

He was commissioned in 1998 as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, following graduation from the Marion Military Institute. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from National University in San Diego. After completing the Armor Officer Basic Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Daniel was assigned to 4-64 Armor Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as Assistant Battalion Maintenance Officer. He was deployed to Kuwait in 2002 for Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2003, he was sent to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom as the 1st Platoon Leader in Bravo Company and after returning he was sent again with Charlie Company as Executive Officer.

After completing the Armor Officer Advanced Course in 2005, Daniel has been assigned to the 6th Recruiting Brigade Las Vegas, Nevada, serving as Brigade Assistant S3.

Daniel's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, and Combat Action Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Daniel L. Van Kirk on the floor of the House today. He is a model of patriotism and a fine example to all members of the military and citizens of Nevada.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, though I was absent on Thursday, March 9, 2006 for personal reasons, I wish to have my intended votes recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

March 9, 2006: Rollcall vote 33 on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 2829—"aye"; rollcall vote 34 on Chabot amendment to H.R. 2829—"aye"; rollcall vote 35 on the Hooley amendment to H.R. 2829—"aye"; rollcall vote 36 on the Paul amendment to H.R. 2829—"nay"; rollcall vote 37 on the Rehberg amendment to H.R. 2829—"aye"; and rollcall vote 38 on the final passage of H.R. 2829—"aye."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEBSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Webster Volunteer Fire Department. Fifteen courageous citizens formed this outstanding and brave fire department on March 23, 1906. Since its inception, the de-

partment has had over 850 faithful volunteers that have protected the communities of East Webster, Village of Webster, and North East Penfield.

Today, the Webster Volunteer Fire Department has a membership of 140 brave firefighters who on average respond to 1,200 calls per year. These calls for aid range from fires, accidents, emergency medical care and service calls; all showing the department's ability to assist the varying needs of the communities they proudly serve. In addition to their heroic tasks, the department also provides fire prevention programs, CPR and first aid training for all citizens. The Webster Fire Department also works closely with various neighborhood groups such as local Boy Scouts troops, Girl Scouts troops, and various other groups.

In honoring their 100th anniversary, the Webster Fire Department will begin its celebration with a founders banquet, followed by a gigantic carnival and parade for the entire community.

I stand here today proud of the services these brave men and women provide our area. Their strong tradition of service and bravery has kept our citizens safe over the past century. I personally thank the Webster Volunteer Fire Department and thank them for their past service as well as the next 100 years that lie ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEIGHTS PLAYERS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Heights Players, Brooklyn's oldest community theater group.

For half a century, families, children and individuals living in the 12th Congressional District and surrounding areas have been enriched through the exposure to quality theater offerings at a reasonable price. The Heights Players has also excelled at providing an outlet for amateur and professional actors, technicians, writers, designers and directors to hone their skills, gain experience, and perform before a live audience.

Since its inception in December 1956, those involved with the Heights Players have worked to establish the group not only as a community theater, but also as a growing nonprofit theatrical organization. In its 50 seasons of operation, the Heights Players has made many contributions to the community, such as the Theater for Children program, and performances for senior citizens and hospitalized children who otherwise lack the means to access this type of cultural and educational experience.

The Heights Players has extended their community service in recent years, reaching countless other city residents through their unique and creative offerings. Since 1988, the group has completed performances for over 1,000 homeless New Yorkers each year.

In recognition of its extraordinary efforts on behalf of disadvantaged New Yorkers, the organization has received a host of special

awards and commendations over the years from the Partnership for the Homeless, the Brooklyn Borough President, the Brooklyn Heights Association, and the New York City Council.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Heights Players, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to commend this organization and all of its creative members for their outstanding service and dedication to making live theater accessible for those living in the New York City metropolitan area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 on the motion to instruct conferees regarding the Pension Protection Act, H.R. 2830, I meant to vote "yes" on the motion but inadvertently voted "no."

HONORING THE GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the recent accomplishments of a very special church in Lafayette, LA.

On March 5, 2006, members of the congregation of Good Hope Baptist Church gathered to dedicate their new Family Life Center. This day was the culmination of an 8-year project that not only provides a new facility to the church, but much needed jobs for its community as well. Credit for the Family Life Center should go to the Building Committee, under the leadership of Othus Doomes, Jr. and the church's pastor, Dr. Ricky Carter, who were instrumental in bringing the vision of the center to fruition.

The purpose of the center is to provide for the total needs of a person—emotional, spiritual, material, practical, functional, psychological, intellectual and social. It will provide a variety of uses for its community including day care, recreational activities, as well as classrooms for educational purposes. The new facility is equipped with a commercial kitchen, to provide hot meals for those in need, as well as a gymnasium which can also be used for worship service.

Today, I honor Dr. Carter and the entire congregation of Good Hope Baptist Church, and congratulate them for the completion of this great facility, which will benefit Lafayette for many years to come.

THE NATIONAL UNIFICATION COUNCIL CEASES TO EXIST

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian declared

that Taiwan's Unification Council will cease to function and the National Unification Guidelines will cease to apply. He came to his decision after weighing the importance of preserving Taiwan's freedom, democracy, human rights, the status quo and Taiwanese people's right to choose their own future.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan stated, "We welcome President Chen's reaffirmation of his administration's commitment to cross-strait peace and stability, and Taiwan's commitment to the pledges that President Chen made in his inaugural address . . . to not unilaterally alter the status quo on the Taiwan Strait."

Since peace in the Taiwan Strait is critical to our national security and any military confrontation must be avoided, I therefore urge China to end its strident rhetoric against Taiwan, rescind the Anti-Secession Law enacted last spring and remove the hundreds of threatening missiles targeting Taiwan.

On the first anniversary of the passage of China's Anti-Secession Law and the 10th anniversary of the Taiwan Strait Missile Crisis, it is high time for a meaningful dialogue to resume between Chinese leaders and the elected leadership in Taiwan, leading to a peaceful resolution of their differences. I support these efforts to reduce the tension on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and urge my fellow Congressional colleagues to continue their support for repealing the Anti-Secession Law.

H.R. 3402, THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the following Extension of Remarks should have been included during the December 17, 2005 House debate of H.R. 3402:

I rise in support of this legislation, which reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act and the Department of Justice. I first would like to commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER for reasserting the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction over the Department of Justice and its programs with this bill. I also want to thank Senators BIDEN, LEAHY, and SPECTER for working with us on this legislation. We worked together to address everyone's concerns and arrived at the compromise bill before us today.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

An important piece of the bill is the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. This is the third time we have worked on this bill, and each time we make dramatic improvements by using new vehicles to tackle the issue. Building on work from previous years, the Act reauthorizes some of the current programs that have proven enormously effective, including the STOP program—which provides state formula grants that help fund collaboration efforts between police and prosecutors and victim services providers—and legal assistance for victims.

One important aspect of this legislation is the new program we created specifically tailored to address the needs of communities of color. In the original VAWA, Congress intended for all underserved communities to

have a fair chance at addressing these issues. However, all too often racial and ethnic minorities are overlooked. In this legislation, Congress has included language referencing culturally specific communities in an attempt to respond to the needs of racial and ethnic minorities. Inserting this language into the bill is a monumental victory for communities of color.

In Indian Country (especially in non-Public Law 280 States), non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes against Indian victims cannot be prosecuted by tribes or by states. Only the United States has the jurisdiction to prosecute such perpetrators. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Justice frequently lacks the prosecutorial resources necessary to pursue these cases. The Attorney General of the United States has the authority, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 543, to cross-designate prosecuting attorneys appointed by the Tribal Governments as Special Assistant United States Attorneys. The Committee urges the Attorney General to close the jurisdictional gap by cross-designating tribal prosecutors as Special Assistant United States Attorneys for the purpose of enforcing 18 U.S.C. 2261, 18 U.S.C. 2261A, 18 U.S.C. 2262, 18 U.S.C. 2265, 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(8), and 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9). Any tribal prosecutors appointed as Special Assistant United States Attorneys pursuant to this process should undergo training on the federal crimes enumerated above; such training should be developed and offered in conjunction with experts on tribal law and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The progress of these cross-designations and trainings should be a subject for review through the consultation process described in Section 1002 of Title X of this Act.

Title VI—Section 605

The intent of Congress in this section is to ensure that Federal, State, tribal, territorial and local confidentiality protections put into place to protect the safety of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are not undercut by broad data collection programs.

For the purposes of this section, Congress finds that any data that meets the definition of "personally identifying information" cannot be altered to become "non-personally identifying information" simply by being altered technologically for the purposes of limiting access to such information.

Any data that can be construed to fall under the definition of "personally identifying information" shall remain defined as such and shall be protected as mandated in this section as long as a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database is maintained.

Congress notes that participation in an HMIS or other database may be mandated for other non-victim service provider grantees. Any victim service program prohibited from participation in an HMIS or other shared database under this statute may not be penalized for compliance with this statute, either directly or indirectly through mechanisms such as the withholding of incentives.

Title VI—Sections 606 and 607

Congress notes that employees or volunteers of victim service providers who are signing certification documents should be trained service providers. An employee or volunteer serving solely in an administrative capacity is not appropriate to sign a certification form.

Congress notes that these sections should not be construed to require public housing authorities to adopt a preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Public housing authori-

ties are encouraged to adopt such a preference, but that decision is at the discretion of the public housing authority, consistent with applicable law and regulation.

Congress notes that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may want to issue guidance or regulations to assist with the implementation of these sections. Certain nonprofit organizations and other government agencies that have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, or in housing law and policy, can provide valuable guidance to HUD in creating such guidance and regulations. HUD is directed to work with such expert nonprofit organizations and government agencies in drafting guidance, regulations, and any other communication to local housing authorities and assisted housing providers regarding these sections, including the Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook, the Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, and any HUD-approved forms used for certification as a qualifying victim under these sections.

Congress notes that under these sections, in order to show an "actual and imminent threat," a housing or subsidy provider must demonstrate, using forms of evidence admissible under current law, that the tenant's continued tenancy or assistance directly and imminently causes a distinct harm to the safety of the landlord, the subsidy or service provider, other tenants, or those employed at or providing service to the property, but not necessarily a specific physical harm to the intended victim. Nothing in these sections should be construed to negate any tenant's responsibility to follow all terms and obligations of a lease.

Congress notes that bifurcation of a lease under these sections allows a public housing agency, owner or manager to terminate a person or person's rights and obligations under the lease agreement while maintaining the rights and obligations of other lease parties. Nothing in these sections should be construed to obligate a public housing agency, owner or manager to maintain or enter a lease agreement with any individual who is not eligible for tenancy or assistance.

The bill also goes a long way in helping immigrants subjected to domestic violence to secure their right to stay in the country and seek shelter from those who batter them by expanding the class of victims who can seek immigration status by self-petitioning through VAWA. For example, the bill protects victims of child abuse from aging out by allowing for victims to self petition up to the age of 25, parents abused by U.S. citizen children by allowing them to file for relief under VAWA, and victims with prima facie cases as a VAWA self-petitioner, or for a T or U visa, from removal or deportation. It also limits detention for victims who have pending petitions or applications for relief.

This legislation is crucial in our plight to combat violence against women.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REAUTHORIZATION

In addition, the bill provides funding for the various offices within the Department. In this regard, I would like to note that it gives the Office of the Inspector General over \$70 million for its responsibilities. In the past few years, the OIG has been diligent in overseeing the Department's war on terrorism, issuing reports on 9/11 detainees and pushing the Department to change how its procedures for handling terrorism suspects.

The bill reauthorizes the COPS office. We all know that this Clinton Administration program has been increasingly vital in crime prevention and crime solving. That is why COPS has received the praise of the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest law enforcement organization in the country. Local