

Clerks and Finance Officer Association; International Institute of Municipal Clerk's Board Member of the Missouri Municipal League; and a member of the Morgan County Historical Society.

In addition, Kay is a member of the Women's Civic Club; a member of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association; a charter member of Missouri B-2 Gold Wing Riders Association; was awarded the B-2 Chapter of the Year Couple in 2000 & 2007; a member of West Central Riders; has served on the Chamber of Commerce Board and Old Tyme Apple Festival for 23 years; was chosen Citizen of the Year January, 1991; co-established the Adult Winter Volleyball league; a member of the 1986 Co-Ed Volleyball Team that placed 2nd in the Missouri Show-Me State Games; and Chaired the Committee to enter The Old Tyme Apple Festival into the Library of Congress for its Birthday Celebration.

Leona "Kay" Hutchison Williams is a leader in her community. She was one of the first tellers at the Morgan County Bank in 1963 and has served as secretary for the National Farmers Organization. Ms. Williams has also served as city clerk, city collector, and deputy city clerk working with 7 mayors and 35 different aldermen. Outside of public service, her greatest joy is time spent with her husband, Lonnie Joe, their two daughters, and one step grandson.

Madam Speaker, I wish Leona "Kay" Hutchison Williams all the best in her retirement and I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking her for her commitment to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, March 12, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 85, H. Res. 136, and H. Res. 89 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 136 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 85, the Energy Technology Transfer Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 137 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 136, Commending the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 138 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 89, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day, I would have voted "yea."

COMMENDING OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I took to the floor in the beginning days of the 110th

Congress to applaud the aggressive ethics package we passed.

At the time I noted my confidence that those ethics rules were the first of many steps that we would take to bring back trust and civility to Congress.

I'm proud that this week the Congress will take several more steps forward to promote accountability and openness in government by strengthening protections for whistleblowers, providing timely responses to Freedom of Information Act requests, restoring access to Presidential records, and limiting Federal no-bid contracts.

I can think of nothing more important than assuring the people we are elected to serve that this Congress—and indeed this government—is open, ethical and accessible. The measures we will vote on this week continue the important work we have already begun. I commend my colleagues in bringing forward these important pieces of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained Monday, March 12, 2007, and missed three suspension votes. Please note in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that had I been present, I would have voted as noted below:

Rollcall vote 136: "yea."

Rollcall vote 137: "yea."

Rollcall vote 138: "yea."

INTRODUCING THE LEGAL TIMBER PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, along with Congressman ROBERT WEXLER and Congressman JERRY WELLER, I am introducing the "Legal Timber Protection Act, LTPA." The LTPA prohibits trade in illegally harvested timber by extending the protections of the Lacey Act to timber, while ensuring that legal timber trade isn't harmed. Specifically, the LTPA bans the import, export, transport, purchase, sale, or possession of timber that has been taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of a foreign law or international environmental treaty. It has been crafted to make sure that it will not prohibit trade in legal timber or impose burdensome regulations on American timber companies.

Illegal logging threatens some of the world's richest and most vulnerable forests. The illegal removal of high-value threatened tree species destined for international markets is often the first step leading to forest clearance. The tracks and roads built to access and remove timber become entryways for further illegal cutting, hunting and burning. The easy accessibility to the depths of the forest and fragmentation further threatens already endangered plants and animals and leaves others vulnerable to achieving this status. As illegal

logging contributes to deforestation, the water balance and dynamics of fragile ecosystems are disrupted. Deforestation accounts for 20 percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions—more than the entire global transportation sector.

In addition, illegal logging creates huge financial losses to producing nations. By avoiding export duties, timber royalties and taxes on their profits, companies operating unlawfully are robbing national governments of in excess of \$15 billion annually on public lands alone. This loss in revenue decreases governments' ability to invest in the forestry sector to promote sustainable forest management and conserve their natural forest resources.

At the same time, given that as much as 30 percent of hardwood lumber and plywood traded globally could be of suspicious origin, responsible U.S. companies lose an estimated \$460 million in export opportunities every year because of displacement caused by illegally harvested timber. On top of that, the annual value of U.S. exports is between \$500–\$700 million lower due to downward pressure on prices from illegally harvested timber. As Oregon produces approximately 13 percent of U.S. lumber, losses to Oregon are estimated to be between \$130–\$150 million every year.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and with all the stakeholders on this issue to pass this important bipartisan piece of legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA "TRISH" CALLAGHAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Patricia "Trish" Callaghan, of Alhambra, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women.

Trish was born in San Francisco, California, and was raised in the San Gabriel Valley. She earned her undergraduate degree from San Diego State University and went on to receive her postgraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ms. Callaghan is widely admired for her long career with the Garvey Unified School District. As an educator, her goal was to make learning a joyful experience that would "come alive" for over a thousand middle school students. Trish set high standards for all her students and created a stimulating, challenging and meaningful learning environment that met the student's diverse needs.

While working as a full-time teacher, Trish participated in special committees and projects at both the school and district levels. She was a member of the Educational Technology Advisory Committee and the Curriculum Planning Committee. Trish was responsible for drafting grants and recruiting funds that supported the school-site technology program. Trish also authored the applications for the California Distinguished School Award in 2006 and the Title I Achieving School in 2004.

Despite her busy career as an educator, Trish has done an excellent job of following her family's motto of "giving back to the community." She has been volunteering for Huntington Hospital for the past 21 years and she

is currently a board member of the Fall Food and Wine Committee. Ms. Callaghan has also done extensive work with the Junior League of Pasadena where she was involved in a variety of community projects. Through the Junior League, she was able to assist in the production of a foster family recruitment video and worked on the Pediatric Play Therapy project.

Now that she is retired, Trish intends to spend more time with family and friends, and continue her volunteer work. Trish is looking forward to working as a docent at the Japanese Garden in the Huntington Library, where she will give tours to 4th–12th grade students.

Ms. Callaghan's devotion to her career and her long-term commitment to the prosperity of our community serves as a true inspiration to us all. I ask all members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Patricia "Trish" Callaghan.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES AND THEIR PLAYERS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 162, recognizing the contributions of the Negro Baseball Leagues and their players for their achievements, dedication and sacrifices to baseball and the Nation.

During the late 1800s, despite numerous attempts, viable, professional leagues, with players of color, had difficulty growing into large professional enterprises. The Negro Baseball League grew out of both necessity, as segregation prevented players of color from participating in organized leagues, such as the National Association of Base Ball Players, which banned black athletes, and a love for the game of baseball. During these times, although few black players played alongside white players most were subjected to regional prejudices and bans preventing black players from playing, lodging or eating in segregated establishments.

In the years following the American Civil War and the Reconstruction era, black baseball emerged as a viable and exciting enterprise in the East and Mid-Atlantic states. One of the first baseball games between two all-black teams was held in September 1860 in Hoboken, New Jersey. In the years that followed, black teams played one another when they could, through informal networks. In the early 1880s there were some 200 all-black independent teams that played one another throughout the country. It would take the collaboration of three men: John W. "Bud" Fowler, one of the first known professional black baseball players; Moses "Fleetwood" Walker and Frank Grant to organize these teams in what became known as the Negro League.

The first all-black professional team was formed in 1885, when the Babylon Black Panthers was sponsored by a white businessman from Trenton, New Jersey. Renamed the Cuban Giants, the team, along with 10 others, formed the first Negro League, called the southern League of Base Ballists. The league

was a commercial success and by the end of World War I black baseball had become the premier entertainment attraction for urban black populations. In 1920, under the leadership of Andrew "Rube" Foster, owner of the Chicago American Giants, the disparate black leagues of the National Negro League was formed.

Throughout the history of the Negro League players filled stands, electrified fans and performed athletic feats that were previously unimaginable. The skills, spirit and dedication of players not only contributed to the viability of all-black teams but also helped integrate the sport of baseball. Players like Jackie Robinson, the first black player to play in the major league, Larry Doby, Leroy "Satchel" Paige and so many others found their start in the Negro League and without the Negro League baseball might not be the consummate American sport it is today.

A TRIBUTE TO DIANE ACOSTA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Diane Acosta, of San Gabriel, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women.

Diane was born in Los Angeles, California, and grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. She attended Rosemead High School and then went on to receive a bachelor's degree in social work from California State University Los Angeles.

Ms. Acosta began her career as general partner for a marketing consulting company where her clients included a regional shopping center, various hospitals, small and large businesses, and non-profit organizations. She currently is the development director for San Gabriel Union Church and Christian School where she is responsible for community outreach, fundraising, volunteer coordination, and special event planning. She has been with the church and school for the last 5 years.

Her involvement with the San Gabriel Union Church has provided Diane with a new medium for reaching out to those facing hardship. She is a member of the Deacon Ministry, a group that strives to meet the emergency physical, financial, health, and emotional needs of the church's congregation. Diane is also a member of the Outreach Ministry Teams, a group that develops new ways for the church to become a more effective community partner.

Most notably, Diane is admired for her dedication to the community she feels lucky to call home. She is a board member for both the San Gabriel and Temple City Chambers of Commerce and she is the president of the San Gabriel Community Coordinating Council. She is also a board member of the San Gabriel Community Foundation, a member of the San Gabriel Education Foundation, and has held leadership positions with local Parent Teacher Associations.

In addition to her many professional and personal accomplishments, Ms. Acosta is a wife and mother of three children. She enjoys

watching her kids play sports, going on vacation, and spending time with good friends.

Ms. Acosta's devotion to her career and her long-time commitment to the prosperity of our community serves as a true inspiration to us all. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Diane Acosta.

A TRIBUTE TO JASIK "JASMEN" JARAHIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Jasik "Jasmen" Jarahian. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women.

Born in Iran, Jasmen received her master's degree in accounting and held various positions with the York Shire Insurance Company in Tehran, Iran. In 1984, Jasmen moved to the United States and settled in Glendale, California. She joined Group Services and Tax Management Company, owned by her brother.

Since 1991, Mrs. Jarahian has been the general accountant/controller for the Armenian Relief Society of the Western United States of America (ARS). Mrs. Jarahian oversees a variety of funds, orphan sponsorships, and the co-ordinating of assistance. Her efforts have helped the Armenian Relief Society provide philanthropic assistance to isolated villages in Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh). For almost 100 years, the Armenian Relief Society has "brought women together to laugh or cry, cook or eat, learn or teach, always serving, always striving for something larger than ourselves." Mrs. Jarahian's work in our community is an ideal illustration of that mission.

In addition to her work with the Armenian Relief Society, Mrs. Jarahian is an active member of Homenetmen (Armenian General Athletic Union). She is a founding member of the Davtian-Meyramian Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization that organizes after-school programs that promote education and multiculturalism for children in elementary and middle school. Mrs. Jarahian also does volunteer work with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Project, a group whose mission it is to recruit and provide matched unrelated donors for bone marrow or stem cell transplantation for patients that are suffering from leukemia or other blood related illnesses.

She was named "Mother of the Year" by the North Hollywood ARS Meghri Chapter and was deemed an "Honorary Artsakh Citizen" by the Dzaghgatsogh Village. Jasmen became an honorary citizen after several years of leading efforts to renovate Dzaghgatsogh Village, including the museum, the local hall, and school. Jasmen spends her free time mentoring women and enjoys inspiring others to volunteer.

Mrs. Jarahian's devotion to her career and her long-time commitment to the prosperity of our community serves as a true inspiration to us all. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Jasik "Jasmen" Jarahian.