

the fund to the families of the deceased victims and to the injured students. It is the families' and university's desire that these funds be exempted from Federal income tax, and this measure takes the entirely appropriate step of providing this exemption.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to obtain approval of this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DR. OTTO VON
HABSBURG ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on November 20, Dr. Otto von Habsburg—a man of courage and intellect and a great friend of the United States—will celebrate his 95th birthday. I extend to him on this occasion my very warmest greetings. Although he and I come from the most different Central European backgrounds imaginable, we have become friends over the years and I hold him in the highest regard.

Dr. von Habsburg, who is in every way an extraordinary human being, was born in 1912 into one of Europe's oldest and most distinguished royal families. He is the eldest son of Emperor Charles, the last Emperor of Austria and the last King of Hungary and Bohemia, and his wife, Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma. Although he has renounced all claims to the Austrian throne, Dr. von Habsburg retains the hereditary titles of Archduke and Crown Prince of Austria and Crown Prince of Hungary and Bohemia.

Madam Speaker, I met Otto von Habsburg shortly after I was elected a Member of the Congress a quarter century ago. At that time, I was the chairman of the U.S. delegation which met twice a year with a delegation of the European Parliament. At the time Otto was a representative of Germany to the European Parliament, and the Ambassador of Austria brought him to meet me in my office in the Longworth Building. We both felt an immediate bond, and have maintained a cordial relationship ever since.

We have met on numerous occasions in Brussels and Strasbourg, and we have met frequently here in the United States when he has visited our country. His son Gyorgy was married in Budapest in 1997, and my wife Annette and I attended their wedding in the Basilica of St. Stephen. Just a few years ago on his last visit to the United States, I was pleased to welcome and pay tribute to Dr. von Habsburg at a special meeting here in the United States Capitol.

Madam Speaker, although he became Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary and Bohemia when he was just 4 years old when his father became Emperor, and he continues to hold a number of impressive noble titles, what truly distinguishes Otto von Habsburg is not who he was at birth, but who he became in the course of his long and distinguished life.

After growing up as an exile in Switzerland and Spain, the young Otto studied for his Ph.D. in political science at Belgium's famous Catholic University of Louvain. As an astute and principled conservative, he understood early on the true nature of the Nazi movement and became its staunch opponent.

While doing research in Berlin in the early 1930s for his Ph.D. dissertation, Dr. von Habsburg was invited on two separate occasions to meet with Adolf Hitler, who for political reasons, sought to create the appearance of an association between himself and the heir to the Austrian and Hungarian thrones.

"I had the great advantage of having already read Mein Kampf from start to finish and knew what his plans were," Dr. von Habsburg later recalled. "All of this only reinforced my refusal to meet him. On the other hand, it would have been an interesting experience. In fact, this was the only interesting conversation I ever avoided in my life."

In the immediate aftermath of the fall of France to the Nazi armies, Dr. von Habsburg worked with Aristide de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux, to secure travel papers for an estimated 20,000 Jews and others liable to be persecuted by the Nazis. For his trouble, he was sentenced to death by the Nazis. Fortunately, it was in absentia—Dr. von Habsburg had escaped from Europe in the nick of time and spent the war years here in the United States.

After the war, he returned to Europe, where he became a leader of the Paneuropean Union, served for 20 years as a member of the European Parliament and emerged as a champion of human rights. He was famous for, among many other things, ensuring that there was always an empty chair inside the Parliament building as a symbol of the European nations that were dominated at that time by totalitarian and illiberal ideologies.

Dr. von Habsburg, who is the author of 27 books in 7 languages, is a passionate supporter of freedom and liberty and an unblinking opponent of racism and totalitarianism. I salute him as he celebrates his 95th birthday, and I thank him for all the good that he has done in this world.

TRIBUTE TO BHAVANI K.D.
KAKANI FOR RECEIVING THE 2007
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate my friend, Mrs. Bhavani Kakani of Huntsville, Alabama, for receiving the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to a person in the Huntsville community who has displayed exemplary community leadership.

Mrs. Kakani is a distinguished community advocate and civic volunteer who has given countless hours to numerous community and state-wide organizations and boards. In these roles, she has led efforts to raise funds and awareness for health programs across our State, including ending child abuse and neglect, and inspiring self-worth and confidence in young women. In addition, I have worked directly with Mrs. Kakani through her many years of service on the National Children's Advocacy Center's board of directors.

Mrs. Kakani is the cofounder and president of the AshaKiran, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, empathizing, and empowering foreign born immigrants. Since its

founding, AshaKiran has provided multilingual, multicultural, and crisis referral services to numerous individuals in North Alabama.

Madam Speaker, in addition to her remarkable advocacy across the community, she has worked with the Intergraph Corporation, as a registered cytologist technician, and office manager for her husband's medical practice. Mrs. Kakani and her husband, Dr. Rao Kakani, have also raised three children.

Madam Speaker, Bhavani Kakani's leadership and her strong dedication to the community should serve as a model for others to follow. On behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Mrs. Kakani for being named the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award Winner.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
KLURFELD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Klurfeld, vice president and editorial page editor of Newsday, who last week retired after nearly 40 years of outstanding and tireless work at the paper.

James Klurfeld was born in 1945 in New York City and is a 1963 graduate of Syosset High School. His illustrious career at Newsday began in 1968, just one year after he graduated from Syracuse University.

Klurfeld's first job at Newsday was as a local reporter, where he covered various news stories on Long Island. But he quickly rose through the ranks at the paper, where his extraordinary reporting propelled him into several key positions. He led Newsday's Albany bureau, and he served as the newspaper's Washington bureau chief between 1980 and 1986. After his exceptional leadership during these stints, Klurfeld was appointed editor of the editorial pages in December 1987.

James Klurfeld's constant pursuit of journalistic excellence has earned him numerous honors and recognitions. He was a member of the Newsday investigative team that won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, as well as the New York State Publisher's Association and Deadline Club award in the same category. The awards were for a 3-year effort that disclosed political corruption in several townships on Long Island. He also won the Sigma Delta Chi National Reporting Award with other members of the Washington bureau in 1982, and he was the recipient of the 1988 American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award for editorials on the Iran-Contra hearings. In addition, the staff of Newsday's editorial and viewpoints pages won several major awards under his leadership. These included everything from brilliantly written editorials to exceptionally creative cartoons.

Over the years, Klurfeld has become incredibly knowledgeable about local and national issues and is an expert on foreign affairs matters, most notably through his extensive travels around the globe and from his work with the Council on Foreign Relations. To this extent, he has provided Newsday readers with

extraordinary insights into politics, national security and international policy through the informative and lively column he has written in the paper each week.

Klurfeld's achievements in the news business have also extended beyond print journalism. For the past 12 years, he has asked the tough questions on *The Cutting Edge*, a weekly television program on WLNy/TV55 that focuses on Newsday's Sunday editorials, a show in which I have been honored to appear. I was also privileged to be part of some of his many appearances on Long Island's public broadcasting station, WLIW/Channel 21. In addition, he has provided exceptional analysis and commentary on other broadcast outlets including the CW11 in New York City.

James Klurfeld's exit from Newsday is the end of an era for journalism on Long Island, in New York City and across the Nation. We will miss his leadership, his quest for the truth and his shaping of local and national policy debates.

But fortunately, Klurfeld will not be going far. He will remain on Long Island, where he will pass on the craft he has mastered to the next generation of journalists as the interim director of the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University's School of Journalism. He will also continue to write his weekly column.

Although we are sad to see him retire as Newsday's editorial page editor, we are comforted to know that many students of journalism will learn the press trade from one of the best to have ever worked in the news business.

I know that Newsday's staff and readers will be forever grateful for all of James Klurfeld's exceptional and memorable contributions, which have made Newsday a stronger newspaper and have helped the Long Island-New York City area become a better place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating James Klurfeld for nearly 40 years of outstanding service to Newsday. I am confident that he will prevail in his new endeavor and continue to enjoy success for many more years to come.

THE LOSS OF NATHAN J. SCHULDHEISS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave civilian in Iraq, Nathan J. Schuldheiss, a resident of Newport who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

With a father in the Air Force, Special Agent Schuldheiss grew up traveling across the country. He graduated from La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, NM, received a political science degree from Gonzaga University, and received a law degree from the University of Rhode Island. Schuldheiss, 27, had dreams of one day working for the CIA or FBI and continuing his extensive traveling.

Schuldheiss volunteered his services to become a civilian counterintelligence specialist

with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, assigned to Detachment 204 at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. He had spent 5 months in Iraq with his team seeking out insurgents that might pose a threat to servicemembers in the region. On November 1, Schuldheiss was on his way to interview a group of informants when an improvised explosive device was detonated. Schuldheiss and two other members of his team died of wounds suffered from the blast.

Those that knew Special Agent Schuldheiss remember his sense of humor, his leadership, his loyalty, and his sense of adventure. Most importantly, he had a positive impact on those around him. His loss certainly causes us all to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women who carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When Special Agent Schuldheiss's Nation called him to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and security, he answered without hesitation. We will remember him as a patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

May we keep Special Agent Schuldheiss's loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period, especially his father, Jeff; his mother, Sarah Conlon; and his sister, Erin. May his memory live on forever.

We will also continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

FOUR DOMES FOR JIM KLURFELD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give James Klurfeld four domes as he departs as the editorial page editor of Newsday and becomes a journalism professor at Stony Brook University. As a Member of this House for 7 years, Madam Speaker, I have often found myself in frightening circumstances. I have participated in corkscrew landings in Baghdad; I have been whisked in high-security motorcades through Islamabad; I have discussed energy policy with President Bush. But nothing, Madam Speaker, is more jarring, more intimidating, more perilous than an interview with Jim Klurfeld or waking up on the morning that Newsday publishes its infamous "Dome Ratings" of the Long Island Congressional Delegation.

Let me share with my colleagues an example of Jim Klurfeld's high standards. When I originally ran for this House in 2000, I coveted Newsday's endorsement. For days I prepared for the endorsement interview. In fact, I hadn't had as much "fun" since preparing for my SAT exams in eleventh grade. Finally, I sat down with Jim and his editorial board. One hour and the loss of three pounds of perspiration later, I left. As my campaign manager and I walked through the Newsday parking lot, I asked him: "How do you think it went?" His response: "We should have told Mr. Klurfeld that you're running for Congress, not President."

In fact, Madam Speaker, Jim Klurfeld's expectations were always high, his questions always probing, his depth great. He is a politician's worst nightmare: unspinnable and always a step ahead.

His departure from Newsday won't exactly let the Members of the Long Island Delegation sleep better at night. We will still stay awake in fear of those notorious domes and dreading those endorsements.

Nor will his departure change the basic premise of the relationship I have with him. I never mind disagreeing with Jim Klurfeld. I just hope never to disappoint him.

I know many of my colleagues in Congress who have known and read Jim Klurfeld wish him well as a journalism professor. He will indeed forge a new generation of excellence in journalism, just as his father set a standard of excellence that Jim put on the pages of Newsday for so many years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1043. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

STATEMENT SUPPORTING H.R. 3685, THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Chairman, throughout my career, I have fought for equal opportunity and rights for all of our fellow citizens. Today, I rise in support of H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act because I believe that discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation, race and religion has no place in the United States. Yet, the fact remains discrimination exists. Throughout our Nation, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans face discrimination without the protection of Federal law and as a result, hard working, skilled employees can be fired simply because of their sexual orientation.

I believe with every fiber of my being that this is wrong, that it is un-American. Performance at work should determine employment—not a person's sexual orientation which has no bearing on one's ability to do the job.

I applaud my good friends and colleagues, Representative BARNEY FRANK and TAMMY BALDWIN, for their tremendous leadership on this issue. While I support the bill before us today, I would like to take a moment to extend my sincerest regret that language from the original bill, which extended civil rights protections to transgender Americans, was excluded from the version we will vote on today.

When I came to Congress in 1999, I implemented an office employment policy that went beyond current Federal law to add sexual orientation and gender identity to existing protections. Many employers—private and public—have already taken this long overdue step. In my home town of Chicago and in the State of Illinois, we gave already have in place laws