

I also would like to welcome President Ilham Aliyev to Washington this week for meetings with President Bush, senior Administration officials, and key Congressional leaders to discuss the need for continued democratic reforms, regional cooperation, energy security and diversification, and our nations' commitment to working closely together to advance freedom, security, and economic independence.

It is clear now more than ever that we must develop new sources of energy and partners not controlled by Middle East and South American dictatorships.

Azerbaijan has been identified as key to the East-West transit corridor from the Caspian Sea to international markets. Sharing a 379 mile border with Iran, we should recognize that Azerbaijan is important to the United States relations in the region. I encourage my colleagues in the House to support the opening of the one million barrel per day Baku-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline and Baku-Erzurum (SCP) natural gas pipeline, set to increase energy exports and availability for the West.

I welcome President Ilham Aliyev upon his first official visit to Washington.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 378, in recognition of the goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

In 2004, according to the Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey, approximately 24 million Americans became victims of a criminal action, including 5.2 million acts of violence.

While I celebrate the fact that this marks the lowest level ever recorded, I remain committed to providing a voice and a helping hand to those whose freedoms have been infringed.

In tribute to the more than 10,000 system- and community-based assistance programs that serve as a vital role in the recovery process, the theme of the 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Strength in Unity."

Since the passage of the Victims of Crimes Act in 1984, more than \$7 billion in fines and other assessments have been collected from those who prey on some of the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society.

Each year thousands of volunteers selflessly contribute their time and energy that enables an individual to make the important transformation from "crime victim" to "crime survivor." Through various means of advocacy, we continue our work to ensure that no victim, nor family member, is forced to face a legal or medical appointment on their own; or, more importantly, left to face an anniversary alone.

Mr. Speaker, when the salacious interest of check-out stand voyeurs wanes, and the cable news programs turn their cameras to another sensational story, we must remain the crime victims' advocate and ally.

HONORING JUDY TRAMMELL AND THE MESQUITE WOMEN IN SERVICE AND ENTERPRISE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, for the past five years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women In Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Judy Trammell, who is a shining example of strong, capable and dedicated leadership. I would also like to recognize honorees Sammie Motley Coats, Officer Cheryl Gregg and JaLinda Grimland for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Judy Trammell is a personal friend and is actually one of the first people I met in Mesquite. She has always been extremely helpful to me and I have had the chance to work first-hand with her on several occasions. Recently the Mesquite Service League was the recipient of a very kind charitable donation, and I was able to be there, with Judy, to witness the generosity and appreciation of the Mesquite community.

Judy is the Business Development/Marketing Director for Jefferson Bank in Mesquite. Since moving to Mesquite in 1985, she has held positions with Mesquite Savings and Loan, Mesquite National Bank and Colonial Bank.

Judy has served on numerous boards in the greater Mesquite community including: American Heart Association Mesquite, Exchange Club of Mesquite, Mesquite Chamber of Commerce, Mustangar Chamber of Commerce, Mesquite Service League, Advisory Board of Boys and Girls Club of Dallas—Mesquite Division, member of Main Street Mesquite and Mesquite Social Services.

In addition to being active in the community and holding leadership roles, Judy has also been recognized for her service. She has received the American Heart Association Regional Volunteer of the Year award in 1998, the Distinguished Service Award in 1999, and was awarded a research grant in her honor. She received the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce 2002 Volunteer of the Year award and the 2005 Committee Chair of the Year award.

Judy is not only constantly on the go at work and with community service activities, but she is also an energetic mother of two daughters and the proud grandmother of grandsons, Mason and Cameron. Judy truly embodies the ideals of a great volunteer; she knows how to lead, encourage others to follow and "get her hands dirty." Judy's impact on our community is great and far-reaching and exemplifies an outstanding woman in service and enterprise.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise also inspire younger generations. This year, Mesquite Social Services and the Mesquite Service League are, once again, partnering to honor six Junior WISE scholarship recipients: Phylecia Burk, Christine Nguyen, Renu Mat-

thews, Cari Wheat, Bianca Rodriguez and Makiala Fivecoat. These six young ladies, who are graduating from local high schools in Mesquite, have all indicated their desire to attend college and enter a service-oriented field of study.

Today, I would like to recognize Judy Trammell and all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

TRIBUTE TO JANE JACOBS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we lost one of New York City's greatest champions and a pioneer in the world of urban planning when Jane Jacobs died at the age of 89.

Millions of people visit New York every year, and many are overwhelmed by its sheer size. The hulking skyscrapers. The bustling crowds. The bright lights.

But the dynamism of Manhattan during rush hour is just a piece of the story.

A more complete picture of the Big Apple is colored by the scores of local communities that are defined not by big business of the world's economic capital, but rather by the rhythm of parents walking kids to a local elementary school, families attending religious services at a local church or synagogue, and mothers and fathers shopping along the neighborhood shopping strip.

While the Manhattan skyline may spring to mind when someone mentions New York, the DNA of the City's everyday life is defined much more by each local neighborhood. Forest Hills in Queens. Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn. Throgs Neck in the Bronx. Stapleton on Staten Island. Jacobs' beloved West Village in Manhattan. There are so many others.

It was Jacobs' masterpiece—"The Death and Life of Great American Cities"—that argued that the health of the City as a whole depended on the vibrancy of its urban neighborhoods. At a time when grand visions of urban renewal were spurring planners to pave over entire communities, Jacobs stood at the forefront of a movement to preserve the City's most fundamental building blocks.

And today, as a result in part of Jacobs' efforts to preserve New York's neighborhoods, New York City is as vibrant as ever. We are a magnet for what Richard Florida has termed the "Creative Class"—the highly-educated, highly-motivated young people who are key to economic growth.

And while scholars like Robert Putnam worry about the deterioration of social capital—afraid that Americans are interacting less and more likely to "bowl alone"—the neighborhoods of New York City continue to have dynamic communities that interact on the street with a swirl of new and old faces.

In fact, today, Jacobs' successes have left New Yorkers with a new set of challenges. Because so many people want to live in New York, property values have skyrocketed, and tax bills along with them. Because so many people are using our public transportation systems to get to work, we're forced to invest in

building new infrastructure. Because so many young people want to raise families in the five boroughs, we are forced to foot the bill for building more schools.

Our new burden in New York is to manage the success of Jane Jacobs' vision of a vibrant, dense, growing, exciting city.

And for that, we owe Jane Jacobs a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF THE GRAND OPENING OF LONOKE COUNTY SAFE HAVEN, INC.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to celebrate the grand opening of Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc., an organization that provides critical resources to victims of domestic violence. This center will give women and their children a place to turn during difficult times and is a valuable addition to our community.

Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc. was founded in March 2005 after J.M. Park read an article about a domestic violence victim. The article inspired Park and others to create a program where domestic violence victims can access vital recovery services. The organization began to help victims in September 2005, providing services such as a helpline, court advocacy, information on county, state, and federal resources, and recommendations for local shelters.

Today's grand opening is a significant step for Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc. and a great milestone for our community. The new center, directed by Teresa Sims, will give battered women and their children throughout Lonoke County a place to seek assistance from dangerous living conditions. The center will provide services from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with hopes of one day expanding into a shelter of its own. The organization is already recognized by the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence for its work to strengthen the support system for battered women and their children.

On April 17, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate the grand opening of the Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation for this center and for all of the individuals committed to making Lonoke County a safer place for women and children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ENHANCEMENT AND NATIONAL GUARD EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006.

In support of this proposal, consider the following:

The U.S. continues to face a wide spectrum of threats at home and abroad, including terrorism, natural disasters, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other emerging perils. In meeting these threats, the U.S. relies heavily on the men and women of the National Guard. The National Guard is a force essential to the Nation's security and safety.

At no time in America's history has the National Guard played so critical a role in the security of our homeland and in our Nation's military objectives abroad.

The National Guard is a critical component of Department of Defense's contribution to the security of our Nation and has been key to the Department's accomplishments at home and abroad. Much of the success DOD has had would not have been possible without the participation of National Guard forces.

The National Guard's response to our Nation's emergencies in the post 9/11 world has been unparalleled.

The National Guard is a vital part of this Nation's security, and this country relies on the exemplary service provided this Nation by the members of the Guard, their families, their employers and their communities.

The men and women of the National Guard have earned the right to be represented at the highest levels of the Department of Defense.

To ensure the appropriate representation, manpower, training and equipment are provided to the National Guard for their future missions at home and abroad, the National Defense and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006:

Establishes the National Guard Bureau NGB as a joint activity of the Department of Defense rather than strictly of the Departments of the Army and Air Force as it is now.

Increases the Chief of the National Guard Bureau billet from the grade of Lieutenant General to General.

Tasks the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to serve as an advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and eliminates the current National Guard major general position established for that function.

Provides a seat on Joint Chiefs of Staff for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Elevates responsibility for development of the NGB charter from the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force to the Secretary of Defense.

Specifies in law one of the functions of NGB to facilitate the use of National Guard forces for contingencies, military operations other than war, natural disasters and support to civil authorities—all in coordination with the States. This function exists in policy as part of the current NGB charter from the Departments of the Army and Air Force.

Requires NGB to, in coordination with the State Adjutant Generals identify gaps between Federal and State emergency response capabilities which might best be filled through military assistance to civil authorities and to make recommendations for National Guard programs and capabilities to fill those gaps, in coordination with the States.

Charges the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the State Adjutant Generals, to validate state requirements for military assistance to civil authorities, develop doctrine and training requirements, and acquire materiel, etc. for this purpose, in coordination with the States.

Requires a report on requirements for military assistance to civilian authorities that are

validated but not funded—which in essence will become an unfunded requirements list.

Changes the titles of the Directors of the Army and Air National Guard to Vice Chiefs of the National Guard Bureau for Army and Air respectively to reflect the unity of purpose inside the organization.

Prohibits growth in the size of the NGB staff in order to answer concerns about the possibility of the NGB bureaucracy growing as a result of the changes sought herein.

Strengthens the Total Force talent pool by encouraging the Department of Defense to include Reserve Component major generals of the line for promotion to fill Lieutenant General positions.

Requires that the Deputy Commander of NORTHCOM be a National Guard officer.

The Committee on Government Reform and the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation and Response to Hurricane Katrina, have conducted oversight investigations and have held many hearings that have focused on the contributions of the men and women of the National Guard. The following are findings that I submit for the RECORD. These 50 findings represent the States in the Union we seek to defend.

1. Within hours of the attacks on the World Trade Center, 1,500 New York National Guard troops reported for duty. Within 24 hours of the attacks, over 8,000 New York National Guard Soldiers and Air men and women were on active duty supporting New York State's security needs. These troops provided not just a calming presence on the streets of New York during unsettling times; they provided New York's first responders with critical perimeter security support, refueling for civilian emergency vehicles, emergency lighting, power generation, communications, emergency transportation, engineering assets and other logistical support.

2. At the request of the President, State Governors supplemented the security of the Nation's airports with National Guard personnel. Their missions encompassed over 400 airports in 52 States and territories. National Guard troops along the northern and southern borders were used to support the U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Border Patrol in the heightened post 9/11 security posture.

3. In contrast to Hurricane Andrew, 1992, in which National Guard forces constituted 24 percent of the military response, National Guard forces represented more than 70 percent of the military force for Hurricane Katrina.

4. The response to Hurricane Katrina proved that the National Guard is the Nation's first military responder and that the overwhelming majority of forces that respond to disasters in the United States will be National Guard who will be on the scene before the Department of Defense is requested to respond.

5. More than 9,700 National Guard soldiers and airmen were in New Orleans by August 30. National Guard deployed over 30,000 additional troops within 96 hours of the storms passing. In wake of the Hurricane Katrina devastation, the National Guard mobilized over 50,000 personnel in support of hurricane relief in the largest and fastest domestic deployment since World War II, saving over 17,000 lives. The Air National Guard flew nearly 3,500 flights and over 12,000 tons of cargo in support of all Hurricane relief in the last year.