

Development and Infrastructure for Housing Act of 2007." I am joined in this effort by my colleagues, Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Representatives DALE KILDEE, DAN BOREN, and RICK RENZI who I want to thank for their support.

This legislation will help Native Americans build stronger and better communities all across America. The demonstration project embodied in this bill will help Native Americans build not only improved neighborhoods, but the economic infrastructure to support those communities in some of the most rural and impoverished areas in America.

Currently, communities that receive direct funding from the Community Development Block Grant program may borrow or issue bonded debt for up to five times their annual CDBG allocation. This is known as the Section 108 loan guarantee program and encourages economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities and large-scale physical development projects.

Title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, NAHASDA, is similar to the Section 108 statute and allows tribes to borrow or issue bonded debt for up to five times their annual NAHASDA allocation for housing purposes only. The Title VI program has been underutilized in part because the eligible projects are strictly limited to activities that do not generate sufficient income to pay back these loans.

We all know that economic development and infrastructure needs are acute in Indian Country. This legislation gives tribes the same access to vital economic and infrastructure resources that non-tribal communities currently use.

Under this program, an applicant would have to demonstrate to the Secretary that 70 percent of the benefit of the proposed project would go to "low-income Indian families on Indian reservations and other Indian areas." This is similar to the CDBG program, which requires that 70 percent of a project's benefit be for low- and moderate-income families, and ensures that proposed projects meet the need of the communities we all seek to support.

I urge my colleagues to join us in sponsoring this legislation so that we can support the efforts of local tribal communities as they work to improve their infrastructure and economies and to increase opportunities for Native American families.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT E.
SWEENEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Congressman Robert E. Sweeney, whose tenacious pursuit of peace, justice and equality reached not only Cleveland and Northeast Ohio, but around the world.

As a Member of Congress, Robert supported the Voting Rights Act and fought to eliminate the social problems that plagued our country. As a county commissioner, he was instrumental in creating Cuyahoga County's public defender office, and helped to develop Playhouse Square into one of the largest entertainment districts in the Nation.

As a litigator, Robert fiercely defended the public health and safety, and ensured that all people were treated equally. He was one of the first lawyers in the Nation to uncover the asbestos problem. He also became an outspoken advocate for peace in Northern Ireland, and was responsible for pushing the issue into the national spotlight.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Congressman Robert E. Sweeney for his career in public service. Robert was a dear friend whose humor and personality touched thousands of lives. May his dedication to creating a more vibrant Northeast Ohio and a more peaceful world serve as an example to us all.

COMMENDING DAN FETTE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Dan Fette of Denton, Texas on starting Dan Fette Builders, Inc.

Mr. Fette graduated from Texas A&M with a BS in Building Construction and a MS in Construction Management. He worked in the construction industry for many years before starting his own company. He set out with the goal to build a few really great houses. He wanted to be able to focus all of his attention on one house so the customer would be exceptionally pleased.

Mr. Fette is currently the chairman of the Green Building Program of the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Greater Dallas and will soon become the president of the HBA Denton Division. The goal of the HBA's Green Building Program is to bring more energy efficient and environmentally friendly homes to the Metroplex. This local effort is being supported by the Green Building Initiative (GBI) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), which will provide area builders with resources and technical support. Additionally, the Green Building Program will maintain a database of "green builders" and "green built" homes in the area for potential homebuyers.

In addition, Mr. Fette is a member of Green Built North Texas, a voluntary partnership of local home builders, industry supporters, and sponsors committed to creating awareness and interest in the construction of higher-performance, lower-impact residential homes in North Central Texas. Members of Green Built North Texas work to meet the highest standards in relation to site management, waste recycling, water efficiency, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, materials, and homeowner education.

In an age when energy conservation is at a critical point, I am honored to represent a man who is using his talents and skills in construction, to better our community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Dan Fette for starting his own company, Dan Fette Builders, Inc. I wish him success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM AND
PEGGY RICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the Tom and Peggy Rice for being awarded the WFTW Humanitarian Award for 2007.

Radio station WFTW News Talk 1260, one of the oldest AM news and talk radio stations in Northwest Florida, has chosen Tom and Peggy Rice in recognition for their extraordinary contributions to countless local fund raising efforts.

Tom and Peggy own the Magnolia Grill, a restaurant in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Located in a historic home built in 1910, the Magnolia Grill is revered as a local gem for its true southern charm, delicious cuisine, and local historic memorabilia.

Over the past several years, Tom and Peggy have worked tirelessly to help raise funds for numerous non-profit organizations throughout the community. On Saturday mornings, they host pancake breakfast fund raisers and donate all the food, beverages, supplies, and labor for the event.

The Humanitarian Award, an antique street corner clock, sits proudly on display in the lobby of the Magnolia Grill for restaurant patrons to see. On the face of the clock, is a plaque acknowledging Tom and Peggy for their involvement within the community.

As remarkable philanthropists, the Rice's generosity and commitment to service have helped to create a better life for the citizens of Northwest Florida and have made an impression that will last a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Tom and Peggy Rice for their exemplary community service and wish them both continued success and happiness.

IN MEMORY OF RICH HERZOG

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the former Sheriff of King County, Washington, to pay tribute to one of my King County Sheriff's Office Deputies, Richard Herzog, who was senselessly killed in the line of duty five years ago this month in the City of Newcastle.

As a Sheriff's Deputy, Rich had an unwavering dedication to the community he served. He made the ultimate sacrifice on June 22, 2002, when his firearm was taken from him. He was shot while protecting the citizens around him. America lost a true hero that day and it is an honor to recognize him here today.

Until a few years ago, I was one of the 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers in this country. I am familiar with the struggles that law enforcement officers face each day—even after facing the most threatening circumstances and risking their lives, officers return to duty at the beginning of their next shift

to protect the citizens of their city, county, state and this country.

Deputy Herzog was kind and caring. He served his country not only as a law enforcement officer, but he was also a twenty-year veteran of the United States Army Special Forces.

Deputy Herzog was recently honored by the City of Newcastle at a dedication ceremony unveiling a new memorial in his honor.

The incredible loss of Rich to his wife, SunCha, and daughters, Sonja and Erika—their sacrifice—their husband and father—is still experienced every day and for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the sacrifice the service of Deputy Rich Herzog and all of our fallen officers.

IN TRIBUTE TO ELIAS AND
DOROTHY TYLER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dorothy Tyler and her late husband Elias. Twenty years ago this July, they incorporated their organization, the Tyler Youth Group, Inc., which has provided years of programming and support to the children of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Their exemplary record of service to their community makes them deserving of high praise.

At the time the Tyler Youth Group, Inc. was founded in 1983, it consisted of a drill team, majorettes, pom pom girls and a drum corps. The Tylers saw the group as a way to serve an unmet need of area youths: the need for after-school programming that would provide kids with productive activities that would help them grow and develop. With a bus they purchased themselves, they took their group to activities and competitions across the region.

Time passed and as both the group and its participants grew, the Tylers added new programming and facilities to meet the needs of the children. They began offering educational and career-oriented activities, and in 1989 they took a rundown, dilapidated building and turned it into a community center for Aliquippa youths and their families. Today, the Aliquippa Tyler Community Youth Center provides a range of activities and services conducive to the healthy growth and development of the area's children.

I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Tylers for their tremendous record of service to their community. Their commitment to helping develop healthy, productive young citizens serves as an example to us all.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF G.
GARY LETSON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of G. Gary Letson, who recently passed away in his Los Altos home on July 4, 2007. Gary dedicated his life to edu-

cation and believed strongly in the power of teaching. His commitment to enriching science and math programs in our local schools has greatly raised the standard of education and inspired numerous students in our community.

G. Gary Letson was born on December 27, 1936 in San Diego, California to Neil Elizabeth Buck and Allen George Letson. He attended Hoover High School and then San Diego State University where he was a member of the Sigma Pi organization. As soon as he graduated, Gary began his teaching career and continued to serve his students and his community for the rest of his life.

Gary first taught high school science in the Grossmont School District in the San Diego area. He subsequently was named a Fulbright Scholar from 1964 to 1965 and traveled to Taegu University in South Korea, where he instructed biology teachers on more effective teaching methods. In 1967, he returned to the United States and settled in Santa Clara County, where he taught in numerous high schools over the next three decades.

During his 30 year tenure at the Fremont Union High School District, Gary taught mathematics and science at Sunnyvale High School, where he mentored me through my first formative teaching experience. Gary provided me with the firm foundation not only to teach the subject math, but to teach the whole child. That meant challenging the school administration on many occasions. I know today while we deal with policy his counsel still echoes in my mind saying, "Remember the whole child."

Gary went on to teach at Fremont High School and Monta Vista High School. His passion for his science and math was contagious as he motivated countless students with his innovative teaching methods and enthusiastic pedagogy. Gary treated all his students with the utmost respect and believed strongly in the potential of every young person who walked into his classroom. His sincere concern for his students was apparent in their interactions as he strived not just to teach the material but also to stimulate his students and to create a genuine interest in the subject matter he covered.

After retirement in 1996, Gary remained active in the Los Altos School District as a science aide at Almond Elementary School, a tutor at Mountain View High School and as a substitute teacher in the Mountain View and Los Altos High School Districts. Throughout his career, Gary was a strong proponent of outdoor science education programs and worked hard to introduce innovative curriculum to local high schools. His love for ecology and hands on learning reflected his focus on conservation and environmental awareness, a consciousness that he passed on to his students.

Besides his extensive work in the local school districts, Gary also faithfully served the community at large since the late 1960s through the Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Sunnyvale. He played a major role in the Our Daily Bread program and also volunteered as a Vestry member and a Senior Warden. He actively assisted the Bible study and outreach programs and was a leader in overseeing church renovations. Gary diligently strove to become an "international Christian", ensuring that his every action was consistent with his beliefs. Furthermore, he was active in local community services including the League of

Women Voters. After his retirement, he regularly volunteered as a poll worker in elections.

G. Gary Letson passed away on July 4, 2007 at the age of 70. He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years Jan Letson, his son and daughter-in-law Brian and Amy Letson, and his daughter Mary Letson. Gary left a legacy of excellence in teaching and touched the lives of numerous youth. Throughout his life, he believed strongly in the capacity of youth to make a positive impact on the community and thus devoted his life to guiding future generations on the path to success. We are forever grateful for his commitment to education in the math and science departments, and his contributions will continue to benefit our community long into the future.

COMMEMORATING ARIZONA NATIVE
AMERICAN RIGHT TO VOTE
DAY SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2007

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Native American communities, twenty-two federally recognized Arizona tribal nations, representing more than 300,000 community members.

On June 2, 1924, the United States Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act which guaranteed certain citizenship rights to Native Americans, however in Arizona that did not guarantee their right to vote.

Yet as early as 1863, before citizenship was granted, Pima and Maricopa warriors were serving in the United States Army protecting settlers in the Arizona territory.

Additionally, while Arizona Native Americans were not considered citizens of the United States before World War I, more than 8,000 Native Americans from Arizona served our country in the United States military during World War I.

In 1928, Peter Porter, a Pima from the Gila River Indian Community, courageously filed the initial lawsuit to challenge the denial of Native Americans' right to vote yet his efforts were denied by the Arizona Supreme Court. The Court argued that Native Americans were under federal guardianship.

In 1940 this distinguished body passed the Nationality Act of 1940, reaffirming citizenship of Native Americans, inspiring more than 25,000 Native Americans to serve in our country in the United States military. Yet, they were still being denied the right to vote in Arizona.

In 1947, two brave Yavapai men, Frank Harrison and Harry Austin, filed suit to overturn the 1928 Arizona Supreme Court decision which denied Native Americans the right to vote. The acts of these courage men, members of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Indian Community, a community I am honored to serve and represent in the United States Congress, won the landmark case. On July 15, 1948, the 1928 court ruling was overturned and Arizona's Native Americans confirmed their right to vote.

Sunday, July 15, 2007, is Arizona Native America Right to Vote Day. It is with a great deal of pride that I rise today to honor our Arizona Native American community on this very special day. It is also with great resolve that