

"are the victims of their own extremist, fundamentalist, religious, inflexible and unyielding leadership, and we will do everything in our power to help these innocent people . . . We will pay if necessary out of our own pockets. We wouldn't allow one baby to suffer one night because of a lack of dialysis. We care," Olmert said. "We want to save their lives."

I wish to strongly associate myself with the honest and courageous comments of the Prime Minister and his desire for security, peace and the value of human life.

I oppose H.R. 4681 because this is a missed opportunity to keep the pressure on Hamas, ease the suffering among the Palestinian people and ensure that Israel is secure and without a humanitarian crisis on its doorstep. Current U.S. law already prohibits funds from going to Hamas because it is a foreign terrorist organization. As the State Department says, "this bill is unnecessary."

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. Let us send a message to the people of Israel and the Palestinian people that the U.S. Congress has not given up working for security, peace, and a better future in the Middle East.

Let us oppose and isolate Hamas—and let us also work for peace and a generation of Israeli and Palestinian children who know no violence, only hope.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4681.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ARTHUR JACKSON, III CELEBRATING HIS 15TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual leaders, Pastor Arthur Jackson, III, of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City, which is located in my Congressional District.

Pastor Jackson came to his calling through the love and influence of both his father, the late Rev. Arthur Jackson, Jr., and his mother, Mrs. Arthur Jackson. Spiritually, God has lifted and anointed him to preach the gospel to the wounded, lost, and broken. Ask any of Pastor Jackson's thousands of congregants what they most like about him, and you are likely to hear, "He is real!" He relates to his flock in an honest and genuine way that brings out the best in people. During the hurricane season, for example, Pastor Jackson sent his deacons out to check on the elderly, to make sure that their houses were properly boarded up before the storm and afterwards, to make sure they had food and water and any other help they may have needed.

During Pastor Jackson's tenure at Antioch, the church has gone through a complete spiritual, financial, and structural metamorphosis. In December of 1996, the Congregation purchased surrounding lots and broke ground for a new structure—a \$2 million building that was consecrated in August 1998. After only seven years, the congregation had already paid off their multi-million dollar mortgage.

A man of character, integrity and wisdom, Pastor Jackson's consistent obedience to God has taken the Antioch congregation from the "Faithful Fifty" members, to a blossoming min-

istry of nearly 6,000 members. Pastor Jackson serves God and his community through the ministries he has nurtured. I congratulate Reverend Jackson on his Pastoral Anniversary and extend best wishes to him, his wife, Jacquaneise, and their daughter, Jaden.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE DELBERT EARL WONG MAY 17, 1920–MARCH 10, 2006

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving family man and eminent jurist who worked tirelessly to protect the rights of ordinary Americans throughout our country, Judge Delbert Earl Wong, who passed away Friday, March 10, 2006.

Delbert Wong rose from humble means, and it was this experience that led him to dedicate his considerable talents to serving the public. Born May 17, 1920, in Hanford, CA, to a Chinese-American mother and Chinese immigrant father, Delbert encountered great adversity and discrimination early in his life. His mother, born in Weaverville, CA, lost her American citizenship for the simple act of marrying Delbert's father in 1919. Unable to own land and forced to apply for citizenship due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, his parents' experiences would embolden Delbert and instill in him a commitment to justice and equality.

Raised in Bakersfield, CA, Delbert attended Bakersfield College where he received an associate of arts degree. After transferring to the University of California at Berkeley, he graduated with a bachelor's degree and also met his future wife, Dolores Wing. Upon graduating from U.C. Berkeley, Delbert heeded the call to serve his country and enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress. Completing 30 missions over Europe, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1945 following the end of the war, Delbert enrolled in Stanford Law School, breaking barriers of discrimination as the school's only student of color. After being admitted to the State Bar of California in 1948, Judge Wong began his career working for the Office of the Legislative Counsel in Sacramento. He later transferred to the Office of the Legislative Counsel in Los Angeles, where he was one of two Chinese-American lawyers in all of Southern California. In 1951 he joined the Office of the California State Attorney General. There, he served as the first Chinese-American deputy attorney general under then Attorney General Pat Brown. When Pat Brown was elected governor, he appointed Delbert to the bench in 1959, making him the first Chinese-American judge in the United States.

Delbert Wong became a judge because of his deep commitment to justice, equality, and civil rights; ideas that he fought for throughout his entire life. He served on the bench during the tumultuous decades of the 1960s and 1970s when these issues dominated public debate with the social upheaval surrounding both the Vietnam war and the civil rights movement. Hearing cases involving free speech and assembly, employment discrimination, and school desegregation, Judge Wong

was at the forefront of some of the most important court decisions of that era.

Judge Wong's professional achievements were extraordinary, as was his love for family and community. Together, Dolores and Delbert raised four children: Kent, Shelley, Duane and Marshall. Though Judge Wong retired from the bench in 1982 after 23 years of service, his role in public service continued as a private arbitrator and community leader, roles he would hold until the end of his life. He was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley to a panel that authored the city of Los Angeles's first ethics code, and also led an investigation into charges of racial discrimination in employment at the Los Angeles International Airport Police Bureau. Delbert was a key supporter of the Asian-Pacific American Legal Center and the Chinatown Service Center. He is fondly remembered by his family for making breakfast for his children each morning and serving as a Boy Scout leader. Judge Wong overcame great odds to serve his country, opening doors for countless others; but even more importantly, he did so while maintaining a sincere commitment to loving and supporting his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sorrow, yet great admiration and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Judge Delbert Earl Wong, a devoted husband, father, public servant and community leader. May his passionate dedication to opening doors for others and service to this country be remembered and give birth to the next generation of champions for justice.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD HELLMAN, M.D.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this recent election of Kansas City metro area resident Richard Hellman, MD, FACP, FACE, as President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, at its Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Clinical Congress in Chicago on April 29, 2006. Since 1999, he had served on the AACE Board of Directors.

Dr. Hellman has been privately practicing with a focus on diabetes mellitus and endocrinology in Kansas City, Missouri, since 1981; he is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. He is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, School of Medicine and is the past president of the Metropolitan Medical Society of Greater Kansas City, a current member of the Health Commission of Kansas City and chair of their Patient Safety Task Force.

He graduated from the Chicago Medical School and completed all of his post-graduate training at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Hellman is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society. He is also the medical director of the Heart of America Diabetes Foundation.

A methodology and data expert for the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, Dr. Hellman is also a member of their executive committee and co-chairs their implementation work group. The Consortium is convened by the American Medical Association

and includes representatives from more than 70 national medical specialty and state medical societies. The Consortium seeks to provide physician performance measures for both the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and for specialty boards. He was the first to show how an electronic health record can be used to improve adherence to the Consortium's physician performance measures. Dr. Hellman is the AMA representative for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Advisory Group for Disease-Specific Care Certification and serves on the National Diabetes Quality Improvement Alliance's Technical Expert Panel. He is also currently on the AMA expert panel on medication reconciliation.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Richard Hellman is a dedicated community leader in the medical field who is extremely well qualified to assume a leadership position with the 5,300 member-American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring his accomplishments to the attention of the House and to pay tribute to him as he assumes this new position of trust and achievement.

TRIBUTE TO THE BASILICA OF
THE ASSUMPTION

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Maryland: ROSCOE BARTLETT, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, WAYNE GILCREST, STENY HOYER, C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and ALBERT WYNN to pay special tribute to America's first Catholic Cathedral, the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, which has undergone a two-year restoration in preparation for its bicentennial celebration on November 4, 2006.

The Basilica was the first great metropolitan Cathedral in America and the first major religious building to be constructed following the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. The construction of the Basilica reflected a fundamental shift in how government viewed religious freedom—a shift from worship in an established church to worship that was based on the individual's choice and conscience. It stands as a reminder of America's openness to people of all faiths.

Designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, architect of the U.S. Capitol, the Basilica is considered an architectural masterpiece and one of the finest 19th Century buildings in the world. The Basilica in Baltimore, home to the country's first Catholic Archdiocese, is designated as a National Historic Landmark and National Shrine.

We commend the Archdiocese for undertaking a major restoration of this extraordinary religious and civic landmark. After decades of slow deterioration, the Basilica is finally being restored to its original grandeur. In the future, Americans of all faiths will be able to visit this historic treasure and reflect on its history and its place in our Nation's struggle for religious freedom.

We hope our colleagues in the House will join the Maryland Delegation in honoring the

Basilica during its bicentennial year of celebration and in expressing our sense of pride that the Basilica is part of our Nation's history.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARLYS SMITH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Marlys Smith, a teacher at Matthews Elementary School in Sikeston, Missouri. Marlys is retiring after 31 years of service in Missouri's Public Schools.

Marlys was born on November 18th, 1952, on the Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia, to Monda and Jim Davis. The oldest of six children, she spent her early years in Mississippi County, Missouri, and graduated from East Prairie High School. She went on to receive her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Southeast Missouri State University in 1975. Later, she obtained her Masters Degree from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri.

As a young girl of 10, Marlys contracted a disabling bone disease that caused her to be hospitalized for nearly three months. Because of the radical surgery she needed, she lost the ability to use her right hip, until extensive corrective surgery in the last year. Rather than allow this physical impairment to hinder her in any way, she turned her energy from outdoor activities to music. The young girl from Mississippi County who became a teacher and taught everything from high school special education to first, third and sixth grades also had time to develop her voice. She sang with "Young Americans in Concert" in New York at Carnegie Hall, in Europe, and also for President Nixon in the White House in the summer of 1971. And then in 1993, my late husband, Congressman Bill Emerson, invited this beautiful, young lady to sing "Amazing Grace" to 4000 participants at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC. She again shared her voice in a rendition of "Amazing Grace" in 1996 at Bill's funeral in Missouri and in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

Marlys Smith, the school teacher, has been a Girl Scout Leader, Sunday School teacher and a mentor to thousands of girls and boys in Southern Missouri and a friend to all who have known her. And I count myself as one of those friends. Marlys and her husband, Lloyd, who is my Chief of Staff, are family. We have shared many wonderful and tearful times over the last 25 years.

Although Marlys has been a leader in her field and a dedicated volunteer in a host of groups, her most special role has been that of a wife to Lloyd and mother to their three children, Trista, Sam and Tiffany. A working mom who, because of her husband's travels, was many times the only one at home to go to scouts, ball games and church events or to help with homework. She never complained and always has a smile on her face. Indeed the young girl who nearly died at age 10 turned into a beautiful woman who has shown a zest for life and shared her love with all those who have known her.

I congratulate Marlys on her retirement and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

From the Emerson Family to Marlys Smith, we say thank you, and we pray you continue to spread your wonderful gifts for years and years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following vote due to a personal reason.

On rollcall vote No. 162 to H. Res. 795, Condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

HONORING LTC JOHNNY M.
SUMMERS

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Johnny M. Summers, Outgoing Commander, Hawthorne Army Depot located in Hawthorne, Nevada. LTC Summers took command of the Depot in June of 2004. On May 13, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended closing the Depot. Soon afterward, Hawthorne realized an "Army of One" is all you really need.

From the onset, LTC Summers realized the selection criteria used for recommendation to close Hawthorne had significant flaws. He maintained that it would be a strategic mistake to close the depot due to its significant storage capability, highly skilled workforce, combat terrain training opportunities, and modern reprocessing facilities.

LTC Summers ensured that BRAC Commissioners were provided with the correct data, which countered the recommendation to close the Depot. Thanks in large part to the accurate information provided by LTC Summers, the Commissioners and their colleagues understood the mistakes and the true value the Depot provides the United States Department of Defense.

Thanks to LTC Summers' tireless efforts, the BRAC Commission agreed the evidence presented showed the Hawthorne Army Depot has great economic and strategic significance that justify keeping it open. His efforts were certainly instrumental in our success.

I commend this great commander upon his retirement from the United States Army on September 30, 2006, for his exceptional, dedicated service to the Hawthorne Army Depot, the great State of Nevada and our country. I extend to him my best wishes for continued excellence in his future endeavors.

Thank you, Lieutenant Colonel Summers, for your time and service.