and service of these Americans who performed so admirably. The accomplishments of the brave Tuskegee Airmen will never be forgotten, and may they always remind us of the unlimited power of the human spirit.

HONORING LORRIE GRAVES, RE- BECCA McDUFF, AND JENNIFER PRATHER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in the early 1990s the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards began a voluntary certification process for teachers who excel in the classroom and demonstrate an exceptional knowledge of their subject field. Nationwide, only 1.5 percent of teachers have been awarded this certificate. It's clearly quite an achievement to attain this level of mastery.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the three Seventh Congressional District teachers who have earned this distinction.

It is my privilege to congratulate and thank Lorrie Graves of Moore Elementary in Franklin, Rebecca McDuff of Grassland Elementary in Brentwood, and Jennifer Prather of Crosswind Elementary in Collierville for their hard work.

Each of these teachers has shown an incredible aptitude not only for teaching but for the specific area of study in which they specialize. They are improving the lives of their students, and we all thank them for their hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2006 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several