

to ensure a quick response, and improved technology to keep miners safe.

Specifically, the bill requires that mine rescue teams employed by the mine operator and familiar with an individual mine be available to respond immediately. Regulations require that three mine safety teams be present—two in a mine and one standing by outside—prior to a rescue operation beginning. It is important that the necessary rescue teams be in place as soon as possible so that the rescue can begin as soon as mine conditions allow.

This legislation creates an MSHA Office of Science and Technology, and requires MSHA to examine new mine safety and rescue technologies, including refuge chambers. The world watched as tragedy was averted in Canada this past weekend because 72 trapped miners were able to escape to a designated safe haven with a supply of oxygen and communications technology.

The Federal Mine Safety Act would require that emergency supplies of oxygen and breathing equipment be placed in strategic locations in the mine. Each of these locations would also include communications equipment so that miners can provide information about their location and condition to rescuers, and miners can receive information from the outside. The legislation also calls for miners to be provided with emergency tracking devices.

Other provisions of the legislation, including a miner ombudsman in the Department of Labor to take reports of safety violations from miners, will also help to make our mines safer.

It is important that this House act on legislation to improve the safety of our coal mines. I spent time with the friends and families of the Sago mine victims, both as we awaited news on the rescue effort and after we knew the tragic result. I do not want to watch more families endure what the families of the Sago victims went through.

I urge my colleagues, whether your State is a major producer of coal or not, and regardless of your party affiliation, to join the West Virginia delegation in helping to prevent future mining tragedies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDNA HARRIS FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LAS VEGAS MUNICIPAL COURT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edna Harris who died Sunday, January 29, 2006 after battling cancer.

Edna recently retired from the City of Las Vegas in January 2005, after serving 25 years in the Alternative Sentencing & Education Division of Las Vegas Municipal Court, as the Supervisor of Misdemeanor Programs. In the workplace, she was known for her fight to reduce the incidence of domestic violence. She was appointed to serve on the State of Nevada Committee on Domestic Violence, on which she served since its inception. She also chaired the Municipal Court's annual Domestic Violence Conference.

Edna was well known for her smile and humor. She always had a song to give you or a word of inspiration. Near and dear to her

heart was her love for family and the church where she was first lady and also active as an evangelist. Edna will be missed but never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Edna Harris was a shining example of diligent public service. Her legacy will long be remembered by the State of Nevada. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize her on the floor of the House in front of my colleagues.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WISCONSIN AND MARIA MONREAL-CAMERON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (HCCW), and its President and CEO Maria Monreal-Cameron.

For over 30 years, HCCW has been helping hard-working Hispanics throughout Wisconsin, share in a fundamental slice of the American dream—running a business. A nonprofit organization founded in 1972, HCCW serves as an incubator for Latino-run businesses across the state—focusing primarily, however, on the Milwaukee metropolitan area. The organization helps create greater opportunities for Hispanic entrepreneurs by offering some of the educational and technical resources necessary to start a business, while promoting greater involvement in the Hispanic community.

At the helm of this fantastic organization has been Maria Monreal-Cameron. For the past 16 years, Maria has served as President and CEO of HCCW, helping the Hispanic Chamber's membership swell to over 600 members. On top of that, under her leadership the organization has provided nearly \$350,000 in scholarships to college-bound high school students in Wisconsin. Maria has left an indelible mark on HCCW, and Wisconsin's Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, few have done more for Wisconsin's Hispanic citizens than the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin and Maria Monreal-Cameron, and that is why I consider it such a wonderful privilege to honor them today. I commend them for their work, and wish them continued success in 2006.

A TRIBUTE TO SCONYERS BARBECUE RESTAURANT OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA FOR 50 YEARS OF SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to mark a milestone in Southern politics and culture by recognizing the 50th Anniversary of a culinary and political tradition in my district—Sconyers Barbecue Restaurant of Augusta, Georgia.

Those outside my region might not be aware of how much a role a successful "bar-

becue" plays in Southern hospitality and politics.

The first thing one needs to understand is that in the South, the word itself can be noun, a verb, or an adjective. It is more than food, it is a cultural identification, and one that crosses all party lines.

I don't think there is any better example of this than Larry Sconyers and Sconyers Barbecue Restaurant in Augusta, Georgia.

Sconyers Bar-B-Que was founded 50 years ago in 1956, when Claude and Adeline Sconyers could no longer make a living at farming and decided to give their hobby a try.

With all their children but one grown and no one to help them on the farm, they opened Sconyers Bar-B-Que on Peach Orchard Road, just about a mile from the Tobacco Road of Erskine Caldwell fame. The small restaurant was an instant hit, with classically prepared southern barbecue.

Larry Sconyers, Claude and Adeline's youngest son, took over the business after the death of his father. Under Larry's direction, the hobby grew into a major business in the Augusta area, with a move to a larger and more upscale location.

But Larry wanted to take the traditional southern barbecue to a higher level—catering.

Over the years Sconyers' Bar-B-Que has been served on the White House lawn for President Jimmy Carter and members of Congress, in Atlanta at the Georgia Capital as well as at many local and state events, including my own fundraising barbecues.

Larry's close ties with political events almost cost us this wonderful asset.

He was enticed to run for office himself, first serving as a Richmond County Commissioner from 1991–95, then as the first Mayor of a consolidated Augusta-Richmond County—Georgia's second largest city—until he retired from direct politics in 1998 to return to the barbecue business.

All this isn't just me talking. Sconyer's Barbecue has been featured in People's Magazine as one of the top ten Bar-B-Que restaurants in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 9th District of Georgia, I commend Larry Sconyers, the Sconyers family, and the entire staff, past and present, of Sconyers Barbecue for a half-century of service and traditional southern hospitality to the people of East Central Georgia, the South, and the nation.

TEXAS LONGHORNS—NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I was personally on hand January 4, 2006 to see one of the greatest college football games ever played; Texas vs USC in the granddaddy of them all, the Rose Bowl. Today I rise to congratulate the victors, College Football's National Champion, the University of Texas Longhorns.

In front of over 100,000 fans, an impressive portion of which were wearing burnt orange, the Longhorns triumphed with a stunning come from behind win that will be talked about for years to come. The State of Texas is immensely proud of the Longhorn's Head Coach

Mack Brown, his entire staff, and the fine players that represent them.

Those fine young men and the thousands of screaming Texas faithful taught the entire country the lesson that Sam Houston taught Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. You don't ever want to share the same field as a bunch of fired up Texans.

That's just the way it is.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
'NOLAN' CARWELL AFTER 25
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Nolan" Carwell, Postal Inspector, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Nolan is retiring from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service after twenty five years of dedicated service.

Nolan Carwell began his career as a Postal Inspector in May of 1980 when he accepted an assignment with the Seattle Division. In April 1983, he transferred to the Oakland/San Francisco Division 976 as a reserve officer and in November of that same year, he transferred to the Los Angeles Division where he was assigned to the External Crimes and Violent Crimes Division. He remained in Los Angeles until 2000 when he accepted a transfer back to the field as a Multi-Functional Team Leader with the Las Vegas Domicile Division.

Nolan has received the Vice President's Award for the Department of Justice Task Force, investigating conspiracy allegations into the Dr. Martin Luther King assassination; the Meritorious Service Award for the investigation of the Los Angeles riots; the Los Angeles Federal Bar Association Distinguished Achievement Award; and the Chief Inspector Performance Award, serving as an Instructor with FLETC, teaching classes in crime scene investigation, crime scene preservation, drug abuse, fingerprints, death investigation, rape investigation and burglary, photography, undercover technical investigations equipment, and labs and practical exercise programs to over 15,000 students representing over 70 federal law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, Nolan Carwell has worked diligently with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for twenty five years I ask my fellow colleagues to stand with me today to honor him, to thank him for his service, and to wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO THE
NATION DURING THE 32ND AN-
NUAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the 32nd annual Catholic Schools Week, I want to recognize the contributions of Catholic schools to this Nation. Mr. Speaker, children all across America have benefited from Catholic education. I applaud these schools for their

long commitment to education, to a value system and character development, and to developing the kind of lifestyles that students as well as adults need to seek. There are almost 8,000 Catholic schools nationwide. Illinois is one of the ten States with the highest enrollments of Catholic students, with over 181,000 students in 538 schools in the State. In Chicago, as in other urban areas, Catholic schools play an important role in providing quality academic training to children and youth. Indeed, the Archdiocese of Chicago was the second largest Catholic school system in the country. There are many outstanding Catholic schools in my Congressional district. Among them is Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Resurrection Elementary School in Chicago, and, of course, St. Ignatius Preparatory, which is recognized as one of the top preparatory schools in the Nation.

Catholic schools emphasize discipline, values, and parental involvement—three elements that are critical to raising responsible citizens. Self-discipline, or the ability to restrain our impulses and to apply ourselves in the face of competing interests, is a quality that is important for young people and old. It allows us to use prudence and wisdom in making choices rather than to act out of impulse. Value-added education instills in youth a commitment to others and one's community. In an age where many individuals place primacy on their personal needs, such a focus prepares students to contribute to society by considering the needs of others. The close involvement of parents, a hallmark of Catholic education, makes clear that education is not something that occurs only within the school house, but is a life-long process.

One of the truly great aspects of the American education system is its diversity. The goal of our system should be both public and private, and it is to provide anyone and everyone in any city, any State, with the opportunity they need to succeed. The educational recipe for success in our country certainly includes Catholic schools. These schools contribute to the rich diversity that truly makes American education powerful. Catholic schools help make American education successful in its mission and provide a strong and positive force in America's educational system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CONTAINER STORE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Container Store, whose headquarters are based in Coppell, Texas, for being ranked number 6 on Fortune Magazine's 2006 list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For."

The Container Store is one of only two companies from the State of Texas to make the Top 10 overall. It was awarded a number 3 ranking in the "Best Medium-Sized Companies (2,500–10,000 employees) to Work For" category.

The companies are chosen based upon Fortune's evaluation of the policies and culture of the company, and the opinion of its employees. The latter is given more weight; it is

found from employee responses to a survey that evaluates factors such as attitudes towards management and job satisfaction.

The Container Store continues in the excellent tradition of employee satisfaction. The company has been at the top of the "Best Companies to Work For" list for 7 years in a row. Last year it was ranked number 15 on the top 100 list. The company prides itself on the philosophy that "employees are our greatest asset."

And so, I commend the Container Store for maintaining its dedication to a friendly and productive workplace environment. Its successful and creative practices have not only led to satisfied employees, but a business that continues to thrive and expand on a national level as well.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, February is a month of remembrance. February is a significant month for the United States of America because it marks an important part of our heritage, Black History Month. It is important for all Americans to recognize the great contributions of African-Americans.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard scholar, deserves most of the credit for establishing Black History Month. He was determined to bring Black history into the mainstream public arena and he succeeded. In 1926, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln—two men who had greatly impacted the Black population.

Over time, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month. This 4-week-long celebration of African-American history is packed with important anniversaries and remembrances of African-American struggles and triumphs. February 14, 1817 is the presumed birthday of Frederick Douglass, February 21, 1965 marks the date of Malcolm X's assassination and Nelson Mandela's release from prison was on February 11, 1990.

Americans must remember that within the 4 short weeks of February, American history was radically changed. Many African-Americans risked their lives to stand up for their freedoms and as a result our culture has changed for the better.

The first day of February is significant for two separate reasons: On this day in 1865 Abraham Lincoln approved the 13th amendment to abolish slavery, and 1960 was the date of the Woolworth lunch counter sit-in. African-Americans prevailed again throughout February with the ratification of the 15th amendment guaranteeing that race would not prevent a man from voting, February 3, 1870; the day of the Montgomery bus boycott arrests, February 22, 1956; and opera star Marian Anderson's birthday on February 27, 1897.

Black History Month pays tribute to inspirational African-Americans from the past, as well as those who will continue to make history well into the future. It is important to inspire today's children by teaching them that there