

the well being of our South Florida residents. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Cuban-American Jewish Community for their wonderful service to our great Nation.

Below, I have included the names of the individuals that are part of this distinguished group. In parentheses are the married names of the women.

Aliva Lipschitz (Mingel), Aron Lew, Becky Gol (Eshkenazy), Berta Perelmuter (Faigenblat), Betty Kozolchuk (Savariego), Cecilia Lurie (Berenthal), David Vainstein, Eli Bick, Enrique Bekerman, Enrique Goldberg, Zolia Eva Becker (Don), Gela Arber (Altman), Isidoro Stein, Jacobo Fridzon, Jacobo Rydz, Jose Kluger, Joseph Roisman, Judy Derechinsky (Feder), Leon Kopel, Leon Papir, Luis Kosobucki, Luis Lidsky, Luisa Kopel, Manny Feinstein, Marcos Kerbel, Mark Faigenblat, Moises Golobovich, Nicky Vaserstein, Perla Radlow (Stein), Polita Rubinstein (Chyzyk), Rebeca Rosenzweig (Shapiro), Rebecca Roth (Glinsky), Richard Novigrod, Ruth Silber (Kurkin), Sara Hochman (Zands), Sarita Zditowsky (Blaugrund), Tere Treibich (Ben Hain), Toni Rosenberg (Taubenfeld), Vivian Celniker (Mechaber).

I would also like to recognize the loving memory of those who are no longer with us: Salomon Milner and Alberto Rabinsky.

HOWARD JUNIOR COLLEGE WINS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Howard College for winning the NJCAA Region V Championship on March 12, 2006. Head coach Mark Adams led the Hawks to an 81–71 victory over their arch rival, Midland College, in spectacular fashion. With this victory, the Hawks have earned their first trip to the NJCAA National Tournament since 1969.

Even greater than their triumph on the court, the Hawks have overcome many obstacles and trials along the way. Last year, Howard sophomore Dezmon Harris lost his mother in the same week his team lost the Regional Championship game to Midland. With fierce determination and an unyielding desire to win, Harris led his team to victory this year and showed why he was recently named WJCAAC Player of the Year.

Since 1945, Howard College has been a beacon of education in my district. It brings me great pleasure to honor the athletic achievements of an institution that continues to be a leader in educating the young people of West Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BEA'S COMMUNITY READING PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a community reading program in Crowley, Louisiana founded by Joey Webb.

Ms. Bea's Community Reading Program organizes 20 community volunteers each week

to visit Ross Elementary School and work for half an hour in each of the four first grade classrooms. These patient and caring volunteers work one on one with the students to help them learn to read and improve their reading skills. To ensure the effort isn't just one day a week at school, the program issues each student a weekly reader to practice at home. In addition, the volunteers serve as valuable role models and inspire the students to continue learning and staying in school.

The faculty at Ross Elementary has commented that the impact of the program is improving the entire school. Although the program is focused on the first grade, students in the other grades have taken notice of the community members coming to the school. Students are working harder, classroom behavior has improved and they are more focused on schoolwork.

Earlier this year, I participated in the program and visited with several classrooms and spoke with them about the importance of learning to read and attending school. These young students are the future of Louisiana. As our state rebuilds from the devastation caused by two hurricanes it is now more important than ever that we inspire our youth to work to improve and contribute to our great state.

I want to congratulate Joey Webb and the citizens of Crowley on their dedication and spirit to help others in the community.

PEACE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND CHINA

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2006, Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian declared that Taiwan's Unification Council will cease to function and the National Unification Guidelines will no longer apply. This decision was made in an effort to guarantee Taiwan's freedom from communist China and its people's right to democratically choose their own future.

Since peace in the Taiwan Strait is critical to all nations in the region and military confrontation must be avoided, I urge China to suspend its jingoistic rhetoric towards Taiwan, rescind the Anti-Secession Law enacted last spring, and dismantle the hundreds of missiles targeted at Taiwan.

Furthermore, on the first anniversary of the passage of China's Anti-Secession Law and the tenth anniversary of The Taiwan Strait Missile Crisis, it is time for a meaningful dialogue between the communist Chinese leaders and the democratically elected leadership in Taiwan in order to find a peaceful resolution to their differences.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BAILEY-SCOTT, CARE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Bailey-Scott of Virginia Beach,

Virginia, upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE award honors outstanding educators who work to enhance the lives of their students. This year's honorees are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. It is presented by Commonwealth Academy, located in Alexandria, Virginia, and honors those committed to diverse learning throughout the nation. Susan Bailey-Scott, a middle school math teacher at Ruffner Academy in Norfolk, Virginia, is honored for her work in promoting diverse learners in the spirit of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Ms. Bailey-Scott has been teaching for nine years, including two years in Japan. She received her B.A. in Business Administration from James Madison University and her master's in Education from Old Dominion University. Ms. Bailey-Scott also has completed some post-graduate work at Old Dominion and William and Mary.

Ms. Bailey-Scott is the Math Department Chair at Ruffner, and she is very active in teacher training. She has been a cooperating teacher with both Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University teacher candidates and has been a presenter at numerous education conferences.

Ms. Bailey Scott has won a variety of awards for teaching, including Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Norfolk Public Schools District Teacher of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Susan Bailey-Scott and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEBSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 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 department 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 1200 calls per year. These calls for aid range from fires, accidents, emergency medical care and service calls; all showing the departments 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 Scout troops, Girl Scout 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF JACK B. MCCONNELL, MD

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association has established a new honor, the Jack B. McConnell, MD, Award for Excellence in Volunteerism, which recognizes the work of a senior physician who provides treatment to U. S. patients who lack access to health care. After a full career of practice, this physician remains dedicated to the future of medicine through the spirit of volunteerism.

Jack B. McConnell, MD, is a distinguished physician and scientist who served as Corporate Director of Advanced Technology at Johnson & Johnson. Widely acknowledged for his medical contributions, he directed the development of the TB Tine Test used in the detection of tuberculosis, participated in the early stages of the development of the Polio Vaccine, supervised the discovery of Tylenol, was instrumental in developing the technology for MRI's and helped write the enabling legislation to map the genome.

Dr. McConnell saved his greatest achievement for retirement: the creation of Volunteers in Medicine. His visionary concept—using retired medical personnel to volunteer their time and talents in a network of free community clinics for the working uninsured—coupled with his enthusiasm and determination has enabled the VIM program to grow to over 40 clinics in less than a decade. The initial VIM clinic was opened on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and continues to serve with over 20,000 patient visits in 2005.

Today, I am honored to recognize the tremendous life and career of Dr. McConnell. His service has benefited so many citizens throughout the Second District of South Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
JUDICIAL FAIRNESS ACT OF 2006

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Federal Judicial Fairness Act of 2006"—bipartisan legislation to correct the current inequity in our compensation system for federal judges. I am pleased that Representative JUDY BIGGERT has joined me in this effort, as we both serve as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch.

Mr. Speaker, the federal judiciary is an integral part of our democracy, providing an im-

portant check to the other branches and protecting the rights of the American people. However, if certain steps are not taken, we risk compromising the quality of our judiciary. The salary of federal judges has decreased by almost 40 percent since 1969 compared with the private sector. Consequently, judges have been leaving the federal bench in increasing numbers, many before reaching retirement age, and a large proportion leaving to work for private law firms.

Members of Congress, for a variety of reasons, have determined that it would not be appropriate to give themselves pay raises on an annual basis. Since judicial salary increases for justices and judges are linked with the salaries of Members of Congress, federal judges have also been denied a cost-of-living adjustment in the 5 of the last 13 years that Congress voted to deny themselves one.

Several reports over the last few years have specifically recommended that salary adjustments for Members and judicial officials be determined separately. In 2003, a report by the National Commission on the Public Service (the Volcker Commission), cited "the compelling need to recruit and retain the best people possible" to serve on the federal judiciary and urged Congress to move on "an immediate and substantial increase in judicial salaries," since "the lag in judicial salaries has gone on too long, and the potential for the diminished quality in American jurisprudence is now too large."

The late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, also frequently stated that inadequate compensation seriously compromises the judicial independence fostered by life tenure and risks affecting judicial performance. His views were recently echoed by new Chief Justice Roberts in his Year-End Report where he stated the following:

"There will always be a substantial difference in pay between successful government and private sector lawyers. But if that difference remains too large—as it is today—the judiciary will over time cease to be made up of a diverse group of the Nation's very best lawyers. Instead, it will come to be staffed by a combination of the independently wealthy and those following a career path before becoming a judge different from the practicing bar at large. Such a development would dramatically alter the nature of the federal judiciary."

The "Federal Judicial Fairness Act of 2006" will address this issue and restore equity. Specifically, the bill provides for the following:

1. Termination of Linkage to Congressional Pay—the bill terminates the linkage of congressional pay increase to judicial pay increases, so that Congress's decision to deny itself pay raises will not also place that burden on Federal judges.

2. Partial Catch-Up Increase in Judicial Compensation—the bill increases the salaries of all Federal judges by 16.5 percent, to partially make up for the decline in real pay for judges over the last three decades. In 2003, both President Bush and the late Chief Justice Rehnquist agreed that a pay adjustment of at least 16.5 percent was needed.

3. Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments—the bill would provide Federal judges with annual cost-of-living adjustments based on the Employee Cost Index, the index already used by the Federal Government to keep Federal salaries in line with inflation.

This important legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators FEINSTEIN, LEAHY, and KERRY. Mr. Speaker, if Congress does not provide reasonable compensation adjustments nor address the growing pay disparity between judges and other members of the legal profession, the quality of our judiciary will be compromised.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
SERVICE OF GENERAL WAYNE
DOWNING (RET.) BEING THE RE-
CIPIENT OF THE GENERAL AL-
EXANDER M. HAIG "GUARDIAN
OF LIBERTY AWARD" BY THE
WEST POINT SOCIETY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 18th, the West Point Society recognized the outstanding service of General Wayne Downing (Ret.) by awarding him the General Alexander M. Haig "Guardian of Liberty Award," an honor that is presented to select individuals who exemplify West Point's motto of "Duty, Honor, and Country." I want to take a moment and recognize General Downing's contribution to the United States Army as well as the security of our nation.

General Wayne A. Downing, U.S. Army (Retired) is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in 1962. General Downing also holds an M.B.A. from Tulane University. A highly decorated combat veteran, General Downing served in a variety of command assignments in the infantry, armor, special operations, and joint units, culminating in his appointment as the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command. He saw combat during two tours in Vietnam and later as a general officer, Downing commanded the special operations of all services during the 1989 invasion of Panama and commanded a joint special operations task force operating deep behind the Iraqi lines during Operation Desert Storm.

After 34 years of service to the United States, General Downing continued to serve his nation after his retirement from the Army. He was appointed by the President to assess the 1996 terrorist attack on the U.S. base at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. From 1999–2000, General Downing served as member of the Congressionally mandated National Commission on Terrorism, known as the Bremer Commission. And most recently, he served the White House as National Director and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism.

There is no question that General Downing's service to the United States is a tribute to patriotism and dedication to service. I now want to read into the RECORD a letter written by the superintendent of General Downing's alma mater, West Point in recognition of his being awarded the "Guardian of Liberty Award." The letter, from Lt. General William Lennox reads:

DEAR GENERAL DOWNING: Congratulations on receiving the General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Guardian of Liberty Award. All of us at the United States Military Academy are