

mine, Mr. Wayne Williams, and his steadfast service to his community.

Mr. Williams has served as the fire chief of station 18 of the Ohatchee Volunteer Fire Department since 1981. His many years of service have helped further strengthen station 18 as an institution the people of Calhoun County have always relied upon to provide safety and peace of mind. On December 6, the members of station 18 will gather to honor Mr. Williams' service during their annual Christmas Dinner.

I am proud to join the members of the Ohatchee VFD in thanking Mr. Williams for his service and wish him and his family the best at this important occasion to honor his dedication and leadership.

HONORING RICHARD SCHNEIDER
OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Schneider, who has been recognized as the City of Sonoma's 2007 Treasure Artist of the Year. Mr. Schneider is being recognized for his contributions to Sonoma and his leadership of the Sonoma Hometown Band.

Mr. Schneider was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, but moved to northern California at a young age when his father was transferred to work at Alcatraz Federal Prison. At the end of the war, the family moved north to Fields Landing in Humboldt County, where Mr. Schneider was raised in this small town and attended the local school. In 1949, the family moved to Eureka, where he participated in a band for the first time.

After graduating from Eureka High School in 1954, Mr. Schneider joined the Navy hoping to become a member of the Navy Drum and Bugle Corps. He was accepted, but was subsequently assigned to the Naval Communications School. After completing his training, he spent 2 years in Korea and 2 years in Germany. In 1959, he left the Navy and began attending Humboldt State University, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in music in 1963.

After completing college, Mr. Schneider began teaching music in the Central Valley, first in Hanford and then as a full time teacher at three different schools in Corcoran. In 1965, he moved to Sonoma after being hired to teach at local schools. The following year, he was transferred to the high school, where he founded the high school band with strong support from Principal Max Murray.

In 1967, Mr. Schneider founded the Sonoma Hometown Band in order to provide a musical group for the 4th of July parade. The band was initially made up of 25 high school students, but has gradually expanded as former students returned to participate and members of the community joined. Today, the band gives a half-dozen performances each year, bringing together musicians of all ages under Mr. Schneider's direction. From concerts at the Sebastiani Theatre to the 4th of July, the Sonoma Hometown Band has become an important fixture in Sonoma under Mr. Schneider's leadership.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we congratulate Mr. Schneider for

being recognized as the City of Sonoma's 2007 Treasure Artist of the Year. As the leader of the Hometown Band, he has brought his community an exciting musical group catering to all ages, interests and skill levels.

TRIBUTE TO NASA FLIGHT
DIRECTOR MATT ABBOTT

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected western New York native, Matt Abbott, for his leadership in directing the recent space shuttle mission *Endeavour*.

As lead flight director on the recent space shuttle mission *Endeavour*, Matt has proven that when you put your mind to something anything is possible. Since he can remember, Matt has dreamed of working in Mission Control. When he was 6 years old, he watched on television as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon. While most of Matt's friends dreamed of becoming astronauts, Matt saw the challenge and inspiration in working behind the scenes, leading the mission.

While not physically aboard the shuttle, Matt has become one of the most important members in Mission Control, as the ultimate responsibility for decisions made during the flight lies on his shoulders.

After graduating from Texas A&M, Matt started working at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston as a Mission Control flight dynamics officer. In this position he was responsible for monitoring the location and performance of the shuttle during flight, as well as planning maneuvers. He then took a position with the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal, working with the Canadarm2 robotic arm on the International Space Station. He eventually returned to the Johnson Space Center, where he became a flight director. Matt has worked on 40 shuttle missions in flight dynamics, including 27 launches and 11 landings.

Throughout his life, Matt has been committed to pursuing his dreams. His achievements serve as an excellent example of how to make your dreams a reality, and he serves as a true role model for children across the country.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service, for his leadership, his dedication to our country, I ask this honorable body join me in honoring NASA flight director Matt Abbott.

TRIBUTE TO UPPER DUBLIN
TOWNSHIP

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of Upper Dublin Township to adopt environmentally conscious practices and to encourage use of alternative energy sources.

Upper Dublin Township currently relies on 100 percent clean, renewable energy for its municipal energy needs and encourages its residents to use clean energy for their homes and businesses. It was the Commonwealth's first municipality to switch to 100 percent clean energy.

Upper Dublin Township has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the quality of the quality of water, land and air resources. Efforts have included increasing reliance on renewable energy, creating community incentives to increase recycling, preserving open space, educating the community on sustainable practices, and reducing pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management. With much of its land developed, Upper Dublin Township has recognized the need to focus its environmental efforts on influencing the behavior of its residents and businesses.

Madam Speaker, Upper Dublin Township sets an example of how sustainability can work for suburban communities. Thanks to policies and programs enacted by the Board of Commissioners and the Environmental Protection Advisory Board, Upper Dublin Township is helping to move the 13th Congressional District towards greater use of renewable resources.

I am proud to represent the people of Upper Dublin Township in Congress and applaud their success in working to reduce our dependence on imported sources of energy, and create a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations. I congratulate them for their critical efforts and wish them continued success with this endeavor.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY SHERROD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Shirley Sherrod, who has worked determinedly for more than 20 years as the Georgia Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and Land Assistance Fund, an outstanding organization dedicated to enhancing rural communities through sustained operation of family farms.

As a part of her work, Shirley has helped to run one of the countries most successful USDA Outreach and Technical Assistance Projects, providing assistance on debt restructuring, alternating crops, marketing, financial planning, recordkeeping, and farm management to minority and disadvantaged farmers. The project has operated in four states, and seen an increase in the number of minority-owned farms in two of those states.

Shirley's leadership with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives exemplifies her lifetime of dedication to her community. Shirley's work began in 1965, where as an organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Southwest Georgia Project, she helped to start a 6000-acre land trust. She also worked with women to organize childcare and pre-school programs, and was intensely dedicated to the numerous voter registration and education projects which helped African Americans become elected officials.

A native of Newton, Georgia, Shirley received a degree in Sociology from Albany State University and later took graduate business studies at Valdosta State University. In 1989, she received a Master of Arts in Community Development from Antioch University.

As the Congressman who represents Southwest Georgia, I hold in highest regard individuals like Shirley—those tireless advocates with the courage and conviction to reach out, touch, and impact the farthest boundaries of our community. May the Second Congressional District, Georgia, and indeed the country continue to benefit from her service.

A TRIBUTE TO TINA THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tina Thomas' years of service to the Sacramento area as a prominent attorney, philanthropist and community leader. Tina is transitioning from partner to "of counsel" at her law firm, Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley. In doing so, Tina will now serve in an advisory capacity to the firm and have more time to assist local nonprofits. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

Tina earned a bachelor's degree from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in 1975 and her juris doctor degree from the University of San Diego in 1979. Later that year, she came to Sacramento. Before choosing to practice law full time, Tina served on the faculties of California State University, Sacramento and the Consortium of California State Universities and Colleges where she was an associate professor teaching graduate and undergraduate courses on the law, environment and planning related subjects.

In the late 1970s, Tina began her legal career as an intern for the Environmental Unit of the California Attorney General's office, and then in 1979 she was hired by a local environmental attorney Michael Remy. Together Tina and Michael formed a law firm that is now known as Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley, where Tina and Michael worked together as partners until he passed away in 2003. Since its founding, Tina has served as the firm's managing partner, with clients that include governmental agencies, local businesses and environmental organizations. Along with her partners, Tina co-authored the Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act in 2006, a book now utilized by attorneys state wide.

In her spare time, Tina has served on numerous nonprofit boards in the Sacramento area. This includes the La Raza Galeria Posada, the Conservancy International and the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. In addition, on a pro bono basis, Tina has represented many organizations including; WEAVE, Loaves and Fishes, Francis House and the WIND Center for Homeless Teens. Due to the support of generous individuals like her, programs such as these are able to continue to thrive, which in turn makes Sacramento a better place to live, work, and raise a family. For her dedication to the Sacramento community, Tina was named Sacramento County's "Distinguished Attorney" in 2005 by the Sacramento County Bar Association.

Personally, Tina has been a pleasure to work with and a true friend. Her compassion and spirit is a wonderful addition to the Sacramento community. She is a caring, smart and thoughtful individual, who always looks out for those in need and makes sure that their concerns are known by all who can help.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend Tina Thomas. Tina is not only a dedicated community leader and attorney, but also is a loving mother to her children Libby, Mary Claire and Sam and wonderful wife to her husband, Bill Abbott. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Tina's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in this new capacity.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate 200 years of Vernon, Connecticut's rich history. Beginning in 2008, the Vernon community will commence a yearlong second centennial celebration, the "Countdown to 200", that will reflect on the past and welcome the future.

In the early 18th century, settlement began with families from East Windsor cultivating the land and laying groundwork for future development and eventual incorporation of Vernon in 1808. Throughout the 19th century and diminishing with the end of the World War II, textile factories would serve as the main economic lifeblood for the region, especially in Rockville, a town that would later be incorporated in Vernon. During the Civil War, these mills would produce textiles that would clothe Union soldiers.

While textiles formed the most notable industry in the region, agriculture had strong roots since settlement in the early 18th century. In 1965, agricultural and industrial communities were linked with the consolidation of the city of Rockville and Vernon.

Vernon has produced a number of notable figures, including Gene Pitney, "The Rockville Rocket" as well as four-time Super Bowl football champion, Bill Romanowski. Charles Ethan Porter, a renowned still life painter and former Virginia Governor, Mark Warner, also call Vernon their hometown.

The relics of earlier settlement and production, including the keystone arch tunnel on Tunnel Road, the Tower on Fox Hill, and the old textile mills, serve as a reminder of the versatility of our quaint New England town. Vernon and its residents have faced a number of problems that have notoriously afflicted small industrial towns. The Vernon community has weathered this adversity, and has and will continue to adapt and endure. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating two centuries of Vernon's history, and welcome many more to come.

ARTICLE BY SAEED MALIK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this article by Saeed Malik entitled, "U.S. Can't Support Both Musharraf and Ideal of Liberty."

Today, Pakistan is gripped by an existential crisis. This crisis comes just when Pakistanis were beginning to feel optimistic. An independent judiciary was taking root and the fourth estate of the press was in ascendancy. Accountability, long overdue, had finally arrived, or so the people of Pakistan thought.

The optimism was cut short this month when the U.S. ally-in-chief, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, fearing invalidation of his recent election by the Supreme Court, dissolved the court, closed the media and jailed dissidents by the thousands.

The measured and somewhat muted reaction of the Bush administration to this barbarity is not only morally bankrupt, it is downright dangerous. The fundamentalists on one side of this war on terror cannot defeat the fundamentalists on the other. Fundamentalism in any society will only be defeated and sidelined by moderates from within. By supporting Musharraf, albeit tacitly, the United States is sidelining the very moderates who must win this war. Musharraf's occasional delivery of a wanted terrorist cannot justify suppression of the fundamental freedoms of Pakistani civil society. A society thrives when its constituents take a stake in its well-being and its decision-making process.

It has been said that terrorists hate us because of our liberty and one must be either on the side of terrorists or the side of liberty. If today we do not support the Pakistanis who seek liberty, what will they think of us? Will our government deliver on this slogan when liberty is at stake in a Muslim country? Our goals are advanced by demanding restoration of the Supreme Court. We must also demand the immediate release of all judicial activists jailed after the so-called emergency. Pakistanis must realize that America stands for the rule of law and the liberty of all people. A golden opportunity to win the hearts and minds of the Pakistani masses beckons us. Sticking to support for an increasingly unpopular dictator in Pakistan will only solidify President Bush's 9 percent favorable opinion rating in Pakistan.

Although it has been generations since the CIA deposed Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq and installed the Shah, and decades since our government tried to forestall the Iranian revolution, Iranians have not forgotten these travesties. International relations must be based, first, on democratic principles. Propping up Musharraf negates these principles, fueling antagonism among Pakistanis.

I have a personal stake in this sad saga. My 57-year-old brother, Muneer Malik, a Santa Clara University law school graduate, has been "detained" under "preventive measures" in Pakistan's version of Guantánamo Bay. He is reportedly critically sick and without outside contact. Muneer's crime is that as president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, he was in the forefront of the movement to assert the independence of the Pakistani judiciary. Thousands of heroic lawyers have met a similar fate. Rejecting the recent purge of the Supreme Court, 13 of the 17 judges refused to