

for 25 years and president for two terms. Lawrence Mergenthaler joined the company in 1953 and assumed the position of Chief after Joseph Mullins in 1976. He has served several terms on the board of directors and among his many accomplishments, he was voted to be a fireman of the year. Catherine Jenkins was president of the Ladies' Auxiliary for 4 years, served on the board of directors, and still remains active in many community organizations.

This brief list of distinctions does not do these honorees justice for all the hard work and sacrifices they have made for the ends of bettering our community. Their efforts will inspire others and I am happy to call attention to the positive influence they have had throughout Delaware and beyond.

I would also like to commend the Mill Creek Fire Company and its Ladies' Auxiliary for its 80 years of exceptional service. The bravery and hard work of all those involved with this outstanding fire company are responsible for making Delaware a safer place to live.

TRIBUTE TO ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND AND PINNEBERG, GERMANY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany on the 50th anniversary of their outstanding "Sister City" relationship.

In 1983, the first official delegation from Pinneberg visited Rockville, and participated in a White House ceremony commemorating the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the United States. Over the past 50 years, individuals and groups from both cities, including police officers, students, politicians, sports teams, choruses and concert bands, have participated in exchanges that have left both sides richer in knowledge and understanding. I know these participants will never forget their experiences and the lessons they have learned from each other.

We here in Rockville and our friends in Pinneberg should be proud that our cities were among the first in the United States and Germany to engage in this relationship, after its proposal in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as part of a people-to-people citizen diplomacy initiative. Our sister city relationship is a cornerstone of a program that for many years has worked to achieve peace and prosperity through cultural understanding and exchange among countries all over the world. Even during turbulent times, our two cities have reached towards one another in friendship and set an example for others to follow.

In celebration of this anniversary, a delegation from Rockville, including its Mayor, Larry Giammo, visited Pinneberg this past June. This week, beginning on October 2nd, the City of Rockville will formally welcome a 40-member delegation from Pinneberg, including its current Mayor. They will spend time with our local elected officials, tour the City and other sights in Maryland, dedicate a commemorative plaque, and conclude the week's festivities with "An Evening of Celebration" in Rockville's new Town Center on October 7th.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany for their meaningful and productive collaboration over the past 50 years. We all look forward to another 50 years of friendship between these two great cities.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DAVID MCCONNELL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal David McConnell of Altoona, Pennsylvania. CPL McConnell is currently serving in Iraq as part of the United States Marine Corps. He has served our country since 2005 when he first enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Corporal McConnell was deployed to Iraq on December 31, 2006, initially serving as an Infantryman. He was stationed in Fallujah as part of the Regimental Combat Team 6 Security Platoon, where he acted as convey security. Promoted to corporal in August, McConnell is currently stationed in Fallujah to provide protection services for the team directing leader engagement with Iraqi diplomats.

A dedicated and enthusiastic leader, Corporal McConnell is committed to furthering the cause he believes so much in. He is proud of the work of his unit and believes that the contributions and sacrifices they have made are well worth it to be able to assist in expanding freedom in Iraq.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize David and the rest of our troops for their efforts in serving our military. He and his unit should be very proud of the work they are doing in Iraq and the sacrifices they have made for their country. Their courage and devotion do not go unnoticed, and they are all in our thoughts and prayers for a safe return home.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF PIGEON, WIBC, INDIANAPOLIS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an icon of the Indiana airwaves, Jeff Pigeon. After serving Hoosiers for 27 years at WIBC in Indianapolis, IN, Jeff bid a bittersweet farewell this morning during his final broadcast.

Jeff Pigeon has never been anything but upbeat and positive and for nearly 20 years on the WIBC Morning News and that is how he helped Hoosiers wake up and start their day. It's hard to imagine WIBC or Indiana without him.

Jeff's energy touched the hearts of Hoosiers far beyond Indianapolis as people in Muncie, Anderson, Columbus, New Castle and areas throughout Indiana cherish Jeff and his ebullient personality.

His heart for people stretched beyond the airwaves and is attested to by his work for Crossroads Rehabilitation Center, Gleaners

Food Bank and the Indianapolis Police Department.

Jeff Pigeon started working at WIBC in 1981 as host of the 7 p.m.–midnight shift. He took over the morning drive-time show in 1988.

His radio background stretches across the country, from stations in Minneapolis, Denver and Chicago. An espouser of Midwestern values, Jeff graduated from the University of Illinois before launching his radio career.

Hoosiers of Eastern Indiana congratulate Jeff Pigeon on 27 great years of service to our State and a voice they have come to know, respect and love. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR JANE SWIFT

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions and achievements of Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift, a woman whose record of leadership in our State is matched by few.

When Jane Swift became Chief Executive of Massachusetts in April 2001, she became the first woman Governor of the Bay State, one of only five women Governors at the time, and one of only 19 women Governors in history. These numbers are far too low, and Governor Swift deserves credit for being a trailblazer and an inspiration to what hopefully will turn out to be many more women chief executives in the future.

During her tenure, Governor Swift oversaw a budget that had reached the \$23 billion mark, directed 13 cabinet agencies and executive divisions, and enacted numerous reforms. In policymaking as well as in example, she established herself as an advocate for women and families. Her efforts on behalf of foster children and working parents garnered praise across the political spectrum. And, when Governor Swift delivered twin girls while in office, she achieved yet another remarkable first.

Also while in office, Governor Swift continued her work as a strong supporter of the cultural development of our State, which included championing the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Her efforts to bolster Mass MoCA continue to be greatly appreciated by everyone who cares about the economic development of the north Berkshires.

Governor Swift counts 12 total years of official public service in her career. Elected to the Massachusetts State Senate at age 25, she was the youngest-ever woman member of the legislature. She also has spent many more years personally working in her community to create opportunity and improve the quality of life for local residents.

Today, Governor Swift serves on a number of key boards and steering committees, including the board of the Williamstown Elementary School Endowment and the Community Outreach Board of Mass MoCA. She remains active in politics and is engaged in a wide variety of public policy issues. Drawing on her diverse experiences, Governor Swift shares her perspectives as a sought-after public speaker, imparting wisdom to and inspiring the next generation of women and men leaders.

It is my honor to commend her years of public service and pay tribute to Governor Swift's enduring leadership. National Women's Business Week is an important occasion to celebrate women leaders, and Governor Swift has been a groundbreaker since the beginning of her career. She is, indeed, a "Woman of Achievement," and I join the Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women in honoring her this month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 24, 2007 and as a result I was not present to vote on rollcall No. 893. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 1400, THE IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian government continues to defy the international community in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. In the past, it denounced United Nations Security Council Resolutions imposing sanctions as "illegal" and "invalid." And just this week, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke before the U.N. General Assembly and announced that the nuclear issue in Iran was closed.

It is obvious to all of us that Iran's nuclear development programs are a concern for our Nation. Our Nation's security would be greatly affected by Iranian control over any nuclear weapons. However, we must not forget that, in addition to its disregard for the international community, the regime in place has abhorrent civil liberties and human rights practices within Iran. In the past 5 years, hundreds of newspapers have been closed, hundreds of pro-reform websites have been blocked, and innumerable people have been unjustly imprisoned. Just this year, Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, an Iranian-American, was jailed for months for unsubstantiated accusations that she was trying to set up networks of Iranians to start a revolution to bring down the government. In fact, she has long been an advocate for building bridges between the United States and the Middle East. While Dr. Esfandiari has been released, countless others have not, and it is clear that we must work to stop these baseless and ruthless actions.

While we address our ongoing concerns, we must be vigilant in ensuring that the United States works with the international community and approaches the Middle East diplomatically. As our Nation has learned, we must be willing to do everything that is necessary to protect our Nation and its people; however, we must not preemptively strike other sovereign nations because of incomplete and questionable information. What we must all agree on is that Iranian nuclear capability must continue to be investigated, discussed, and debated—throughout this Congress, the Nation, and the world.

Nonetheless, while we attempt to address these situations diplomatically, these actions must be backed by strong sanctions against the regime in Tehran. It is with this knowledge that I support H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007. This legislation, first and foremost, declares the support of diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear situation, calls for enhanced U.N. Security Council efforts, and explicitly states that nothing authorizes the use of force in Iran. Additionally, the bill expands bilateral sanctions against Iran, prohibits the Presidential waiver of these sanctions, and increases oversight of the Administration's efforts.

While critics of this legislation may consider these actions to be inflammatory, I instead see it as a necessary and diplomatic step that must be taken. Iran has long flouted its disregard for the international community and it must understand that it cannot pursue a nuclear weapons program and ignore international law without facing international political and economic repercussions.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to honor Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president of the AFL-CIO, on the occasion of her retirement. Elected to this post in 1995, Chavez-Thompson became the first woman and person of color to be chosen for one of the federation's three highest offices.

As a second-generation American of Mexican descent, Chavez-Thompson personifies the American dream. Born in Lubbock, TX to cotton sharecroppers, Chavez-Thompson toiled the fields to help supplement her family's income. After making 30 cents an hour picking cotton, Chavez-Thompson rose through the ranks of the labor movement, beginning her career as a union secretary at the local AFSCME chapter, the labor union to which her father belonged.

In her capacity as executive vice president of the labor federation, Chavez-Thompson has worked tirelessly to strengthen State and local labor movements and has served as a strong voice on behalf of civil, human and immigrant workers' rights. She serves as vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee, and serves as the president of the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, ORIT, which is the Western Hemispheric arm of the International Trade Union Confederation.

In retirement Chavez-Thompson will continue to pioneer new territory as the first AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Emeritus. In this capacity, she will continue to provide her leadership to state and local labor councils and communities throughout the country, and will continue her important international work. Her determined work on behalf of all workers, especially women, people of color, people with disabilities and immigrants will continue.

In making this difficult decision to retire after more than 40 years of service to the labor movement, Chavez-Thompson expressed, "You . . . have given me the opportunity of a lifetime, which was to go where I never dreamed I could go, and do more than I ever dreamed I could do."

For lending her talents, passion and vision to the effort of bringing justice to workers, we are all thankful to Chavez-Thompson. She has marched and spoken on behalf of those who often labor without a voice and has inspired us all to continue this important work for workers across the world.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, on Friday, Majority Leader STENY HOYER spoke to the National Press Club regarding fiscal responsibility and the Democratic record. I recommend his speech to all of my colleagues.

The speech sets out the clear differences between the current Administration's harmful fiscal policies and the strong track record of fiscal responsibility that the current 110th Congress has established. Indeed, the new House majority has already passed and adhered to the Pay-As-You-Go rule and passed a budget resolution that returns to balance by 2012.

The speech also establishes some helpful context for the Administration's pending veto threats on the appropriations bills. Most of the funding difference consists of Congressional efforts simply to restore harmful cuts proposed by the President, and the rest of the difference represents a responsible level of increase that will enable us to fund key priorities. Our appropriations level was accommodated within our fiscally responsible budget resolution, which returned the budget to balance by 2012.

MAJORITY LEADER HOYER'S ADDRESS AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

SEPT. 28.—I first want to thank Alan Greenspan for putting the issue of fiscal responsibility back on the political map. This is a very healthy development, even though it embarrasses the Administration.

In his new book, the former Federal Reserve Board Chairman writes: "Most troubling to me was the readiness of both [the Republican-controlled] Congress and the Administration to abandon fiscal discipline." And this: "'Deficits don't matter,' to my chagrin became part of the Republicans' rhetoric. . . . Deficits must matter."

I was tempted to come here and deliver the shortest speech of my professional life. Eight words in all. "Chairman Greenspan is correct. Are there any questions?"

But the bar is higher today. So, I intend to convince you of four main points: First, this Administration has pursued the most fiscally irresponsible policies in American history.

Second, the Democratic Party is the party of fiscal responsibility today—which is a very under-reported story.

Third, the President needs to put down his veto pen and pick up the telephone. Our differences on funding levels for domestic appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008—which begins on Monday—are relatively minor. We need to work out those differences, rather than engage in political posturing.

And finally, we must not allow our disagreement on appropriations to distract us from the ominous, long-term fiscal challenges that confront our nation. The United