

Columbia. He got a contract selling Cessna airplanes, and when he sold the 50,000th plane Cessna manufactured, his fledgling company got a lot of attention in the trade publications. This launched his business to new heights.

From the early days of his business, Jim realized there was a need for support of private airplane owners in Columbia. He had to pay to keep his stock of Cessnas at Owens Field, and he had to transport them to Aiken to be serviced. So in 1964, Jim moved Midlands Aviation onsite at Owens Field. He used a trailer as his office and installed fuel tanks nearby. Later he was able to purchase the building that once housed the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

For 44 years, Jim provided fuel, parts and service at Owens Field, a contract that he sold in October 2006. He has also managed the county-owned airport since 1961, and continues to do so earning a salary of \$1 per month. One could say that Owens Field is Jim Hamilton's life. However, there is so much more to Jim Hamilton.

In 1974, he started the Jamil Flying Fezzes, which provides free flights for handicapped or burned children to specialty hospitals. He mentors fourth graders through the Rotary Club, helps the Salvation Army recruit bell ringers at Christmas, and for the last 10 years he has driven ladies in a local retirement home on weekly shopping trips. He has also been a member of the South Carolina Board for Mental Retardation and the Babcock Center Board.

Jim has served 3 4-year terms on the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, and served as its Chairman twice. He has served 2 terms as President of the South Carolina Aviation Trades Association. He was elected Governor and Key man of the Columbia Hangar "Quiet Birdmen." And he has dedicated much of his spare time to educating young people about the adventures of flying.

Jim has been married to his second wife, Patricia, since 1966, and between them they have 5 children. Jimmie Jr., his oldest son and a talented airplane mechanic, tragically drowned in 2000. Despite the difficulties and tragedies in his personal life, Jim has always put others needs ahead of his own.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Jim Hamilton. He is an outstanding businessman and community leader, who has overcome many challenges in his life and still put others first. He says that flying taught him honor and dedication, and there are many people today who thank Jim Hamilton for passing those qualities along to them.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PREUSS SCHOOL UCSD ROBOTICS  
TEAM

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Preuss School UCSD robotics team. Team 812, known as the Midnight Mechanics, have competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition—an annual robot design and construction

contest that draws over 20,000 participants from all over the world—for the past 5 years.

For 2 years in a row, Team 812 has won the Regional Chairman's Awards for the Southern California Region. During the 2003–2004 competition, the Midnight Mechanics won the National Engineering Inspiration Award.

But Team 812's accomplishments do not end outside the engineering lab or the construction shop. The team has initiated the FIRST BUDDY program to mentor disadvantaged students in math and science and established the FIRST STEPS program to reach out to inner-city high school students and share with them their zeal for science.

Team 812 has also brought their passion into the classrooms and corridors of 10 other high schools in the San Diego area and has helped them field robotics teams of their own. Together the Midnight Mechanics and these 10 newer teams have formed the Team San Diego FIRST Robotics Coalition, a coordinating organization to build new partnerships in the community and recruit more high schools to field robotics teams.

I am proud to report that through the hard work of the Midnight Mechanics and the Team San Diego FIRST Robotics Coalition, the City of San Diego will be hosting its inaugural FIRST Regional Competition this coming March.

At a time when our country's young people are falling farther and farther behind those of other industrialized nations in math and science, I want to commend the members of Team 812, for their dedication to their craft, for their excellence in their efforts, and for their ability to instill a love of science in fellow young people. Not only are the Midnight Mechanics first-rate competitors, they are also true servants of the community. We need more role models like these to inspire our younger children.

Finally, I want to recognize Paul Tran, the dedicated young man who first brought Team 812 to my attention. Paul wrote the following to me in a letter:

We need your help to assist us in instituting FIRST Robotics in every high school in San Diego, in California, and essentially, the United States . . . We need your help to bring FIRST to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Madam Speaker, dear colleagues, I hope you will help me fulfill Paul's request and spread the word about this wonderful program to all corners of our country.

MOROCCO: A MODEL OF MUSLIM-  
JEWISH TIES

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request that Serge Berdugo's recent op-ed, "Morocco: A Model of Muslim-Jewish Ties", as published in the January 9 issue of The Christian Science Monitor, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Berdugo, the president of Morocco's Jewish Community Council, outlines the history of Muslim-Jewish relations in Morocco, where Jews and Muslims have peacefully lived as neighbors for hun-

dreds of years. I commend this work to all who want a lasting peace between Jews and Muslims across the world, and everyone who wishes to see the State of Israel and its neighbors coexisting harmoniously.

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO.—As the flames of anti-Semitism continue to be fanned across much of the Islamic world, there is a risk that today's youth will grow up believing that Arabs and Jews were simply not meant to coexist, let alone thrive together.

That idea conflicts with history—and is a falsehood today. My country, Morocco, illustrates the viability and vitality of a Jewish community—my community—in an Arab country. It's a model of harmony other Muslim nations should follow.

The Jewish people have been a presence in Africa's Maghreb region for more than 2,000 years. North African Jews and Muslims traveled north and thrived together in southern Europe for more than 700 years. In 1492, when we refused to convert to Christianity, we were expelled—together—from Spain. And together we successfully sought refuge in Morocco, which accepted us into its society and institutions.

Morocco's leaders have always made the well-being of the Jewish people a top priority. During World War II, when the Vichy government of occupied France announced that it had prepared 200,000 yellow stars for the Jews of Morocco, King Mohammed V replied that he would need 50 more for him and his family. He refused to make any distinction between his citizens.

The importance of a nation's leader setting the tone for recognition, respect, and treatment of minority faiths cannot be overstated. Today, King Mohammed VI has declared his religious, historical, and constitutional obligation to protect the rights, liberties, and sacred values of the Jews in Morocco.

This commitment dramatically affected Morocco's reaction at moments of great challenge. After May 16, 2003—the Moroccan 9/11, when five terrorist bombs exploded, three directed at Jewish targets—King Mohammed VI expressed condolences at a Jewish Center, condemning the criminal acts and reaffirming his determination to protect Jews and all Moroccan citizens.

In doing so, he defined the attack as one upon all Moroccan society, awakening the national conscience and strengthening the bonds between us. Moroccans of all faiths responded with candlelight vigils at bombing sites and demonstrations attended by nearly 1 million participants.

Many Moroccan Jews have emigrated to Israel and elsewhere, but the attachments to our homeland are unique. "Morocco never loses a Jewish citizen—we gain an ambassador," Mohammed VI's predecessor, King Hassan II, once said. Today, there are 1 million such "ambassadors" all over the world and 600,000 in Israel alone.

We Jews who call Morocco home have a vibrant community that includes 30 functioning synagogues and three school networks, which many influential Muslim families choose for their own children. Moroccan Jews serve as counselors to the king, ministers, colonels, members of parliament, judges, and ambassadors. On Jewish holy days, Muslim authorities, out of respect, attend our services.

With help from the Moroccan government, we started a foundation to preserve Jewish historical sites. And we support research on our community—including 30 doctoral dissertations presently under way by Muslim candidates.

Are we an isolated society? Hardly: Moroccans young and old have access to as wide an array of media and ideological diversity as

anywhere in the Islamic world. Yes, the extremists' call is heard here, too, but make no mistake—it's the response that differs. The tones of tolerance, trumpeted by a government that believes that Moroccan Judaism is an intrinsic and permanent part of the national culture, overwhelm the extremists' siren song.

Are we a historical accident or the path forward? Perhaps the answer is that our historical good fortune now has to be transformed into a model for others. We are more relevant outside our border than ever before.

Other world leaders must realize that the path forward lies not in fanning the fires of the moment, but in setting a tone of authentic coexistence that will endure.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP ANDREW STOUT

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolina businessman, who has been honored by his peers for his extraordinary work. Phillip Andrew "Andy" Stout owns and operates the Shoney's restaurant just minutes from my Santee, South Carolina office, and he has been recognized as the Shoney's 2006 Franchisee of the Year.

Andy Stout operates five Shoney's in South Carolina, and owns three of them. In addition to his recognition as Franchisee of the Year, two of Mr. Stout's restaurants were honored for their outstanding sales. This recognition did not come easily. Mr. Stout learned to excel in his profession by starting at the ground level and working his way up.

As a teenager, he began working as a busboy in his stepfather's Shoney's restaurant in Sumter, South Carolina. Two years later, he moved up to become Kitchen Manager. Mr. Stout then took a short break from Shoney's to serve as General Manager of a Captain D's restaurant. However, he took that experience and used it to become General Manager of Shoney's in Sumter.

His years of hard work and training paid off in 1994, when he formed P.A.S. Enterprises and purchased his first Shoney's in Manning, South Carolina. He added to his holdings in 2003 and 2005 by purchasing Shoney's in Santee and Dillon respectively. Mr. Stout continues to oversee the daily operations of the Sumter Shoney's and is a partner in the Shoney's in Walterboro.

Mr. Stout has received numerous awards for the performance of his Shoney's restaurants in addition to his 2006 Franchisee of the Year award. He also takes time to serve on the Board of Shoney's Franchise Advisor Council, and he serves his community on the Board of Trustees at Thomas Sumter Academy.

He is married to Donna L. Stout and together they have six children, Nicole, Rina, Austin, Elizabeth, Olin and Rebekah Ann.

I speak often of the need to improve the plight of counties along the I-95 corridor, and I commend Mr. Stout for the example he sets in running these successful businesses along I-95. His story shows that hard work and initiative can create opportunities for oneself and for one's community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Andy Stout

for his entrepreneurial spirit and his leadership in the Shoney's organization and the community. I have been a customer in several of his restaurants and can attest to the quality of service they provide. I wish him continued success and Godspeed.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### JANUARY 31

9:15 a.m.

##### Foreign Relations

To continue hearings to examine securing America's interests in Iraq, focusing on the remaining options in Iraq in the strategic context.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

##### Rules and Administration

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments.

SR-301

##### Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine ensuring the economic future by promoting middle-class prosperity.

SD-106

9:45 a.m.

##### Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operation; to be followed by a hearing to examine the roles of Federal food assistance programs in family economic security and nutrition.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

##### Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing regarding the Iraq "surge" plan.

SR-222

##### Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; to be followed by a hearing to examine the Department of the Treasury's report to Congress on Inter-

national Economic and Exchange Rate Policy (IEERP) and the U.S.-China strategic economic dialogue.

SD-G50

#### Budget

To hold hearings to examine solutions to long-term fiscal challenges.

SD-608

#### Finance

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, subcommittee assignments, and the nominations of Michael J. Astrue, of Massachusetts, to be Commissioner of Social Security, and Dean A. Pinkert, of Virginia, and Irving A. Williamson, of New York, each to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.

SD-215

#### Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; committee will also consider the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

SD-430

#### Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Iraq Study Group, focusing on recommendations for improvements to Iraq's police and criminal justice system.

SD-226

#### Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Federal small business assistance programs for veterans and reservists.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

#### Aging

To hold hearings to examine if Medicare Part D is working for low-income seniors.

SD-562

11:30 a.m.

#### Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 202, to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska, S. 216, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land in the Santa Fe National Forest and certain non-Federal land in the Pecos National Historical Park in the State of New Mexico, S. 220, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A&B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho, S. 232, to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements, S. 235, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, S. 240, to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, S. 241, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, S. 245, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, S. 255, to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, S. 260, to establish the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National