

Monsignor Bendik also serves in many capacities on the diocesan level including the post of Dean of priests for northern Luzerne County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Monsignor Bendik on his 40th anniversary as a Catholic priest. His selfless service and wise counsel to his many parishioners and students will be forever remembered and respected. Monsignor Bendik has truly enriched the lives of so many as he has labored to improve the quality of life throughout his community.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' CITYWIDE TITLE I PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Flint Community Schools' Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council. The council will hold a celebration on June 5 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, in honor of this event.

Dr. Edward Hansberry founded the Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council in 1967. The advisory council was born from the idea that parents should be honored for the work they do on behalf of their children. It has grown into a vehicle to teach parents and give them a voice in the education of their children. The advisory council allows for the parents to have positive interaction with teachers and social workers. This builds bonds between parents and administrators and gives parents a mechanism to provide feedback on the programs.

David Solis, director of State, Federal and local programs for the Flint Community Schools will host the celebration. Named the "40th Parent of the Year Celebration—A Journey of Joy, Challenge and Change" this celebration will highlight the dedication and success of the students, parents and educators benefiting from title 1.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council for 40 years of successfully involving parents in the title I program.

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW WORLD OF COCA-COLA

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize an important event for the city of Atlanta—the upcoming grand opening of the New World of Coca-Cola adjacent to Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

Seventeen years ago in 1990, the World of Coca-Cola opened its doors to the public and has since delighted over 13 million visitors at its Underground Atlanta location. This new and expanded facility opening May 24 is twice the size of the current World of Coca-Cola. It

will be a much more interactive and dynamic version of its predecessor.

The New World of Coca-Cola will house exhibits that draw upon Coca-Cola's history and timeless values of optimism and refreshment. It is a physical manifestation of the company's vision and values and commitment to the city of Atlanta. It will introduce visitors to the Coca-Cola Company of the 21st century: a company that is committed to offering people more than 400 ways to be refreshed and to having a meaningful impact in the communities in which it operates.

I would like to congratulate the Coca-Cola Company on a premier destination for Georgia residents and visitors from around the world.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN THOMAS AGUON DUENAS

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Midshipman Jonathan Thomas Aguon Duenas who will graduate from the United States Naval Academy with a bachelor of science in history and who will be commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 25, 2007.

Jonathan is a graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School on Guam, where he acquired outstanding leadership qualities and a desire to strive for excellence. Jonathan credits two other Chamorro Naval Academy graduates for inspiring his decision to become an Academy-trained naval officer: Retired Navy Captain and former Guam Senator Eulogio "Eloy" Bermudes, was the first Chamorro graduate of the Naval Academy in 1970, and Captain Peter A. Gumataotao, who graduated the Academy in 1981, and who was the first Chamorro selected as commanding officer of a Navy warship, the U.S.S. *Decatur*, which made a port visit to Guam during his command. Captain Gumataotao also is a product of Father Duenas Memorial School, having graduated from the school in 1976. Jonathan's brothers who are currently serving in the Air National Guard also are a source of inspiration.

Jonathan entered the United States Naval Academy as a plebe in 2003 and worked hard to become a naval officer. He was one of only 36 midshipmen selected to attend the prestigious Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer Program. Jonathan will report aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. *Curtis Wilbur*, home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan. Upon completion of his first tour, he will report to Nuclear Power School in South Carolina.

Jonathan was raised on Guam, the youngest of eight children born to Ricardo Camacho Duenas and the late Ruth Aguon Duenas of Tamuning. He was steeped in his Chamorro culture and a strong sense of responsibility, volunteering his time and effort in support of Habitat for Humanity projects in the greater Washington, DC area.

Today we share the pride of the Duenas family and the people of Guam in Ensign Jonathan Duenas' achievements. As evidenced by his performance in school, Jonathan promises to truly become the naval officer as hon-

orable as those who inspired him and those who preceded him.

FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to fuel shortages, waiting in long lines to purchase gas, price controls and H.R. 1252. I rise in support of lowering fuel prices for consumers, creating more jobs for Americans, opening new sources of energy and encouraging investment in innovative energy technologies.

Today the House will be voting on H.R. 1252, a bill that would impose price controls on free-market energy products and would create hardship on Americans during a national emergency. Guised as a price gouging bill to protect American consumers, H.R. 1252 would actually create hardship for Americans.

I do not support price gouging. Taking unfair advantage of consumers, especially during an emergency situation, is wrong. Those who engage in this type of behavior should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Kansans are already protected by state law that prohibits price gouging during a time of disaster.

In a free market economy, when supplies become limited or scarce, prices rise to curb demand and help ensure product remains available. When artificial fuel prices are set by the government, demand remains high and supply will not be able to keep pace. Consumers will be faced with gas rationing and standing in long lines. Consumers who need fuel could be faced with gas stations running out of gasoline.

There is no question my constituents in Kansas are angered by high fuel prices. We all feel the pain in our wallets. High energy costs effect everyone from families to small businesses to large corporations. However, voting to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to enforce price controls on a free-market energy produce like gasoline will not provide relief at the pump. If anything, it could restrict consumers from purchasing fuel during times when it is needed the most.

Returning to a 1970s era where consumers are forced to wait hours in line just to purchase fuel is not a solution. H.R. 1252 does not help lower the cost of fuel for Americans today or long-term. It is not an effective solution to high gas prices.

Congress should instead offer real solutions like encouraging more investment in innovative energy technologies, supporting clean and safe access to petroleum resources off our Nation's shores and on public lands, spurring investment in renewable sources of energy, and expanding domestic refining capacity. These are solutions that would help lower energy costs and create American jobs.

This week I introduced The Refinery Streamlined Permitting Act of 2007, a bill to help increase America's refining capacity and lower gas prices. My bill streamlines the federal permitting process for new or expanding domestic refineries. It creates a framework for all parties involved to understand what actions

need to be carried out for an expeditious permit approval to be granted. And it requires that such actions be completed within one year.

My bill will require agencies to give high priority to refinery applications that would result in greater capacity, a cleaner-burning fuel, or a reduction in a refinery's pollution output. And it will require Federal agencies to more carefully examine the impact a proposed rule would have on energy supplies and provide that information to the public.

Instead of bringing an artificial price-control bill to the House floor that could lead to gas rationing and long lines, Democrat leaders should instead offer real solutions.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1252 and in support of policies that will lower the cost of gasoline for the American people.

THANKING KANSAS BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR  
LARRY WELCH

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, Kansas was once known for being part of the Wild West. Widespread lawlessness allowed for cattle rustlers and wild cowboys in towns like Abilene and Dodge City. Our great state also has a history of lawmen known for settling issues with a personalized style of law enforcement. Sheriffs Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok faced threats from individuals bent on destroying a peaceful way of life. The retiring Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation is part of this storied tradition of making Kansas a state where families can pursue a way of life envied by others. Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Welch's service as a leader and innovator in law enforcement.

Director Welch and I share a similar academic background. We both received a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Kansas. Director Welch though, went on to serve his country in a noble profession. Where did I go wrong, becoming a lawyer then a banker and then a politician? In 1961, he was appointed as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For 25 years, his tireless commitment to justice led him around the country. Before returning to Kansas, he served in FBI assignments in Knoxville, Tennessee; Washington, DC; Miami, Florida; West Palm Beach, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; San Antonio, Texas; and McAllen, Texas.

During his lengthy service with the FBI, Director Welch was charged with supervising all FBI operations in Kansas. After his time with the FBI, he began work as associate director at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. While at the training center he was promoted to Director and provided leadership in this position for nearly 5 years before he accepted the appointment by Attorney General Robert Stephan as director of the KBI. He was reappointed KBI director by Attorney General Carla Stovall in 1995 and by Attorney General Phill Kline in 2003.

Director Welch has been a strong advocate in the fight against methamphetamine and its devastating impact on communities across Kansas. He recognized the significant harm

and damage this poison inflicts on families and has made combating the manufacture and use of meth a priority of the KBI under his administration. Seizures of meth labs have drastically decreased in our state during the past several years. This can only be attributed to the effectiveness of law enforcement in Kansas making the production of meth an extremely risky business. The humble and relentless man that Director Welch is, could be seen when he quickly responded to compliments of the KBI's many lab seizures by explaining that meth is still coming in from foreign sources and that there was still much work to be done to protect Kansans from this destructive drug.

I would be remiss if I did not include in a tribute to this man, any mention of the care he has shown to the law enforcement community in Kansas. His compassion is well known throughout the state. He is consistently the first to express sympathies, in person, to families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. Many in this field of work, whether in the city police, sheriff's department, or Highway Patrol, consider Larry Welch a friend and an advisor.

Director Welch has given back to his state and country for 46 years with much of his career dedicated to making Kansas a safe and desirable place to live and visit. In the many important roles he filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty. I join Larry Welch's many friends and admirers in thanking a great man for great service.

HONORING OAKLAND COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), a faith-based community organizing network in Oakland, California. Today, OCO celebrates 30 years of advocacy and invaluable service to the community.

In 1972, OCO was established as an organizing project of Fathers John Baumann, S.J. and Jerry Helfrich S.J., the founders of the Pacific Institute for Community Organization (PICO) network. PICO is a national network with faith-based organizations at work in over 45 cities in 12 states across the United States, pursuing initiatives in areas such as healthcare access, education reform and affordable housing.

From 1972–1977, Baumann and Helfrich focused on building neighborhood organizations in West Oakland, San Antonio, Fruitvale, Central East Oakland from 50th to 80th Streets, and Elmhurst area. Neighborhood after neighborhood worked on issues like junkyards, stray dogs, prostitution, zoning, crime and vacant housing. On May 14, 1977 over 1,000 people gathered at Merritt College to officially give birth to OCO, articulating the faith values that today are the foundation of OCO's organizing principles.

For the next 8 years, OCO operated successfully as a neighborhood based organization, bringing people together around local and citywide issues. During this period, OCO achieved major victories in areas such as af-

fordable housing, local hiring, and the rehabilitation of once-vacant houses.

In 1985, with the support of PICO, OCO began the transition from a neighborhood-organizing model to a congregation community-based model. Using this method, OCO developed strong local organizations in seven congregations. During the 1980's OCO received national accolades in many areas, but in particular for its groundbreaking work in partnership with the City of Oakland to combat drug use.

In the 1990s, OCO leaders turned their attention on the root causes of poverty in Oakland and focused on developing sustainable solutions for complex problems. During that time, OCO organized thousands of people for major citywide action that resulted in the creation of Aviation High School, a pilot school-to-work transition program; the Hope Campaign, which created smaller kindergarten class sizes; and the opening of a grocery store in West Oakland.

OCO has continued this proud tradition of advocacy and innovation through the present day. Over the past several years, OCO has again charted new territory in several areas through initiatives such as the Restructuring of two Oakland High Schools, Castlemont High School and Fremont High School, into separate but interconnected schools within their respective schools. Furthermore, OCO continues its extraordinary advocacy work in the areas of healthcare access, immigrants' rights and affordable housing.

On May 11, 2007, OCO will celebrate its 30th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending the organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as an institution of faith and worship, but also as a leader in working to provide services and advocacy to the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of leadership and service throughout its 30 years of community organizing and action, OCO has contributed enormously not only to the Oakland community, but also to our State, our country and our world.

SAN MATEO COUNTY AND SAN  
FRANCISCO COUNTY DISTIN-  
GUISHED SCHOOLS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly praise the educational system within my home state of California and, in particular, the schools in my congressional district. In the face of what seems constant criticism of our school systems, there are actually many, many instances of excellence.

California's State Superintendent of Education Jack O'Connell recently announced a remarkable list of 76 middle schools and 95 high schools that will be designated as California Distinguished Schools through 2011. San Mateo County Board of Education Superintendent Jean Holbrook said that San Mateo County, much of which is within California's 12th congressional district, is the 16th largest county in the state yet ranks fourth in receiving distinguished school awards. I agree completely with her that this "says something