

synonymous with opportunity, equality, freedom and hope.

On April 25, 1507, German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller and Vautran Ludd, Chaplain to the Duke of Lorraine, created a map that gave the name "America" to the new world discovered by Christopher Columbus 15 years earlier. According to historical accounts, the name was a tribute to Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator who made 4 voyages to the new world between 1497 and 1504.

Waldseemüller and Ludd published 1,000 copies of the map that first coined the term "America," and I am proud to say that the only surviving copy—a priceless relic of our shared heritage—now resides in the Library of Congress, after being purchased in 2003 from the German Prince Waldburg-Wolfegg for \$10 million.

In the 500 years that have passed since the word "America" was first used, the term has become more of an idea than a name—a concept that celebrates what is best about humanity; a principle that defines what liberty, justice and unity are really all about; and a goal for the people of the world to strive towards.

We have come a long way over the last half-millennium—from a name on a piece of paper to a moral, political and economic leader among nations. And it gives me great pride to mark this momentous occasion on the House Floor and to join people all over the world in celebrating the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a notion that now means so much to so many people from all walks of life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a strong advocate for women and human rights, speaking out against injustice in our country and around the world. She was the first African American woman to chair a Committee in Congress, and will be remembered for her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every American's vote counts.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the 107th Congress, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked tirelessly to ensure that women from both sides of the aisle participated in the activities of the Caucus. She was a warm and open person, and was a true mentor to me during my first term in Congress.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her husband, Mr. James McDonald, Jr., her children and all of her family and friends. Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since President Woodrow Wilson signed its charter on May 17, 1917, the organization has trained thousands of volunteers that have responded to numerous disasters in Humboldt County, California.

The lives of the citizens of Humboldt County have been greatly improved by the presence and benevolence of this organization. Whether disaster struck a single family or the entire community, the Red Cross has provided disaster relief focused on meeting basic human needs of shelter, food, and health services.

In its 90-year history, the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross has responded to hundreds of disasters; playing a critical role after the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding of 1964, four earthquakes that struck during the early 1990s and the New Years Eve storm of 2006. They provided assistance and sent volunteers to help after the attacks of September 11, the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina.

Leaders of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross have trained thousands of community volunteers in first-aid, health and safety services and disaster preparedness. They are committed to strengthening the ability of Humboldt County and its communities to prevent, respond and recover from unexpected emergencies and disasters and have led the local effort of a broader campaign of national preparedness.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the commitment, dedication and inspiration of the many individuals who make up the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross and extend our hearty congratulations on the celebration of its 90th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a simple solution to the global warming problem, a carbon tax.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Earth Day. Today, in Earth Day's honor, I propose the Save Our Climate Act. The first Earth Day in 1970 led to new laws to improve air and water quality, and was an important impetus for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. On Earth Day 2007, climate change is the preeminent environmental concern. I hope 2007 will be remembered as the year we ad-

ressed global warming by passing the Save Our Climate Act.

Climate change is a worldwide problem requiring each nation to do its part. The International Panel on Climate Change—600 of the world's leading scientists—suggests that temperatures may increase three to seven degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" may have seemed like a scare tactic, but if we don't wake up to the realities presented in his documentary, we will soon wake up to flooded coastlines, unfarmable plains, and species extinction.

To date, the United States has failed to take necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Though the U.S. emits approximately six billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year—comprising nearly 24 percent of the world's total emissions—we have failed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. If we continue our refusal to act, we cannot expect other countries to do their part.

The vast majority of environmentalists and climate change experts agree that we need to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to stop the current pace of climate change. Every year we delay enacting legislation to slow climate change makes it that much more difficult to stop global warming.

Economists widely agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save our planet from catastrophic climate change. The Save Our Climate Act is just that, a simple tax on fossil fuels that will decrease emissions and create immediate incentives for green energy. Under this legislation, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—will be taxed at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon content. That means coal, which has higher carbon content than natural gas, will be taxed at a higher rate. This tax structure promotes the use of less carbon intensive fossil fuels and creates an incentive to use other non-carbon-based fuels.

The tax will increase by \$10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the U.S. reduces its CO₂ emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen at that level. The Save Our Climate Act will generate a small energy price increase each year, equal to about 2 cents per gallon of gas annually. As the tax rate increases, fossil fuel prices will increase, producers will have an incentive to invest in cleaner alternative energies, and those alternative energy sources will become more competitive.

While economists agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce CO₂ emissions, few agree on what to do with the revenues raised from the tax. The Save Our Climate Act does not prescribe how we should spend carbon tax revenue, but recognizes the many competing interests for this revenue. Low and middle-income consumers who may face modestly higher energy prices under this system could receive some of the revenue in the form of reduced income taxes or increased tax deductions or credits. We could also spend the money on alternative energy sources, health care, education, or a myriad other domestic environmental and social priorities.

The Save Our Climate Act is a simple solution to a very difficult problem. Some have suggested a system of CO₂ emission caps and a market to buy and sell emissions credits, often referred to as "cap and trade." I

worry that industry will thwart any attempt to set a real emissions cap. I also worry about the bureaucratic costs of effectively enforcing such a system. In contrast, a carbon tax is easy to administer and reduces CO₂ emissions by raising the price of fossil fuels, thereby reducing demand for those fuels. It's Economics 101, but unlike most school lectures, this econ lesson could save our planet.

Global climate change is too important for us to continue our inaction because of industry stakeholders or the worry over political consequences of raising taxes. A carbon tax is the best way to address the problem of global warming. I urge all my colleagues to do what's right for our country and the world by supporting the Save Our Climate Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE ANESTHESIOLOGY TEACHING FUNDING RESTORATION ACT OF 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Anesthesiology Teaching Funding Restoration Act of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by Representatives JIM RAMSTAD (R-MN), DARLENE HOOLEY (D-OR) and PETE SESSIONS (R-TX).

This bill would restore 100 percent payment of the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) for teaching anesthesiologists involved in training physician residents in two concurrent anesthesia cases. The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) has endorsed this important legislation.

Paying teaching anesthesiologists 100 percent of the PFS for two concurrent anesthesia cases was the policy of Medicare until 1994. In that year, the Health Care Financing Agency (now called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) issued a rule reducing the Medicare payment to teaching anesthesiologists involved in training physician residents in two concurrent anesthesia cases to 50 percent for the second case. This rule has reduced the financial viability of medical schools and hospitals which have teaching anesthesiology programs.

Since the 1994 rule change, 31 anesthesiology residency programs have closed. An ASA survey of anesthesiology residency programs found that the average program was losing \$400,000 per year partially as a result of the payment reduction. Some programs serving larger Medicare populations report losses in excess of \$1 million per year. The UCLA program reported annual losses in excess of \$600,000.

Many programs receive subsidies from their medical schools or universities to offset these losses. However, some programs are experiencing additional losses as local commercial health care providers, including United and Blue Cross/Blue Shield in selected areas, drop full payments for overlapping cases and adopt the Medicare 50 percent policy for their commercial beneficiaries.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase the flow of Medicare funds into these important teaching programs while also pro-

viding the programs an opportunity to dispute pay reductions by health care commercial providers. By increasing access to well-trained anesthesiologists, the ultimate result will be healthier patients.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Americans have access to the highest quality anesthesiology services.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT BRANDON GREENWAY AND COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DOUGLAS GREENWAY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two Americans who achieved greatness in April 2007 at Fort Benning, Georgia. SSG Brandon Greenway and his father, CSM Douglas Greenway, became the first father-son team to compete in the U.S. Army David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition.

The U.S. Army David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition started in 1981 to determine the best two-man Ranger team in the country. The strenuous 3-day competition is designed to test the teams' physical, mental, and technical abilities as Rangers with less than 50 percent of the teams completing the competition. Every year, the event brings a great spotlight to Fort Benning, as the best and brightest Rangers in the U.S. Army display their incredible capabilities.

This event is designed to challenge the most tactically skilled and athletically gifted members of the U.S. Army. This is why so many took note when CSM Douglas Greenway entered this year's competition with his 23 year old son, SSG Brandon Greenway. At 47 years old, Sergeant Major Greenway was also the oldest Soldier ever to enter the competition. This father-son team met the challenges of this grueling competition and finished in the top half of the field.

This competition is a great way to cap the career of CSM Douglas Greenway, who is retiring in May 2007 after a distinguished 28-year Army career. Fort Benning will miss Command Sergeant Major Greenway, and I commend him as well as his spouse and family for their service to the country. For this reason, and for becoming the first father-son team to compete in the U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition, I am pleased to honor the Greenways in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING LENAPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lenape Middle School of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. This school has consistently stretched beyond its own expectations, and was recently distinguished as a Don Eichhorn School to Watch.

This honor is bestowed upon Lenape by a coalition comprised of the Pennsylvania Middle School Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Lehigh University, Gettysburg College, and Duquesne University. It is one of only three Pennsylvania schools credited with this achievement, and should serve as inspiration for other schools around the country. It is through the dedicated efforts of teachers, administrators and students that America will keep its place at the pinnacle of success in education.

Lenape Middle School is a prime example of the success for which we strive each and every day. Through hard work, Lenape reaches new heights every school year. It meets and exceeds expectations, and celebrates learning.

Beyond academics, however, Lenape creates a flexible learning environment conducive to the struggles and pressures of early adolescence. Students are provided with the best teachers and resources available, and have the opportunity to excel in the areas they most enjoy. The performance of Lenape Middle School has once again raised the bar throughout the country, and they are to be applauded for their accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, strong public education sets the United States apart from the rest of the world. Lenape has been recognized as a Don Eichhorn School to Watch because it is a leader in public education; it is blazing a new trail in middle school education that other schools will do well to follow.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD OF BISHOP JOSEPH MADERA, M.S.P.S.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service and devotion Bishop Joseph J. Madera has bestowed to the community on the event of his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

Bishop Madera was born in San Francisco on November 27, 1927. He was raised in Mexico and received his priesthood at the Holy Spirit Missionaries House of Studies in Coyoacan, Mexico City, on June 15, 1957. Upon his ordination, Madera assisted in the minor seminary of the Holy Spirit Missionaries. After his work at the seminary, he was assigned to parish work in Mexico and soon after he was sent to the United States to serve in California.

His service in the Diocese of Fresno has made Bishop Madera a legacy in the community. On March 4, 1980, Bishop Hugh Donohue retired and Madera, who was serving as an appointed coadjutor bishop, was consecrated a bishop and was named Bishop of Fresno. During his tenure with the Diocese of Fresno, Bishop Madera founded the KNXT television station. He had his Sunday Mass in English, which was broadcast throughout the entire country and to Latin America.

Bishop Madera has an extensive résumé, having served in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Diocese of Fresno serving the communities of Fowler and Del Rey, Our Lady of