

who visit from around the country. The Second Avenue Subway will ease the incredibly overcrowded Lexington Avenue subway line, which is one of the busiest in the Nation. On day one, the Second Avenue Subway will carry nearly 200,000 riders, reducing crowding on the Lex line by 13 percent. I am also pleased that the bill includes funding for the East Side Connector, which when completed will bring approximately 160,000 new passengers, including 5,000 residents of western Queens, into Grand Central Station.

Finally, I support the provisions in the bill to increase funding for Section 8 housing vouchers, the HOPE VI program, and the Community Development Block Grant, and to restore the President's proposed cuts to housing for the disabled and the elderly. This legislation addresses the needs of our constituents, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORNERSTONE LAYING OF THE PILGRIM MONUMENT IN PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commemorate an important historical milestone in America's history, the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, MA.

The Pilgrims arrived on our shores with their many hopes and dreams; they worked hard and suffered greatly in order to fulfill them. Now, people around the country, from schoolchildren studying them as part of their American history curriculum to families gathering together on the fourth Thursday of every November in the spirit of thankfulness, the story of the Pilgrims and America's First Thanksgiving is enshrined in our collective memory. On Monday, August 20, 2007, a variety of friends and admirers will gather at the Pilgrim Monument to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Monument's cornerstone in 1907.

The 252-foot-tall Pilgrim Memorial Monument was constructed between 1907 and 1910 to commemorate the first landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor in 1620. It was built by the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, which was established by a special act of the Massachusetts legislature on February 29, 1892, to raise funds to build the Monument. The Association raised \$92,000 in federal, state and private funds, while the land was donated by the town of Provincetown. The cornerstone of the Monument was laid on August 20, 1907 at a ceremony attended by President Theodore Roosevelt, and the completed Monument was dedicated in 1910 at a ceremony attended by President William Howard Taft.

Since its completion in 1910, the Monument has become a symbol of the role Provincetown played in the early history of our country. In the century since its construction, the Monument has attracted millions of visitors from across the United States and around the

world. The Provincetown Museum has excelled in its mission of detailing not only the events surrounding the Pilgrims' first landfall but also the place Provincetown occupies in New England's cultural and maritime history.

On August 20, 2007, a host of well wishers will join the entire Provincetown community in a parade and gathering at the Monument to commemorate its place in Massachusetts' and America's history. And it is with equal pleasure that I enter this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that this milestone is officially recognized and recorded in the official history of the United States of America.

THE MERCED COUNTY VFW HONOR GUARD

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and gratitude that I rise today to recognize the Merced County VFW Honor Guard for their many years of selfless service on behalf of their fellow veterans of the United States of America. I am particularly honored to recognize this team of individuals as they served as Honor Guard at the burial service of my own father, Manuel Cardoza, who served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II.

For many years, members of the Winton VFW Post #7792, the Atwater VFW Post #9946, and the Merced VFW Post #4327 worked together to help conduct proper burial services for our local veterans. These individuals have worked long hours and gruesome schedules in order to serve their fellow veterans. Within the last few years, they have averaged 157 burial services, dedicated 4511 man hours, and traveled more than 4800 miles each year.

I would like to take a moment to recite the names of the veterans who have dedicated their time, energy and resources to providing their fellow veterans with honorable burial services as members of the Honor Burial Team. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring those members of the Honor Guard who have gone before us: Louis Gonzales #9946, Paul Gunderson #7792, Ernie Dominquez #4327, Wyn Aguirre #9946, David Barrone #9946, John Aue #9946, Mel Hode #9946, Vern Kolander #7792, Bill and Evelyn Petrie #7792, Bill Butler #9946, Charles Hickman #9946, Frank and Mary Gaffney #9946, and Bryce Tillman #9946. And it is with great sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the current members of the Merced County Honor Guard: Commander Richard Clerkin #7792, Chaplain Ken Wenrich #7792, Honorary Chaplain Father Tom Timmings, Rifle Team Captain George Stroud #7792, Bugler Bill Dacus #4327, Quarter Master Don Dean #9946, Ray Baker #7792, Dick Darby #7792, Ernie Connor #7792, Judge Brown #7792, Gerald Dunker #7792, Byron McNamara #9946, Ken Henn #9946, John Douglas #9946, Bill Oliver #9946, Tony Castro #9946, David Loeser #9946, James Tyson #9946, Willie Kimoto #7792, and Ishmael Hernandez #9946.

Throughout our history, brave men and women have risked their lives to preserve

freedom for future generations. It is a tradition unlike any other. Each member of the United States Armed Forces is an inspiration to the American people in their patriotism, skill, and selfless dedication to the ideals that make this Nation great. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Merced County VFW Honor Guard for their service and for their selfless commitment to honoring their fellow veterans with the most appropriate and necessary military burial. I wholeheartedly extend my sincerest appreciation to each individual of this outstanding team. Thank you for serving our country with bravery and honor, and thank you for continuing to serve your fellow veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe the greatness of our country will not be measured by the number of tractors it produces. But rather, I believe the greatness of our country will be measured by the number of persons it feeds. I believe the greatness of our country will not be measured by the number of skyscrapers it builds. But rather, I believe the greatness of our country will be measured by the number of persons it shelters.

Today, more than three quarters of a million people are homeless on any given night. There are as many as 189,000 homeless persons with disabilities. More than 98,452 families are homeless. If we are to end homelessness, rather than just reduce it, we must provide our Nation with right tools to fight homelessness. If we are to end homelessness within 10 years, rather than just reduce it, we must ensure that we support the programs that work well. That rests in our ability to fully fund them so that they achieve their true potential.

That is why I am a proud co-sponsor of H. Res. 561, which recognizes the 20th anniversary of the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The McKinney-Vento programs have successfully provided housing (e.g., shelter, transitional housing) and supportive services to tens of thousands of men, women and children experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is an important asset in our battle against homelessness. I commend my colleague, Mr. SHAYS, for introducing this important resolution.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY, LADY BIRD JOHNSON

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Nation lost a beloved friend and one of its most dedicated environmentalists on Wednesday when Lady Bird Johnson passed away at the age of 94.

Much has been written about how the classy woman from Austin was a calming influence on our 37th President, Lyndon B. Johnson. When President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Lady Bird stepped in and provided comfort to the Kennedy family and a grieving Nation. When civil rights legislation looked to be stalled in the Congress in 1964, the devoted mother of two took to the road on her own whistle-stop tour across the country, defending the administration's policies and goals.

However, her most lasting legacy can be seen anytime you see the flowers bloom in the Capital or the colorful landscapes as you travel the Nation's roads. In addition to leading clean-up efforts of parks and natural habitats in and around the DC area, her advocacy helped push through the \$320 million Highway Beautification Act in 1965. The Federal legislation provided money and other incentives to reduce the number of billboards and other eyesores along Federal highways and expanded local programs to plant wildflowers and other native plants.

Active well into her 90s, Lady Bird Johnson was a role model for future generations. She broke the mold of what a First Lady could do, both during and after the White House. Her achievements and efforts with the National Wildlife Research Center that she helped establish in 1982 expanded the Nation's interest in the environment, providing a foundation for today's current green movement.

Her activism and graceful presence will be missed. Yet, her smile and charm will always be remembered any time anyone looks at the beautiful landscapes and wildflowers that she championed all across this great land.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 712, which would have prohibited funds in the fiscal year 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act from being used to implement provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

#### RECOGNIZING MATTHEW JAMES BRAMMEIER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew James Brammeier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1360, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned

numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew James Brammeier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, an important program that keeps alive the memory of the Underground Railroad and the spirit of freedom, justice and equality encompassed therein.

The Underground Railroad stood as a beacon of hope during a time of slavery and oppression for millions of African-Americans. Tens of thousands of enslaved individuals used the network of clandestine routes, safe houses, meeting points and secret codes known as the Underground Railroad to escape to freedom during the first half of the 19th century.

In 1998, Congress established the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. This network of 300 affiliate sites across the United States has done an excellent job over the last decade in increasing public awareness of the Underground Railroad, the amazing individuals who made it possible, and its numerous accomplishments. However, this tremendous program has faced persistent underfunding since its inception and is projected to face a budgetary shortfall of nearly 80 percent by 2011 unless its funding is increased.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act presents a sensible and important solution to this challenge. This bill will authorize \$2.5 million annually for the operation of the Network to Freedom program, an increase from the \$500,000 currently authorized. This modest increase will provide the program with sufficient funding to allow it to retain the staff and resources necessary to continue educating the American public about this shining example of truly American values.

Mr. Speaker, I believe strongly in the values embodied by the Underground Railroad and the people who made it a reality. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act, which I believe is a crucial step in keeping alive the memory of the Underground Railroad. I commend my friend and colleague, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, for introducing this important legislation.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY, LADY BIRD JOHNSON

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson. Her humble and steadfast devotion to public service combined with her passionate concern for environmental issues made her an icon within the environmental movement. Modest and kind, dedicated and courageous, her contribution to American politics will not soon be forgotten.

As an advocate of natural habitat and wildlife protection, I greatly admired Lady Bird's commitment to preserving and beautifying America's lands. My father, Stewart Udall, was Secretary of the Interior under President Johnson, and he credits Lady Bird's several trips to the American West and the Rocky Mountains with igniting her love of the environment. Her campaigns to beautify our cities and highways, clean our lakes and rivers, and preserve our natural resources catalyzed many of the environmental campaigns politicians now pursue. Lady Bird transformed Washington D.C. while her husband was in office by planting thousands of tulips and daffodils in parks across the city and creating a national roadside planting program. For Lady Bird, wildflower beautification was not simply cosmetic; by expanding and bolstering diverse habitats, her projects inspired reverence for nature and the inherent splendor of our earth. She reminded us that to enjoy life, we must sometimes stop to smell the roses.

At age 70, she founded the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She said it was her way of paying back rent for the space she occupied in the world. This center now leads the nation in wildflower research, education, and project development.

Environmental work, however, was only part of Lady Bird's public service campaign. As the first First Lady to have a press secretary and a chief of staff, she cultivated her own agenda. A staunch supporter of civil rights, Lady Bird's strength, intelligence, and good judgment served as a guide and comfort for President Johnson. She also pushed for federal legislation restricting billboards on federal highways and fought for the Head Start program. The projects she undertook always reflected her compassion, graciousness, and determination to make a difference.

Lady Bird's compassion not only infused her political career but also permeated her personal life. Mother of two beautiful daughters, Luci Baines and Lynda Bird, Lady Bird cared for her family with same exquisite grace she exhibited as First Lady. Luci and Lynda have inherited their mother's dedication to public service. They have supported a variety of organizations, including Reading Is Fundamental, the American Heart Association, and the Center for Battered Women. Lady Bird's family and those close to her admired and emulated her loving patience, tender poise, and unending strength.

An environmental pioneer, a behind the scenes supporter and advisor for her husband, a loving mother, and a gentle soul, Lady Bird