

Mr. Weill said he believed the company—and his legacy—was in strong hands.

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
VOLUNTEERS OF SPAWAR

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a group of volunteers serving at SPAWAR Charleston in the First Congressional District of South Carolina.

Volunteering is a powerful force for the solution of human problems, and the creative use of human resources is essential to a healthy, productive and humane society.

Our nation's heritage is based on citizen involvement and citizen participation. Volunteerism is of enormous benefit in building a better community and a better sense of one's own well being.

Many agencies that benefit from volunteers will be participating in programs to show appreciation and recognition to the many volunteers among our citizenry who possess many skills and talents which they generously and enthusiastically apply to a variety of community tasks; and to encourage others to participate in programs as volunteers.

I encourage all SPAWAR Charleston employees to get involved in serving others. I charge those interested citizens to observe this day by seeking some area in the community in which they can devote a few hours each week and give aid to people or programs in need. I wish you all the best!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANELA FREEMAN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the departure of a key member of my staff, Anela Freeman. Anela is a Senior Field Representative/Grants Coordinator in my El Monte office who is leaving my staff this Friday to pursue graduate education.

Anela is an only child and was raised by a single mother. She became one of the first members of her family to earn a college degree when she graduated from the University of Southern California in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations.

Anela was hired as a Staff Assistant in my El Monte office on April 20, 2003. Anela accepted her role with great responsibility and maturity. She quickly learned the importance of providing high quality constituent services and her efforts undoubtedly helped to improve the quality of life of residents in my district.

Anela is a dedicated and capable individual. She is also a team player who has effectively established collaborative partnerships between my office and local community-based organizations. Through her efforts, I have been able to provide grant workshops, grant-writing seminars, and financial literacy forums for my constituents.

Although my staff and I will miss Anela, I wish her much success and know that she will

flourish in her career goals and all aspects of her life.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. DEMATTIA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert A. DeMattia upon his nomination to the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

DeMattia's tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Plymouth have brought him this well deserved recognition. Demonstrating his entrepreneurial acumen, DeMattia founded the DeMattia Group in 1978. The DeMattia Group has been involved in pioneering commercial and industrial business park development. By his design, development, and construction, DeMattia has been involved in creating hundreds of facilities in Plymouth Township. Mr. DeMattia's vision and leadership have helped lead Plymouth into a prosperous future.

Of equal import and impact are Mr. DeMattia's philanthropic efforts. Whether assisting with our local parks or working on the behalf of children through the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, DeMattia has donated his time and efforts to enrich the lives of others. Let us, then, commend Mr. DeMattia for his contributions to our community and his induction into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO ADOLFO E.
GUTIERREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Adolfo E. Gutierrez for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Adolfo E. Gutierrez was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. He graduated from J.W. Nixon High School in 1974 and graduated from Texas A&M University in 1977. Shortly after graduation, he started his first four businesses, Melanie's Auto Sales, Clark Car Clinic, Fancy G Iron Works, and later, 3-G Electrical Supply which he opened using the money from his first three businesses, at age 21 in Laredo.

In 1979, Mr. Gutierrez married his high school sweetheart, Mary Alice York, and the couple have three children, Mary Kathryn, Adolfo Jr., and Amanda Leigh. At just thirty-nine years of age, Mr. Gutierrez joined Falcon National Bank as President and CEO.

Under his leadership, Falcon Bank grew from 20 employees and \$52 million in assets to 245 employees and over \$500 million in assets, and includes offices in San Antonio, Eagle Pass, Buda, McAllen, Del Rio, and offices in Guadalajara and Monterrey in Mexico.

Mr. Gutierrez has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations such as the Laredo Under Seven Flags Rotary

Club, the Salvation Army, the March of Dimes, and the United Way. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Adolfo E. Gutierrez, and I thank you for this time.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HIGHTOWER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today with a heavy heart, as I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of a remarkable man and a dear friend, Mr. John Hightower. Mr. Hightower passed away at the age of 80 on Tuesday, April 25, after a long illness. I am deeply saddened by this loss, for John and his family have been inspirations to many throughout the City of Flint, as well as the county, state and nation.

It is difficult to imagine what the landscape of my hometown of Flint, Michigan, would be like, had John Hightower not moved here from St. Louis in 1952. An Army veteran, John started working at the Buick Foundry, where he also served as committeeman at UAW Locals 599 and 659. His relationship with Buick was shortlived, as he lost his job after confronting a supervisor who had made a racial slur. For John, this became a new opportunity rather than a setback; following the incident, he opened Hightower Electronics and Construction Company. This also served as the catalyst to his becoming one of the area's foremost civil rights proponents. He joined others across the country in the March on Washington and the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He brought the lessons he learned from those experiences home and fought for racial equity in the local job market, against unfair housing practices, and increased funding for the Flint Public Library.

Mr. Speaker, the impact John Hightower made in the City of Flint is one that will be felt by its residents for generations to come. His loss will leave a great void, but his legacy will endure forever. I personally am grateful to have had the opportunity to call John my constituent, my colleague, and my friend. I am a better Congressman, a better citizen, and a better human being for having known him. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in paying tribute to his legacy.

THE GREAT REVULSION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a piece by New York Times columnist Paul Krugman because I believe it is well worth our reading and consideration because of its

thought-provoking attempt to discuss the discontent felt by the American people regarding the Bush Administration.

He mentions a point in time when Americans will realize that, "their good will and patriotism have been abused, and put a stop to this drive to destroy much of what is best in our country". Krugman rightly calls this hope of his, "The Great Revulsion". With Bush's poll numbers in constant decline, are Americans finally getting the picture, he asks? Bush, at the time after the September 11th attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., scored with the American people at a solid 70 percent approval. However, Bush's numbers are only at a declining 33 percent today according to the latest Fox News poll.

Some of the reasons for Bush's poor numbers are because of failure to adequately respond to the enormous need caused by Hurricane Katrina, the prescription drug debacle as Krugman called it and the disaster in Iraq. With the recent resignation of Scott McClellan as President Bush's Press Secretary, there is a sign that something terribly has gone wrong. It certainly is not surprising to see so many jumping ship from the embattled administration.

The piece also acknowledged the stark reality that the Bush Administration has no real policy on Social Security. His idea about privatizing Social Security was one issue that the American public put up strong opposition to and it failed. The American people are realizing the potential power that they have. There indeed is a need for a "Great Revulsion" to wake up this nation from its deep sleep of blind faith in President Bush and his Republican leadership team.

I enter into the RECORD the article published in the New York Times by Paul Krugman for its push to make the American people aware of their strength. To instill within them the understanding of the wrongs committed by the Bush Administration and his supporters. Krugman is calling for a move toward accountability, if not from the Congress, then from the American people as November approaches.

[From The New York Times April 21, 2006]

THE GREAT REVULSION

(By Paul Krugman)

"I have a vision—maybe just a hope—of a great revulsion: a moment in which the American people look at what is happening, realize how their good will and patriotism have been abused, and put a stop to this drive to destroy much of what is best in our country."

I wrote those words three years ago in the introduction to my column collection, "The Great Unraveling." It seemed a remote prospect at the time: Baghdad had just fallen to U.S. troops, and President Bush had a 70 percent approval rating.

Now the great revulsion has arrived. The latest Fox News poll puts Mr. Bush's approval at only 33 percent. According to the polling firm Survey USA, there are only four states in which significantly more people approve of Mr. Bush's performance than disapprove: Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska. If we define red states as states where the public supports Mr. Bush, Red America now has a smaller population than New York City.

The proximate causes of Mr. Bush's plunge in the polls are familiar: the heck of a job he did responding to Katrina, the prescription drug debate and above all, the quagmire in Iraq.

But focusing too much on these proximate causes makes Mr. Bush's political fall from

grace seem like an accident, or the result of specific missteps. That gets things backward. In fact, Mr. Bush's temporarily sky-high approval ratings were the aberration; the public never supported his real policy agenda.

Remembering, in 2000 Mr. Bush got within hanging-chad and felon-purge distance of the White House only by pretending to be moderate. In 2004 he ran on fear and smear, plus the pretense that victory in Iraq was just around the corner. (I've always thought that the turning point of the 2004 campaign was the September 2004 visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a figurehead appointed by the Bush Administration who rewarded his sponsors by presenting a falsely optimistic picture of the situation in Iraq.

The real test of the conservative agenda came up after the 2004 election, when Mr. Bush tried to sell the partial privatization of Social Security.

Social Security was for economic conservatives what Iraq was for the neocons; a soft target that they thought would pave the way for bigger conquests. And there couldn't have been a more favorable moment for privatization than the winter of 2004-2005: Mr. Bush loved to assert that he had a "mandate" from the election; Republicans held solid disciplined majorities in both houses of Congress; and many prominent political pundits were in favor of private accounts.

Yet Mr. Bush's drive on Social Security ran into a solid wall of public opposition, and collapsed within a few months. And if Social Security couldn't be partly privatized under these conditions, the conservative dream of dismantling the welfare state is nothing but a fantasy.

So what's left of the conservative agenda? Not much.

That's the prediction for the midterm elections. The Democrats will almost surely make gains, but the electoral system is rigged against them. The fewer than 8 million residents of what's left of Red America are represented by eight U.S. senators; the more than eight million residents of New York City have to share two senators with the rest of New York State.

Meanwhile, a combination of accidents and design has left likely Democratic voters bunched together—I'm tempted to say ghettoized—in a minority of Congressional districts, while likely Republican voters are more widely spread out. As a result, Democrats would need a landslide in the popular vote—something like an advantage of 8 to 10 percentage points over Republicans—to take control of the House of Representatives. That's a real possibility, given the current polls, but by no means a certainty.

And there is also, of course, the real prospect that Mr. Bush will change the subject by bombing Iran.

Still, in the long run it may not matter that much. If the Democrats do gain control of either house of Congress, and with it the ability to issue subpoenas, a succession of scandals will be revealed in the final years of the Bush Administration. But even if the Republicans hang on to their ability to stonewall, it's hard to see how they can resurrect their agenda.

In retrospect, then, the 2004 election looks like the high-water mark of a conservative tide that is now receding.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Empire State Building, one of New York City's most recognizable landmarks and an iconic fixture of the City's skyline. This landmark building, located in my district, stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of New York and the capacity of mankind to achieve the extraordinary.

The Empire State Building, designed by the architectural firm Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, officially opened on May 1, 1931. Construction required 60,000 tons of steel and more than seven million man-hours, providing thousands of jobs in the midst of the Great Depression. Renowned pictures of the workers dangling above the city remain among the most striking photos of the era. Upon its completion, the Empire State Building became the tallest building in the world, measuring a staggering 1,454 feet.

Although taller buildings have since stripped it of its title, the 102-story structure continues to delight and amaze, and following the attacks of September 11, it is once again the tallest building in New York City. The Empire State Building has also become ingrained in the popular culture by its presence in such movies as King Kong, and An Affair to Remember. Last year, 3.7 million people flocked to the observation decks for their breathtaking views of New York.

True to its gritty roots, the Empire State Building remains a working building: Every day, more than 20,000 people report to work there, passing through the Art Deco lobby that portrays the Empire State Building as the eighth wonder of the world and the center of the universe. At dusk, the world famous tower lights come on to commemorate national holidays and special events of importance to New Yorkers.

The heart and soul of New York City is embodied in the Empire State Building. From those who fell in love there to those who have returned with their children and grandchildren, everyone recognizes the Empire State Building as an unparalleled emblem of the American spirit. I am proud to honor the Empire State Building on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST WALWORTH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of Zion United Methodist Church of West Walworth, Wayne County, New York. For 150 years, the Zion United Methodist Church has offered a place of worship and services to the area in and around Wayne County.