

and are dedicated employees of Honda North America, whose contributions to Honda's products helped the company receive four of the most prestigious awards given to automakers. Earlier this year, the Honda Civic lineup and Honda Ridgeline were selected as the 2006 Motor Trend Car and Truck of the Year. This is the first time that a single brand has won both awards from Motor Trend in the same year.

Significantly, the Civic Coupe, Civic Si and Ridgeline vehicles were researched, designed and developed at Honda R&D of the Americas with 10 facilities located across the United States. The major development facility is located in Raymond, Ohio in my 15th Congressional district. This facility employs approximately 1,000 U.S. associates and handles a variety of engineering, design, vehicle fabrication and testing responsibilities.

In addition, at the 2006 Detroit International Auto Show, the Civic lineup and Ridgeline were awarded the 2006 "North American Car and Truck of the Year". The winners of these awards are selected by 49 full-time automotive journalists from the United States and Canada. Winners are chosen based on a multitude of factors including innovation, design, safety, handling, driver satisfaction and value for the money. Once again, this is the first time a single brand has won both awards in the same year.

These achievements reflect a very significant maturation of Honda's operations in America and the meaning of American workers, and specifically Ohioans, to Honda itself. Today, nearly 30 percent of the Honda and Acura vehicles sold in the U.S. in 2005 were researched, designed and developed in America. Honda currently employs approximately 15,000 associates in Ohio and its investment includes five manufacturing plants that produce automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles, engines and transmissions. Honda utilizes more than 160 parts suppliers from the "Buckeye State" to produce these vehicles and their components—further signifying the relationship between Honda and the Ohio worker.

I want to offer my congratulations to the associates of Honda in Ohio and especially those in Raymond, Ohio at Honda R&D of the Americas on receipt of these four awards. I appreciate the House allowing me to bring this matter to its attention.

**DARFUR PEACE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

This Act authorizes the President to offer further assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan to protect civilians and humanitarian operations. It also provides the President the authority to impose sanctions on those individuals who have committed acts of genocide and calls on the international community to contribute more aid to end this horrific crisis.

The United States and our allies must do whatever we can to help end the atrocities

that have been occurring in the Darfur region of the Sudan over the last four years. During that time over 400,000 southern Sudanese Christians have been massacred and over 1.6 million people have been permanently displaced from their homes.

To this day, the Sudanese government in the north is continuing to attempt to "ethnically cleanse" this area of its Christian population. These serious violations of international human rights and law—not to mention, plain human decency—must be stopped.

The rest of the world must put pressure on the individuals and institutions involved to put an immediate end to these crimes without regard to their economic or political interests in the area. Human life must be the guiding factor.

I applaud the efforts of my colleagues, CHRIS SMITH and DONALD PAYNE, both of whom are from my home state of New Jersey. I also thank Chairman HYDE for his tireless efforts on this legislation as well and ask that all of my colleagues support H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

**IN RECOGNITION OF BASIC HIGH
SCHOOL'S MARINE CORPS JROTC
PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS**

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a special group of high school students in Henderson, Nevada, the members of Basic High School's Marine Corps JROTC.

Basic's JROTC unit was activated in 1977 and is one of over 200 plus units sponsored by the United States Marine Corps. Basic's MCJROTC has been designed as a "Naval Honor School" 14 times and has received state and national recognition and honors. The Senior Marine Instructor and Marine Instructors are retired Marines with over 80 years of combined military service and 30 years at Basic High School.

The mission of the MCJROTC is to develop young leaders and responsible citizens with respect for constituted authority, to help individuals strengthen character and form habits of self discipline, and to learn the importance of national security in a democratic society. Students that participate in the MCJROTC program at Basic learn self-discipline, self confidence, personal responsibility and build their character.

Basic's MCJROTC students participated in the Western United States National Drill Meet on April 1, 2006 and were deemed the overall winner for the West Coast. Other awards earned included: 1st place in Armed Inspection; 2nd place in Unarmed Inspection; 1st place in 4 Person Unarmed; 5th place for 4 Person Unarmed; 3rd place in Unarmed Inspection; 2nd place for Color Guard Regulation; 1st place for 4 Person Armed; 1st place in Unarmed Exhibition; 2nd place in Color Guard Regulation; 4th place for 4 Person Armed; 2nd place for Armed Inspection; 3rd place for Unarmed Exhibition; 4th place for Color Guard Inspection; Outstanding Unarmed Commander Cadet.

Basic's MCJROTC students have won this prestigious championship twice in the last 4

years. Their commitment to this important program and devotion to excellence has helped them achieve these high honors, and I am proud to recognize them today for their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I salute the MCJROTC students at Basic High School.

IN HONOR OF JOHNNY RYE, SR.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Johnny Rye, Sr., of Poinsett County, Arkansas, a great friend, and someone who has made countless contributions to his community.

Johnny was born into a sharecropping family on September 2, 1924, in Smithville, Mississippi but moved to Arkansas just 8 years later. After finishing school, Johnny started his own grocery business in the Black Oak Community. He has operated that grocery for more than 50 years, making it the oldest grocery business in all of Poinsett County.

In addition to being a great businessman, Johnny is an active member of his community. He is known for his generosity to many local charities, and has been a member of the Marked Tree Church of God since 1946. He has also taken the time to get involved in civic activities, serving as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention and helping Bill Clinton win Poinsett County in his 1982 race for Governor.

Johnny Rye and his wife, Maxine Branch Rye, have two sons, Johnny Rye, Jr., the Assessor of Poinsett County, and Randy Rye who works for the family business. They also have one granddaughter, Robin Rye who is studying to be a nursing major at the University of Central Arkansas.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing Johnny Rye, Sr. for his significant contributions to eastern Arkansas. He is a great friend, a great businessman, and a great American.

**CARL ELLIOTT AND LISTER HILL:
TWO INDISPENSABLE GREAT AN-
GELS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 7, 2006, the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies and the University Libraries will conduct a Library Services Act 50th Anniversary Program honoring Congressman Carl Elliott and Senator Lister Hill, two great legislators who were the first great federal advocates for the Library Services and the National Defense Education Acts. As the only Librarian who has ever served in the Congress I was honored to be invited to speak at this commemoration; however, the scheduled vote on the budget prevented me from attending. The following are a portion of

the remarks I prepared for that landmark occasion:

In his 2001 inaugural address President Bush left us with one profound image: the specter of an "Angel in the Whirlwind" guiding the fate of our nation. Democracy in America has survived and expanded despite the numerous whirlwinds and storms. At several critical periods our ship of state could have been blown off course and been wrecked on the rocks. Always in the past, the churning American political process has produced the leadership capable of conquering crises and opening new vistas.

Representative Carl Elliott and Senator Lister Hill were two leaders who opened new vistas. In the story of the making of America we can find many angels emerging from the whirlwind. Many of our greatest angels are unsung, unknown beyond a small circle. But the abundance of angels, ordinary and everywhere, has created the most fantastic nation on the face of the earth. Not from royal bloodlines or from pampered privileged classes but from the cradles in the tenements, from log cabins and shotgun shacks. Every citizen, all Americans are potential angels called by the voice of Thomas Jefferson to come forward and add your contribution to the ongoing miracle of America. Because we loudly assume that all persons are created equal we automatically break the chains of doubt and set our imaginations and spirits soaring to achieve at higher and higher levels, and to create new institutions.

Lister Hill refused to let his regional origins interfere with his national visions. Carl Elliott did not allow a lack of wealth and high-class status to limit his spirit and ambition. Both men focused intensely and accomplished missions that place them among the legions of great American angels.

Just as school systems for the masses never existed before they emerged in America, so it was with public libraries. Yes, from the time of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome there were libraries, but always they were the closely guarded property of the rich and available only to the elite. From the embryo implanted by Benjamin Franklin to the urban facilities provided by the generosity of Andrew Carnegie to the legislation of enduring federal support for libraries the American angels were in motion.

To achieve the imprimatur of federal sponsorship was a life sustaining development for modern public libraries. Only a fellow legislator can imagine what Representative Elliott had to overcome to realize his dream. Politicians seldom dwell on systems and long-term goals that benefit citizens beyond their political district. Elliott was ridiculed as a man who was tinkering with the impossible. He was strongly advised to do what every other lawmaker was attempting. To get reelected and be celebrated back home, he was told to get himself an appropriation to build a bridge. Get something concrete to show off that could be dedicated with a ribbon cutting and marching bands. If Elliott had accepted that practical but mundane proposition, oh what a devastating gap there would have been in the progress of library service in America. Carl had to be the pitcher in the House of Representatives and Lister had to be the catcher in the Senate in order for the game of public library expansion to go forward.

Across the nation we can now boast of magnificent public libraries and library sys-

tems. The DNA of Elliott and Hill goes marching on. Other great library nurturing angels like Eileen Cooke of the ALA Washington Office boldly forged ahead in their spirit and played a major role in the legislation and administration of the E-Rate providing widespread utilization of computers and the Internet in libraries. A whole new dimension exciting the young and the old has been added to the information and education mission of public libraries.

As a philosophical descendant of Elliott and Hill; and a more immediate child of the LSCA I arrived in Congress determined to raise the profile of libraries of all kinds to a level where they could never be forgotten and neglected again. Certainly I have been frustrated that the higher Federal appropriations have not been gained which I think libraries deserve in order to relieve some of the funding burden on State and local governments. But basically I will be leaving the Congress after 24 years contented that most of my concerns have been fulfilled. There are now many legislative advocates for libraries and they exist in both parties, Republican and Democratic. In politics that pinnacle of bipartisan support is the ultimate goal. The fight is no longer for recognition and survival as a national priority. The fight is for growth and the expansion which will provide opportunities for libraries to meet the new emerging challenges of education located away from campuses and outside of classrooms.

Our libraries are indispensable institutions. President Clinton has described America as an indispensable nation. Carl Elliott and Lister Hill were indispensable great angels for this indispensable nation. Out of the limelight, with no headlines to encourage them they remained steadfast in their unglamorous mission. As early as 1919, the American Library Association was seeking federal support for libraries. But not until 1936 was there a small breakthrough which established the Library Services Division within the Office of Education. Through side doors such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the WPA more federal support was garnered. But not until 1956 was the great breakthrough achieved; the Library Services Act was passed and later expanded in 1960. In the history of the House and the Senate there are few records of such longevity and perseverance in the unselfish pursuit of uplifting legislation.

The rock-solid basic principle pioneered by Carl Elliott and Lister Hill is the proposition that wealth, financial well being, should not be the deciding factor in determining who has access to information and knowledge. Elliott and Hill understood that the growth and development of the State and region economy were inextricably interwoven with the intellectual growth and development of ordinary residents of the State and region. While public libraries were only a small part of the overall education effort they were the institutions with the greatest cost-benefits ratio. Huge opportunities were provided for large numbers of persons on the roads to upward mobility at the lowest possible costs. Oh, yes the investment in libraries and education pays great dividends.

Long before the military leaders could comprehend it, Elliott and Hill understood that an educated populace was our nation's greatest asset for national security. From what was often labeled as an abstract dream of universal literacy reflected in their concern for rural libraries these two giant angels of American progress leaped to the hard-nosed prep-

arations for a space age national defense system. The massive feats of science and engineering needed to develop the laser, satellites, spacecraft and rockets were made possible as a result of the initiatives of the National Defense Education Act. There is a clear connection between the vision and labor of Elliott and Hill and this nation's landing of a man on the moon.

America, not by accident, is the richest, most powerful nation that the world has ever known. In comparison the great Roman Empire was merely a village. America is great because the unsung heroes, the invisible angels are always at work carrying out the details that make our democracy a success.

There will be in America no aristocracy of the well informed. Know-how shall never be a rare or scarce commodity. The government shall encourage all persons to pursue their fullest development. Beyond universal access to information, libraries will provide assistance with knowledge creation and utilization. In the appreciation and the application of wisdom librarians will continue to play a vital role.

The vision and foresight of Carl Elliott and Lister Hill have been validated by time. Their concerns have become more relevant as we plunge further into the age of information. In America information will never become the weapon of elite dictatorships. Information, knowledge and the records of wisdom must be permanently supplied to the citizens. In many forms this library mission must carry on to maintain the land of the free, home of the brave, and the nation of the most thoroughly informed who are capable of that continuing oversight and vigilance necessary to guarantee that our great democracy will long endure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Mr. Hall in introducing the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006. This bill establishes a National Integrated Drought Information System—or NIDIS—within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that will provide early warnings, forecasts, and information about drought conditions to mitigate the impacts of drought.

The western part of our country, including my own state of Colorado, has experienced severe drought conditions in recent years, with adverse consequences that have included severe wildfires that have devastated many homes and businesses.

Droughts are a recurring part of climatic cycles, but that does not make them benign. And because unlike hurricanes or other weather events they develop slowly and their effects are felt over longer periods, there is a danger that efforts to mitigate or reduce the damage will not begin in time.

The direct impacts of drought include reduced crop yields and forest productivity, increased fire hazards, lower water levels, and damage to wildlife habitats. Droughts are costly to our economy as they reduce the incomes