

heard Iraqi interpreters marvel that a squad of soldiers would capture a man who, only minutes before, tried to kill them, and bring him unharmed to the detention facility on our camp. This kind of mercy is unheard of in the Arab culture.

Unfortunately, this story will not make the headlines back home. But this is the story of the American soldier in Iraq. It is a story of unprecedented courage, restraint, and compassion for a foreign people. It is a story of the strong trying, against all odds, to protect the weak and defenseless from a dark and hopeless future. I have no idea how the American expedition in Iraq will end. I doubt it will end well. But I do hope that the courage and civility of the American soldiers who fought there will not be forgotten both here and in Iraq.

IN MEMORY OF VETERAN CARL  
GENE YOUNG, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vietnam Veteran Carl Gene Young, Sr., who passed away Wednesday, January 10, at Denton Regional Medical Center due to a myocardial infarction.

A native of Denton, Texas, Mr. Young served as a city council member for 6 years before retiring in 2001. He was an outspoken, honest spokesman for southeast Denton, and was known as an advocate of affordable housing and diversity in city government. Mr. Young was devoted to those he represented and was genuinely concerned with any issues affecting them. Friends and former colleagues will always remember him for his dedication and loyalty to his community.

Before joining the city council, Mr. Young served in the First Air Cavalry in the Vietnam War. He later organized an annual Easter egg hunt to honor 16 soldiers that were killed on Easter Day 1968. Veteran Carl Gene Young, Sr., was a true patriot and was proud to serve our country.

I worked alongside Mr. Young on the Denton County health executive director selection committee. The committee assignment was one that would affect every citizen in Denton County, and Mr. Young was thoughtful and thorough in his duties. I remember him as insightful and truly caring.

In addition to his role as a politician and soldier, Mr. Young was also a loving husband and father. He deeply cared for his family and friends, and was a strong pillar in our community. I extend my dearest sympathies to his family and friends. Veteran Carl Gene Young, Sr., will be deeply missed and his service to our community will always be greatly appreciated.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH  
FORD

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise with my colleagues today in support of

House Resolution 15, honoring the late Honorable Gerald Rudolph Ford, the 38th President of the United States.

Here in this Chamber, President Ford served dutifully for 24 years, representing the people of the Fifth District of Michigan from 1949 until his ascension to the Oval Office. As a Congressman, Gerald Ford's warmth, approachability, and affability made him one of the most highly regarded Members of his day.

It was these qualities which would shape Gerald Ford into an excellent House floor leader for his party, a position he held for 8 years until his appointment as the 40th Vice President. During his tenure as minority leader, Gerald Ford set a standard of fairness, diplomacy, and cooperation to which all of us can aspire.

As both Vice President and President, Gerald Ford was called to serve in positions of great responsibility during a troubled time in our Nation's history. Ford accepted his powers and responsibilities with the same steadfast composure and patience for which he had become known as a Congressman.

As a man known for his ability to create consensus, compromise, and conciliation, he was well suited to take the helm of America and navigate the turbulent storm it faced. President Ford's gentle nature helped soothe the deep scars America faced after an arduous period of strife at home and abroad.

Madam Speaker, Gerald Ford served our country with a patient hand, an understanding mind, and a reassuring voice. His time in Congress and in the White House leave behind a legacy of commitment, passion, and comity that we will all remember.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MART  
PANTHERS, STATE 2A DIVISION  
II CHAMPIONS

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2007*

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate Coach Rusty Nail and the Mart High School Panthers on their 2006 2A Division II State football championship. Their victory is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice and inspires all of us who have followed their progress with great interest. The team and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and commitment to achieving their goals.

Mart High School has an outstanding history of representing their community and Central Texas with integrity and I am proud to represent such exceptional educators, coaches, and students in Congress.

Winning this State championship is an extraordinary accomplishment that holds lessons that will serve them well throughout their lives. Chief among them is the confidence that comes with knowing that success can be achieved in life when you are willing to set goals and work hard to achieve them.

The Mart Panthers have made history and honored not only their school, but their community, fans and Central Texas by bringing home a State football championship. The Panthers victory brought the State championship trophy home to Mart for the fourth time with an impressive record of 15–1.

Congratulations again to the Mart Panthers on their 2006 2A Division II State football championship. Go Panthers.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE STEVE MCFADDEN'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF LEWISVILLE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lewisville Chief of Police Steve McFadden. After more than 38 years in municipal service, 34 years of which were served as Chief of Police, Mr. Steve McFadden will retire in February 2007.

Mr. Steve McFadden grew up in a small town outside of Paris, Texas. After graduation from East Lamar High School, he served in the U.S. Army for three years where he discovered his calling into law enforcement. He later received a Bachelor of Science degree from East Texas State University. Due to Mr. McFadden's strong leadership abilities and thorough education, he was promoted to Police Chief within five years of serving as a police officer.

In November of 1977, Mr. McFadden became Chief of Police in Lewisville, Texas. At that time there were only 27 sworn officers, a force that has grown drastically to include 136 officers today. The crime rates in Lewisville have been kept low due largely to the strong cooperation of the police department. Chief McFadden believed that one of the most integral aspects that contributed to their department success was honesty and trust. He believed that his job as police chief was not any more important than those jobs of the officers and dispatchers. Mr. McFadden inspired a sense of pride and integrity in his staff. He was one of the most experienced and respected police chiefs in Texas, and his retirement is viewed as a great loss to the department and to the community.

The decision to retire was not an easy one for Mr. McFadden, as he will truly miss his colleagues and serving our community as Lewisville Chief of Police. He does, however, look forward to spending more time with his wife, Judy McFadden, his two daughters, his son, and his granddaughter.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Steve McFadden for decades of hard work and selfless dedication given to the citizens of Lewisville, Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington, and his service will be set as a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 2007  
"NUESTRO ORGULLO LATINO"  
CELEBRATION AND ITS HONOREES

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an event, the "Nuestro

Orgullo Latino" celebration, Our Latin Pride, which honors Hispanics in the western New York area that have achieved professional success in the passing year.

This year the event will recognize 16 individuals that have achieved various accomplishments. The honorees include an international author, legal professionals, educators, municipal employees and private business owners.

This year's honorees are: Cesar Cabrera, Tamara Pozantides, Lorraine Clemente, David Rodriguez, Nestor Hernandez, Eugenio Russi, Lourdes T. Iglesias, Melissa Sanchez, Olga Karman, Denise Gonez-Santos, Elizabeth Martinez-Fildes, Betty Calvo Torres, David Mauricio, Maria Cruz Torres, Doris Carbonell-Medina, and Roddy Torres.

This event is presented by Hispanics United of Buffalo, an organization that provides services to thousands a year in Buffalo's west side. The event is also organized by the Hispanic Alliance of Western New York, a civic association that is committed to community affairs for Buffalo's Latino community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today joining many others in commending the honorees of this year's event for their accomplishments and wishing them a continually prosperous and successful future.

#### MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 12, 2007*

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, over 90% of people with Medicare, that's 38 million Americans, get their prescription drugs through Medicare Part D. These seniors are satisfied with their coverage and are finally receiving the drugs they need at costs they can afford.

Consistently, 80% of beneficiaries report they are satisfied with their current coverage and drug plans. Those include seniors known as dual-eligibles, the poorest seniors eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, because they are seeing more choices and paying less money for quality care.

My constituent, Nancy Santheson of Roswell, New Mexico, was spending almost \$800/month on one drug to treat osteoporosis. She had zero coverage the first year her doctor prescribed it. Once she signed up for her Medicare Part D plan, it went down to only \$60/month. This drug is not listed on the Veterans' Administration's national formulary. Had Nancy been dependent on the price negotiations the VA administers and the Democrats have proposed, she would not have had coverage of this drug, a new treatment that has shown great promise in reversing bone loss.

Democrats say they will fill in the donut-hole, a cost estimated to be \$450 billion over 10 years, with the savings they claim will incur through government interference in price negotiations. Yet the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have stated that they predict government involvement in price negotiations will not lead to lower costs for taxpayers or seniors.

Seniors want choice, not government controlled access to their vital prescriptions. The

leverage needed to negotiate low prices is volume buying and the ability to walk away from a deal the government decides is too expensive. This means the government will have to walk away from a deal with a drug company, and seniors would not have access to those drugs. Negotiating low prices will take priority over getting the most quality, effective drugs in our seniors' medicine cabinets.

But seniors are already getting negotiated discounts. Private insurance plans already have a strong incentive to negotiate low prices for seniors: they want to control their own costs and compete for new enrollees to choose their plan. Premiums for the drug basic benefit are offered at an average of \$22/month for seniors in 2007, down from \$23 in 2006. This is \$15 less than the \$37/month coverage premiums were originally projected to cost. In fact, Democrats wanted to set premiums on seniors at a static \$35/month, \$13 more than average beneficiaries will pay next year. This proves that competition is working and our seniors are receiving benefits cheaper than ever imagined.

Democrats point to the Veterans' Administration as a model for this government price controlled plan. But the latest information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services suggests that almost 40% of veterans eligible for both VA and Medicare benefits choose to get their prescriptions through Medicare Part D, the plan with more choices.

Time and again, veterans in my district have been frustrated that in order to receive the best benefits, they must get their drugs through an impersonal mail order program. In fact, 76% of veterans' prescriptions are distributed through mail order. And year after year efforts are made to encourage more veterans to get their prescriptions through mail order. Why put seniors in this position when we do not have to? Our seniors will face threats to their ability to purchase drugs from local pharmacies, just as veterans face, and may have to retrieve their drugs through an impersonal mail-order program, not their trusted pharmacist.

Mr. Speaker, our seniors deserve to have access to the drugs they need at the lowest costs possible. They are getting both now, and Democrats want to take that away. We must continue to fight for our seniors and I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4.

#### MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF HITRON

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2007*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Joint Interagency Task Force, the Navy and the Coast Guard drug interdiction forces for their role in seizing more than 43,420 pounds of cocaine during operations over the last several months in the Pacific. In particular, I would like to commend the Jacksonville based Coast Guard Helicopter Tactical Interdiction Squadron, HITRON, for their critical role in missions which intercepted 8,850 pounds of cocaine that was headed for our Nation's shores. These actions represent a crucial victory in keeping drugs off our streets, out of our schools, and away from our children.

HITRON is the Coast Guard's premier airborne law enforcement unit trained and authorized to employ Airborne Use of Force. With an historic record of success, HITRON consists of eight leased AgustaWestland MH-68A StingRay helicopters. These helicopters are extremely fast and maneuverable, and they are armed and cutter-deployable. They have proven very effective at intercepting the go-fast boats favored by drug runners on both coasts.

Prior to HITRON, drug runners would simply ignore our orders to cease and desist.

HITRON now has the ability to shoot out the engines of these drug boats, preventing them from reaching our shores. During a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security hearing the Commandant of the Coast Guard told me that HITRON is battling a thousand—every time the HITRON aircraft went after a go-fast drug boat it had stopped the drug runners cold.

America is continuing to fight the war on drugs, and these are the kinds of successes we need to win. For their contributions the HITRON unit has a lot to be proud of, and our Nation owes them a great debt of gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
KATHLEEN M. TEAHAN FOR  
FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC  
SERVICE TO THE MEN, WOMEN,  
AND CHILDREN OF MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2007*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a woman who has dedicated both her personal and professional life to the men, women, and children she has so thoughtfully served. Massachusetts State Representative Kathleen M. Teahan has served the citizens of Abington, East Bridgewater and Whitman for the last ten years. The impact of her work has been felt not only throughout the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but throughout this great Nation as a whole.

Known to be an always positive leader in both the classroom and legislature, Representative Teahan began her public service as a teacher after graduating from Bridgewater State College in 1969. Over the next three decades, she taught at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School and Gordon W. Mitchell Middle School in East Bridgewater. Yet her passion to help others and invest in the community was not limited to just the classroom. Representative Teahan's commitment to Habitat for Humanity, the Whitman Democratic Town Committee, and the Whitman Library are just a few examples of her devotion to the citizens of Massachusetts.

Encouraged and supported by her late husband Robert, Representative Teahan decided to expand her efforts to help others and was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in November 1996. Since that time, she has not only made an impact on the citizens within the 7th District but has been a national leader and role model through her involvement with issues involving health care, education, employment, and the environment,