

Yea on H.R. 2399, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities (Roll Call 400)

Yea on H.R. 1722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the "Leonard W. Herman Post Office" (Roll Call 401)

Aye on Democratic Motion to Table Resolution Raising a Question of Privileges of the House (Roll Call 402)

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES CLARK WIDER, SR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James Clark Wider, Sr. for his tremendous contributions to the art world and to his country. Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. Wider served his country for 20 years in both the United States Army and Marine Corps. Today he is the owner of the Southwinds Art Gallery and Studio in Colorado Springs, where he not only creates exceptional artwork, but he also educates others about the importance of art to the maintenance of a culture and civilization.

Mr. Wider's extraordinary work clearly demonstrates his love of humanity and appreciation for variety in artwork. By capturing and conveying emotion in addition to riveting imagery, Mr. Wider offers an intimate glance at bygone eras and other worlds, bringing history to life. Scenes from Mr. Wider's childhood are the basis for his "Downhome Series" while the culture and customs of the Massai Tribe of Kenya are the inspiration for his African Heritage Series. Mr. Wider has used his talent to celebrate all the positive aspects of African-American heritage. Instilling the black community throughout the country with immense pride in its history, Mr. Wider believes that it is necessary to acknowledge the struggles of African Americans, for in so doing we also acknowledge their strength and invincible will.

Mr. Wider's positive and celebratory attitude enables him to connect with and inspire people of all races and ages. Educating generations about art, he seeks to encourage all of us to become art lovers and collectors. Mr. Wider's numerous awards and recognitions include an honorary membership in the Austin, Texas Chapter of the NAACP, life membership of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a 1992 "Artist of the Year" Award from the Austin Chapter of the National Business League, and a listing in the premier edition of Who's Who Among Blacks in Colorado Springs.

The nation as a whole has profoundly benefited from his influence. In him, the African-American community possesses an exceptional role model and the art world has a true champion. The people of Colorado's Fifth Congressional District are privileged that this great American has chosen to call our community home; Mr. Wider is an asset to the art world and to his country, and we are profoundly thankful for his numerous contributions.

TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE UNITY TOUR

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Police Unity Tour which honors the memory and courage of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty and raises money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Over one thousand police officers from around the country have completed the tour, four hundred of whom left from the Township of Morris, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent and rode over 300 miles to the Memorial in Washington.

In May 1997 the Police Unity Tour was organized by Officer Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Police Department, with the hope of raising public awareness of police officers who have died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices.

The tour started in 1997 with 18 riders on a four day fund-raising bicycle ride from Florham Park, N.J. to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington. This past year they had over one thousand riders nationwide who made the trip. Inspired by their commitment and their motto, "WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO DIED," the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund has selected their organization to be the sponsor of the Museum's Hall of Remembrance.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Police Unity Tour on their 11th Anniversary of honoring fallen law enforcement heroes!

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF TIPTON, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Tipton, Kansas for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Most communities in rural America would like to see future generations return home and keep alive its way of life. Tipton residents are no different. They want to provide the next generation the opportunity to continue the quality rural lifestyle the previous generation afforded them. The difference is that this community knows its future is in its hands. So they have volunteered these hands to construct what is needed to attract and retain the youth who, too often, leave for the "city."

In the summer of 2003, the parents and students of Tipton were faced with the impending consolidation of their elementary school—leaving the students with up to a 20 mile bus drive and the town with one less way to attract and retain businesses and the families they employ. Although the long drive would be taxing on the students and parents, convenience wasn't the catalyst for the action that was about to take place that summer. Mayor Adriane Arnoldy was among those who knew what

losing the school would mean to Tipton. He told me, "Our parents faced the prospect of their children being enrolled in three different schools in three different towns. Losing our elementary school was not an option because we knew that as schools leave communities, so go the communities themselves."

Thinking ahead about the future effects of losing the elementary school, the town voted to create its own school—the Tipton Christian School, a private K–6 facility. Those committed hands of Tipton's residents worked together and completed the new school in less than two months with all volunteer labor. Private donations funded the cost of the new facility and continue to finance school operations to date. The construction and funding of a new school in 41 days is just one example of how this community stands up against the prevailing winds of consolidation and urbanization plaguing rural America. I can only imagine that the residents of Tipton will make sure this school succeeds in the same way Tipton Catholic Senior High School has since 1919.

During a period when small towns throughout the country have experienced the shuttered doors of a main street no longer able to keep customers in the shops, efforts like these have helped Tipton maintain an active business community. Hollerich Construction is an example of a business matching the commitment made by residents. The company has expanded its presence in Tipton, along with Great Plains Manufacturing who recently doubled the size of its agricultural equipment manufacturing plant.

Tipton residents have shown character, determination and the high value they place on family, friends and neighbors. It is their hope that these ideals will be an example to some of the troubled boys at the recently opened Tipton Academy, housed in the closed elementary school building. Boys who come to the academy are there to experience a different setting, a positive one. One way to do that is to have the boys involved in the community. They contributed to the construction of a kitchen, eating and serving area in the new community building that Tipton residents use for all sorts of community events and celebrations.

For rural communities to survive and prosper, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Tipton are an example of how hard work, vision and involvement can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Tipton is a developing success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) on the occasion of its 90th anniversary this month. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the army selected

Dayton as the location to increase our Nation's air forces. Three military installations, Wilbur Wright Field, the Fairfield Aviation General Supply Depot, and McCook Field, were opened in 1917 to assist the military with aviation development. The use of Wilbur Wright Field as a government installation dates back to May of 1917, 90 years ago this month.

As the birthplace of aviation, Dayton, Ohio is proud to be the home of one of the largest Air Force installations in the world. In fact, in 1924, Dayton citizens purchased over 4,500 acres of land for \$425,000 and provided the deeds to President Calvin Coolidge for the construction of a new aviation engineering center that later became part of WPAFB. The excellent and groundbreaking work of air development at WPAFB distinguishes the base as a landmark of tremendous historical importance. Dayton has been involved in flight from the Wright B Flyer to the F-22, the current stealth fighter.

The leadership responsibilities and innovative research currently undertaken at WPAFB are essential to the success and future air superiority of the United States Air Force (USAF). WPAFB serves as the headquarters for the branch's worldwide logistics system and all USAF systems development and procurement; the headquarters for National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), the Department of Defense's primary source for foreign aerospace intelligence; an aeronautical engineering center; a major research laboratory; the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT); the second largest USAF medical center; and is crowned by the National Museum of the USAF, the largest military aviation museum in the world.

Madam Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will join me in honoring the 90th anniversary of WPAFB. The renowned work at WPAFB is considered by many as the backbone of the USAF and essential to our country's national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was detained in a meeting in the Senate during rollcall vote 398. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge one of our key allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—as it celebrates its 89th Annual Republic Day on May 28. After the fall of the Russian Empire, Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence on May 28, 1918. Unfortunately, the Red Army invaded Azerbaijan on April 28, 1920 preempting its reach for liberty for seventy years.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom came at a heavy price following the 1990 inva-

sion of Baku by Soviet troops resulting in the death of more than one hundred thirty civilians. Moscow's rule, however, grew weaker and by 1991 popular pressure led the country to declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on October 18, 1991 the Constitution was approved.

Given past Soviet rule and the difficult geopolitical environment, Azerbaijan's determination to look westward for its political and economic allies should be applauded.

Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer the United States support in the Global War on Terror, providing airspace and airport use for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq. Though bilateral cooperation on terrorism issues between the United States and Azerbaijan predates September 11, 2001, our relations were strengthened following Azerbaijan's immediate and unwavering support in the Global War on Terror.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic, and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

During the last decade, Azerbaijan has implemented structural reforms and adopted numerous legislative changes to pave the way for further integration within the global economy. It has also been moving toward a more diversified economy that would achieve sustainable growth and meet the social and developmental needs of its population.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994, Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to help diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated while the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed at the end of this month. In addition, in March 2007 Azerbaijan and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Security in the Caspian region aimed at strengthening our already strong cooperation with respect to the supply and transport of Caspian energy resources and bolstering energy security in the West.

Let us today congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its forthcoming 89th Anniversary celebrations and continue to develop this important friendship between our two countries.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARCIA NEEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcia Neel, who, after serving the Clark County School District for nearly 30 years, will retire this year. She is an outstanding educator whose commitment to our community has made a profound difference to the students of Clark County School District.

Marcia currently serves as the Supervisor of the Secondary Music Program of the Clark County School District, where she oversees the music education of over 50,000 students. Marcia is a leader in the field of music education and she has served as President of the Nevada Music Educators Association on two separate terms. Marcia has also served as President of the Nevada Choral Directors Association and is a member of the National Executive Board of the National Association for Music Education (MENC). Marcia has also been recognized for her distinguished work in the classroom. In 1993, Marcia received the Nevada Music Educator of the Year Award. She was also recognized in 1993 by the Disney Channel as the National Performing Arts Teacher of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Marcia. Her passion and love of teaching have greatly enhanced the educational experience of many students in the Clark County School District. I thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING NEAL WADE AND THE ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR BEING RATED NUMBER ONE BY SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Neal Wade and the Alabama Development Office for being selected as the winner of the 2006 Competitiveness Award by Site Selection magazine.

This is the second consecutive year that the Alabama Development Office has received this prestigious award. The award is being given to the Alabama Development Office based on its success in recruiting new investments and jobs to Alabama.

In 2006, a total of 586 companies undertook projects to set up operations or to expand existing facilities in Alabama. These projects represent more than \$3.1 billion in capital investment. The new and expanding businesses will also create approximately 24,780 jobs.

ADO is off to a fast start in 2007. Just this month, Alabama learned it will be the site of one of the largest economic development projects in the country. ThyssenKrupp, one of Germany's leading steel industries, announced it will build its \$3.7 billion steel plant in Alabama. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill will create at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, and