

the classroom, and that doesn't mean homework. A successful teacher will place a thought in the minds of their students and after a while the student will be able to pull something great out of that thought. Ms. Woolf achieves this greatness with her students. Her involvement in the school is proof of how much she cares about the quality of education the Edgewood High School students receive. She is a great leader in her field and deserves acknowledgement of her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me today in thanking Ms. Amy Woolf for providing her students, and the future of our Nation with the best possible gift she can, Education.

IN HONOR OF NELSON AND BORDEN MCGAHEE—30 YEARS OF MARRIAGE AND SERVICE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a couple from my district, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson McGahee of Columbus, Georgia, who on May 15th of this year celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary.

Nelson served his country in the United States Army before beginning a career as a civil servant at Fort Benning in Columbus. He has continued to serve his community as an active member of the Columbus Jaycees and the Columbus Airport Authority.

His wife, Borden Black McGahee, has made her career in broadcast journalism. She grew up as a self-professed "Army brat," and became an avid music lover at the tender age of 3 years old while attending the opera with her mother, a season ticket holder. This love of music brought her to the radio, where she became the news director of an Alabama radio station—a unique position at the time for a woman in Alabama. Upon moving to Columbus, she soon moved to television, where she served as the news director for all three of the affiliate news stations in the city. She left journalism to work in public relations for the Muscogee County School District and currently does freelance writing for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer and also for Columbus and the Valley Magazine.

Throughout their three decades together, the McGahees have enjoyed Nelson's passion for all things railroad. Nelson's great-grandfather was a railroad employee, which sparked in Nelson a lifelong interest in trains. Their Columbus home is filled with railroad memorabilia from a variety of historic rail lines.

In tribute to this shared interest, the couple has chosen to spend their 30th anniversary on a train ride in a car filled with history. They secured a ride from Jacksonville, Florida to Washington, D.C. aboard a 1930 Pullman car pulled by Amtrak. In addition to its age, this car has had its share of famous passengers. Former presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton have all taken trips in this car. Past presidential candidates, Senators JOHN KERRY and John Edwards, and singer Aretha Franklin, have also traveled on this car. Because of its illustrious passengers, the car has been fitted with Secret Service-approved armor plating and bullet-proof windows, which lie hidden behind the tastefully restored antique features.

Five friends have joined the McGahees on this voyage, which will include a stop at "Old Ebbitt Grill," a legendary restaurant in the heart of Washington, D.C. This restaurant has served nearly every major American politician throughout its 150-year history.

Nelson and Borden McGahee are wonderful people who have shared a wonderful marriage. Their love for each other is inspirational, and surely their next 30 years will be as passionate as the first. This Southwest Georgia couple has chosen a distinctively American way to celebrate their anniversary and we wish them nothing but happiness as they proceed full-steam ahead into their future.

THE SIXTH DISTRICT'S AMERICAN IDOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in the biggest electoral debate since the Bush-Gore presidential election in Florida in 2000, people are still talking about the selection of this year's American Idol from the television program with the same name. With no disrespect intended toward this year's winner, Taylor Hicks, most people think this year's American Idol should have been Chris Daughtry of McLeansville, NC.

I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that I am extremely biased in this debate because Chris Daughtry is a resident of the Sixth District of North Carolina. And it would have been the second time that a town in the Sixth District produced the winning Idol, since previous winner, Fantasia, hailed from High Point, NC. That being said, most online polls, fan blogs, numerous web sites, and general talk about town all hailed Chris Daughtry as the next American Idol.

Most people know that my musical tastes run more towards traditional bluegrass music, so I am not a good judge of what is hot in the rock and pop music scenes. But I do know politics, and from everything I could learn, Chris Daughtry appeared to be the fan favorite. While I will not call for Congress to investigate this Idol election process, those of us who reside in the Sixth District of North Carolina will always be convinced that our guy really won—sort of like fans of Al Gore in 2000.

Oh well, we are proud to say that we are the home of the real American Idol, Chris Daughtry of McLeansville, NC.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMAN BERMES' OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE EVACUEES OF HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Norman Bermes and his wife Frances. Mr. Bermes immediately mobilized private resources in East Fort Worth to respond to the desperate needs of the evacuees who arrived in the city, escaping the ravages

of Hurricane Katrina when it impacted the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005.

As the first evacuees began to enter the city, utilizing whatever means they could access and utilizing what limited resources they could carry, Mr. Bermes read the reports and newscasts and was not only early to understand the plight these individuals faced, but was quick to turn a compassionate concern into action.

With the assistance of his wife, Frances, and other friends and associates from East Fort Worth, Mr. Bermes quickly organized a community effort to coordinate volunteers, space and donations to provide for the deep needs of the visitors arriving in the city in a steady stream from the Gulf Coast.

By working through area churches and his network in the East Fort Worth Business Association, Mr. Bermes addressed the immediate need for food, clothing and housing for the evacuees.

His efforts secured access to several unoccupied individual apartments in the Woodhaven community. Regular communication through email, the Greater Meadowbrook News and fliers distributed through the community assisted in providing toiletries, paper, canned goods, clothing and kitchen necessities to allow the evacuees to reestablish daily lives after arriving, frequently, with only the clothes on their backs.

Mr. Bermes quickly recognized that beyond this need the evacuees would quickly need employment and other long-term solutions to enable them to regain their self-sufficiency. Continued efforts on his part and with volunteers established a Jobs Resource Center in one of the apartment units, equipped with internet access for email and online searches. Additionally, they were able to provide resume creation assistance, counseling for interview skills and a jobs posting effort to match local employers with a new and anxious labor pool.

Practical creativity allowed Mr. Bermes and his volunteer assistance to press through the systemic challenges and surprises, including warehousing and distributing a truckload of donated mattresses and the thousands of other donations where they could be utilized by those in need.

By Thanksgiving, when they held the Cajun Thanksgiving Party for all of the evacuees, Mr. Bermes had mobilized resources and individuals to provide for over 50 families and 140 individuals. In doing so he touched engendered a sense of community among the newest residents of East Fort Worth and showed the warmth and compassion of North Texas.

I am honored to represent Mr. Bermes and the family and friends who know him and his compassion that made such a difference in providing hope, dignity and encouragement in the aftermath of such a tragedy on a scale our country has never before experienced.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. KERRIE BAUER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in appreciation of a fine educator from Joppatowne High School. Mathematics Department Chair, Kerrie Bauer is worthy of great recognition. She is an inspiration

to her students and her peers. Her continued faith in students has made a tremendous impact on a countless number of lives.

Ms. Bauer began the foundation of her higher education at Elizabethtown College. She later earned her Master's degree from McDaniel College and has since been certified as a cognitive tutor for the countywide algebra curriculum.

She is able to take a complex subject like mathematics and break it down into pieces so students have a better understanding of formulas. She encourages students through a positive learning environment. Ms. Bauer introduces students to creativity in the classroom; students learn the Quadratic formula to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel," and practice math problems through group activities.

Ms. Bauer has made it a point to actively participate in school activities. She is a co-advisor to the National Honor Society; a member of the school Improvement Team; the Mariner Varsity Softball Coach; a member of the school Advisory Committee; and she volunteers at various athletic events. In addition to these contributions, she also organized a students vs. faculty basketball game to raise funds for the Johns Hopkins Research Hospital for Kidney Research after sisters, and former Joppatowne students, Amanda and Abby Gilland, died within a year of each other from a rare kidney disease.

Her hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Ms. Bauer was named Teacher of the Month twice. She was nominated seven times to the list of "Who's Who Among High School Students," and she was voted as the school's "Most Spirited Teacher" for four years.

Ms. Bauer sets high expectations, but attainable goals for her students. She provides them with academic and social guidance. She is convinced all students can be successful in life if only someone believes in them. This is a woman with one goal in mind: to equip young people with the skills and knowledge they require to be productive, successful members of society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in thanking Ms. Kerrie Bauer for providing her students with the support, confidence, courage and knowledge they need in today's society.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last year, the Intelligence Community made painful decisions about the architecture of our satellite programs. These were hard choices. We have worked carefully to mitigate the damage and retain the capability. The future depends on assuring that our decisions are implemented well. That requires a talented and motivated workforce—both military and civilian.

The legislation being introduced today requires the Air Force to study the impact of proposed personnel cuts on our space programs.

The bill's sponsors believe that the cuts mandated by the Quadrennial Defense Review could have an enormous impact on the space community, particularly the intellectual talent

that gives us the edge over our adversaries and that we have worked so hard to build up over the past decade.

Allowing the Air Force to gut its personnel—both Active Duty and contractor support—without the benefit of an impact statement could undercut the careful measures we took to preserve and protect the industrial base.

The Department of Defense comptroller has directed the Air Force to "aggressively reduce contractor support." This is a very dangerous path. Contractors have formed the core of our rebuilt space capability after we literally dropped billions of dollars of research and hardware into the ocean in the 1990s.

While active duty members often are forced to rotate out of the command due to the pressing needs of the service, the contractor community has provided much of the intellectual capacity, stability, and continuity to keep our programs on track.

Today, the Space and Missiles Command, located in El Segundo, California, in my Congressional district, has a record of which everyone is proud—45 successful launches, including 12 Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicles. We dare not put that record in jeopardy by releasing one-third of our brain trust.

This desire for continuity is also reflected in the Intelligence Committee's report accompanying the FY 2007 Authorization bill, which passed the full House last month. In it, our Committee wrote: "Simply put, complex space systems acquisition requires extraordinary specialized knowledge, skills, and dedicated effort over time."

For that very reason, Congress has a right—and a responsibility—to understand the impact of these cuts and be assured that our capability will not be further eroded in the face of pressing national security challenges.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, this week I made a very difficult decision in voting for H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. I have been deeply moved by my constituents from both sides of the issue, including individuals with strong family ties to the Middle East. I want to take this opportunity to share my thoughts behind voting in support of the legislation.

In January 2006, Hamas, a designated terrorist organization that does not recognize the state of Israel and calls for an Islamized Palestinian state, won the legislative election to lead the PA government. Since then, the United States and the European Union have announced a series of measures designed to further isolate and pressure the Hamas-led Palestinian government until it recognizes Israel, renounces violence, and accepts previously signed Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements.

Specifically, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently announced that the United States has begun to suspend over \$400 mil-

lion in direct aid to Hamas, while redirecting about \$100 million from canceled projects to humanitarian assistance such as food and medicine distributed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The canceled aid includes: \$45 million in direct aid to the PA; \$130 million in infrastructure projects; \$20 million in private enterprise development and revitalization, financial markets reform, trade programs and information technology sector support; \$17 million in electoral, political party, local government and legislative support programs; \$13 million in civil society development; \$10 million in rule of law and judicial programs; \$7 million in technical assistance and vocational training; \$4 million in community policing, among others. Similarly, the EU Commission announced that it had halted payments to the Hamas government, freezing all direct aid to the PA and payment of public employees' salaries with EU funds through the World Bank, but not humanitarian aid through international and nongovernmental organizations. In the mean time, the Israeli government has cut off all ties with nearly all branches of the PA government, including its security. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has declared that his government will avoid meetings with visiting representatives or diplomats from PA.

I am in support of certain financial sanctions on Hamas to ensure no U.S. government funding goes directly to support terrorism activities. On February 15, 2006, I voted in favor of, and the House passed, S. Con. Res. 76, which expressed the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the PA if the majority party in control of the PA parliament maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel. I believe it was a sensible resolution that called for an end of U.S. financial support of Hamas while allowing other forms of humanitarian aid to flow through NGOs to the Palestinian people.

The impact of cuts in aid is being felt by the PA. Omar Abdel-Razeq, Finance Minister of the PA, recently confirmed that the PA could not pay March and April salaries to about 140,000 government workers. These salaries support about one-third of the Palestinian population. These cuts in aid came on top of the fact that Gaza's economy is in dire straits, with average family income already below the U.N. poverty line. Economic conditions are also precipitously declining in the West Bank. Overall the PA shoulders a total debt of \$1.3 billion, including \$640 million to regional and local banks and making it virtually impossible for the PA to obtain new loans. Furthermore, Israel has decided to withhold \$50 million a month in customs and tax receipts since January, although it continues to pay Israeli companies about \$5.5 million a month from those receipts for the water and electricity used by the Palestinians. The Israeli government has also recently announced that it will buy drugs and medical equipments needed by Palestinian hospitals in Gaza out of the withheld funds.

Yet, despite the dire needs of Palestinians, Hamas has chosen to ignore reality in favor of its extremist commitment to terrorism.

On April 17 of this year, a suicide bomber struck in a Tel Aviv restaurant, killing nine Israelis and injured dozens. The suicide bombing was carried out by Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed extremist group that refuses to acknowledge the cease-fire followed by