

known as “Gabby,” was admired and respected by those who knew and worked with him. He is remembered for his devotion to family, faith, willingness to lend a helping hand, and his sense of humor.

Both are missed every day by family, friends, fellow officers, and citizens of the community. Both are remembered as mentors and role models. The courage, honor and valor exemplified by Detective Armel and MPO Garbarino serve as a reminder for us to remember, celebrate and thank police officers and first responders for their dedication and service to the community and our Nation.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today in support of Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization (WHO).

Taiwan has one of the most developed health care systems in the world and has a strong, proven record on controlling infectious diseases. It was the first Asian State to eliminate polio and has successfully eradicated smallpox, rabies and malaria.

Because our world is increasingly interconnected, exclusion of Taiwan from the international community is neither logical nor appropriate. Every year, travelers make over forty million international trips through Taiwan. With the rapid spread of diseases, one vulnerable site constitutes a vulnerability for us all; one weak link in the international health front puts at risk all our efforts.

Madam Speaker, the WHO has excluded Taiwan because Communist China claims that its health care system will protect Taiwan. Past experience has convinced me that this is not the case. When an earthquake struck Taiwan in 1999, Communist China refused to allow assistance teams to fly through its airspace. This unreasonable restriction cost these assistance teams hours of flying time and may have cost lives. During the SARS outbreak in 2003, Communist China took days to report the Taiwan cases, which also cost lives.

For these and other reasons I rise in full support of Taiwan's application to be included in the World Health Organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed roll call votes Nos. 302, 303, and 304. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO GAY CHIONSINI

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Chionsini, a unique and caring friend that I personally had the pleasure of working with in the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. Gay enjoyed a wonderful career with the Chamber and after nearly three decades of outstanding service decided to retire on April 30, 2007. Gay ended her career much the same way she started, as the face of the organization to all of its members and the community at-large. Like many others who have contributed to our community-based organizations and chambers all over Texas, Gay built strong relationships and a wealth of goodwill in and outside of the Beaumont business community. Gay's hard work, wisdom and dedication were critical in the day to day operation of the chamber and the achievement of its future goals.

Gay has had a distinguished 28 year career working for the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and during that time served as the membership sales director, projects manager, office manager, executive secretary to the president, assistant to the director of public affairs, and secretary to the director of transportation. Gay and I had the pleasure of working together in the 1980's and I can tell you from first hand experience Gay was the consummate team player and I can not think of a better ambassador to the Beaumont community than Gay Chionsini.

It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend Gay Chionsini for her 28 years of service to the Beaumont area, and wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTER FOR WORK EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

This Denver-based Center has helped thousands of severely disadvantaged adults prepare for, maintain, and retain employment.

For 25 years, the Center's volunteers and employees have provided a full-time job readiness program, evening computer classes, and preparation for General Education Development tests for residents of the Denver area living below the poverty line. For those who need more than job training, the Center for Work Education and Employment provides instruction in life skills, builds relationships with potential employers, and helps participants deal with personal issues and obstacles.

Their continued 25-year commitment to the community is an inspiration. The Center helps thousands to turn their life around by breaking free of public assistance and becoming independent productive citizens. This work is vital

to the Denver area and is a model for caring citizens giving back to their community.

I applaud, and am grateful for, the work and dedication of the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They have enriched the Denver community and changed the lives of thousands and I look forward to another 25 years.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE LEADERS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the rich heritage and important contributions made to our Nation by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I thank Congressman HONDA and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for organizing this evening's special order.

Born and raised in the diverse city of Los Angeles, California, I have been blessed with friendships and experiences that have given me a deep respect and appreciation of the unique cultures and customs of our AAPI communities.

That respect and appreciation has grown even greater as a member of Congress honored to represent many of these communities, including Little Tokyo, Chinatown, and historic Filipinotown.

The American dream for Asian American Pacific Islanders is the same as for all Americans: Freedom, justice, respect and the opportunity for a better life.

This year's commemoration theme—“Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007”—unfortunately highlights the sad reality that, while generations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders have a long history of fighting to protect our country in time of war, contributing to the strength of our Nation's economy and enriching our lives with the beauty of their culture and customs, like too many other communities in our country, they continue to face the obstacles of discrimination and racism in pursuit of their American dream.

Eliminating these barriers and honoring the contributions of the AAPI communities is a top priority for me, my colleagues and our new Democratic majority.

We will continue to work to successfully: Pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is fair and just; eliminate health disparities by expanding health care coverage and removing linguistic and cultural barriers to quality care; honor our veterans by adequately funding veterans programs and restoring the benefits denied to so many veterans, including the thousands of Filipinos who bravely fought in the U.S. Military during World War II; Provide small business with the tools needed to encourage entrepreneurial innovation, which will help the AAPI and other vulnerable communities develop new business ventures that will create jobs and economic prosperity; and

work to make higher education a reality for all America's students by increasing the maximum Pell grant award and cutting the interest rates on student loans.

Mr. Speaker, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is also a wonderful opportunity for our country to honor hard-working and dedicated organizations that help our AAPI communities meet the many challenges of today.

I particularly want to recognize some of the organizations in my 34th Congressional District and thank their staffs and volunteers for the many valuable services they provide to the community: The Asian Pacific American Legal Center, is one of our Nation's largest public service organizations that provides legal services and education to create a more equitable society; the Chinatown Service Center's Family Health Clinic provides comprehensive, affordable health care to thousands of low-income families; the Little Tokyo Service Center's Community Economic Development programs have developed more than \$100 million in community-serving nonprofit real estate; the Filipino American Service Group, Inc., provides services to seniors, veterans, and homeless adults in and around Historic Filipinotown; and the Japanese American National Museum and its affiliate, the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, educates the public about the importance of remembering Japanese American history to help guard against prejudice in our society.

These are just a few of the many organizations devoted to improving the quality of life in the 34th Congressional district and throughout the Los Angeles region, and I salute them for their services.

In closing, I thank the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and especially my constituents for continuing to enrich my life, the lives of Angelenos, and our Nation as a whole.

**LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

This legislation provides protection to all Americans, and is consistent with our proud history as a Nation whose founding principle is that all people are created equal. Growing up on a tenant farm in rural North Carolina, I learned basic values that say that you treat all people with respect. These are the values that America stands for. Hate crimes—violent crimes motivated by bigotry against race or creed, hatred against nationality or disability, or intolerance for difference—have no place in a country that holds fast to those values.

Mr. Speaker, hate crimes exhibit exceptional circumstances where a federal role is appropriate and necessary because the crime is intended to intimidate Americans beyond the individual victim or jurisdiction where the crime occurs. The bill that the House is considering today provides vital support for the prosecution of these most heinous acts of violence. It gives local and state law enforcement vital resources to investigate and prosecute hate

crimes. These resources are desperately needed, as small rural police departments sometimes cannot afford lengthy and complicated investigations. The funding provided in this bill will ensure crimes do not go unresolved due to lack of funding.

This bill appropriately targets crimes that are motivated by hatred or bigotry, not the hatred or bigotry itself. While we must work towards a world free of racism and prejudice, it is not the place of the government to tell people how to think or feel, or what to believe. What we can and must do, however, is work to sow the seeds of justice, freedom, and equality. We must protect all of our citizens from crime, and ensure that justice prevails when hatred leads to violence.

I support this bill, and I oppose the Republican motion to recommit H.R. 1592 because it is a parliamentary maneuver intended to kill this legislation.

This bill is a step towards a more just, more equal, and more free society. It provides state and local law enforcement crucial federal resources they need, and makes sure that these terrible crimes are fully investigated and prosecuted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007 I was unable to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303 and 304. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on each of the three rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 7, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 407, H.R. 1025, and H. Res. 371.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 302 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 407, the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 303 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1025, the Lower Republican River Basin Study Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 304 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 371, In observance of National Physical Education and Sports Week, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES
WEEK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe National Nurses Week, an

annual recognition of the critical role played by registered nurses in meeting the nation's health care needs.

The origin of this event can be traced to 1953, when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare proposed the proclamation of a "Nurse Day." The following year, nurses were celebrated during the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to the Crimea.

National Nurses Week now begins each year on the 6th of May, which is National Nurses Day. During the week, we also celebrate National Student Nurses Day, on May 8th, and School Nurses Day, on May 9th. The week concludes on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, which is celebrated around the world as International Nurses Day.

National Nurses Week is one of the Nation's largest health care events. Activities include banquets, educational seminars, and other community-wide events. These events draw awareness to the importance of registered nurses in our nation's healthcare system. These nurses compose the largest group of healthcare workers in the United States.

Today, I would like to recognize our nation's 2.4 million registered nurses for their passion to the health profession and their commitment to quality healthcare. I support the goals of National Nurses Week, and am proud to represent many of our nation's fine nurses in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL AND
ELAINE STRASBERG

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong achievements of Rabbi Michael and Elaine Strasberg, of Flushing, New York. The Rabbi and Elaine will be the Guests of Honor at the Seudas Shabbos of Congregation Ohr Moshe in Hillcrest, New York, on May 12, 2007, where they will be honored for their lifelong community service. They will celebrate this joyous occasion surrounded by family and friends.

The Strasbergs have been leaders in their community for more than three decades. Rabbi Michael led the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor for 30 memorable years, during which he performed the B'nai Mitzvah services for my own children. More recently, he joined Congregation Ohr Moshe, which will be honoring the couple at a gala dinner on May 12.

The Rabbi Strasberg now works at Sinai Chapels as Director of Pastoral Counseling. In this setting, he provides comfort and strength to families who are going through the trying and painful time of the loss of a loved one. The Rabbi also educates the community with his moving shiurim or lectures on the substance and meaning of the Torah. Michael and Elaine actively participate in community events and organizations on behalf of Sinai Chapels, and work to preserve halacha (Jewish law) and Jewish tradition.

Elaine Strasberg is well-known for her superb cooking and enthusiastic leadership of Israeli dance classes for the women in the community. Elaine is also frequently at the top of my mind, as the creator of crocheted yarmulke, which I wear most often.