

people of the United States, and stewardship of the marine environment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies, and for other purposes:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, for their 200 years of dedicated research and service to the United States.

NOAA and its predecessors conducted some of the earliest oceanographic research and have continued to serve the United States for commerce, defense, and environmental purposes. NOAA is a leader for scientific research and environmental monitoring and protection, providing an outstanding example to the international community.

NOAA continues that storied legacy in the 21st century with and oceanographic monitoring, the protection of our natural resources, its stewardship of the marine environment, and as our first line of warning for storms and hurricanes.

NOAA programs have provided invaluable service to commerce and defense, serving throughout the country's history in war and peacetime; more than 100 million maps and charts for U.S. and Allied Forces.

Their programs promote safe and efficient commerce/transportation and work toward the advancement of a global environmental observation system. Programs also include missions for the conservation of marine resources, coastal management, and protection from storms and other hazards—especially Gulf Coast hurricanes.

NOAA's National Weather Service/Weather Forecast Offices at the Corpus Christi International Airport and the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport provide weather and flood warnings, daily forecasts, and meteorological and hydrologic data for the South Texas Gulf Coast area.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service/Seafood Inspection Program in Brownsville offers a voluntary inspection program for fishery products on a fee-for-service basis, as well as other services to local fishermen and fish processors.

NOAA's National Ocean Service operates seven tide stations in Texas to monitor sea level trends, provide real-time data for storm surge warning, including South Texas locations in Corpus Christi and Port Isabel.

This week I will greet NOAA researchers in my district who are seeking a new location for a weather research center. I look forward to welcoming these distinguished researchers and discussing their needs for the future weather research center.

HONORING HOLLY AND HENRY  
WENDT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative THOMPSON to congratulate Holly and Henry Wendt, who are being honored by Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County with the first annual Wetzel Community Leadership Award. They are being recognized for their contributions to life in Sonoma County and

their philanthropic leadership on behalf of numerous local causes and organizations.

Henry and Holly have been fixtures in Sonoma County for many years, where until recently they owned the highly regarded Quivira Vineyards. Mr. Wendt, formerly the CEO of SmithKline Beecham, spent four decades working in the pharmaceutical and health care industry, and he remains active on the boards of several major corporations.

Together, the Wendts have given greatly to the community in Sonoma County, particularly in the fields of education and health care. They offered their substantial resources to Healdsburg High School to renovate and expand the Holly and Henry Wendt Library. Mr. Wendt serves on the advisory board of the Pediatric Dental Initiative, and the Wendts' involvement has helped speed the development of the Redwood Empire Surgery Center. This facility will bring the highest quality dental care to youngsters in coastal northern California.

Mr. Wendt has given generously with his time and deep knowledge of healthcare to facilitate the work of Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County. His substantial leadership gift helped ensure that the Healdsburg District Hospital campaign was successful and the hospital remains an outstanding health care provider. Further, he has been instrumental in the success of the Community Foundation Sonoma County. Having served multiple terms as chairman of the board, he provided superb guidance and experience to help the foundation expand its resources and reach, and he remains a member of the leadership board.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, at this time it is appropriate that we congratulate Holly and Henry Wendt, who are receiving the Wetzel Community Leadership Award. The Wendts have been dynamic and generous figures in Sonoma County, and the wisdom and guidance they bring to philanthropic endeavors has been a boon to the community.

HONORING HOLLY AND HENRY  
WENDT

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OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Together, the Wendts have given greatly to the community in Sonoma County, particularly in the fields of education and health care. They offered their substantial resources to

Healdsburg High School to renovate and expand the Holly and Henry Wendt Library. In addition, their work with the Pediatric Dental Initiative, for which Mr. Wendt serves on the advisory board, has progressed the work of the soon to be opened Redwood Empire Surgery Center. This facility will bring the highest quality dental care to youngsters in coastal northern California.

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A TRIBUTE TO JAMES P.  
FREELAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor James P. Freeland. James was born January 7, 1940, in Durham, NC, to Willie and Annie Freeland. The youngest of six children, at age 11 he was selected as one of the Red Feather Poster Kids for the United Way Campaign representing the John Avery Boys Club for the city of Durham. He graduated high school in 1958 and was later employed by a local supermarket for 7 years as the assistant butcher.

James joined the U.S. Air Force in January 1962. He received an honorable discharge in 1966 and 3 years later moved to Brooklyn, New York, in May 1969. In February 1970, James obtained employment with the New York Telephone Company where he worked as a service technician and assistant manager. In September 1999, he retired from Verizon Communications after 29 years of dedicated service.

James joined New Canaan Baptist Church, the same year he married Gennie Chennault. In 1980, their daughter Jamelia was born. He is a member of the mass choir and the North Carolina Club. James also serves as the Men's Day chairman and president of the Building Fund Committee. In addition, he sings with the male choir and is a member of the trustee board, the Missionary Disciples Outreach Ministry and donates his time as a Sunday school teacher.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize James P. Freeland for his huge heart and generous spirit. He is a man who has a great sense of humor and who is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to James P. Free-land.

A TRIBUTE TO KIM WILLIAMS  
CLARK

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kim Williams Clark, an accomplished attorney, educator, and community leader.

Kim Williams Clark earned her B.S. in criminal justice from John Jay College, and earned her law degree from Rutgers University at Camden with the distinguished honor of receiving a Dean's list award. Daughter to community advocate Bessie L. Williams and former worker with Board of Education Jesse E. Williams, Kim currently serves as dean of the Office of Institutional Advancement at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. In this capacity, she builds corporate and foundation support, and creates new partnerships geared toward increasing funding for university projects, student centered initiatives, and external outreach.

Prior to her work with Long Island University, Kim Williams Clark served as associate dean of the Center for Continuing Education and Professional Development at Georgetown University. In addition, she also served as special advisor to the provost, director of institutional advancement and paralegal studies at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. During her career, she has organized resources and built alliances with government agencies and generated millions of dollars to support youth programming and urban community development. Coupled with this, she has maintained a law office in the New York City's financial district with a concentration in family and non-profit law, where she dedicates much of her time to representing indigent persons.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Kim is a member of numerous boards and councils including, the Carver Bank Scholarship Board, Greater New York and District of Columbia Chapters of the Links, Inc., and Coney Island and Crown Heights Neighborhood Advisory Board(s). Her many accomplishments have not gone unnoticed for Kim Williams Clark received the Trailblazer Award from New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery of the 18th District. In December 2007, New Canaan Baptist Church and Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS will present her with the Community Service Award.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Kim Williams Clark for her commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great individual of high morals, ethics, and integrity.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM  
DONALD SCHAEFER

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a true Maryland legend, Mr. William Donald Schaefer, on the occasion of his 86th birthday.

Mr. Schaefer was born in Baltimore, a city upon which he would come to have a lasting impact, on November 21, 1921. Following service in the U.S. Army during WWII, Mr. Schaefer returned to Maryland to work in law and eventually enter politics.

Over the course of 50 years, Mr. Schaefer would serve several years on the Baltimore City Council, four terms as Baltimore mayor, two terms as Maryland governor, and two terms as State Comptroller. He has left an indelible mark on Maryland and its people from his 50 years of public service.

He has become famous for his colorful personality, but his tireless efforts and dedication to public service have never wavered. He has acquired friends and admirers from both sides of the aisle because of this commitment.

His famous mantra as Baltimore mayor, "Do It Now," reflects his ability to get things done. The redeveloped and rejuvenated Baltimore, which so many of us today enjoy, is largely a result of his efforts during that time. Today, there are few Marylanders who can say that they haven't been positively affected by his leadership.

On a personal note, I had the great privilege of working for Governor Schaefer. His "do it now" philosophy provided a very valuable lesson for all of us in public office. He wanted to make sure that Maryland government addressed the needs of every Maryland resident regardless of their circumstances. He has always been one with little patience for pomp and circumstance.

On behalf of the residents of Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, I am proud to offer my best wishes to Mr. Schaefer.

HONORING LOIS CORBA

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois Corba as she celebrates her birthday. A party will be held in her honor on December 29th in Frankenmuth, MI.

Lois was born in Tecumseh, MI, one of nine children. The family moved to Flint and after her father purchased a farm, the family moved to West Branch. She attended St. Joseph Catholic School in West Branch and graduated the salutatorian from the high school in 1951. After graduation she returned to Flint and worked for an insurance agency for 7 years. She married Paul Corba in 1957. The couple had 7 children, Michelle, Paul Michael, Jon, Marsha, Bernadette, Angela and David. Paul passed away in 1987.

Continuing to work, Lois spent 17 years working as a secretary with the AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors. She retired from

this position in 1992. After two years Lois decided to return to the workforce and became the assistant to the director of the Frankenmuth Historical Association. From there she took her current position as the receptionist with Independence Village in Frankenmuth. She is active with the Widow's Group in Frankenmuth and Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Lois Corba as she celebrates her birthday and I wish her many, many more.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I mistakenly voted against H. Res. 37, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 710, with amendments. In fact, I support this critical legislation, which would make paired kidney donation legal and allow organizations like the United Network for Organ Sharing to track eligibility for paired donation.

I voted for passage of the original bill, H.R. 710, The Charlie Norwood Living Organ Donation Act, on March 7, 2007.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO  
COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE EVERGLADES  
NATIONAL PARK

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to introduce significant bipartisan legislation with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Everglades Caucus, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park.

For years, Representative DIAZ-BALART and I have been working together to preserve and restore the Everglades, and I am pleased to be introducing this resolution with him.

Sixty years ago tomorrow, President Harry S. Truman dedicated Everglades National Park. Today, this vast subtropical wilderness in the United States is habitat to many endangered species as well as an international center for business, agriculture, and tourism.

Everglades National Park has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance in recognition of its significance to all the people of the world.

Over time, however, management and development activities have destroyed our nations' majestic wetlands. Today the River of Grass is only half of its original size.

Sadly, the ecosystem's tree islands and mangroves have been largely destroyed and its estuaries have become barren.

In response to threats to this pristine ecosystem, in 2000, Congress passed an ambitious restoration plan called the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). In