

earn more money to feed and clothe his family.

At 18, Hugo served for 2½ years in World War II. He helped detect land mines to protect his fellow soldiers. After the war, he returned to Laredo and soon met his late wife, Ofelia Alvarado. Together they started a family. In 1959, he started his own electrical company, Hugo's Electric Company, in 1959.

Mr. Gutierrez's four sons, Hugo A. Gutierrez, Jr., Ricardo, Adolfo, and Roberto learned the value of entrepreneurship by working with their father. In 1995, Mr. Gutierrez and his sons purchased a majority interest in what was then Falcon National Bank. At this point he became chairman of the board, and his son, Adolfo, took on the role of president and CEO of Falcon International Bank. Under their leadership, the bank became one of the premier financial institutions in south Texas.

Mr. Gutierrez was loved and respected by hundreds in the city of Laredo. He is survived by his four sons, sisters Mela Serna, Esperanza Pena, Rosa Smith, brothers Arnoldo, Hector and Feliciano and his 15 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Hugo A. Gutierrez, Sr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an institution celebrating its centennial milestone this month. The Central Assembly of God Church in Springfield, MO, has been at the center of the Pentecostal movement in Springfield since the turn of the 20th century.

Early in 1907, a woman, who had attended a California revival, came to Springfield and spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Corum. She related the stories from the revival in Los Angeles and told them God was sending a refreshing message. Mrs. Corum began reading material from the revival. On June 1, 1907, Mrs. Corum received a spiritual awakening.

Prayer meetings resulted from this spiritual outpouring. Hearing about a revival, a group of friends from Joplin came to Springfield to join the prayer meetings. From 1907 to 1914, this band of Spirit-filled believers met in various places, including a large tent. The first pastor, Reverend Sig Eaton, was elected on December 7, 1914.

During the spring of 1918 the Assemblies of God International headquarters moved from St. Louis, MO, to Springfield, increasing the number in the local church. Because of the larger congregation, the group erected a 40 x 60 foot building, which was completed and occupied on July 1, 1920.

In December 1929, that building burned to the ground. The new church was erected in 1930. The church complex now covers 200,000 square feet, offering an assortment of services and activities for every age group. The latest renovation, completed in 2004, includes four levels of children's ministries classrooms; construction began on a new

22,000 square foot Youth and Community Center that includes a 350-seat youth chapel, wood floor gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen, computer lab, game area, classrooms and an office wing. The retrofitted old sanctuary has become a spacious 16,000 square foot multipurpose hall that houses a large area for KidZone/Children's Church, as well as a facility with seating for some 700 people at round tables for other churchwide events. A large industrial kitchen and children's game area were also included in this space.

The congregation of Central Assembly has a rich tradition of not just meeting the spiritual needs of the community; but the physical needs as well. Currently, through initiatives such as a food pantry, strategic relationships with Pipkin Middle School, Boyd and Weaver Elementary Schools, and other community efforts, Central Assembly has expanded its influence beyond the walls of the church.

Central Assembly sent out its first foreign missionary, Forest Coover, on September 1, 1926 to Tibet. That international ministry continues today. The church has an impact that is global in its work and mission. Due to its strategic location in close proximity to the Assemblies of God headquarters and universities, Central has played an important role in the development of young leaders who now lead ministry and relief efforts around the world.

The group of congregants, today more than 2,000 strong, has come a long way from the early and humble beginnings of those who met in prayer meetings with the Corums. The Central family is thankful to the Lord for the evidence of His blessing through the years, keenly aware that the Church is made up not of bricks and stained glass but of born-again believers, with a desire to connect with God, with each other, and with their purpose in life.

I congratulate the Central Assemblies of God Church on their special anniversary and pray the congregation's future is filled with success in the spiritual missions that are the foundation of the church.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition: David Gregory Aguilera, Benjamin Alcala, Walter Morton Anderson, John Angelo Jr., Ronnie D. Archer, William Armstrong, Luis Velos Aviles Sr., Herb Bacon, Thomas Louis Baier, David

H. Bartash, Paul W. Bennett, Ronald C. Bissey, Alec Carson Boatman, David A. Bravo, William A. Bray, Aaron E. Bulin, James Elroy Butler, Robert Lee Chaffin, Arthur Charton, Israel Chavez, Gordon Michael Cody, Doyle L. Conklin, Ezra L. Craycraft, Donald Edward Davis, Moses F. Diaz, Howard Ellis, Scott Leslie Faust, John P. Flanagan, Frederick Lopez, Frank Garces, Benjamin Garcia, Robert George Greene, Patrick Roy Guaydacan, Gordon LeRoy Hall, Charles R. Hansen, Allen Hartley, William R. Haskin, Jimmy L. Henry, Arthur F. Hill, Ramon D. Holguin, Jerome Stephen Huggins, Barney M. Jensen, William Johnson, William L. Klaasen, Robert L. Knechtel, Edward Knight, Lonnie L. Lambeth, Joseph A. Landry, George Jefferson Lawrence Jr., Richard S. Leivas, August J. Liberino, Thomas John Martin, William Maycock Sr., Walter Maykulsky, Ray George McClintock, Eleuterio E. Medina, Forrest Leroy Mitchell, Frank R. Montejano, Curtis L. Murphy, William J. Murray, Jack I. Odell, Donald E. Pechous, Donald Edward Pedersen, Donald R. Phillips, Jerome Kern Pittman, John T.R. Pollock, John Puz, Walter S. Pynn, Gilberto Ramos, Rex Lee Reed, Richard M. Rego, Russell William Reichert, Alexander "A" Reyes, Raymond F. Reyes, William Leonard Robey, Juan M. Rodriguez, Luis Alfredo Rosado, Leo Marty Schlocker, Ernest George Schrader, Donald Clifford Secory, Robert Lewis Smith, Cecil T. Spires, Ronald Stiff, Steve P. Stone, John W. Swanson, Thomas Joseph Tarpai, Anthony R. Travers, David Scott VanNyhuis, Ralph Watkins, Michael L. Weir, Alvin Wilkiewicz, Donald Wohlt and Saturnino James Zabala.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SNYDER

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Snyder on his 85th birthday.

Harold was born on April 25th, 1922, in New York City. The son of immigrants, he has lived the American dream, ascending from a poor childhood through hard work to a successful career, and continues to give back to his community.

In 1941, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a gunner and radio operator of B-17s in the 301st Squadron.

After his service ended, Harold attended college on a GI Bill and received an undergraduate degree from New York University. He then pursued a Masters degree in Natural Sciences from Columbia University.

In 1963, Harold founded Biocraft Laboratories. A pioneer of the pharmaceutical industry, Harold has devoted his career to providing affordable prescription drugs to Americans. As the cost of health care has skyrocketed, Harold Snyder has fought to ensure that American consumers have access to the medications they need by leading the charge to develop less expensive, safe, effective generic pharmaceuticals.

In addition, Harold contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes including medical research, education and the Arts. He believes in the power to change the world for the better and has devoted himself to helping provide opportunity to others less fortunate than himself. Indeed, Harold has graciously helped to give hope to many facing all kinds of struggles, to give back to a world that he feels has provided him with exceptional opportunities. I am honored to call Harold Snyder my good friend.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of Harold Snyder and to wish him a Happy 85th Birthday.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DIXON OSBURN

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, for 14 years, Dixon Osburn has been the Executive Director of the Service Members Legal Defense Network, an extremely effective and principled organization that has fought against the unfair discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the U.S. armed services. It is hard to combine passion and common sense in a political cause—people who feel strongly often have an understandable difficulty in controlling their strong feelings to the point where they can follow the most rational strategies, and serving as the head of an organization exacerbates this, since the head of such a group is required to preach thoughtfulness to people who are—often justifiably—far too angry to want to think about things.

Dixon Osburn as Executive Director of SLDN performed this extremely difficult task very, very well. No one ever doubted the depth of his commitment to the cause of fairness for LGBT service members, and no one could fault the analytical discipline he brought to the job. I believe that we will some day in the near future abolish this unfair “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, which discriminates against individuals and deprives our military of personnel who would perform useful services at a time when we need that. When we do reach that goal, the important work that Dixon Osburn has done over these past 14 years will deserve a great deal of the credit.

#### INTRODUCTION OF QATARI-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill congratulating Qatar on the occasion of Qatari-American Friendship Day. On Monday, May 14, 2007, the United States Embassy in Doha, Qatar will observe Qatar-American Friendship Day. Over the recent years, Qatar has become an important ally of the United States. It is a major defense ally in the Middle East, with Qatari and American forces both benefitting from close cooperation.

I first visited Doha, Qatar in 1999 for the historic municipal elections where women were first granted the right to vote. It is important to note that Qatari women have always enjoyed the same political rights as men. I am most impressed by the work of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad and their commitment to the education of the young women and men of the Middle East. With their vision, Education City Qatar now hosts five major American universities, including Virginia Commonwealth University of the Arts in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

I would like to highlight one of those programs, the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Nearly 10 years ago, Qatar, the Qatar Foundation, the people of Qatar, and the leadership of Weill Cornell Medical College entered into a partnership to establish a branch in Doha, Qatar—the first American medical school to succeed at such an endeavor.

The Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) celebrated its official opening on October 12, 2003 and will soon be celebrating its first graduating class. WCMC-Q aims to further Cornell University’s commitment to education, research, patient care and the advancement of the art and science of medicine while supporting the Qatar Foundation’s efforts to serve the local community. The College offers a complete medical education, leading to a Cornell University Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree, with teaching by Cornell faculty. It is the first American university to offer its M.D. degree overseas, and the first higher education institution in Qatar to be co-educational. Prospective students will be subject to the same entrance requirements as in the United States, with no geographical restrictions, and will be the first school of medicine established by an American university to award the same degree abroad that it bestows upon students in the U.S. While the State of Qatar underwrites the educational costs of Qatari students, it also offers a loan forgiveness program for foreign students if they commit to practicing medicine in Qatar for a specified period after graduation. Since 70 percent of the inaugural class are women for the Pre-medical Program, WCMC-Q is already demonstrating its ability to have an extraordinary impact in a region with few higher education options for women.

In addition to providing a superb medical education, WCMC-Q serves as a model for strong partnership and cultural understanding in the Middle East. It has served as an anchor that in turn has inspired other leading institutions of higher education, that I mentioned previously, to establish similar programs in Education City.

The leadership and the people of Qatar have clearly demonstrated their commitment to putting education and tolerance above hate and misunderstanding, one that fosters mutual respect, understanding, and peace in a very real and practical application. I am pleased to congratulate Qatar on the special occasion of Qatari-American Friendship Day and hope that our nations continue our long-lasting friendship into the future as we both strive for freedom and peace throughout the world.

HONORING DR. ZUHAIR MUNIR OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA RECIPIENT OF THE UC DAVIS PRIZE FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Zuhair Munir, the 2007 recipient of the UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. This prize has been awarded annually since 1986 to recognize scholars who are successful not just in their research, but convey their excitement and love of scholarship to students at the university. Dr. Munir has been a leader in the field of materials science for many years, conducting research in areas which have yielded remarkable technological advances, but his hallmark at UC Davis has always been as a professor who cares deeply for students throughout their studies.

Dr. Munir was born in Baghdad, Iraq and immigrated to the United States as a teenager. He earned 3 degrees from the University of California, Berkeley: his bachelor’s degree in 1956, a masters in 1958 and then his doctorate in 1963. He joined the professorial staff at UC Davis in 1972, and has worked there ever since. In 2000 he was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and he served there until 2002. In 2003, he was promoted to Distinguished Professor in the College.

Throughout his career, Dr. Munir has worked on the cutting edge of materials science, working to understand the properties of various materials and the ways they can interact and transform under the right conditions. This has included work studying the effects of electrical fields on crystals, and as an innovator in the field of combustion synthesis.

His proficiency as a professor and mentor have long distinguished Dr. Munir, and evaluations submitted by students consistently rave that he is among the best and most engaging of their professors. Throughout his career, he has made a point of encouraging students to venture beyond his lectures and come work in the laboratory so that they can gain a better perspective on the practice of science. By encouraging students to explore problems for themselves rather than simply providing the answers, Dr. Munir has inspired generations of students to pursue in-depth study of materials science and chemical engineering, and pursue work in related fields.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Dr. Munir for his years of exemplary work as a scholar and educator, and congratulate him on receiving this award. His commitment to educating young students has been unwavering, and he deserves our thanks.

#### MINING LAW REFORM LEGISLATION

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, 135 years to the day after President Ulysses S. Grant