Let me point out, Madam Speaker, that Assemblyman Schroeder's tremendous efforts with regard to improving the economic conditions in the neighborhoods he serves is surpassed only by his commitment to providing the most vulnerable among his constituents with the educational tools they need in order to build better lives for themselves and their families.

I refer specifically to his creation of the South Buffalo Education Center, a school offering GED training to persons who had not completed high school. The South Buffalo Education Center has graduated more than 200 persons, and has the highest graduation and retention rates of any GED program in New York State, it is truly an accomplishment of which he should be proud.

Very few public servants can point to a series of tangible accomplishments as remarkable as those achieved by Assemblyman Schroeder, who has just begun his seventh year service to his community as an elected official. Despite this, the Assemblyman continues to expand the breadth and depth of his work with the development of Buffalo RiverFest Park.

Expected to break ground later this year, the new riverfront park will be an integral component of the redevelopment of Buffalo's waterfront. Assemblyman Schroeder and his partners at the Valley Community Association have attracted $1.2 million in public and private funds to this important endeavor.

Simply put, Madam Speaker, as a constituent of Assemblyman Mark J.F. Schroeder, I am proud that he is my Assemblyman, I am proud that he is a close colleague in both government and politics, and I am proud to call him my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALEB SCHMITT

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caleb Schmitt for winning the 135-pound individual Indiana wrestling State championship. This title is a fitting conclusion to an outstanding season and career for the Castle High School senior.

Schmitt has racked up many accolades in his 4 years wrestling for the Knights including school records for wins in a season, wins in a career, and technical falls in a career. He was a sectional champion all 4 years and his teammates voted him team MVP in three seasons. He also collected two conference championships and numerous invitational titles.

Schmitt displays his athletic versatility with his success on the soccer field, where he was a 4-year starter and letter winner on the varsity team. He will continue his soccer career in the fall at the University of Southern Indiana.

Congratulations to Caleb Schmitt for all of his achievements.

CONGRESSIONAL CONSTITUTION CAUCUS' WEEKLY ''CONSTITUTION HALF HOUR''

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, we are here today to announce our support of the Enumerated Powers Act authored by our good friend from Arizona, Mr. SHADEGG. As the founder and chairman of the Congressional Constitution Caucus, I urge my fellow Members to cosponsor this legislation.

Article VI, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution states: ''The Senators and Representatives before mentioned . . . shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution.'' On January 4, each of us followed this constitutional mandate and swore such an oath. Yet in the past two months, we have passed legislation without first considering the very document that grants us legislative authority. As a result, taxpayer dollars are being wasted on programs and projects that overstep the constitutional jurisdiction of the Federal Government. And personal freedoms and State priorities are being overshadowed or even forgotten.

Unfortunately, this trend is not new to the 110th Congress. In recent decades, there has been a sharp escalation of funding for existing Federal programs and creation of new ones. The bloated bureaucracy we have today is certainly not the type of central government envisioned by our forefathers. As Thomas Jefferson wrote in an 1808 letter, ''The same prudence which in private life would forbid our paying our own money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the dispensation of the public moneys.''

It is time for us to explain our distribution of taxpayer dollars. Our constituents should be assured that we are upholding the document that protects their freedoms. Otherwise, the Federal Government will continue to overstep its boundaries, encroaching on the freedom of the people.

Our Founding Fathers deliberately wrote a constitution of enumerated powers. While some countries have attempted to limit government by writing constitutions that specify every single area in which the Federal Government does not have jurisdiction, the framers knew that such a constitution would be unnecessarily tedious. Therefore, in Article I, Section 8, the founders specifically listed congressional powers. The 10th Amendment grants all other legislative powers to the states.

It makes sense that Congress should perform only the duties prescribed by the Constitution. The United States has thrived as a nation precisely because the freedom of the people has been protected by a limited government. The Constitution is the anchor that protects American citizens from the storms of a controlling central government.

James Madison assured early Americans in The Federalist No. 45 that ''the powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government are few and defined.'' Madison continued to operate under that belief even after the Constitution was ratified. In fact, his last act as president was to veto the Bonus Bill, which authorized federal funds for public works projects.

Today, Members justify passing legislation that is even more expansive than the Bonus Bill. They argue that Article 1, Section 8 allows us to pass any legislation, as long as it provides for the ''general Welfare'' or is ''necessary and proper.'' Madison would have been appalled by our liberal interpretation of these terms. In The Federalist No. 41 he asked, ''For what purpose could the enumeration of particular powers be inserted, if these and all others were meant to be included in the preceding general power?''

James Wilson, the author of the General Welfare clause explained to the Pennsylvania ratification convention that the words ''necessary and proper'' are ''limited, and defined by the following, 'for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.' It is saying no more than that the powers we have already particularly given, shall be effectually carried into execution.''

For these reasons, Madison explained that he could not sign the Bonus Bill unless an amendment allowing such an expenditure were first added to the Constitution.

Mr. SHADEGG's commonsense legislation follows Madison's logic by ensuring that every bill introduced in the u.s. Congress include a statement declaring the specific constitutional authority under which the law is proposed to be enacted. Following such a guideline would help return our nation to the principles of limited government, Federalism, and the 10th Amendment. And, such a principle is not only consistent with our oath, but it is also a smarter use of our constituents' tax dollars.

The Enumerated Powers Act will stem the flow of unconstitutional legislation by compelling Members to reconsider the intended role of the Federal Government. I strongly urge all members of the Constitution Caucus to cosponsor this legislation. Congress must begin to justify its actions to the states, local governments, and, ultimately, the people themselves.

THE ''SCOOTER'' LIBBY CASE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, if there is anything we learned from the conviction of ''Scooter'' Libby yesterday, it's that the First Amendment and freedom of the press are still behind bars.

The need for a federal media shield bill has never been more apparent.

Yesterday Mr. Libby was convicted of lying to a grand jury and obstruction of justice. This is reprehensible. Mr. Libby will be held to a high standard and he should be.

However, as the Washington Post editorial page points out this morning, Joe Wilson also lied about who sent him to Africa, what he found there, and about his wife being a covert CIA agent.

The Washington Post today even calls Mr. Wilson a ''blowhard.''

Ironically, while Mr. Wilson was lying to the press and creating a partisan furor, Mr. Libby was telling reporters the truth. Mr. Libby may have later lied to the grand jury and failed to own up to his sources in his testimony, but what he told the press was the truth. And, therein lies the real travesty that this case

brings to light: that freedom of the press is still behind bars.

This case presented us with the long spectacle of reporters being jailed and threatened with jail time for not revealing their confidential sources. As we saw with former New York Times reporter Judith Miller, without the same confidentiality protection that doctors, lawyers, clergy and so many others have, reporters are forced either to reveal their confidential sources or go to jail. In her case, Judy Miller honorably chose 85 days in jail.

But many reporters and their sources will not want to have to make the same decision.

Because there is no federal media shield law, the real losers are actually not reporters but the American public. Confidential sources and whistleblowers within the government who expose wrongdoing and injustice in order to hold the government accountable will keep the facts to themselves because the reporters to whom they speak cannot promise them confidentiality. The chilling effect is real, and the American public will suffer.

That is the real tragedy of this case.

It's time to repair the tear in the First Amendment. It's time to pass a federal media shield law. Repersentative RICK BOUCHER and I will be reintroducing the Free Flow of Information Act soon, and I urge this Congress to act on it expeditiously. Let us free the First Amendment by passing this important legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF TED TESTERMAN

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Ted Testerman, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away March 5, 2007. Theodore W. ''Ted'' Testerman lived a life of entrepreneurship, service, and was known by all for his fairness to all those around him, even his business competitors.

He was married to Emma Greene for 55 years. They had two sons Hugh and William, and five grandchildren. Ted was very dedicated to his family, a quality that is sought after in today's world.

He served the great State of Tennessee as a member of the Sullivan County Election Commission since 1974. He was also a past president of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, former member of the Bristol Jaycees, and the Kiwanis Club of Bristol. He was truly a pillar of Bristol.

Theodore W. ''Ted'' Testerman started working in a men's clothing store as a salesman and by 1964 he owned the business, Blakely-Mitchell, which became the epicenter for community discussion in Bristol.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Theodore W. ''Ted'' Testerman. He was a dedicated family man, a foundation to the Bristol community, and entrepreneur. His service is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

THE CITIZENSHIP PROMOTION ACT OF 2007

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Citizenship Promotion Act of 2007. The goal of the legislation is to minimize the obstacles that legal immigrants face on the road to becoming U.S. citizens.

During my 15 years in Congress, I have made citizenship and immigration issues the cornerstone of my work here. In my district, we have created innovative naturalization workshops that have become a national model for legislators around the nation. I am proud to say that these workshops have helped more than 40,000 Chicago-area immigrants to become U.S. citizens.

But there is much more to these workshops than numbers. There is something special, something amazing, about seeing the pride, the promise, and the confidence on a person's face after they have completed the citizenship application process. Men and women who take the oath of citizenship are committed to the responsibilities of being American citizens and are equally dedicated to making the most of America's opportunities.

They have done everything right. They work hard and play by the rules. Yet, this Administration continues to put citizenship out of reach for many hard working individuals by proposing unrealistic and punitive fees to complete the citizenship process.

And the proposed fee hikes, which were announced a few weeks ago, are a glaring example of the government imposing a higher price on its customers, while continuing to offer inadequate, inefficient and ineffective service.

That would never fly in the business world, and it shouldn't when it comes to providing government services.

Prospective citizens are not asking for a free ride—they never have. They are simply asking for fairness, and for a broken bureaucracy, with an unacceptable backlog, to stop trying to fix its failures, and its inefficiencies, on the backs of low-income working families.

In recent years, USCIS has increasingly burdened prospective citizens with indirect costs not related to the application process. The legislation I am introducing today would help reverse that trend in a way that makes sense for prospective citizens and for the agency.

It would freeze fees at their current rates until we can conduct proper oversight and thoroughly review the proposed fee structure.

It would also ensure that indirect costs, those not associated with the application process, can be funded through the appropriations process and not through increased filing fees. The legislation would also help ensure that the citizenship test is administered fairly—and justly—and that people aren't deterred from pursuing the process because of electronic filing barriers.

In addition, the legislation would set up the New Americans Initiative. This would establish a grant program to fund the work of community-based organizations to promote and increase citizenship opportunities through application assistance, outreach and community education, and English and citizenship classes. We have seen a version of this project thrive in Illinois under the leadership of Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Madam Speaker, let me close with this point. President Theodore Roosevelt once said: ''Americanism is a question of principle, of purpose, of idealism, of character. It is not a matter of birthplace or creed or line of descent.''

Let's work to ensure that those who possess the principle, the purpose, the idealism and the character of America can earn the chance to achieve the American Dream. And let's ensure that they are not priced out of the process.

Let's work to ensure that they can continue to build and better our great nation, as immigrants have done for generations. Let's work to ensure that hard working men and women can fully share in the rights that citizens enjoy and can also help shoulder the enormous responsibilities that come with this incredible opportunity.

HONORING THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIRGINIA'S STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, this year is the 220th anniversary of Virginia's passage of its historic Statute for Religious Freedom. This measure, authored by Thomas Jefferson, was so important to the future President that he insisted that his authorship of this bill be memorialized for all time on his tombstone.

As Bryan Fischer, executive director of the Idaho Family Alliance, noted in a recent article in the Idaho Statesman, Jefferson's ''statute is problematic for groups who like to cite Jefferson in support of their effort to remove all mention of God, and Christianity in particular, from the public square'' (January 29, 2007).

As Mr. Fischer observes, ''In the first line of the statute (Jefferson) refers to 'Almighty God,'" and also includes references to ''the Holy Author of our religion'' and the ''Lord both of body and mind.'' Most historians agree that Mr. Jefferson is referring to Jesus Christ.

The respected American University historian Daniel Dreisbach, an Oxford Ph.D. and careful student of Jefferson's understanding of church and state issues, echoes the same theme: ''Jefferson firmly believed that the First Amendment, with its metaphoric 'wall of separation,' prohibited religious establishments by the federal government only. Addressing the same topic of religious proclamations, Jefferson elsewhere relied on the Tenth Amendment, arguing that because 'no power to prescribe any religious exercise' has been delegated to the 'General [i.e., federal] Government . . . it must then rest with the States, as far as it can be in any human authority'.''

Put simply, Jefferson never envisioned that the ''wall of separation'' would be used as a pretext for government hostility to religion. To the contrary, he first used this phrase in a letter to the Baptist congregations of Danbury, Connecticut. Here's the phrase used in its