

("El Benny," about orchestra leader Beny Moré), Spain and Brazil.

Add it all up and it comes to this, Chin-chilla says: "This is the most exciting roster we've ever had. It's diverse, focused, a solid slate of films."

COMMENDING CORPORAL JACOB L. KAREUS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the courageous effort of Marine Corporal Jacob L. Kareus by entering into the RECORD the following letter:

MAY 29, 2007.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BOOZMAN: I am writing to inform you of the performance of one of your constituents, Corporal Jacob L. Kareus, United States Marine Corps, son of John L. and Katherine D. Kareus of 7001 Ellsworth, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

Cpl Kareus recently returned from a seven-month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment. Upon our arrival, Haditha, a city of approximately 40,000 people on the Euphrates River in the restive Al Anbar Province, had a reputation as one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. Sunni insurgents frequently attacked Cpl Kareus' patrol with small arms fire, sniper fire, grenades and rocket and rifle vehicles. The insurgency maintained a close handle on the populace by an effective murder and intimidation campaign. Through their threatening and pressure of public officials and government workers, insurgents even controlled public works such as water and electricity. Only 15 Iraqi Police remained brave enough to work from the Marine forward operating base, while the recruitment of new policemen was nonexistent. Cpl Kareus and the rest of the Marines in Haditha were the tip of the spear in the Iraq counterinsurgency.

Through the heroic actions of your constituent, Cpl Kareus, the city of Haditha saw unprecedented progress. By his deployment's end, Haditha's police force numbered over 200 policemen and officers—many recruited from the people of Haditha—and they conducted operations independent of the Marines. Attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols decreased from an average of 5–10 per day to a handful per month. Intelligence reports on insurgent activity flowed in regularly from the people. The populace, previously terrified to be associated with the Coalition, eagerly welcomed Marines and policemen into their homes for tea and conversation. The marketplace, or souk, bustled again, children played in the streets, and even teenage girls—previously prohibited by the insurgents from going to school—walked the streets five days per week in their school uniforms.

As his commander, I wanted to ensure you were aware of the hero from your great state of Arkansas. Cpl Kareus's selfless actions in Haditha honored his nation, his state, and his family. In an age where our ideals of courage and commitment and our resolve have waned, your constituent Cpl Kareus exemplifies the principles of self-sacrifice and dedication to a cause greater than himself.

Sincerely,

CAPTAIN M.W. TRACY,
Company Commander, Company E.

I wish to thank Captain Tracy for taking the time to write to me of the heroic service of

Corporal Jacob Kareus and the Marines of Echo Company. I applaud Corporal Kareus's service to America, as well as to the people of Haditha.

The motto for the 3rd Marines is Fortes Fortuna Juvat, which translates to Fortune Favors the Strong. It is our good fortune that we have the strength of character of men and women like Corporal Jacob Kareus serving to protect the freedom of all Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR DISABLED SAILING: DISABLED SAILING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, 2007

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Association For Disabled Sailing World Championship scheduled to be hosted by the Rochester Yacht Club in Irondequoit, New York. The IFDS World Championship will consist of 170 competitors, including paralympic medalists and past world champions from twenty-eight different countries. These world class athletes will participate in a regatta on the waters of Lake Ontario.

A U.S.A. hosted, sanctioned World Championship, the IFDS World Championship will serve as a country qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. It will also contribute locally by providing the net proceeds of the event to the Rochester Rehabilitation Center's Sportsnet Program, a collaboration of different clubs and organizations supporting the participation and inclusion of disabled individuals in a variety of sports.

The IFDS World Championship is an inspirational demonstration of strength and perseverance. Participation in this regatta will bring about further inclusion of the disabled in sports and encourage new generations of athletes to work hard in order to achieve what was once deemed impossible.

On behalf of the citizens of the 25th Congressional District of New York, I congratulate the organizers of the IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championship and the world class athletes involved. Best wishes for a successful competition.

IN HONOR OF JACKSON COUNTY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, let it be known, it is my special privilege to congratulate Jackson County on its 175th anniversary. Jackson County was named after President Andrew Jackson and was formed on August 1, 1832. Growth in Jackson County took off, and the world's largest walled prison was built in 1838, followed by the Michigan Central Railroad in 1841 that sparked growth and led to the discovery and production of coal mining.

The diverse economy of Jackson County has grown the last 175 years to include: man-

ufacturing, industry, medical and educational institutions, small business, and agriculture.

Some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest is in Jackson County. Residents and visitors recognize it for its many golf courses, hundreds of lakes, festivals, Michigan International Speedway, and acres of city and county parks.

Jackson County families are at the core of the community, supporting strong schools, family values and superior educational opportunities for everyone. Hundreds of churches and synagogues attest to the moral fabric that makes up Jackson County.

The citizens of Jackson County are its greatest resource. They continue to work together to provide a pleasant place to work, live, play and raise a family.

In special tribute, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor Jackson County on its 175th anniversary. May the members of the Jackson County Community continue to benefit from the many wonderful attributes the county offers and seek to individually contribute to its growth and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOSE LOZANO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Jose Lozano for being honored with the American Public Gas Association Personal Achievement Award.

Mr. Lozano started working for Okaloosa Gas District in May of 1972 as a system engineer. He was later promoted to operations manager, then vice president of corporate services and subsequently senior vice president. Then in 2003, after dedicating over 30 years of service, he advanced to the top management position, chief executive officer for Okaloosa Gas District.

Over the years Lozano has seen remarkable growth of Okaloosa Gas District. When he first came to work, the District had around 10,000 customers. Today the District has well over 37,000 customers.

He has served on numerous committees and boards in regional, State and national associations such as American Gas Association, Southern Gas Association, Florida Natural Gas Association, and American Public Gas Association, APGA.

From the start, Jose was an active participant in the APGA serving on committees such as Government Relations, Operations and Safety, Regulatory, and the Transmission Integrity Task Force. He has been a valuable partner in enhancing the prestige of the APGA in both the region and the Nation, and has made substantial contributions towards the attainment of APGA goals. As the APGA has grown so has Jose's involvement with the organization. He currently serves on the board of directors for APGA and as the second vice-chairman of the APGA Research Foundation board of directors.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Jose Lozano for his exemplary career with the Okaloosa Gas District and wish him continued success.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF VOLUNTARY STATE DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Voluntary State Discount Prescription Drug Plan Act of 2007—a completely voluntary, commonsense way to offer prescription drugs at affordable prices to millions of Americans currently struggling without prescription drug coverage.

This legislation would enable States, at their option, to create State discount prescription drug plans that extend Medicaid-negotiated rebates to citizens up to 300 percent of the poverty line and thereby provide discounts of roughly 40 percent to 50 million uninsured Americans—all at their local pharmacies, all at no cost to the Federal or State Government. Just like HMOs and insurance plans in the private sector, participating States would simply leverage their purchasing power to secure better prices on behalf of their citizens. In that regard, our bill would explicitly authorize recent prescription drug affordability initiatives in States like Maryland, Maine, and Vermont by removing barriers that have needlessly blocked these efforts in the past.

In 2005, my home State of Maryland passed a State discount prescription drug plan law with the near unanimous support of our General Assembly and our then Republican Governor Robert Ehrlich. Unfortunately, that plan was subsequently blocked by the Bush administration's Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, for reasons that have never been credibly explained. As a result, the broad bipartisan will of our State has been thwarted and hundreds of thousands of Marylanders have been deprived needed access to affordable prescription drugs. In fact, according to an analysis of U.S. Census data conducted by Families USA and the Center for Policy Alternatives, an estimated half million Marylanders would become eligible for immediate prescription drug price relief under this legislation.

Since these plans are created at the State level and don't impose any cost on the Federal Government, we don't believe States should have to ask the Federal Government's permission in order to establish them. For that reason, our legislation makes clear that Maryland—and any other State that chooses—can set up a State discount prescription drug plan without petitioning CMS for a section 1115 waiver. Additionally, since these plans rely on government purchasing power rather than government outlays to produce price discounts, we remove CMS's somewhat contrived requirement that states expend some undefined amount of their own money as part of these plans. Beyond modest administrative costs, it simply isn't necessary.

Madam Speaker, this legislation represents a significant opportunity to empower States to deliver prescription drug affordability to millions of our citizens who don't currently have it—at no cost to the Federal Government. I hope Congress seizes this opportunity, and I invite my colleagues' support.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKSON, COUNTY, MINNESOTA

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Jackson County, Minnesota.

The first settlers in what would become Jackson County were three brothers, William, George and Charles Wood. They established a trading post in the town of Springfield, which would later be renamed Jackson.

Jackson County was established on May 23rd, 1857, and named for Hon. Henry Jackson, the first merchant in St. Paul. The earliest years were not easy: Jackson, the county seat, was entirely deserted twice. But in 1865, settlers returned following the Civil War and put down their roots. Homes were built from native timber and prairie sod and a school house was constructed to serve the community.

From those early days, Jackson County has continued to grow. Today it is a leader in agriculture production and home to a beautiful courthouse and an historic state theatre.

I would like to congratulate the residents of Jackson County as they celebrate their 150th anniversary and wish them a bright future.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 121 to call on the Japanese government to formally and unequivocally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Army's coercion of young women, known as "comfort women," into sexual slavery during the World War II era.

I would first like to commend my distinguished colleague, Mr. HONDA, for introducing this important resolution and for his leadership and hard work on this critical matter. I further want to recognize the extraordinary friendship between Japan and the United States, a friendship which has spanned at least half a century.

This resolution is being considered today so that the truth about comfort women will remain in the history books.

An estimated 200,000 women were sexually exploited by the Japanese armed forces during Japan's military expansion and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through World War II. Although Koreans made up the majority of these euphemistically termed "comfort women," Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Dutch, and Indonesian women also were victimized.

Comfort women were used for recreational sex by Japanese soldiers as a military strategy to increase the soldiers' efficiency. These women were mentally and physically dehumanized and subject to extreme sexual violence. Only a few hundred of these coura-

geous survivors of the World War II horror are still alive today.

Undoubtedly, today's Japan is a world leader and a valued ally to the United States. It is not the intent of Congress to punish Japan, but to help Japan acknowledge comfort women as part of its wartime history. An official, unambiguous apology from the Japanese government for its wartime atrocities is vital for historical record, emotional healing, and the education of future generations.

I support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

LEGALIZING INTERNET SPORTS GAMBLING IS DANGEROUS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to address the troubling issue of gambling on sports. In the past couple of weeks, basketball fans throughout the Nation have been shocked and saddened by revelations that a referee was gambling on games he officiated, and may have affected the outcomes of those games. A player or referee gambling on his own game is probably the single greatest betrayal that can be committed against fans of the sport.

The temptation to sports corruption does not come out of nowhere. It comes out of a culture where many people turn a blind eye to the fact that sports gambling is illegal in 49 States. And, as USA Today reported, athletes and officials become vulnerable when they develop a gambling problem on other sports, or even on other types of gambling.

I received a letter this week from the professional and collegiate sports associations—which I believe my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), already placed in the RECORD—that reveals efforts in this Congress to legitimize sports gambling online. This is the last thing we need. We should help raise awareness of the threat that gambling poses to cherished American athletics. We should never put a stamp of approval on sports gambling.

Last year, I voted for the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, in part because our laws against sports gambling were being evaded and eroded by offshore gambling operators. Now the same companies we shooed out of the illegal marketplace in the U.S. last fall are back supporting H.R. 2046, which would license them to take bets, including sports bets, from Americans.

They have their slick arguments. They say the individual sports leagues can opt out—as if gambling on basketball could possibly be any more or less harmful than gambling on football or hockey or soccer. They say the bill will raise tax revenue. Well, the ways we can raise tax revenue are nearly infinite—that's no excuse for bad policy. They say legal gambling can be better monitored—but it was legal gambling that got Tom Donaghy deep in debt and drove him to turn to criminal gambling.

I agree with the sports associations and my colleague from New York (Mr. Towns) that the harms of sports gambling far outweigh any alleged benefits. I urge my colleagues to reject any efforts to legitimize sports gambling in this Nation.