

member of the advisory boards of Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus and the Salvation Army.

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association was located in the county Court House located on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square from 1859 to 1909 when it was moved to the second floor of the current county Court House at 200 N. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The Law Library contains over 20,000 volumes of law books, reports and journals. The Law Library also operates the Luzerne Legal Register, the law journal of Luzerne County and the official reporter of the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. A lawyer referral service is also operated out of the law library for people who need a lawyer but do not know whom to contact.

The Law and Library Association also operates a charitable foundation that supports charitable and humanitarian projects throughout Luzerne County. It is intended to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the legal system in Luzerne County, ensure access to legal information and representation to all members of the Luzerne County community and foster good relations between members of the Bar, Judiciary and the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Senator Lemmond for a half century of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association. His devoted service and the service of other distinguished legal practitioners have enabled the Association to grow and thrive and be a continuous source of support to its members.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2006*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on our nation's dire fiscal situation. How can it be that at a time of war, when we are cutting \$735 million from the defense health care budget and facing the largest deficits in our Nation's history and an \$8.3 trillion national debt, this Congress decides to prioritize million dollar tax breaks to Big Oil Company CEOs instead?

Because of the tax cut legislation passed out of the House, the former CEO of Exxon Mobil, Lee Raymond, will take home an extra \$2.5 million dollars in dividend income each year on top of his \$400 million retirement package and the \$144,000 he made each day when he was Exxon Mobil's CEO. Tell me how that is possibly fair to the middle class worker who is paying \$3 a gallon to fill up his car, or to the student who has to find a third job in order to pay off her student loans. The truth is it isn't fair, Mr. Speaker, and Americans everywhere know it.

The average middle class family could not afford to buy one meal for their family with the money they will save from this tax cut, but Lee Raymond gets \$2.5 million?

I urge my colleagues to take a serious look at our nation's fiscal priorities as we continue down this road of fiscal irresponsibility. We

owe it to our children and grandchildren, to leave them a legacy of economic stability, not one of debts and deficits. We should show them that we care about their future by not squandering away more money we don't have to pay for irresponsible tax cuts benefiting only Big Oil Company CEOs like Lee Raymond.

It's past time to focus on the true priorities of the American people.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE EAST NEW YORK FAMILY ACADEMY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East New York Family Academy Girls' Varsity Basketball Team. They are champions of the 2006 Girls Varsity Division VIII-B of the Public School Athletic League of New York City. Under the direction of Head Coach Earl S. Mitchell, Assistant Coach Eddie Barron, and Managers Rayon Clarke and Shakeema Mattocks, the 2006 "Lady Eagles" excelled to an undefeated regular season record of 18 wins and no losses, while losing only one out of five games during the playoff season. Additionally, the East New York Family Academy Lady Eagles currently holds a record of two consecutive undefeated regular seasons.

I want to especially recognize the work of Athletic Director, John Cortese, and Principal Sheila Richards, who have worked hard to infuse excellence, respect and accountability not only in athletic programs, but in academic departments as well. At East New York Family Academy, it is truly a family affair. Coaches Mitchell and Barron have received a tremendous amount of inspiration from Tony Yard, the Head Coach of the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and former member of the Panamanian Olympic Team, and from Donald Vanteerpool, the Head Coach of the Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Team. Coach Mitchell is deeply appreciative of these coaches for teaching his team to respect the fundamentals of the game and for always being there when needed.

Although athletics are important, academics have not taken a backseat. In an era when sports achievements have sometimes replaced excellence in English, math, science and other academic areas, the coaches have demanded a high level of academic performance from team members. As an example, two players rank in the Top 10 of their senior class and four members of the starting five have received college acceptance offers.

Long after the last shot has been taken and the last ball dribbled, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles": Naledi Anderson, Alana Arthurs, Veldina Chaunce, Karanja Craig, Tiffany Dugue, Ayana James, Shada Jordon, Dalkeitha Layne, Shamika McIntosh, Krista Mitchell, Tashanya Morris, and Tara Powell will benefit from the leadership, love and guidance given to them by their coaches, teachers and administrators at East New York Family Academy.

I am certain that in the days to come, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles" will build upon their experiences in basketball and their

days at the East New York Family Academy and there will be more achievements to come.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, I believe that the accomplishments of the 2006 "Lady Eagles," and the work of their coaches, teachers and administrators, are truly worthy of our recognition here today.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE MAE MAXWELL

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Essie Mae Maxwell, of Coosa County, Alabama. Ms. Maxwell turned 103 years old on April 20th, which she celebrated with family and friends in her Kellyton home.

From 1903 until today, Ms. Maxwell has lived a full life that has seen many transitions in our country's history. She remembers growing up as a witness to the introduction of cars, computers, and laundry machines. She enjoys reading the Bible and newspaper, both without her glasses, on a daily basis. A mother of eleven, she has inspired her family from her oldest child to her youngest great-great grandchild.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Maxwell today in the House, and congratulate her on her 103rd birthday. I wish her the best and many more enjoyable times with her family and friends.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYDIA MOORE

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lydia Moore for her 38 years of service to the Boulder City Hospital.

Lydia Moore came to Boulder City Hospital on November 2, 1968 as a Certified Nursing Assistant. While working she developed a program for unit clerks. Desiring to further her education she enrolled in Clark County Community College and received her Licensed Practical Nursing degree and later returned to Clark County Community College receiving a Registered Nursing degree. She has held several supervisory positions including night Charge Nurse, House Supervisor, Medical Surgical Unit Manager, and is currently the Social Services Manager.

Lydia received the Clark County March of Dimes Nurse of the Year in 1992 and is Vice President of Lend a Hand. She continues to be an advocate for the prevention of domestic violence and is active in the Clark County immunization program for children.

Lydia has served her community continuously throughout her life and Boulder City Hospital has been privileged to benefit from her knowledge and service for the past 38 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lydia Moore for her years of service to the Boulder City Hospital and the Boulder City community.

She has been a great asset to Southern Nevada and deserves recognition for her valuable efforts.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,  
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION  
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF  
2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the tax reconciliation conference report, H.R. 4297, that will cost \$70 billion over 10 years and provides little to no tax relief for working American families. Today is yet another missed opportunity by the Republican-controlled Congress to provide real tax relief to working families. For example, this bill would extend the capital gains and dividends tax cut set to expire in 2008 for an additional 2 years through 2010. While on the other hand, the bill would only provide a 1-year extension in relief for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) that affects an estimated 15 million middle-class taxpayers and already expired in 2005.

Originally intended to ensure the wealthy taxpayers paid their fair share, the AMT has become a tax on the middle-class. Without adjustments for inflation like the federal income tax, the AMT targets a growing number of people each year. Those most affected by the AMT are taxpayers in States like my home State of New York, with high property taxes, high local and state income taxes, and high sales taxes. These taxpayers are middle-class families. Instead of taking this opportunity to pass real AMT reform, the House Republicans have chosen to barely patch this problem without providing any real relief for working families.

Making matters worse, this conference agreement also drops three provisions in the Senate bill that would have rolled back nearly \$5.4 billion over 10 years in unneeded tax breaks and loopholes for the oil industry. This is truly unbelievable when we see oil companies earning record profits and consumer paying record prices.

I wish this Congress could get their priorities straight and pass real AMT reform and provide leadership for true fiscal responsibility.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAMP OUT  
HUNGER. THE ANNUAL FOOD  
DRIVE ORGANIZED BY THE NA-  
TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LET-  
TER CARRIERS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Association of Letter Carriers as they prepare to stage their fourteenth annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive this Saturday. Letter carriers in over 10,000 cities and towns will participate in this effort, the largest one-day food drive in the United States.

In the Fourth Congressional District, the National Association of Letter Carriers Pioneer Branch 2 partners with the Hunger Task Force to ensure that all food collected gets distributed quickly, fairly and safely. Last year's effort netted over 1.29 million pounds of food, and solicited the participation of 800 volunteers. Thousands of families contributed food, and letter carriers throughout the Milwaukee area worked tirelessly to make the event a success. As a result, this annual food drive is a true community effort that enables all of us to serve our neighbors. I have no doubt this year's event will meet or exceed last year's impressive achievements, and thousands of Milwaukeeans will have access to food throughout the summer as a result.

It is simply unconscionable that so many Americans have insufficient food to meet their needs. Stamp Out Hunger is a true testament to the strength of our community and our commitment to ensuring the security of our most vulnerable residents. I am honored to express my gratitude to the Hunger Task Force, NALC Pioneer Branch 2, and the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District who give to this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL EI-  
LEEN COLLINS ON HER RETIRE-  
MENT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor the achievements of Colonel Eileen Collins, an inspirational member of the aerospace community. Last week, she announced her decision to retire from NASA, where her passion for discovery and her leadership skills will be greatly missed.

Building on a childhood love for airplanes and space, Col. Collins studied mathematics and science, earning her associate degree from Corning Community College in 1976, her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in 1978, her master of science degree from Stanford University in 1986, and her master of arts degree from Webster University in 1989.

Col. Collins' career included many firsts: she was the first woman to enter Air Force pilot training straight from college, the first woman to pilot a space shuttle, and the first woman to serve as commander for a space shuttle mission. She also served her country as an Air Force pilot and as a mathematics teacher at the Air Force Academy. Her last space flight took place during the summer of 2005 when she commanded the STS-114 space shuttle mission, the first mission following the 2003 Columbia space shuttle disaster. As we've all come to expect, she carried out her duties on this mission with distinction. In sum, as noted by the Colorado Springs Gazette referred to her nearly 30-year career as an "era" in spaceflight. And I think that that is a truly fitting description of her legacy.

I would like to include the following article with more details about Col. Collins' extraordinary work. The progress she made for both her gender and her country are admirable.

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, May 8, 2006]

HAPPY (CON)TRAILS TO COLLINS

For some reason, perhaps buried deep in the subconscious, people love to mark events in their lives. The media are especially fond of memorializing moments we think should be important to readers and viewers. Last week, when Eileen Collins announced her retirement from NASA, it truly marked the end of an era in spaceflight. She was an astronaut who represented the pioneering spirit that drove mankind to explore space.

From an early age, she longed to fly airplanes and dreamed of space travel. One biography pointed out that her parents used to take her to the airport to watch planes land and take off. She worked hard in school and earned multiple degrees in mathematics and space-related subjects. After college, her career literally took off.

She was among the first women to go directly from college to Air Force pilot training. She spent several years flying various aircraft for Uncle Sam and continued her education as a student at the Air Force Institute of Technology. From 1986-1989 she taught mathematics and was an instructor pilot at the Air Force Academy.

Tapped by NASA for astronaut training while she was attending the Air Force's test pilot school in 1990, she later became the first woman selected for shuttle pilot training, was the first woman pilot of the space shuttle and the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. She retired from the Air Force in January 2005 and will leave her NASA duties later this month.

Collins has had a career of which anyone could be proud and many can only dream of. We wish her blue skies and tailwinds as she pursues other interests in the aerospace industry.

TRIBUTE TO TOYOTA MOTOR  
MANUFACTURING

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia. While Toyota is considered leader in the "new American auto industry," this anniversary clearly demonstrates that Toyota is well established in the United States. With a 10-year history and West Virginia investment rapidly approaching the \$1 billion mark, Toyota has been contributing to the U.S. and local economies for a long time—hopefully with more to come.

The Buffalo plant, which produces four-cylinder engines for Corolla, Matrix, and Pontiac Vibe; V6 engines for the Sienna and Lexus RX 330; and automatic transmissions for North American-built Camry, Solara, Lexus RX 330 and Sienna, currently provides quality jobs for over 1,000 team members. Employment is projected to grow to 1,150 when the current transmission plant is expanded.

As a testament to the Mountain State's workforce, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia has been named four times the "Most Productive Engine Plant in North America" and has earned a global reputation for producing high quality engines and transmissions.

Importantly, the jobs Toyota has created in the Second Congressional District have not come at the expense of our environment. The