

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.

The Strasbergs have always been great supporters of Israel and active in many causes to this end. The Strasbergs take great pride and joy in their family, especially their children and grandchildren. They have five children; daughters Chaya, who is married to Dani; Zahavi, Malka, Rehana, and son Amichai, who is married to Adina. They have four grandchildren and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the fifth.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Rabbi Michael and Elaine Strasberg for their years of dedicated commitment to the Flushing and Jamaica communities and their residents. The Strasberg's integrity, selflessness, and good example have made a compelling difference in the lives of those they have touched. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me now in honoring Rabbi Michael and Mrs. Elaine Strasberg.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST LT. KEVIN GASPERS AND STAFF SGT. KENNETH LOCKER

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to offer my condolences to the families of 1st Lt. Kevin Gaspers, of Hastings, and Burwell native Staff Sgt. Kenneth Locker, who were laid to rest last week with honor. They lost their lives, along with seven other soldiers of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, in a terrorist attack in Iraq.

These young men represented some of the best qualities of Nebraskans, and our State mourns their loss.

Locker has been described as compassionate, caring, thoughtful, and generous. Before he died, he told his father he was fighting in Iraq for the children, that they might have a safer world to live in. His sacrifice for that idea should be inspiring for us all.

Gaspers also had a reputation of generosity, sincerity, and dedication. He touched so many lives during his time with us, and the outpouring of support from the community has been nothing short of inspiring.

These young men led lives rich in meaning, and it is tragic to see those lives cut short. They were sons, friends, and role models. They were filled with kindness, selflessness, and humor. My heart and thoughts go out to their families during this difficult period.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 344, congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers and administrators across the U.S. for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes. This resolution, offered by

Representative CHARLES BOUSTANY of Louisiana, is a great way of acknowledging the excellent service charter schools provide to students and parents across the Nation.

This is National Charter Schools Week and over 1 million students are receiving an outstanding education through the thousands of charter schools in the United States. Offering choice, accountability, flexibility and local control, charter schools are a great educational alternative choice for students and parents.

I congratulate the 27 charter schools in Kansas and the over 3,600 charter schools across the Nation for their continued focus on giving students a quality education and helping to keep America competitive in the global economy. Equipping America's young people with a sound education is vital and charter schools are doing this with excellence.

Today, I will vote in favor of H. Res. 344 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained for rollcall No. 278, Mr. SESTAK's amendment to H.R. 1429. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO NEW JERSEY PEACE ACTION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker; I would like to call your attention to the work of an outstanding organization, New Jersey Peace Action, which will celebrate 50 years of activism in New Jersey at an anniversary reception on Sunday, May 6, 2007.

It is only fitting that New Jersey Peace Action be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the very purpose of this organization is to help educate and engage New Jersey residents in the community and political activism. Their work helps Americans become informed and active in the democratic process.

New Jersey Peace Action began as NJ SANE in 1957. That year the New York Times ran the headline "We are facing a danger unlike any danger that has ever existed before," calling for an end to nuclear testing and asking Americans to redirect our energies, rediscover our moral strength and redefine our purpose. The National Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy was formed, and its New Jersey signers became the base of NJ SANE. The following year, NJ SANE selected Dorothy Eldridge as chairperson. NJ local committees echoed National SANE campaign to end nuclear testing by exposing facts about radiation, and assumed a role as watchdog on an international crisis that threatened nuclear war.

By 1960, NJ SANE had gained wide support. At four rallies they sponsored about "Ending All Nuclear Threats—Our Best Chance for Peace," with Dr. Linus Pauling, they drew

crowds of between 600 and 1000 people. In the next decade, the growth continued. Over 5,000 marchers took part in a 110-mile walk from McGuire Air Force Base to the UN to call for a permanent test-ban agreement with the USSR. NJ SANE campaigned to expose the true nature of nuclear war and end civil defense drills in schools. They worked to support President Kennedy's efforts toward a test-ban treaty, and when it was signed, continued opposition to drills in schools. Soon came the 1970s and efforts were turned to the crisis in Vietnam, and the group opened its first real office. Members marched on Washington, raised money for war-injured children in Vietnam, and began draft counseling in addition to other efforts. In 1975, NJ SANE successfully campaigned against President Ford's request for \$522 million for the Indochina War. Soon Operation Transfer, a campaign to change national priorities, took off and NJ SANE supported two new coalitions, SEA Alliance and NJ Mobilization for Survival.

As we entered the 1980s new issues emerged and NJ SANE remained on the front lines for peace. SANE responded to Iran and Afghanistan with a call to reason, emphasizing the development of safe renewable energy sources as alternatives to oil dependency. Nuclear freeze efforts strengthened, and the group became involved in issues concerning Central America. In 1986, SANE merged with the Nuclear Weapons Freeze locally and nationally. As we entered the 1990s, more issues arose and S/F was there to face them. There were rallies against the Gulf War, focus turned to economic issues, and the first concert for peace was held. In 1992, NJ SANE/Freeze became NJ Peace Action for a Sane World. In 1997 Virginia Ahearn and Bob Bender became Co-Directors, and Virginia continued on to be Director.

Soon NJ Peace Action entered the new millennium, with a new Director, Madelyn Hoffman. Right after September 11, 2001, NJ Peace Action began holding vigils, more than 100 of them, in 12 different locations in support of addressing the attacks through international law rather than military action. The focus soon became opposition to the Iraq War. NJPA participated in the largest anti-war demonstrations since the Vietnam years. Memorials were held for the dead in Iraq, and a Peace Education Workshop was held for families.

Although some of the causes have changed throughout the years, a surprising number are still left to work for. The members of NJPA today are still working to eliminate nuclear weapons, and protect civil rights. They promote peaceful conflict resolution at all levels, and educate others in their communities by reaching out to them at community events, working closely with other groups to protest war and work for peace.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of groups like New Jersey Peace Action.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the New Jersey Peace Action, all those who have been informed and motivated by their work, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of this group to not only New Jersey but our entire Nation.