

The compound will also offer a swimming pool, gym, commissary, food court and American Club, all housed in a recreation building.

Security, overseen by U.S. Marines, will be extraordinary: setbacks and perimeter no-go areas that will be especially deep, structures reinforced to 2.5-times the standard, and five high-security entrances, plus an emergency entrance-exit.

The extraordinary security designed into this embassy shows how insecure our personnel are considered to be by the government.

The President's Iraq policy has made us less safe and must be changed.

Get our troops out now.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. BENJAMIN MORGAN RADCLIFF, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Benjamin Morgan Radcliff, Sr. was an outstanding American, a devoted family man, and a dedicated community leader throughout his life.

He was a veteran of the United States Army and spent much of his own life making sure generations to follow would be safe. He represented loyalty and dedication in his everyday life, and I salute him, at this difficult time for his family and friends, for his upstanding morals and his outstanding character.

Mr. Radcliff was a native and lifelong resident of Mobile. He spent his entire life working to make Mobile and south Alabama a better place to live and work.

As founder and chairman of the board of Ben M. Radcliff Contractor Inc., a multi-million dollar company he built from the ground up, Mr. Radcliff literally helped to build Mobile from a small, sleepy southern city to a major port of commerce in the heart of the central Gulf Coast. His outgoing nature coupled with his hard work, strong work ethic, and determination are just some of the reasons why he accomplished so much during his life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama.

"Mr. Ben," as he was affectionately known around town, loved life and lived it to the fullest. It is safe to say that when spring turkey season rolls around this year, there will be a giant void in the piney woods and gently rolling hills of south Alabama. Suffice it to say, his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of us.

"Mr. Ben," will be deeply missed by many but most especially his beloved wife, Jean Faulk Radcliff; his three daughters, Carolyn Akers, Elizabeth Latham, and Julia Menge; his son, Benjamin Morgan Radcliff, Jr.; 12 grandchildren; and the countless friends that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF CRAIG WEBRE

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. JINDAL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution honoring and recognizing the achievements of Sheriff Craig Webre of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

Elected as Sheriff of Lafourche Parish on July 1, 1992, Sheriff Webre ushered in a new era of accountable, responsible and professional law enforcement in Lafourche Parish. In the past 15 years, Sheriff Webre enhanced first responder morale, equipment, and communication capability, and initiated or improved over 40 public service programs including Crimestoppers, Crisis Management Unit Team, and Police Social Services, a one-of-a-kind comprehensive victim assistance program that serves approximately 1,400 crime victims per year.

Under Sheriff Webre's leadership, the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office became the second Sheriff's office in Louisiana history to become nationally accredited, placing the Sheriff's office in the top four percent of all the law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Sheriff Webre played an instrumental role in coordinating distribution of personnel, material and supplies to storm damaged parishes during and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and worked to provide access for outside agencies to come to the aid of neighboring parishes in Louisiana.

Widely respected by his peers, Sheriff Craig Webre was elected as First Vice President of the National Sheriffs Association in 2006, and is in line to become National President in 2007.

I call on my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring and recognizing the achievements made by Craig Webre, who exemplifies the willingness, dedication, and sacrifice to ensure the security and safety of the citizens of Lafourche Parish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, because of a family medical emergency, I missed 2 recorded votes on January 9. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

H. Res. 35—"no"; H.R. 1—"no."

HONORING JOHN HINDMAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to John Hindman, a public servant, businessman and citizen from my congressional district. John is

retiring this month as vice president of Public Affairs and Communications for UPS Airlines, ending a 32-year career with the company.

A native of Ottumwa, Iowa, John earned his bachelor's degree in education from Iowa State University. John first joined UPS in 1974, advancing through various positions in package operations. Over the next 20 years, he managed the Des Moines facility and spent tenures in the West Region's Marketing, Industrial Engineering, Human Resources, Employee Relations and Public Affairs departments.

Before serving in his current position, John spent six years as Air Group Public Affairs manager, monitoring government activity and promoting legislative objectives in Frankfort and Washington, D.C. Since being named vice president of Public Affairs and Communications, John has demonstrably strengthened the reputation of UPS among the public and employees.

Through his work, John has secured millions of dollars in incentives to support UPS projects and corporate social responsibility. I would especially note his stewardship of Metro College, a program that provides kids an opportunity to go to college while working for UPS.

John has distinguished himself as a community leader, serving on the board of directors for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Louisville Medical Center Development Corp., and the Boy Scouts of America. He formerly served on boards for the YMCA, Kentucky Forward, Associated Industries of Kentucky and the Louisville Zoo Foundation.

John's vast business knowledge and strong work ethic has earned the attention of several Kentucky Governors including Governor Ernie Fletcher who appointed John to the Louisville Arena Task Force in 2006 and Governor Paul Patton who appointed him to the Southern Governors Association's Transportation Task Force in 1999. John was awarded the 2006 Governor's Economic Development Leadership Award.

It is my great privilege to recognize John Hindman today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I find it no coincidence that as we were preparing to deliberate federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research, a study was released that announced a breakthrough in the form of amniotic-fluid stem cell research. These stem cells do not present any ethical controversy and have already shown more promise than embryonic stem cells.

Federal funding already goes to research and development for embryonic stem cells. The NIH currently spends \$40 million for such studies. It spends \$600 million on stem cell research in general. In fact, nearly \$3 billion has

been spent on all stem cell research over the past six years.

Much of this research, like the amniotic fluid stem cell research, is without the ethical dilemma, and has simply proven to be more effective.

Researchers have expended years of time and energy trying to develop a single treatment or cure for any disease from embryonic stem cells to no avail; and actually finding adverse consequences like tumors at the implantation site. But adult stem cells have already provided us with treatment options for 72 diseases. Adult stem cells have shown a real return on the American people's investment.

We have seen results from adult stem cells and should continue to support and subsidize progress in this field. And, as I mentioned a moment ago, there is a new option in the form of amniotic stem cells which has already shown great promise and even more success than embryonic stem cells.

The face of this debate has already changed in the short time since it came before us last summer; and while this latest discovery provides hope, it should also act as a warning. A warning that we cannot make rash decisions which cost not only federal dollars, but also human lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENA BITTER,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 THOMAS
JEFFERSON AWARD

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Rena Bitter, a Dallas native and a Foreign Service officer currently serving as Consular Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, for winning the 2006 Thomas Jefferson Award presented by American Citizens Abroad (ACA).

This honor is extended to State Department employees who have displayed exemplary service to the American community overseas. ACA founded this award to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, America's first Secretary of State and third President. They described Jefferson as "the quintessential Overseas American" who lived outside the new republic for many years while helping to secure its independence and promote its political, economic and national security interests. In a similar manner, Rena serves our country today as Jefferson once served.

Rena entered the Foreign Service in 1994 having previously served in Mexico City, Mexico; Bogota, Colombia; and London, England. After spending a year with the British Foreign Office, Rena served as Chief of the Non-immigrant Visa Unit at the American Embassy in London. During an assignment in Washington, DC, Rena served as a Special Assistant to former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Rena received additional leadership awards while serving both at the American Embassy in London and the office of the Secretary of State.

Currently in Amman, Rena has a wide range of responsibilities. She not only assists American citizens living and working in Jordan, but supports David Abell (co-winner of

this award) and his co-workers at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. Rena's dedicated efforts provide for the needs of our fellow citizens in very difficult times. As a testimony of her dedication to Americans overseas, one of her supervisors once wrote that "If my grandkids were to find themselves in trouble, I would hope it would be Rena, or someone like her, who would be available" to help them.

I wish Rena Bitter all the best, and I thank her for her dedicated service to the American citizens overseas.

HONORING ATHALIE RANGE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 15th, Americans in my Congressional district of South Florida and across the nation will gather to celebrate the birth, the life, and most importantly, the dream of civil rights pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While Dr. King's dream has yet to be fully realized, he reminds us that "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

In reflecting upon the words of Martin Luther King Jr., I am reminded of the many members of the South Florida African-American community who led the struggle for equal rights, most notably the late Athalie Range—a civil rights advocate and dedicated civil servant.

As the president of the Liberty City Elementary PTA in 1953, Athalie Range launched an unprecedented fight against the dismal conditions and lack of resources available to students attending local segregated schools. Steadfast in her conviction, Athalie went before the all-white school board, demanded immediate improvements—and got them.

In 1966, Athalie became the first African-American to serve in the Miami Commission, where she fought to improve her community's local infrastructure, reduce crime and poverty, and expand local government services for minorities. In the 1970's Athalie continued to break ethnic barriers when she served as the head of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, and then appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the National Railroad Passenger Corp.

Athalie also guided the careers of many prominent members of the South Florida African-American community including former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, with whom I had the pleasuring of serving with in the House of Representatives.

Athalie's passing this November was a tremendous loss to our community, a community she loved so much.

During her decades-long career, Athalie brought about tremendous and positive change, while opening doors for our community, and leading an example for others throughout the Nation.

As Americans and citizens of humanity, we owe a debt of gratitude for leaders such as Athalie Range and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for their invaluable contributions to democracy, equality, and freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STUDY
OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE AC-
CURACY OF THE COLLECTION OF
FEDERAL OIL, CONDENSATE,
AND NATURAL GAS ROYALTIES
ACT OF 2007"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing the "Study of Ways To Improve the Accuracy of the Collection of Federal Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Royalties Act," which was H.R. 6368 in the 109th Congress." I am pleased to be joined by Representatives HINCHEY (D-NY) and GRIJALVA (D-AZ) in introducing this legislation. On May 7, 2006, the Washington Post reported allegations that American taxpayers are being shortchanged by oil and gas companies in the royalties that they are paying to the Federal Government ("Firms Harvesting Energy from Public Lands May Owe U.S."). Jack Grynberg, a plaintiff in a false claims action against seventy-three energy and pipeline companies, was featured in the article. Based on his expertise, the legislation I am introducing asks the National Academy of Engineering to conduct a study regarding improving the accuracy of collection of royalties on production of oil, condensate, and natural gas under leases of both onshore and offshore Federal lands and onshore Indian lands.

These valuable resources are owned by the American people, who should be fairly and accurately compensated. I believe that this study would prove invaluable in accomplishing this important goal and will tell us if there is a problem, including the extent of the problem, with the collection of royalties from Federal lands and Indian lands.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WOODY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and distinguished career has come to an end. Robert Woody retired as Fire Chief of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on January 3, 2007, after 32 years of service.

Robert Woody earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Southwest Missouri State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science from Drury College. Mr. Woody began his career as a firefighter in 1975 and after 4 years of service was promoted to driver. On February 20, 1983, he was promoted to crew chief where he served as a positive role model to many young firefighters. In 1999, after serving 8 years as assistant fire chief, he was promoted to fire chief where his leadership is to be commended. Under Mr. Woody, the Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department received the "Fire Department of the Year: Northwest Region".

Mr. Woody was a member of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs, Firefighter's Association of Missouri, Professional Fire and Fraud Investigation Association, and the Pulaski County Fire Chief's Association. He was