

cemeteries up and down Ten Mile Creek. A memorial is currently being organized by the families of the miners to recognize and honor them. The memorial will be dedicated later this summer to ensure they are never forgotten.

Those family members gathered know first hand the pain of losing a loved one—the same pain suffered by families across West Virginia this year. Our state will stand with these families, share in their suffering, and continue to push for improved safety in our mines.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Holocaust Remembrance Day has been set aside as a tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding our nation that we must vigorously pursue justice for the victims of all acts of hatred and inhumanity, not only for their sake but for the sake of future generations.

In addition, I have been concerned about the International Tracing Service (ITS) of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Driven by frustration with the long delays and poor responsiveness of ITS, family members of victims of the Holocaust are calling for access to ITS to search for their missing family members. The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, which is the largest survivor organization in the world, has repeatedly called for the archives to be opened. In most instances they have received no response to their requests for information regarding the actual holdings of the ITS archives or on the issue of access. I sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice requesting her to contact ITS and insist on making these archives available to the U.S. government and other related government organizations.

ITS was established by the Allied High Command after World War II to assist in reuniting families that were separated by concentration camps and confirm the fate of family members during the war. The initial document collections were deposited by the United States, United Kingdom and France, and included captured documents and Displaced Persons' (DP) camp records. The 30 million pages of archival material related about the approximately 17 million victims of Nazism, both Jews and non-Jews, includes records of concentration camps, forced and slave labor, deportations, and DP camps. The documents have an important memorial function to shed new light on our intellectual understanding of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

As context for all of this human tragedy, the operation of the concentration camps, transport and deportation systems, and perpetration of the Holocaust at the human, not just the statistical, level. All of that, and more for us to learn and seek to understand, lies in the ITS archives. It is so imperative for the ITS archives to be opened to the public. To collect all this vital information and put a wall up around it so no one could get in, makes a horrific crime worse.

I have received a response from Secretary Rice who stated, "[t]he United States supports as open access system in Bad Arolsen for visiting researchers. Furthermore, the United States has proposed that the eleven countries making up the International Commission of the ITS receive a digitized copy of the archives so that individual member States can make those documents available for research purposes under their respective national privacy laws." I am encouraged that the German Ambassador to the U.S. Klaus Scharloth announced on April 24, 2006, that the German government is now our partner in getting the ITS archive opened and copies made as quickly as possible.

I also rise today in recognition of the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent state. I am an original cosponsor of a resolution to recognize this important anniversary. Since 1948, the United States and Israel have developed a close friendship based on common democratic values, religious affinities, and security interests. U.S.-Israeli bilateral relations are multidimensional. Both countries have long recognized that their mutual interests of deterring war, promoting stability and achieving peace are not far off. I am committed to maintaining the close relationship that the U.S. government enjoys with Israel to secure democracy in the Middle East.

IN RECOGNITION OF LESLEY C.
DINWIDDIE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lesley C. Dinwiddie, past-president of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA), for her compassion, dedication, and pioneering contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients across the country.

As ANNA's 2004–05 president and a member of the organization for 24 years, Ms. Dinwiddie has inspired nephrology nurses to reach the highest levels of practice and patient care. A visionary leader, she has implemented a broad range of initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments.

The rising rates of kidney disease underscore the urgency of Ms. Dinwiddie's work: about 20 million Americans suffer from the disease today. The number of people diagnosed has doubled each decade for the last two decades and will likely continue to do so as Baby Boomers age.

For those who have lost over 85 percent of their kidney function, a condition known as end stage renal disease (ESRD), the only way to stay alive is to receive dialysis or a kidney transplant. There are now over 400,000 people in this country who are being treated for ESRD. Caring for these patients calls for highly-trained experts with sophisticated knowledge, making nephrology nursing one of the most challenging and rewarding nursing specialties practiced today. It is also one of the largest; ANNA's membership—now over 12,000—continues to grow each year.

As an ANNA president, Ms. Dinwiddie has led the association to many accomplishments. She spearheaded ANNA's advocacy efforts as the organization worked with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on such crucial issues as the nursing shortage, the role of the advanced practice nurse, and reimbursement for kidney care. She helped fuel grassroots advocacy efforts for the Kidney Care Quality and Improvement Act, H.R. 1298, of which I am pleased to be a cosponsor. This bill would modernize Medicare, advance quality care, and increase awareness of kidney disease in local communities.

Ms. Dinwiddie has also recognized the importance of recruiting and retaining nephrology nurses to help ensure the future of the specialty. She currently leads ANNA's annual "Nephrology Nurses Week," a national campaign that recognizes and celebrates the critical role of nephrology nurses in patient care. During another annual event, "ESRD Education Week," Ms. Dinwiddie and other nephrology nurses across the country invite state and federal legislators to visit dialysis units in their districts to learn more about kidney disease and treatments. I was pleased to visit the Cary Kidney Center in the congressional district I represent in August 2004. Ms. Dinwiddie has also expanded ANNA's collaborations with other nursing and kidney-related organizations, helping to ensure that the voices of nephrology nurses continue to be heard.

Professionally, Ms. Dinwiddie runs an independent nephrology nursing consulting practice in Cary, NC, specializing in vascular access for hemodialysis, education, and research. She is a member of the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative's (K/DOQI) Vascular Access Subcommittee and CMS's Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative. Ms. Dinwiddie is also a reviewer for ANNA's official journal, Nephrology Nursing, as well the Dialysis & Transplantation journal, and has numerous publications and presentations to her credit. She received a Diploma in General Nursing in Australia, a B.A. in psychology at the University of Arkansas, and her Masters in Nursing Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Lesley Dinwiddie for her years of vision, leadership, and commitment.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
NILAYA KUNTAMUKKALA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Ajay Kuntamukkala and Lavanya Reddy of Rockville, Maryland on the birth of their new baby girl. Nilaya Kuntamukkala was born on April 12, 2006 at 1:59 p.m., weighing 5 pounds and 13 ounces. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her wellbeing and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In early May, he will be making stops in the United States en route to Central and South America.

I commend President Chen for his leadership and wisdom in having maintained peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during the past six years. Despite the People's Republic of China's military buildup along the Taiwanese coast, despite China's passage of the anti-secession legislation last spring and despite China's continuous harsh rhetoric threatening Taiwan's future, President Chen continues to hope for a dialogue with his Chinese counterparts. President Chen wants permanent peace in the Taiwan Strait.

President Chen firmly believes in his people's right to maintain a free and democratic way of life. Any solution of the Taiwan question must have the consent and approval of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

We must help the 23 million people of Taiwan to determine their own future. First, we must reaffirm our commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, which stipulates a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue. In the meantime, let's give our support to Taiwan in its application to be an observer at the World Health Assembly meetings this May.

It is my hope that President Chen will be warmly welcomed in the United States. Too often he has been misunderstood. I salute him as a leader who's always put his country and his people first. He is our "peacekeeper" in the Taiwan Strait.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS
OF AMADOR VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL'S "WE THE PEOPLE"
TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both congratulate and wish the students of Amador Valley High School's "We the People" team the best of luck for their national competition in the District of Columbia this weekend. I also congratulate their parents and teachers for this remarkable achievement.

The U.S. Department of Education's Center for Civic Education sponsors "We the People" as an opportunity for students to compete in their knowledge of American civics. Students are quizzed on everything from the U.S. Constitution, the founding of our country, and the revolution of American government. This makes for a great experience for the students, because the testing occurs during simulated congressional hearings. These are creative students who excel in critical thinking and their mastery of history and government.

I am proud to say that on February 3, 2006, the "We the People" team from Amador Valley High School finished first in the State of

California. They are the seventh in the school's history in a line of successful teams to qualify for the national competition in Washington, DC.

These students have been victorious at the congressional, regional, and State levels this year. The team consists of 30 seniors who prepared in 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation. During this time, this diverse group of students have come together as one team; supporting each other in the most difficult and rigorous academic experience of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate the Amador Valley High School team and I want to add the names of these bright students in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Angela Aronoff, Kiel Barry, Sean Basalyga, Nihat Bayramoglu, Sanam Bhatia, Audra Bloom, David Crisostomo, Jennifer Doxey, Jasmine Guo, Scott Hanford, Jennifer Hank, Glenalyn Hunt, Lauren Johnson, Jack LaFrancesca, Jessica Ma, Amy Qin, Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh, Paula Reeve, David Rowse, Lakshmi Santhosh, Eugene Shenkar, Tiffany Shih, Suzanna Sund, Will Tagg, Sonia Talati, Susan Tang, Brookanne Thompson, Ronald Tran, Elise Viebeck, and Jenny Zhan.

H.R. 3277—FEDERAL AGENCY PER-
FORMANCE REVIEW AND SUNSET
ACT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to speak in favor of H.R. 3277, the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act." The Federal Government is fraught with chronic program overlap and duplication. As Congress has created multiple agencies and programs to meet the needs of our Nation over the years, it has become increasingly clear that many of these programs are now outdated because they serve similar purposes.

Did you know that: 19 federal programs throughout the government focus on substance abuse prevention; 90 early childhood programs exist in 11 federal agencies within 20 different offices; 86 teacher training programs exist in 9 different agencies; and 27 different programs and services to prevent teen pregnancy exist in HHS alone.

The costs of the hurricane recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana have reached record proportions and will place an increasing amount of strain on our Nation's resources. The President has stated that federal spending cuts are inevitable in the near future if the government is to achieve a balanced budget. Congress must take accountability by making sure the most effective spending cuts do not hinder the necessary operations of the Federal Government.

The members of Congress have a unique opportunity in front of them. Together, we can help eliminate program overlap and duplication and at the same time help offset the costs of the hurricane recovery efforts with the passage of the Sunset Act. Under the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act," or the Sunset Act the need and efficiency of each Federal Agency will be investigated by a Sunset Commission.

Once a Federal Agency has been reviewed by the Commission, Congress will have 2 years to positively reaffirm the need for that agency. No reauthorization by Congress in that 2-year span would result in the termination of the agency or program. The Sunset Commissions will empower the President to make the most effective spending cuts by trimming Federal programs whose functions exist elsewhere in the government.

Last year, Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before the Senate Budget Committee with regard to reforming the budget process. What was missing in government, he stated, was a systematic review of all Federal programs. He said, "[Congress] might want to require that existing programs be assessed regularly to verify that they continue to meet their stated purposes and cost projections." The Sunset Act is expressly consistent with this analysis, and would bring light of review and accountability to Federal programs, and result in considerable cost savings to the taxpayer.

A similar important piece of legislation that I introduced is H.R. 3276, the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act". Under the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act," bipartisan commissions would be created to study specific areas where there might be overlap and duplication in federal operations. The commissions would issue recommendations to the President on how to reorganize, at which time the President would decide whether to submit the proposal to Congress. This legislation would require both the creation of a Results Commission and any reorganization proposal endorsed by it to come before Congress under expedited procedures to ensure that the proposal receives a clean, up-or-down vote in both houses.

It is clear that the world works at much faster speeds than it did 40, 30, and even 20 years ago. It is clear that it should not require an act of Congress to reorganize the Executive Branch so that real solutions for crises can be found in the most efficient manner. H.R. 3276 will allow a "fast-track" reorganization authority to exist that will increase the overall operability and efficiency of the government and allow it to keep pace with the speed of the world today.

Something has to be done to eliminate the government waste caused by chronic program overlap and duplication throughout the Federal Government and get the biggest bang for the taxpayers' dollars. The two commissions proposed in H.R. 3276 and H.R. 3277 are critical to achieving a sensible and responsible analysis of government programs and operations and ultimately in eliminating unneeded programs and reorganizing government operations.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I strongly support this bipartisan legislation—the Iran Freedom Support Act—which is a measured, appropriate and necessary response by this body to the continued belligerence and threatening actions of the Iranian regime.