

Drug Administration Amendments Bill" (H.R. 3580).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 3580, I would have supported this legislation. Unfortunately, I was meeting with the President of the United States during the time the vote was held.

RECOGNIZING THE FORT PIERCE  
ELKS LODGE 1520

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize the members of the Fort Pierce Elks Lodge 1520 in Fort Pierce, FL, for their contributions to our service men and women and to congratulate the Lodge for the commendation they have received within the Elks community.

Over the past 3 years, the Fort Pierce Elks Lodge has implemented an outstanding veteran's services program. Through their overseas military outreach program, "Operation Desert Elk," the Lodge collects various sundry items and creates care packages for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. These packages provide a touch of home for our brave soldiers who are serving in such hostile environments. To date, over 1,400 packages valued at over \$50,000 have been mailed overseas.

At home, the Lodge provides ongoing support to our hospitalized veterans at the West Palm Beach, FL, Veteran's Affairs Medical Center and at local State nursing homes. Clothing, books, and board games as well as monetary donations to support recreational therapy programs are provided on a continual basis. The Lodge has also adopted veterans in nursing homes and provided visitation, greeting cards and meals.

I am honored to recognize the exceptional individuals who make up the membership of the Fort Pierce Elks Lodge 1520 and the incredible services they provide for our service men and veterans.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF  
MACEDONIA

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, a little over twelve years ago, on September 13, 1995, Clinton Administration officials played a critical role in addressing a pressing issue in the Balkans and Europe. With American-led mediation, our longstanding friend, ally and strategic partner Greece signed an Interim Accord at the United Nations in New York with the

newly-established former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a state that emerged from the disintegration of former Yugoslavia.

This agreement paved the way for the normalization of relations between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Following the signing of this Interim Accord, Greece, like the United States, strongly supported the newly established state, both politically and economically. Greece fully backed FYROM's aspirations to join the key institutions of the European and Euro-Atlantic community, and Greece became the number one investor in that country, with \$1.1 billion invested capital.

Unfortunately, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not fully reciprocated these gestures and I am concerned about unacceptable propaganda impugning Greece's history and cultural heritage. It is critical that Skopje address this propaganda and show increased flexibility during the ongoing U.N. negotiations, with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution on the name issue. Resolution of this issue is not just a bilateral issue with Greece, but has regional and international dimensions.

As Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I have been working in a bipartisan fashion with the subcommittee's ranking member, Congressman ELTON GALLEGLY to support efforts to resolve this long-standing issue, including introducing House Resolution 356. This resolution expresses the sense of this House that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) should not violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between the FYROM and Greece regarding "hostile activities or propaganda" and should work with the United Nations and Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable official name for the FYROM.

House Resolution 356 already has 73 cosponsors and I would urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to cosponsor this resolution and urge authorities in Skopje to join Athens and meet their obligations deriving from the U.S.-brokered Interim Accord.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SPIRIT  
OF JOYCE SNOWFEATHER  
MAHANEY AS THE 20TH AMERICAN  
INDIAN INTERTRIBAL ASSOCIATION  
POWWOW IS CELEBRATED

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and spirit of Joyce Snowfeather Mahaney who, on June 23, 2006, passed from this life at the age of 59 years and "started her westward journey."

Joyce Mahaney was born January 31st, 1947 on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota of Chippewa parents, Alexander and Mary Frederick. Joyce was given the Indian Name "Snowfeather" as she was born during a snowstorm. Her father died when she was a toddler and her mother and other tribal members raised her. Inquisitive and always proud of her American Indian heritage, Joyce was well-schooled in the Tribal Customs and

Laws. After completing high school on the Reservation, she attended Minot State College where she completed a Baccalaureate Degree in Education with a Minor in Library Science and Sociology. While in college, she met Russell Mahaney whom she later married, and they eventually moved to Toledo, Ohio, where she remained for over 30 years and raised her family.

Although Joyce moved from the Reservation, she didn't leave it. She continued to have close contact with elders, relatives and friends. Throughout her life she supported her Native American heritage, becoming a spokesperson for all tribes of Native Americans in the State of Ohio and in Michigan and Indiana, in preserving the culture and traditions. Joyce was designated as a Pipe Carrier from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota which gave her permission from the elders of the tribe to conduct special religious and cultural services, including praying with Native Americans on death row. It is one of the highest honors provided to a member of a tribe.

In an effort to preserve all tribal cultures, Joyce established the American Indian Intertribal Association (AIIA) of Toledo in 1988. It was the first organization of its kind in Ohio and the Midwest, and she served as the Director until her death. Her daughter then assumed leadership. The primary mission of the organization is to preserve the Indian culture by conducting traditional pow-wows, presenting programs and educational opportunities, providing culturally sensitive awareness in drug and alcohol prevention and participating in cultural events within the community as well as training through workshops and seminars. A further goal is to educate the general public about Native American cultural traditions, the desecration of Indian burial sites, and the exploitation of sacred ceremonies and cultural identities. In addition, the AIIA provides workshops in the schools and with local community organizations to maintain open contact with social service agencies and participate in the community. Joyce worked with social service agencies in applying the Indian Child Welfare Act by ensuring that Indian children were placed in homes where they would be exposed to their culture.

Joyce was later instrumental in assisting in the expansion of the American Indian Intertribal Association's branch office in Cleveland as well as other Indian centers in Akron, Michigan and Indiana. Although she was Chippewa, she was an advocate for all members of all Tribes and Nations. Throughout her life, Joyce served as an activist in the preservation of her cultural heritage and traditions. She was active in the preservation of sacred Indian burial grounds in Maumee, Ohio in the 1990's and frequently battled with archeologists and museums throughout Ohio regarding the application of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Repatriation Act) laws and the handling of Native American remains. Joyce was instrumental in the development of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Fallen Timbers in which a stone monument was placed in remembrance of the warriors who lost their lives in the battle of 1794. There is currently activity underway by the City of Maumee to name a bridge in her honor at the sight of the Fallen Timbers Monument in which the Annual Summer Solstice Ceremony is held.

Joyce is a published author of two books and was working on a third at the time of her

death. She received an award for her poetry at the Multicultural Arts Show in Toledo in 1997. The books include *Prairie Winds* (1995) and *Spirit of Dakota* (1999), a collection of prose and poetry about Native American culture, spirituality, and life on an Indian reservation.

Joyce was held in high esteem by community and elected leaders, and throughout the years her efforts were recognized. In 1989, she received a proclamation from Governor Celeste declaring May 1–7, 1989 as American Indian Week. Additional recognition came for her establishment of the American Indian Intertribal Association; assisting in the preservation of the Indian burial mounds, the lands and the culture; the assistance in the erection of a historical marker at the site of Fallen Timbers National Park site in which she was also instrumental in the purchase of the battle sight; and her service to the Native American Advisory Council. She was honored by the City of Maumee when she led the presentation as a Native American representative in the "All American City" competition in Anaheim California in June 2006, which was 2 weeks before her death.

As a result of her work, Joyce has left a legacy for Ohio and the Midwest in the preservation of the Native Culture. The annual Pow Wow which will be celebrating its 20th year this year, has attracted several thousand Native American and non-Native Americans to teach and remind us of the importance of the Native American heritage. It's 20th anniversary year with its theme "Honoring the Elders" seems a fitting time to memorialize its Founding Mother.

Joyce Snowfeather Mahaney— Activist, Teacher, Warrior, and Pioneer—will long be remembered for the contributions and legacy she left. Throughout her life, she walked the Red Road. Her own words echo in fitting tribute to this extraordinary woman.

#### WALK BESIDE ME

You are the warrior and the hunter and I am the humble power behind the spear who will always guide your shield to defend you. And you are the sister I met near the stream.

We sat on the rocks facing the morning sun and cleansed our garments together.

When you look into my soul, you will find the existence of a very quiet and gentle spirit.

Listen to my footsteps. If you hear the sound of refined pebbles falling softly on Mother Earth, it is I.

My spirit can always be found traveling north and south. I follow Grandfather and travel the red road.

The wind blows strong, but my steps never falter, as the sacred pipe protects me.

Come—Walk beside me. Together we have the power to change the world. For I am not your enemy, I am your strength.

HONORING TINA FIELDER-GIBSON

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tina Fielder-Gibson. She is being honored by the Flint Schools Youth Projects for her contributions to the students

of the Flint community at a dinner on September 27th in Burton, Michigan.

After graduating from Flint Northwestern High School, Tina continued her education at the University of Michigan—Flint. She graduated from that institution in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She started working for the Genesee County Sheriff's office in 1986 as a Corrections Officer. She has worked on the Jails Transaction Team, was the first woman to work in the Jail's Commissary, she worked as a Classification Officer and was the first woman elected Union President.

Sheriff Robert Pickell created the position of Administrative Assistant when he became Genesee County Sheriff and Tina was tapped to fill the position in 1999. She acts as a community representative and works with various organizations to ensure the next generation is prepared to assume the leadership of our community. In this capacity she arranges tours for the Youth Projects Program and area churches, allowing students ages 12–16 to talk to inmates and hear their stories.

Tina is active with many organizations including the Fetal Infant Mortality Committee, the Hate Crimes Task Force, the Interagency Collaborative GISD, the Elder Abuse Task Force/until Disciplinary Team, YWCA Domestic Violence Committee, East Side and North Central Weed and Seed Programs, Strong Families Safe Children, and Safe Schools Healthy Students—Flint Schools. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta—Flint Alumnae Chapter and is a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

She has held the following positions: Chair Black Caucus 1985–1995, Vice-Chair Genesee County Democratic Party 1998–2000, Chair Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint 1998–Present, Chair National Council on Alcoholism and Addiction 2006–2007, Vice President Sisters United Incorporated 2001–Present, President AFSCME 2259 Genesee County Sheriff Union 1997–1999, Trustee AFL–CIO 1997–1999, Treasurer New Paths Incorporated 2000–Present, Treasurer Alternative for Children 1997–Present, President Sam Duncan Memorial Scholarship Committee 2004–Present, Youth Projects Advisory Board 2000–Present, Catholic Charities of Genesee/Shiawassee Counties 2006–Present, March of Dimes Flint/Saginaw Division 2000–Present, United Way Cabinet 2000–Present, and the Child Advocacy Center 2005–Present.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tina Fielder-Gibson as her hard work and contributions to the young people of Genesee County are honored by the Flint Schools Youth Project.

EXPANDING AMERICAN  
HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effec-

tively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 (H.R. 1852). This important piece of legislation will revitalize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which was established to provide a reliable source of affordable mortgage loans for first-time homebuyers. Through our efforts today, the FHA will be able to better assist America's working families by offering loans at affordable rates with fair terms, as we work to alleviate the problems caused by the continuing mortgage crisis.

The lack of affordable housing has long plagued many communities throughout America, and the problem is particularly acute in high cost areas like Rhode Island. In Rhode Island, the average two-bedroom apartment costs \$1172 per month—at that rate, many people would need to work two or even three jobs just to pay the rent. And the situation can be even worse for those struggling to buy their own homes, particularly in today's uncertain climate. Unscrupulous lending practices have taken their toll on hard-working families, who are increasingly unable to keep pace with their ballooning mortgage payments.

The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 will provide much-needed relief for families on the brink of foreclosure. In particular, this targeted legislation will allow the FHA to raise loan limits in high cost areas and to offer zero and lower down payment loan options for borrowers that can afford mortgage payments, but lack the resources required for a down payment. H.R. 1852 will also require that an additional \$300 million per year be placed in the affordable housing trust fund, which will help to provide affordable housing for years to come.

Finally, I am pleased that the bill will double current funding levels for housing counseling services. These critical services will provide additional guidance to homebuyers in the subprime market and others who have difficulty making their monthly mortgage payments.

In passing the Expanding American Homeownership Act today, we have made a commitment to the American people that we will continue to ensure affordable housing is available to all Americans. Strengthening the security of American families strengthens our economy, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN HONOR OF MARVIN L.  
VANGILDER

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin L. VanGilder of Carthage, Missouri on receiving the Outstanding Missouri Citizen Award.

Marvin was born on September 24, 1926 in Lamar, Missouri—in Barton County. He attended Drury College in Springfield where he was involved with the area's first campus radio station. During college, Marvin was a student pastor of two rural churches and became a licensed minister in 1946. After teaching