

more abrupt changes as enormous stores of methane hydrate, a gas with several times the heat retention capacity of carbon dioxide, is released from the ocean floor and expanses of permafrost? These gases are released as the natural mechanisms keeping them sequestered are broken down by warming. Permafrost melts. Ocean temperature and acidity rise. The historical record contains strong evidence that abrupt climate change has corresponded with a single release of vast stores of methane hydrate.

This uncertainty is real. It stands in stark contrast to the alleged uncertainties that have been manufactured by those who stand to profit by perpetuating the status quo as long as possible.

To resolve and manage the real uncertainty, we must have the best scientific information possible at our fingertips in order to weigh risks and benefits of all available policy responses. That is only one of the reasons that the casualness with which this Administration sends unqualified political appointees to edit scientific findings is so pernicious. It is also destructive because accurate information is the bedrock of any democratic society. Without it, citizens cannot hold their leaders accountable for their actions, or in this case, inactions.

Sadly, such distortion of the truth has a proven track record of effectiveness. Indeed an entire industry has been created to manufacture scientific doubt where there is none. It is a technique that was mainstreamed by the tobacco industry and refined by others who stand to profit from scientific obfuscation like the chemical industry and the pharmaceutical industry. In fact, an entire industry that specializes in creating scientific uncertainty has taken root. It consists of PR agencies, pseudo scientific consultants and well paid think tanks. The strategy not only works, but is profitable.

Making matters worse, today we will see evidence that the taxpayers have been subsidizing the distortion of the findings of world class scientists on the topic. At best, it is corporate welfare. At worst, it undermines democracy and puts the delicate ecosystems on which we all intimately depend, at risk. My hope is that this hearing marks the beginning of the end of this practice.

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#### TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2007, Hrant Dink, a distinguished Armenian journalist, was shot dead outside the offices of his newspaper Agos in Istanbul, Turkey. A progressive voice of reason and hope for Armenians living in Turkey and around the world, Hrant Dink fought tirelessly to engage the Turkish community in open discussion of the many injustices Armenians have experienced in the past and present including the Genocide of 1915 and current human rights violations.

Hrant Dink struggled daily with the difficulties of disclosing the Armenian Genocide to the public in Turkey, yet he continued to make the difficult his lifelong passion. In his weekly columns, Dink often spoke of the complexities

he felt being an Armenian who happened to be a citizen of Turkey—a country that fails to acknowledge that the Armenian Genocide occurred. As a result, Dink was charged and convicted of insulting Turkey's identity. In October 2005, after writing about the Armenian Genocide, he was given a 6-month suspended sentence.

Hrant Dink was killed because he was a courageous and outspoken journalist and continued to write his columns in hopes of educating and informing the people of Turkey. As Turkey continues to evolve as a modern secular state, it must understand that democracy requires more than free elections; freedom of the press is essential.

I express my condolences to the family, and colleagues of Hrant Dink. He was a courageous, committed columnist, and a mentor and friend to many. He will be remembered and missed.

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#### HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT EVERETT PATTON

### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Army Staff Sergeant Everett Patton for his courageous service to our country during his recent deployment in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Patton, a resident of Owensboro, Kentucky, is currently recovering from severe burns at the Brooke Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas following an IED attack.

Staff Sergeant Patton began his military career in the United States Marine Corps. After a brief tenure working in civilian construction, Mr. Patton and his wife Christy enlisted in the Army in January 1999. He was first assigned as a Specialist in the heavy construction equipment operator field with C Company 5th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Staff Sergeant Patton reenlisted in 2002 and was placed in the 562nd Engineer Company in Alaska as squad leader. He was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2005 for his first six-month tour as part of the 172nd Stryker Brigade. He returned to Iraq for a second tour in 2006.

While operating a bulldozer, Staff Sergeant Patton struck an IED that exploded and quickly engulfed his vehicle in flames. Gratefully, he survived the explosion but suffered severe burns over almost 70% of his body.

Staff Sergeant Patton is making a remarkable recovery in the burn unit at Brooke Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. On January 29th, he was honored with the Purple Heart Award. He remains in high spirits with the love and support of his wife and five children.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Staff Sergeant Patton for selflessly standing in harm's way to protect our freedom and way of life. His courage and sacrifice represent the very best of what it means to be a United States soldier and citizen.

It is my great privilege to recognize Staff Sergeant Everett Patton today, before the en-

tire U.S. House of Representatives, for his generous service and unflinching duty to our great country. My colleagues and I wish him a quick return to good health.

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#### IN MEMORY OF NATHAN BARRETT

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Nathan Barrett, who passed away January 25, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Nathan Barrett was a pillar of the community of Warren and Bradley County for decades. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Nathan returned to Warren where he was the owner and operator of Barrett-Pirtle Pharmacy since 1960. In 1964, Nathan received the A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award, one of the most prestigious professional pharmacy honors in Arkansas. In 2005, Nathan was honored by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy for 50 years of service as a certified pharmacist.

Nathan was a member of the First Baptist Church of Warren where he served as Deacon, Sunday School Director and member of the choir. Nathan was also a member of the Warren Rotary Club, past President of the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce, an Eagle Scout and a member of Order of the Arrow in the Boy Scouts of America. His dedication to making Warren and South Arkansas a better place to live could not have been greater.

I am glad our paths crossed and that I had the honor of knowing Nathan and calling him my friend.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Mary King Barrett of Warren; his two daughters, Edie Coleman of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Laurie Moore of Ruston, Louisiana; his sister, Peggy Barrett of Greenbriar; and to his 4 grandchildren. Nathan Barrett will be greatly missed in Warren and throughout the state of Arkansas.

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#### HONORING ACADIANA HIGH SCHOOL'S WRECKIN' RAMS

### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams for winning the 5A Louisiana State Football Championship in the Superdome last month. The Wreckin' Rams defeated Sulphur High School 13-10 to win their first-ever state title. The victory was capped off by a last minute 32-yard field goal by Drew Alleman.

After kicking a 42-yard field goal to tie the game at 10-10, Alleman split the uprights on the game's final play to seal Acadiana's win. The championship ended a 13-2 season for the Rams.

Acadiana's coach, Ted Davidson, expressed his excitement after the game. "This is the most competitive team I've ever coached. This

is the fifth game this year that we've won in the last 30 seconds of the game. They just refuse to lose," Davidson said in the Lafayette Daily Advertiser.

Madam Speaker, with this victory, Acadiana High School's Wreckin Rams have made the residents of their entire state proud. I enter into the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of these players and their coaches, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them for their achievement.

State Champions: Justin Green, Dvan Alexander, Kip Jacob\*, Jeb Stefan, Louis Hollier, Jonathan Morvant, Javinas Faulk\*, Daniel August\*, DJ St. Julien, Desmond Sam, Terrence Sinegal, Tory Caudill, Brian Sinegal, Jordan Figaro\*, John Dean, Darius Eaglin\*, Chris White, Kyle Ramsey, Sam Boersma\*, Jarred Evans, Chris Nguyen, Jeremy Griggs, Terrance Broussard, Brad Melancon, Austin Romein, Jeremy Fontenot\*, Daniel Arabie, Ethan Piazza, Jordan Burt, Keevan Breaux, Jarrid Durand, Dexter Bruno, Trent Noel, Fletcher Sanders\*, Jordan Boykin\*, Jordan Himel, Chase Southerland, Lora Parker, Whitney Duplechin, Tayla Davis, Josh Bourque, Coach Bob Fabre, Coach Scott McCullough, Coach Ted Davidson, Cody Labat, David Guidry, Cody Mandell, Coach Myles Casbon, Brett Polaski, Kalen Comeaux\*, Anthony Johnson, Derek Richard\*, Jeffrey Trahan, Kevin Elston, Marcus Sam\*, Bobby Davidson, Drew Alleman, Dexter Hall\*, Quincy Mouton, Chance Brossette, Donovan Gallien, Casey Latiolais\*, Hunter Thibodeaux, Kyle Hebert, Marcus Bazile, Lance Walker, Brandon Touchet\*, Sheffield Taylor\*, Jordan Magee, Aaron Guidry\*, Sean McGovern, Matt Crooks, Hunter Hebert, Matt Boudreaux, Cherish Barton, Jared Prince, Dylan Terro, Robert Montgomery\*, Taylor Wiggins, Mike Carvajal, Wilfred Journet\*, Buck Smith\*, Brady Hebert\*, Chris Thibodeaux\*, Spencer Trahan, Jesse Ledet, Jeremy Courville, Brent White, Brian White, Kynsi Sonnier, Ayriell Collins, Crystal Faulk, Coach Neal Lege, Coach Larry Breaux, Coach Gary Fontenot, Coach Chris Mitchell, and Brandon Siner.

HONORING SPENCER COUNTY STUDENTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize six remarkable students from the Spencer County School System for their participation and high achievement in the National History Day Competition held last year at the University of Maryland.

National History Day is an innovative history education program for students in grades 6–12 who are interested in improving their historical knowledge in a fun and challenging environment. Each year, students choose a topic congruent with an annual theme, conduct research, then synthesize and analyze their findings into a paper, exhibit, documentary or performance. These projects are then evaluated at the local, state, and national levels. Finalists from each level advance to the next round of competition.

This 2006 theme was "Taking a Stand." Spencer County students, who placed first or second at the state contest held at the Ken-

tucky History Center in Frankfort last April, traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national contest at the University of Maryland, June 15–19, 2006. Together, they demonstrated great academic prowess, teamwork and sportsmanship before a regional audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

I would like to commend Maureen McCoy, Paige Walls, Joel Fickel, Ashleigh Steever, Chase Thomas and Breisa Baker for their accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the effort and support of their coaches. I am very proud to represent these students, educators and their families.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these students for their achievement and wish them continued success in their promising future years.

IN HONOR OF JULIUS STORTI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Julius Storti, upon his retirement from Transformer Engineering Corporation (TEC). His tenure at TEC spans sixty-three years, and is framed by integrity, innovation, excellence, friendship and unwavering loyalty and dedication.

Mr. Storti began working at TEC in the summer of 1943, while still in high school. His interest in electrical work was sparked while a student at Lincoln High School, where he assisted a teacher with an electrical course. At TEC, Mr. Storti became highly skilled in all areas, yet his primary work and expertise focused on hand & multiple winding, an area in which he is considered an expert.

A devoted family man, Mr. Storti was also surrounded by family and friends at TEC. He met his wife, Dorothy at TEC, and lovingly cared for her until her recent passing. Together they raised their daughter, Anne. He also worked alongside his childhood friend, George Kolsenicky, and his brother-in-law, the late Paul Yachanin. Mr. Storti's kind and humble nature consistently shone through at TEC, and his professional integrity and strong work ethic never wavered. Although a talented and dedicated employee, the center of Mr. Storti's life continues to be his family and close friends.

Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Mr. Julius Storti, whose sixty-three year tenure at Transformer Engineering Corporation is defined by kindness, patience, expertise and willingness to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. Mr. Storti created bonds of friendship at TEC that will never be broken, and he will be deeply missed by all. I wish Mr. Storti and his family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as he journeys onward from here.

HONORING G. MARTIN "MARTY" WAGNER

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. G. Martin "Marty" Wagner for over 31 years of dedicated service to the Federal government.

Through Mr. Wagner's current role as Deputy Commissioner of Federal Acquisition Services, and previously as Acting Commissioner and Acting Deputy Commissioner, he oversaw the acquisition of more than \$50 billion of goods and services for various federal agencies. He managed a workforce of more than 4,000 associates who helped the Federal government find, buy and manage all federal non-real estate services.

Mr. Wagner led initiatives that set the tone and direction for major changes in government-wide management. He has played a key role in promoting electronic government, in using commercial contracts and approaches, and in putting performance measures into practice. Such initiatives include the creation of FirstGov, the Government's Internet portal; and FedbizOpps, the gateway for all federal procurements.

During Mr. Wagner's career he has been honored for his good work and accomplishments as a premier civil servant. Mr. Wagner received the Meritorious Presidential Rank for his career achievements as well as his efforts in leading the administration's effort to reinvent the federal management process. He also received the Distinguished Presidential Rank for his work to improve federal management, specifically the implementation of a new management framework to reflect modern management principles and effective uses of technology. Finally, Mr. Wagner received the General Services Administration's "Giraffe Award" for "sticking his neck out" and taking risks to improve various GSA programs. These recognitions illustrate the kind of results-oriented federal employee he is.

Whether Mr. Wagner was instituting the massive modernization of the federal telecommunications system, establishing improved customer and employee management systems, or taking the simple, personal step of adding Brail to his business cards, Mr. Wagner has always worked to ensure that everyone had improved access to the federal government.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Wagner on all of his achievements. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Marty for his past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL SALI**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join with my colleagues this week in support of the "Hire a Veteran Week" resolution.