

the Pentagon to recognize those pilots from the 119th Fighter Wing, who were flying vigil that day and in fact, did the first fly-over of the Pentagon after the attack. These moments will forever be part of the Hooligans' history.

This unit demonstrated time and again a commitment to excellence in flying fighter aircraft. The William Tell competition, which pits the top fighter units from across the country, was won by the 119th three times. The unit won the Hughes Achievement Award for air defense twice. It only makes sense to provide such a skilled and decorated unit a mission for the new century consistent with the evolution of the United States Air Force.

We know about our two new missions—the C-21s and the Predators—but what we don't yet know is how exactly the Hooligans will make their next entry into the history books with those aircraft. Ultimately, the 119th is about the people that make it up and those people have a record of accomplishment and great service to our Nation.

The 119th changes its mission, but brings with it an enviable record for flying safety. The unit was awarded the Flight Safety Trophy four times in the past seven years. Since 1990, the "Happy Hooligans" have flown more than 70,000 hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions, during daylight and nighttime hours. That achievement coupled with hours of accident free flying in F-4 fighters and flight hours in F-101 fighter aircraft is one of the best safety records in U.S. Air Force history.

The pilots and other personnel in Fargo today who have stood up to terrorists and stood for freedom to protect the United States are remarkable heroes and their stories will ring true for many years in our hearts and our history books.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcalls numbers 44, 45, and 46, on January 22, I am not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

A TRIBUTE TO JON SAMUELS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, when our constituents think of the House of Representatives, they think of the 435 elected Congressmen and women. Yet each of us is acutely aware that much of what we do or say simply wouldn't happen without our hard-working staff—the men and women who choose this way to serve their country, and, oh yes, toil to make us look good.

I rise today to pay tribute to Jonathan Samuels who has worked with me and for me from the earliest days of my first Congressional race, beginning in 1997 until today. It is with

great pride, even motherly pride, that I see him move on to a key position in the office of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN.

In the early fall of 1997, I literally recruited Jon Samuels off the street in my home town of Evanston, Illinois. He and I were walking together in a student-led march against violence that started at the High School and ended in downtown Evanston, a few blocks from my campaign office. He told me that he had recently graduated from college and talked about the work he was doing with the youth in our community. I learned he was experienced outdoors man and led young people on challenging wilderness experiences.

By the time we reached our destination, I knew that I had to have Jon on my team. I clung to him during the speeches and then took him directly to my office to sign him up as an organizer in the Campaign School I was creating. The Campaign School was to be made up of seventeen young people from around the country who wanted to learn to become political professionals by working the Congressional campaign of a progressive Democratic woman. In exchange for providing excellent training, they would work for a stipend and organize a sufficient number of volunteers and identify enough voters that would elect me to Congress.

The plan worked, in large part, because Jon Samuels was a star. There wasn't anything he couldn't do in that first campaign, and there was no way I could go to Washington without him. For the next 8 years, Jon worked by my side as Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and then as Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications Director. Along with my amazing Chief of Staff, Cathy Hurwit, Jon has been the brains behind Team Schakowsky.

As good as he was when he started, Jon has only gotten better. I have watched him grow into one of the most capable, dedicated, strategic, focused, wise-beyond-his-years young men I have ever encountered. I have relied on him to handle the most complicated issues and situations, deal with the media, constituents and outside groups, with other members and their staffs.

But even more than for all of his extraordinary talents and skills, I appreciate and love Jon Samuels for his heart. Working in my office was never just a job for Jon. He believes in our shared progressive vision. He believed our team could make a difference. And I always knew he believed in me, and that has been and continues to be a source of inspiration.

Jon is now like family to me. I feel privileged to say that because Jon is fiercely loyal to his family. He even calls his Grandmother every single day!

And so, Madam Speaker, I rise to say on the record, Thank you, Jon Samuels. Thank you for your service to the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, for your continuing contributions to our country, for sticking with me for over 9 years, and for your love and friendship. You will always be part of Team Schakowsky.

RETIREMENT OF SUSAN K. KERN,
DIRECTOR OF THE UNIONDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and spirited community leader from the 4th Congressional District, Director of the Uniondale Public Library Susan K. Kern. Susan K. Kern began her library career 40 years ago in her hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts after receiving her Master's degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Susan spent time working in public libraries in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey before relocating to Long Island, New York in 1981.

In 1986, Susan became the Director of Uniondale Public Library. She remained in that position for over 20 years. During her tenure at the Uniondale Public Library Susan was a major factor in several projects and programs that are still in existence today. She was responsible for installing the library's first elevator in 1987, coordinating the removal of dangerous asbestos in 1992 to keep the community safe and healthy.

The major project of her Uniondale Public Library career has been the Building Expansion and Renovation project. Beginning in 2003, this renovation took nearly 3 years to complete, ending with a Grand Reopening Celebration on January 8, 2006. This project has doubled the size of the library and has enabled the facility to offer more services and materials for the community.

In addition to the great projects Susan has completed, she is also responsible for many programs for the community. Susan has initiated many art exhibits, classes for both children and adults, and countless cultural programs for community members of all ages.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding guidance provided by Susan K. Kern, and the remarkable accomplishments she has made along the way. Together with her family and friends, I applaud Susan for her dedication and service to the community. I wish her continued success, and am honored to have her as a member of my district.

HONORING JERRY ZREMSKI ON
HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Jerry Zremski, newly inaugurated president of the National Press Club and new Washington Bureau Chief of the Buffalo News. Jerry has worked for the Buffalo News for 27 years, and we are privileged to have such a reputable journalist covering our city.

Jerry joined the Washington bureau of the Buffalo News in 1989. From presidential elections and the Buffalo waterfront to the Western

New York congressional delegation and international conflicts, Jerry has played an integral part in reporting and analyzing the news for our great Western New York newspaper over these past years.

A native of Elkland, Pennsylvania, Jerry is a Syracuse University graduate, where he received his Bachelor's degree in journalism and he holds a Master's degree in political science from American University.

Jerry served as the president of the Regional Reporters Association in 1997 and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 1999–2000. Jerry previously served as the National Press Club's vice president, has also served as membership secretary and treasurer since joining the Club in 1989. He is already taking a proactive approach to the upcoming year, identifying freedom of the press as the primary focus for his term in office. Jerry will undoubtedly continue to be a strong voice for free press worldwide, carrying on the National Press Club's traditions of ethical and worthy journalism.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and celebrate the achievements of Jerry Zremski and thank him for his contributions to our Western New York community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BUNDLING DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Bundling Disclosure Act. While we have already made tremendous strides in the 110th Congress by passing many ethics reform measures, in the first 100 hours, our work is not done. We must continue to move forward to ensure that the proper relationship is maintained between Members of Congress and lobbyists who advance their clients, legislative interests before Congress. This bill is an important step in the direction of adding some sunlight to the activities of lobbyists who have business before the Congress while at the same time providing campaign contributions, co-hosting events or collecting and transmitting the contributions of others.

While lobbyists are subject to the same legal limitations as any other individual regarding the amount of a contribution they can make to a Member's campaign, some lobbyists also solicit, gather and transmit the contributions of others to Members. This "bundling" practice enables lobbyists to enhance their significance to a Member of Congress and consequently, this practice should be transparent to the public.

This disclosure to the American people is essential in order to provide the accountability that so many voters demanded as a result of the abuses that took place in the recent past. We need to create transparency around the campaign finance practices of registered lobbyists. As Justice Brandeis has said, "sunlight is the best disinfectant."

Last year, I amended the Lobbying Disclosure Act, in the Judiciary Committee, to require lobbyists to disclose their bundling of funds. This amendment was adopted on a bi-

partisan vote of 28 to 4 and was the subject of a Washington Post editorial on April 13, 2005 entitled, "Real Lobbying Reform, A House Committee Tackles the Nexus Between Campaign Cash and Legislative Influence". Unfortunately, a funny thing happened on the way to the Rules Committee. This bundling disclosure provision was mysteriously stripped from the bill without a vote or comment. Any effort to add the provision back into the bill in the Rules Committee or on the House floor was blocked.

Therefore, I was pleased to see that Senators FEINGOLD and OBAMA drafted a similar provision in the 110th Congress. The Senate's bundling disclosure requirement was included in the Senate Ethics bill that passed by a vote of 96 to 2. This bill that I am introducing today with Congressman MEEHAN contains the same provision.

The American people spoke loud and clear during the last election. They want reform. They want this Congress to correct the abuses of the past. This bill will shed much needed light on the murky intersection of fundraising and the legislative process. I urge you to support this bill so that we can restore the American people's faith in Congress and put the public interest before the special interests.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of January 22, 2007 the House voted on three measures under suspension of the rules. H. Res. 52, paying tribute to Reverend Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp, H.R. 390, to require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records and H. Res. 29, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2007.

On rollcall votes Nos. 44, 45 and 46 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE WILLIAM FLOYD HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary efforts of the William Floyd High School Varsity Football Team, for winning the 2006 Long Island High School Championship and the coveted Rutgers Trophy.

After an undefeated regular season, the William Floyd Colonials captured the Conference I Championship, the Suffolk County Championship, and finished the season with a 34–27 victory over Baldwin High School for the Long Island Championship. The Colonials executed on both sides of the football, in front of more than 5,200 boisterous fans. They controlled the game, exhibiting teamwork and great individual effort to finish with a perfect 11–0 season.

I am honored to represent William Floyd High School and these athletes who not only strive to succeed on the field of play, but in the classroom as well. As a parent, I value the important lessons that competitive athletics teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Special congratulations to William Floyd's head coach, Paul Longo, and the coaching staff who trained this football team to be the best on Long Island. These young student athletes represent all that is good about high school sports, and it is my privilege to serve as their Congressman.

Go Floyd!

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 29, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2007.

The strains on America's families are immense. Many parents work two and three jobs to put food on the table and provide medical care for their children. Sometimes, tragedy or medical emergency diminishes the support a child receives at home. The list of vulnerabilities children face is long.

The worst circumstances, however, will bring out the best in humanity. When a need exists, society often leans in to help shoulder the load.

Today we are celebrating the uncanny ability of Americans to lend a helping hand. Today on the House floor and this month across America, we honor those people who sacrifice their time and energy to provide a friendly face, a supportive shoulder, a patient ear, and a model for leadership and success in the form of mentoring relationships.

According to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America, young people touched by mentors are more confident in their schoolwork performance, able to get along better with their families, 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol, and 52 percent less likely to skip school.

In my district of El Paso, Texas, I have seen the positive impact of mentoring firsthand through my involvement with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of El Paso. The hundreds of individuals who step up either as big brothers and sisters or in support of the organization not only make a difference in the life of a child but also provide a model for civic involvement that can be emulated by the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis, scores of organizations and millions of Americans provide the positive relationships that help a child gain the confidence and responsibility he or she needs to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.