

to her post. Recently, she took on many more roles within the United States Coast Guard due to a shortage of staff. Under her leadership, the Outpatient Department of the Coast Guard was handled exceptionally well. She also supervised five corpsmen, assisted in the treating of 5,236 patients, assumed responsibility of the Leading Petty Officer, as well as excelled in her position as the Clinic's Supply Petty Officer.

Petty Officer Padilla has done exceptional work in the Baltimore Area Coast Guard. She accepted each new challenge with poise and dignity. According to her superiors, her positive outlook was infectious. The individuals under her management also kept an optimistic attitude in their daily routines. Petty Officer Padilla thrived in the new responsibilities she received.

Along with her work in the Coast Guard Yard Clinic, Petty Officer Padilla took an active role in setting up Nate's Open Door Baby Pantry. This organization supplies families with a wide range of materials including car seats and baby bottles. Petty Officer Padilla not only donated her personal time to assist this organization, but she also donated clean used clothes from her own children to provide assistance to families in need. Being a member of the Yard Morale Committee, Petty Officer Padilla graciously volunteered to assist at the Yard Christmas Children's Party as one of Santa's helpers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize the outstanding devotion and faithfulness Petty Officer Teresa Padilla has shown to the United States Coast Guard. Her loyalty and commitment to this country and its citizens deserves our unwavering gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote No. 56 on March 16, 2006. It was a Sabo amendment vote on H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006. I was detained and could not make it to the floor for this vote.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 56, the amendment increasing spending by \$1.225 billion, increasing Customs and Border Protection by \$700 million, Coast Guard Operating Expenses by \$125 million, FEMA Regional Operations by \$300 million, and FEMA Preparedness funding by \$100 million, "nay."

MEMORIALIZING THE TWELVE MEMBERS OF B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL WHO PERISHED IN A TRAGIC BUS ACCIDENT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago on March 22nd, 12 Americans—all from B'nai B'rith International—a Jewish organization committed to fighting human rights abuses—lost their lives in a tragic bus accident in the mountains of Chile. What should have been a relaxing day excursion for these 12 senior citizens to Chile's beautiful Lauca National Park instead became a horrible nightmare as their tour bus tumbled more than 300 feet down a cliff, killing all but four on board. The driver of the bus remains under investigation as Chilean authorities try to determine the exact cause of the wreck.

As Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have visited Chile, and I know first hand its beautiful land and culture. I understand what drives Americans to visit this great country, and I am deeply saddened that this part of Chile will be forever marked by tragedy.

I know all the victims of this terrible tragedy will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved them. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in sending the deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to their families. May God bless them and help them get through this very difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO TOM LAURIN FOR EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AS SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to a longtime public servant, Thomas R. Laurin, who has played a key role in improving the economy and quality of life for San Bernardino County over the past three decades as community development agency director.

Although Tom Laurin is not a native of San Bernardino, he moved there at a young age when his Air Force father came to Norton Air Force Base. He graduated from San Geronio High School (a rival of my alma mater, San Bernardino High) and received a bachelor's degree from California State University, San Bernardino.

After receiving his master's degree in Urban Geography at the University of Northern Colorado, Tom Laurin returned in 1977 to join the San Bernardino County Office of Community Development. He eventually became the Director of Community Development and Housing.

When Tom joined local government, San Bernardino County had 746,000 people and only two cities had more than 50,000 residents. Today, nearly 2 million people live in

San Bernardino County, and 14 cities include a population of more than 50,000—four have more than 150,000.

As my colleagues know, this kind of explosive growth brings tremendous challenges to local government. Urban problems like crime, dilapidated housing, and a lack of local amenities have all been confronted by the Community Development Agency.

Under the leadership of director Laurin, I believe the agency has more than met those challenges, and made the county by far a better place to live even as it has been one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. He has helped the county utilize \$188 million in federal grants, and secured \$750 million in tax-exempt affordable housing loans.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Tom on the county's Neighborhood Initiative Program, designed to improve entire neighborhoods of low-cost housing. Working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Fannie Mae, the county took a \$15 million grant and rehabilitated neighborhoods in Redlands, Highland, San Bernardino and adjacent unincorporated areas.

More than 550 homes, many of them shuttered HUD foreclosures, were fixed up and are now owned by proud low- and moderate-income families. The program generated an additional \$12 million, which was reinvested. It has won numerous national awards.

Tom Laurin created the county's first Enterprise Zone, which has helped hundreds of businesses and thousands of employees gain economic success. He created the county's Enterprise Funding Corporation, which after 20 years is still assisting local business. And he oversaw creation of innovative financing and development programs that helped create for-profit businesses to dispose of millions of trees that had been killed by bark beetles in the San Bernardino Mountains.

More than 20 of Tom's projects have received awards from state and national organizations, as well as HUD Best Practices awards. He has served on many state and national boards, and is a sought-after speaker on community development issues. For five years, he has been a CSU San Bernardino professor on urban issues.

Mr. Speaker, after nearly 30 years of top-level public service, Tom Laurin will retire as Community Development Director in April. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for his work on behalf of the people of San Bernardino County, and wishing him well on his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KORYNE HORBAL, DEE LONG AND VIVIAN JENKINS NELSEN

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to take part in the celebration of National Women's History Month by recognizing accomplished leaders from the State of Minnesota: Koryne Horbal, Dee Long and Vivian Jenkins Nelsen.

Koryne Horbal has blazed a trail for gender equality in Minnesota and much beyond. Her

many leadership posts have included Chairwoman of the Democrat-Farmer-Labor (DFL) party, founder of the DFL Feminist Caucus, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Member representing Minnesota where she started the DNC's Women's Caucus. She also served as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She served in the U.N. ambassadorial role for 4 years during the Carter Administration. During that time, she and Gloria Steinem became good friends and have since worked together on many projects.

Ms. Horbal has worked tirelessly on many issues, from women's rights to pay equity, from higher education to health care. She says there was one female Minnesota legislator when she began in politics and 17 when she stepped down as State Chairwoman. She led a study called Present but Powerless that examined the role of women in the DFL party and found women heavily involved but rarely in positions of power. While at the U.N., she was also partly responsible for the only treaty about women, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The U.S. is the only industrialized country to have not signed it, she adds.

Ms. Horbal, now a consultant at the Women's Resource Center at Augsburg College, says she first got involved advancing women's rights when she realized how much women were left out of the process.

"I became a feminist one year when the party was deciding about which potential candidates would run for election," Horbal says. "Women weren't included in this discussion. That's what woke me up."

Dee Long charted new territory when she assumed leadership positions historically held by men. To date, not only was Ms. Long the first female Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, she remains its only. She was also the first woman to chair a tax committee in the Minnesota Legislature, and was the first woman to chair a joint Senate/House committee.

Over the years, Ms. Long has taken the lead on many issues. But the ones that remain closest to her heart include environmental and tax issues. She helped lead the development of Minnesota's version of the Superfund legislation, where the polluter pays for hazardous waste cleanup. She also played a leading role in developing the Minnesota Livable Communities Act, which focuses on smart growth development. Today, Ms. Long works as the Director of the Environmental Tax and Incentive Program at Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy.

As new women politicians entered the Legislature, she advised them to not simply go to committee meetings. Know the issue backwards and forwards, and be a leader, she'd tell them. Being knowledgeable about the issues before you creates respect. She also encouraged women to get involved in issues that weren't historically women's issues, such as taxes, justice, and others.

"If you know the issues, you'll have the respect," she says.

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen also has a long list of firsts among her accomplishments. She is the co-founder of INTER-RACE, a diversity think tank located at Augsburg College. She was a Bush Leadership Fellow at Harvard University, and is a nationally recognized diversity practitioner, trainer and researcher. She was the

first black woman graduate of Dana College in Nebraska. Further, she was the first black woman professor at Augsburg College, and first such administrator at the University of Minnesota. At the University of Minnesota, she served as Director of Human Relations Training as well as Director of Administration at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Ms. Nelsen was always exposed to human and civil rights work growing up, and sees her work as an extension of her parents' efforts. "Then, they were trying to bring black people up. I am trying to help make corporate America and American policy ready and accepting of all people." Her father, a pastor in the Lutheran Church, worked for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and helped to organize the protest march to Selma. Ms. Nelsen recalls meeting with King as one of the critical moments that defined her path in life. She said when she met with a group of people with King, he focused his time and attention on her, because "a kid came before everything else." This is a sentiment to she has taken to heart herself.

Ms. Nelsen has consulted on race and gender issues for the Lutheran Church. She has also served as president of the Minnesota Women Equity Action League, which acted as the legal arm of the gender equality movement. Today at INTER-RACE, she works with Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and policy makers at all levels.

"My job is about helping people find their voice about justice," Nelsen says. "It's about being able to look at other people's behavior, but also their own."

Mr. Speaker, these 3 women have impacted their communities and the larger world community with a lot of hard work, determination and grit. They have fought for greater gender equity and provided leadership to make it happen. I commend each of these women for the difference they have made, and continue to make every day.

CELEBRATING 185 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great nation of Greece and celebrate with its citizens 185 years of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Any first-year university student knows Greece to be one of the ancient cradles of Western Civilization. In art and literature, history and philosophy, science and mathematics, the contributions of the Greek people to the world as we know it are immeasurable.

And of course, one of Greece's most significant contributions to modern civilization is that of democratic governance. The influences of Socrates, Plato, Pericles, Solon, and many others provided the basis for our founding fathers' essays and treaties on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These ancient thinkers planted the seeds of modern democracy, but the people of modern Greece did not reap the benefits until over two thousand years later. In 1821, the Greek people declared independence from the Ottoman Empire, marking the beginning of an eleven-

year struggle for freedom. It is this courageous action that we honor today.

The Greek revolutionaries' valiant efforts inspired the support of a fledgling democracy known as the United States of America. Many Americans left home and volunteered to fight alongside the Greeks, and this Congress also sent money and supplies to assist in Greece's struggle for autonomy. Since that time, the U.S. and Greece have worked side-by-side to oppose tyranny and oppression and advance the cause of democracy worldwide.

But our ties with Greece do not end with this shared commitment to the principles of democracy. Indeed, today more than 1 million people of Greek descent live in the United States. These men and women have made innumerable contributions to our society and way of life, and for this we thank them.

Colleagues, please join me in saluting the people of Greece for their tremendous commitment to democracy and the principles that helped to found our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALBERT E.
SMITH: AN EDUCATOR WITH
TRUE VISION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the retirement of Dr. Albert Emanuel Smith, President of Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida, a remarkable educator, administrator and leader who has left an indelible mark on our entire South Florida community.

According to Dr. Smith, "The primary mission of any worthy institution of higher education is to produce graduates who understand that education is a lifelong endeavor." Throughout his career, Dr. Smith truly lived that creed. He dedicated his life's work to opening the doors of educational enlightenment and opportunity to thousands.

A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota Dr. Smith earned a Bachelors of Science degree from North Carolina A&T State University, a Masters of Science degree from George Williams College and his Ph.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh in 1971.

Dr. Smith's early professional career included a brief stint as a minor league baseball player for the Saint Louis Cardinals; two years in the United States Army Medical Service Corps where he was a commissioned officer and company commander; and five years as the director of athletics at North Carolina A&T State University.

In 1971, Dr. Smith was appointed executive assistant director of athletics at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1974, he was named director of athletics and associate professor of education at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Smith served as Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations, professor of education, and Executive Director of the North Carolina A&T University Foundation in 1976. He served in this capacity until he became the sixth president of South Carolina State University in 1976.

In 1993, Dr. Smith moved on to become the 10th President of Florida Memorial University (then Florida Memorial College). Under his