

Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, and James Ryan; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee members Rebecca Baker, James Martin, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Paul Aston, Roger Axel, Kurt Kasson, Sheila Lee, and Tina Rakes. Members of ICC's professional staff included its CEO Rick Weiland as well as Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, James Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Peter Feldman, and International Accreditation Services President Charles Ramani.

ED MATTAS: "AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF SAN DIEGO"

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Mattas, who is being honored with the "Community Service Award" by The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

After graduating from Kearney High School in San Diego, California, Ed started his Union career with Hazard Products in 1981. When Hazard closed their manufacturing plant in 1985, he moved on to RCP Block and Brick. While at RCP Block and Brick, Ed served as the Shop Steward.

Ed was then elected as Trustee to Teamsters Local 36 in 2001 and was appointed Vice President in 2006. He was hired as the Training Director for the San Diego County Construction Teamsters in 2002. Along with the job came a tractor trailer that is funded by Teamsters Locals 36, 481, 542, and 683. These Locals have made it easy for him to make the Teamster truck available for volunteer projects whenever possible.

Ed and his students have helped in many events in San Diego and Southern California. These events include the Postal Food Drive, the Christmas food and toy distribution, providing the hauling for the Trail of Hope Charity to the Apache Indians, many projects in assisting the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, and helping to transfer food from the San Diego Food Bank to many needy organizations.

Ed Mattas truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

HONORING CHRISTINE WARD-DIAZ,  
WINNER OF A PRESIDENTIAL  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE  
TEACHING

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christine Ward-Diaz, a science and math teacher at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, New Jersey, and winner of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching this year.

As the Paramus Superintendent Janice Dime has noted, Ms. Ward-Diaz "makes

science learning come alive in her classroom." I had the pleasure of visiting with Ms. Ward-Diaz last year with the EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson, to discuss energy conservation. Her teaching style clearly invigorates her classroom and challenges her students. The children were well-informed and excited to absorb as much knowledge as they could from their teacher.

Christine Ward-Diaz holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Scranton and a masters in environmental studies from my alma mater, Montclair State University. Her superior teaching methods have long been recognized by her peers, earning her East Brook's Teacher of the Year in 2004-05. The Presidential Award is the federal government's highest honor for teaching excellence.

This statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will ensure her well-deserved place in official history. But, more importantly, the generations of students she inspires are a legacy in which we will all always share. I commend Christine Ward-Diaz for her dedication to her students and her community.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE GARRETT

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Garrett, who will receive the 2007 Leadership Award presented by the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation at their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Pasadena, California on June 10, 2007. Each year, this award is given to a community leader who demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to education and the community.

Raised in Los Angeles, California, Mike Garrett attended the University of Southern California, where he excelled as a football player and set numerous records. As an exemplary student athlete, Garrett was named an All-American twice, awarded the prestigious Heisman Trophy in 1965, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1985.

Garrett went on to become a star in the American Football League playing for the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Diego Chargers. He was a two time AFL All-Star, and led the Chiefs to a Super Bowl Victory in 1969. Throughout his entire professional career, Garrett gained a total of 8,049 yards and scored 49 touchdowns.

After his professional football career, Garrett attended the College of Law at Western State University, where he earned his Juris Doctor in 1986. Garrett also held numerous professional positions, which included Director of Business Development at the Great Western Forum, working at the District Attorney's Office in San Diego, and doing color commentary for USC football telecasts. In January of 1993, Garrett returned to USC as the Athletic Director where he has helped the football program regain its status as a dominant football power.

For his success and commitment to promoting education and athletics, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Mike Garrett upon receiving the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule's 2007 Leadership Award.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite my opposition to the war in Iraq, I supported the passage of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, H.R. 1591, when it came before the House in March. It was a difficult decision but I had to vote my conscience.

For the first time we were requiring accountability standards by establishing benchmarks and a timeframe for redeployment. Another persuasive factor in supporting H.R. 1591 was the funding for body armor, Mine Resistant Ambush Protection vehicles, MRAP, traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, and veterans health care. Finally, I was encouraged by the fact that we were taking proper care of our soldiers by ensuring that they were properly rested, trained, and equipped. Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed this bill that could not be overturned by the House.

A few weeks ago on May 10, Congress considered and passed version two of the Iraq Supplemental, H.R. 2206. This bill would have provided \$42.8 billion for the Iraq War. Funding would have supported the immediate needs of the U.S. military through July. However, shortly before the August recess Congress would have to decide whether to release an additional \$52.8 billion of war spending that would last until September.

This measure would have placed needed limitations on access to funding based upon the progress reports provided to Congress by the President thereby, bringing the President and his administration back to reality by enforcing accountability standards. However, in an effort to avoid another veto by President Bush, H.R. 2206 has been butchered into a bill hallow and reintroduced without needed provisions that would safeguard this country from continuing a seemingly endless military operations in Iraq. Therefore, I voted in favor of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206 and voted against Amendment 2.

One of my primary concerns has been to ensure that the troops receive the equipment, rest and training they require and surely deserve. In keeping in line with these key concerns, I voted in support of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206, which provides support for defense and the global war on terror totaling over \$14.489 billion in funding namely, \$617 million in state and foreign operations, \$3.137 billion for BRAC (fully-funded), \$1.789 billion in Veterans Medical Care (including funding for Walter Reed Medical Center), and \$1.050 billion for Homeland Security.

Moreover, Amendment 1 supports our troops by appropriating \$343 million for our military personnel in the U.S. Army, \$408 million for our service members in the U.S. Navy, about \$108.9 million for our troops in the Marine Corps, \$139.3 million for those in the U.S. Air Force and marked increases in funding for our reserve personnel. Furthermore, it protects

our troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan by supplying over \$258 million for defense-wide MRAP vehicles as well as over \$2.6 billion in funding for the armed forces to purchase this same equipment.

Amendment 1 also resolves many of the shortcomings of our military medical healthcare facilities and defense health programs inability to treat and care for our men and women in uniform returning from combat with injuries. In doing so, it allots \$1.878 billion for our Defense Health Programs specifically, \$6 million for treatment of TBI and those suffering from PTSD, the signature injuries of our troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It also provides needed oversight of our military medical treatment facilities, military housing, medical hold personnel and housing provided to them by requiring a series of inspections be conducted by the Secretary of Defense thereby, ensuring that our service members never again return to military facilities at home that are substandard.

Amendment 1 also provides \$393 million in funding to the State Children's Health Insurance Programs, SCHIP, a vital program to the Nation and to the State of Maryland.

Currently, over 137,000 children in Maryland are without health insurance. Fully funding this program will be a great step toward providing universal health care to our neediest children. I should also note that Amendment 1 also provides needed agricultural, FEMA and general Gulf Coast recovery support for those still suffering from the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Katrina by appropriating over \$2.87 billion in financial support.

President Bush can no longer expect a blank check without any accountability given the current circumstances in Iraq. Over 3,400 soldiers have died and the number increases each day. We have been working diligently to negotiate with the President but he has constantly failed to meet us halfway, despite the clear need for a new direction and policy in Iraq. His mandate to have a bill with no strings attached as to time lines for redeployment or one absent of key benchmarks measuring our progress with accountability and needed oversight measures included is unreasonable and irresponsible. This is exactly why I firmly disapprove of Amendment 2.

The President has outlined the need for benchmarks himself particularly, in a January 13, 2007 radio address stating that "America will hold the Iraqi Government to benchmarks it has announced. These include taking responsibility for security in all of Iraq's provinces by November, passing legislation to share oil revenues among all Iraqis, and spending \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction projects that will create new jobs." These are strong commitments. And the Iraqi Government knows that it must meet them, or lose the support of the Iraqi and the American people.

The President must be held accountable. No more blank checks. It is our duty to protect our brave men and women in uniform. Therefore, I call on my colleagues listen to the American people and vote against Amendment 2.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DIGITAL TELEVISION CONSUMER EDUCATION ACT

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of a bill that I am introducing, which would educate the American people about the Nation's transition to digital television broadcasting and help prepare them for the analog cutoff date in February 2009.

As you know, Congress enacted a "hard date," February 17, 2009, by which our TV broadcasters must cease analog broadcasting and only transmit in digital. On that date, anyone who relies on over-the-air broadcasts will need a set-top box to receive and convert digital TV signals in order for their analog TV to continue to work.

The benefits of transitioning to digital TV signals are enormous, most importantly opening up desperately needed spectrum for first responders. I believe the American people will support this transition, but to make this transition a success our constituents need to know and understand why this is happening.

The Federal Communications Commission has been tasked with the responsibility of the success of this transition. If the Commission does not approach the analog cutoff date with care and consideration of the consumer, millions of TV viewing Americans will be left with a black screen.

I am particularly concerned that the FCC is relying heavily on a website to inform consumers about the transition and how to prepare for the analog cutoff day. I believe that this is not enough. According to the GAO, 21 million U.S. households rely on over-the-air television. Many of these households have a combined income of \$30,000 or less and do not have immediate access to the internet. I am not convinced that a website will help these families obtain the necessary information to prepare for the transition.

To facilitate this transition and make up for the lack of sufficient education from the FCC, I am introducing the National Digital Television Consumer Education Act. This legislation requires TV retailers to place signs next to analog televisions that will include an advisory that additional equipment is necessary after February 17, 2009 to continue using that TV. The bill also requires broadcasters to air PSAs for more than a year to help educate the public about what is happening and the set-top box subsidy program.

The DTV transition will impact every American. We must do everything to ensure the success of this transition and help our constituents from losing their television transmission in February 2009. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill which will help prepare the American people for the upcoming transition.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 17, 2007, I missed six recorded votes due to a family obligation in Texas. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

H.R. 1427, FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

Rollcall No. 378 H. AMDT. 203 (BACHUS R-AL) Amendment No. 001—"yes"; rollcall No. 379 H. AMDT. 205 (HENSARLING R-TX) Amendment No. 003—"yes"; rollcall No. 380 H. AMDT. 209 (MCHENRY R-NC) Amendment No. 007—"yes"; rollcall No. 381 H. AMDT. 210 (KANJORSKI D-PA) Amendment No. 008—"no"; rollcall No. 382 H. AMDT. 211 (ROSKAM R-IL) Amendment No. 009—"yes" and rollcall No. 383 H. AMDT. 213 (GARRET R-NJ) Amendment No. 011—"no."

## MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE LIMA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to pay special tribute to the outstanding women of the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chapter marked its 100th anniversary with a special reception on June 3, 2007.

Chartered on April 10, 1907, the Lima Chapter has served the people of Lima in countless ways through the years. From their work in support of servicemembers and veterans to their committed work with the youth of Allen County, Ohio, the women of the Lima DAR have compiled a long and distinguished record of service in times of war and peace.

Fifty-two women have served the Lima Chapter as Regent, starting with Mrs. Clara Paine Ohler. The chapter's membership through the years has included women from all walks of life who have distinguished themselves in numerous ways through their service.

The Lima DAR is especially noted for its work in local schools to promote civic education, reflecting the group's love of country and its high regard for the gift of freedom that we all enjoy. They are true examples of the DAR's high calling to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom.

Madam Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Our nation is better served through their hard work and diligence. We wish them all the best at their centennial celebration.