

by providing real and safe opportunities for one-on-one friendships and new options for employment.

And while these activities may not sound like life-changing events to the average person, for individuals with intellectual disabilities, they make a world of difference. This bill helps accomplish that goal in a number of significant ways. It authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants or contracts with Best Buddies to conduct and expand its activities—with an eye on increasing the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities, as well as to promote outreach programs. This bill will go a long way toward dispelling negative, hurtful stereotypes and make clear the extraordinary gifts that people with intellectual disabilities nonetheless possess and utilize. More important, it will help move people with intellectual disabilities from the margins of society to the mainstream of society.

I am also pleased to note that this bill is budget neutral. The \$10 million authorization in this bill is offset by repealing two programs that in the most recent fiscal year were funded at \$10.4 million. I know Mr. HOYER and I look forward to working with our colleagues to enact this bill into law, in the hope that we can help raise the hope and dignity of people with intellectual disabilities, and further empower their full participation in our communities.

#### RECOGNIZING SHARON ADAMSON

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Sharon Adamson, coordinator for Boone County CARES (Child Abuse Resources and Educational Services), and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the safety of the children in Boone County, Iowa. For the past 14 years, Sharon has contributed her time and talents for the betterment of many young children, and for this I offer her my congratulations and thanks.

A native of Charles City, Sharon graduated from Moody Bible College in Chicago and received her B.A. in education from Trinity College in Deerfield, IL. After receiving her master's degree in counselor education she became a guidance counselor at an elementary/junior high school in Wisconsin before moving to Boone. While at CARES, Sharon played a key role in the growth of seven programs: Happy Bear, No More Secrets, Time Out for Moms, Parent Education, Children in the Middle, Stork's Nest, and Community CARES. She is very proud of Community CARES because it is a community created through "radical" hospitality which provides a safe place where people in need can go.

Sharon has made a significant impact on the Boone community by dedicating her career to benefiting and working towards growing a safe environment for all children. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Sharon Adamson for her leadership and service. I consider it an honor to represent her in the United States

Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Ms. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "OPEN Government Act."

Since coming to Congress, I have been working for an improved Freedom of Information Act process, a critical component to ensuring an open and transparent government. In 1996 Congress passed important legislation that reflected the changing technological times, the "Electronic Freedom of Information Act of 1996." This important law helped to make FOIA more efficient by providing public access to information including in an electronic format.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee, of which I am a member, has held several hearings during the past few years about the FOIA process where we learned that it has not progressed as well as we had hoped. Some agencies and departments are doing a better job of fulfilling freedom of information requests while some continue to lag behind.

Requesters often wait months or years to find out the status of their requests or to obtain the information. As a result, the backlogs at agencies and departments continue to grow. Frequently, the only recourse for the denial of requested information is to file lawsuits. However, many requesters cannot afford the high costs associated with court cases.

The "OPEN Government Act" includes many important provisions that I hope will improve the process and eliminate many of the problems that exist in today's system including an amendment that I offered in committee that would provide for greater disclosure to the FOIA requester about the exemption under which a deletion has been made from requested material.

I have heard from constituents who say that when they receive a response from the agency, they are unable to determine why certain information was redacted. While I recognize that in some cases linking a redaction to an exemption may reveal sensitive information, where possible I believe that agencies should specify which exemption applies to which redaction.

Passage of today's legislation is long overdue, and I commend Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS and their staffs for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANNA GONZALEZ

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anna Gonzalez, a resident of

Brooklyn for more than 40 years. Anna is the current director of the Hope Gardens Multi-Service Center; a community center that seeks to educate and empower the people of Bushwick, Brooklyn.

Anna Gonzalez, formerly Anna Rodriguez, attended Clara Barton High School. Ms. Gonzalez worked as a nurse during her 20s until she decided to take time off to raise a family. She first became involved in community activism at Public School 86, the elementary school her children attended. She worked as a parent leader, volunteering to help improve the school and then as a leader of a successful boycott to prevent the school's rezoning by local officials.

Ms. Gonzalez's participation in the boycott was a springboard to her next position as Community Associate with the Knickerbocker-Wycoff Service Center, an organization that assists residents with their problems and concerns. Ms. Gonzalez then worked at St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church, organizing and running youth activities and religious educational services. In 1981, she accepted a position at the P-60 Senior Center, now the Hope Gardens Multi-Service Center. Within 6 months she was promoted to director.

Ms. Gonzalez's tenure as the Director of Hope Gardens has been marked by huge growth in the number of services that are being offered as well as the number of people being served. Today, Hope Gardens is an important community resource. However, her professional responsibilities did not interfere with her community involvement. Ms. Gonzalez was elected twice, the first time as a write-in candidate, to Community School Board #32, serving as chair for 2 years. She has also served on Community Planning Board #4 for more than 20 years, serving as chair for more than 6 years.

Ms. Gonzalez has been married to Pablo Gonzalez for 46 years; is the mother of four children: George, Aida, Jose, and Ralph; and the grandmother of seven children: Christopher, Justin, Anissa, Jacob, Megan, Kelsey, and Jeremy.

Madam Speaker, I cannot say enough about Anna Gonzalez. She is extremely generous with her time and cares a lot about her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this awesome woman.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on December 19, 2007, I missed votes because of scheduled eye surgery in Dallas.

Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 1183, 1184, 1185 and 1186.

HONORING LOCAL AND STATE FIRST RESPONDERS, AND THE CITIZENS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN FACING THE SEVERE WINTER STORM OF DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, although much work is left to be done as our communities start to recover from the severe storms that ravaged Oregon and Washington on December 2 and 3, 2007, we can reflect and be grateful for the hard work of the thousands of our fellow Pacific Northwesterners who helped neighbors, families, and complete strangers during the storms and their aftermath. Without their efforts, the damage and loss of life from the storm may have been much more extensive.

We were all shocked by the devastating impact that these storms wreaked on Oregon. More than 10 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period with wind gusts ranging from 60 to 129 miles an hour. Communities along the coast were inundated, families huddled in shelters as homes were destroyed and the coast was cut off from the rest of Oregon as roads and bridges were washed out. Among the stark reminders of the terrible power of these storms are crippled railroad tracks and bridges in Tillamook County, damage to the National Guard Armory in Dallas and the flooding of most of the town of Vernonia as well as other communities up and down the coast.

Thankfully, first responders and ordinary citizens moved quickly to help their fellow Oregonians cope with the storm. Rescuers in one case used chainsaws and dodged falling trees to clear the way for an ambulance. Two Tillamook men also risked their lives to try and save a woman whose truck went into the Nehalem River on Highway 101. These are just two of the numerous stories of bravery by first responders and Good Samaritans who stepped up to help those impacted by the storm. Selfless Oregonians from across the State came to help in what turned out to be a spectacular response effort. It has been incredible to see the extraordinary efforts of so many.

I want to personally thank everyone who was involved. Their heroic service to our communities has been extraordinary and their efforts are deeply appreciated. I also want to extend my deepest sympathy to those whose family, friends, and loved ones perished in the storms. It is a tragedy that these individuals were taken from us in these terrible storms. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING KIARA DELLE HARGROVE FOR RECEIVING THE MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove,

an outstanding educator who has been selected to receive the Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is given to outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals. The recipients must demonstrate exceptional educational talent through their instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and the school. They must also represent themselves as leaders who engage and inspire students, colleagues, and the community.

Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove, a chemistry teacher at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, makes learning exciting by turning science experiments into competitions. She places importance on making sure her students are well-rounded individuals by integrating reading and writing strategies into her science lessons. She also differentiates instruction in order to teach a variety of academic levels at once. To ensure that students enter high school with the proper skills, Ms. Hargrove teaches remedial math and science study skills to incoming freshmen through the Summer Bridge Program, and serves as the ninth-grade advisor. As co-advisor of the Math Engineering and Science Association (MESA), she helps elevate the study of math and science among girls, especially African-Americans, at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School. Ms. Hargrove was chair of the School Improvement Team, is co-author of the School Improvement Plan, and has influenced many of her fellow teachers to go beyond traditional approaches to teaching.

Ms. Hargrove's love of her profession and the students that she teaches is evidenced by the energy she puts into her work and the achievements of her students. As someone who has been active and keenly interested in education policy throughout my professional life, I have the utmost respect for teachers like Ms. Hargrove; she represents the passion and commitment of so many others across Maryland and the Nation who are working extremely hard to educate our children. As we work to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congress ought to be doing all it can to provide these dedicated men and women with a law and the resources to empower this commitment and passion.

Madam Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove who has been recognized as an outstanding educator and will receive the Milken National Educator Award.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF DELAWARE, OHIO

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the community of Delaware, OH. Ohio Magazine recently named Delaware one of Ohio's Best Hometowns.

Praised for its small town atmosphere, eclectic character and friendly neighborhoods, Delaware is a charming place to call home. Kindness and hospitality are lifelong qualities of this community and its members.

As one of Ohio's fastest growing communities it's easy to see why Ohio Magazine has named it one of Ohio's Best Hometowns. Home of the Little Brown Jug, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the Central Ohio Symphony, Delaware has much to offer its residents and visitors alike. The blending of old and new has created an energetic and historic downtown while preserving the personality of small-town America.

I offer my congratulations to Mayor Windell Wheeler and the members of the Delaware community. All have produced a welcoming place for Central Ohioans to call home.

REMEMBERING HENRY HYDE

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we are all saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde). He will be sorely missed not only by his fellow Members, but by the countless people who came in contact with him on a daily basis.

One such person is Mr. Bert Caswell, a guide with the Capitol Guide Service. I am including for the RECORD a poem written by Bert about the late Mr. Hyde, as well as a recent article from The Hill discussing his poetry. I hope all Members will take the time to read this poem and remember Henry Hyde.

SOMETHING'S, YOU CAN NOT HYDE?

Something's!  
You can not Hyde!  
That lives with us, so very deep down inside. . . throughout our lives!  
All in what we say and do!  
All in who we so touch. . . that make us a real who's who!  
As in our times, that which so comes into view!  
For it's all about how you so carry yourself, as when you rise!  
For it's all in what you so do, in others eyes, as your time upon this earth goes by!  
For these, are the things that which one can not Hyde!  
Fast breaking in our lives!  
To court our hearts, all in our part called life that which so defines!  
All in The Game of Life, you were so great Henry Hyde!  
Henry Hyde, was such The Man. . .  
Who upon the hardwood and on the floor of The House, did so boldly stand!  
All because of his great heart, and stance. . . and his gentle hand!  
From That Land of Lincoln. . .  
From one court of greatness to another, always thinking!  
As across the aisle he reached out his hand! Quiet in his calm and caring grace.  
For his service to God and Country he now so holds his place. . .  
And for all of those magnificent children, he did stand!  
Oh, Henry Hyde,  
You were, But The Man! For in you we can so understand!  
What it is to be a leader, a patriot, a family man. . . and God fearing man!  
Yes, In Life. . . Something's, You Just Can Not Hyde!