Agent Luis Aguilar of the Border Patrol from Yuma, Arizona. Agent Aguilar was killed in the line of duty on January 19th while trying to apprehend a suspected drug smuggler in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. He was 32 years old.

The core values of the Border Patrol emphasize vigilance, service, and integrity in the defense of America and its laws. Those individuals who commit themselves to these principles recognize the prominence of the American way of life as well as its fragility; something that must be defended against those elements which seek to undermine democracy and freedom. Agent Aguilar spent much of his life as a guardian of these values and this Nation.

Agent Aguilar began his career with the Border Patrol in 2002 when he enrolled in the 519th session of the Border Patrol Academy. Following graduation, he was stationed at the Yuma Border Patrol Station where he quickly earned the respect and loyalty of his fellow agents and the surrounding community.

This tragic incident highlights not only the dangers border agents encounter, but also emphasizes the extreme heroism and valor exhibited by those whose job it is to keep Americans safe.

Madam Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to Luis' family and friends. He will undoubtedly be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

CITY OF CHANDLER TOP 100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Chandler, which was recently honored by America's Promise Alliance, with the designation as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. This organization, founded by General Colin Powell, is the largest alliance dedicated to children and youth. Recognition just once is a proud achievement, but this is the third year in a row that the city has been recognized, and so is deserving of special praise.

Chandler was recognized for this honor because of its intense commitment to youth. One of the key items noted by the Alliance was the Coalition for Chandler Youth, which was organized in September 2006 to address youth issues on a communitywide basis.

This award was not earned due to the efforts of a single entity, but rather from the combined efforts of members of government, local businesses, youth representatives, and numerous other organizations throughout the city.

America's Promise Alliance evaluates applicants based on Five Promises which have been shown to ensure that children receive the fundamental resources they need to successfully lead healthy and productive lives. These are: caring adults, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.

The City of Chandler has made a commitment to keeping these promises, and has been justifiably recognized for the effort. I extend my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN WATKINS JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Atmore and the state of Alabama recently lost a dedicated community leader, and I rise today to honor Mr. John Watkins Jr. and pay tribute to his memory.

After graduating from the Escambia County Training School, Mr. Watkins continued his studies at Faulkner State College in Bay Minette, Alabama, and received an associate's degree in applied science.

A World War II veteran, John served in the United States Army on the Marianas Islands in Guam. Following his service in the Army, he spent 31 years at Monsanto/Solutia Textile and Chemical Plant in Pensacola where he served as a cook, cafeteria foreman and a main plant foreman.

In 1992, John was elected to the Atmore City Council. As the councilman for District 3, he was influential in securing various grants for housing rehabilitation, paving streets and demolishing condemned houses throughout the community. He served as chairman of both the Atmore Planning Board and the Escambia County Quality Assurance Committee for 12 years. In 1996, he was named the mayor pro-tempore of Atmore.

In addition to his work as an elected member of the Atmore City Council, John was a member of the Atmore Lions Club and served as its president from 2000–2001. He was also a member of Gaines Chapel AME Church in Atmore and served as a chairman of the trustee board for over eight years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. John Watkins will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 55 years, Veola Watkins; their children, Brenda Jackson, John Watkins III, and Roderick Lynn Watkins; his sisters, Bessie Brock, Carrie Millender, Ella Quaker, Ethel Spaulding; his 10 grandchildren; and his one great-grandchild—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF BROADCASTING AT WKRM IN COLUMBIA, TN

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on November 25th, 1946, at 7:00 p.m., Robert McKay, Jr. put WKRM on the air from the Bethell Hotel in Columbia, Tennessee for the very first time. Over sixty years later, Robert continues to provide quality broadcasting to the people of Columbia.

Robert's service to Columbia, to Tennessee and to our country goes beyond his work at WKRM. A veteran of World War II, Robert served our military in the Philippines from 1942 until the War's end. When he returned, Robert took it upon himself to found the area's first local radio station with its own News Director.

Since its founding, WKRM has continually provided Maury County with outstanding news coverage, bringing the news to Columbia and its surrounding areas and, beginning in 1947, covering the annual Mule Day celebration live from the front porch of WKRM's station.

From their inaugural broadcast at the Bethell Hotel, Robert's tenacity has made WKRM the success that it is today. Even a devastating fire in 1950 that destroyed all but the station's antenna only kept WKRM off the air for thirteen days before Robert was again bringing news to Columbia. Robert's firm resolve has grown WKRM into two stations that he continues to operate today. At eighty-seven year's old, Robert is still working hard for Tennessee, and I join my colleagues today in commending him for his work, his life and his service.

INTRODUCING THE INNOCENCE PROJECT GOLD MEDAL BILL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld in recognition of their outstanding service to the Nation as co-founders and co-directors of the Innocence Project.

Madam Speaker, the Innocence Project is responsible for exonerating 210 innocent individuals who were on Death Row. In my home State of Illinois, through their work in the Innocence Project, Mr. Scheck and Mr. Neufeld have helped free 27 innocent individuals. Twenty-seven, Madam Speaker, twenty-seven individuals that if not for the work of these two men and their colleagues may be dead right now.

Dead for crimes they did not commit.

Madam Speaker, in addition to helping with wrongful convictions Mr. Scheck and Mr. Neufeld have worked to create clinics across the country that help prove the innocence of the wrongfully convicted. Furthermore, their work through the Innocence Project has been instrumental in encouraging States across the country to reform their death penalty systems. These reforms range from preservation of evidence, to providing access to DNA evidence for convicted individuals.

Madam Speaker, even today the inconsistencies and injustice of the death penalty system continues to come to light.

A recent study by the American Bar Association illustrates the very problems that the work of these two men hopes to counter. For example, the ABA study found that:

''States are not requiring that crime laboratories and medical examiner offices be accredited'';

States ''are failing to provide for the appointment of counsel in post-conviction proceedings'';

"Most states fail to require that the jury be instructed that it may impose a life sentence if a juror does not believe that the defendant should receive the death penalty";

"Every state studied appears to have significant racial disparities in its capital system, particularly those associated with the race of the victim"; and

"States do not formally commute a death sentence upon a finding that the inmate is incompetent to proceed on factual matters requiring the inmate's input".

As illustrated by this small sampling, these injustices are so grave, Madam Speaker, that the ABA—an organization normally silent in regards to the death penalty—has called for a nationwide moratorium.

Madam Speaker, in light of such regular occurrences of injustice in our system, it is important now more than ever to celebrate the work of individuals who are correcting the ills in our judicial system.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in bestowing upon Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld the Congressional Gold Medal. Their work to ensure that we, as a country, remain a nation devoted still to "truth, justice, and the American way" is admirable and must be recognized.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH AND LIFE OF FATHER D'AGOSTINO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORONIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Father Angelo D'Agostino, SJ, MD. Father D'Ag, as he was called by all who knew and loved him, was born on January 26, 1926 in Providence, Rhode Island. Unfortunately, Father D'Ag was taken from us in 2006. However, his birth is a cause for continued celebration as he was a living testament to the principle that one person can indeed make a difference.

I have met many wonderful and inspiring people in my years of service in Congress, but there was clearly something very special about Father D'Ag, and I feel honored and, frankly, lucky to have had the opportunity to meet him in Kenya and in Washington. He made a lasting impression on me, just as he did on so many others throughout the world.

In 1992, at a time in Africa when so many lives were lost to the scourge of AIDS, Father D'Ag set up the first facility in Kenya to care for HIV infected children known as Nyumbani, Swahili for "home". These children were orphaned by the loss of a parent from the same affliction or who were abandoned by parents who could not or would not care for an HIV-positive child. His first three children soon blossomed into a community of children, but they were dying at an alarming rate. Through strong perseverance and advocacy on behalf of the children, Father D'Ag battled the drug companies for affordable anti-retroviral medicines. He also battled the Kenyan government to allow the children into the public primary schools.

Ultimate success on both fronts enabled him to manage the virus and start to chip away at the societal HIV stigma against these precious children. As a result, Nyumbani was transformed from a hospice into a program that nurtured the children's growth and development, thanks to the painstaking care and love that he and his staff gave to these kids. Nyumbani today has 107 bright children with loving hearts, beautiful smiles, and boundless energy on the soccer field.

Despite this monumental accomplishment at Nyumbani, Father D'Ag did not rest after providing a home for HIV-positive children without parents. He went on to develop another program: Lea Toto, Swahili for "to raise the child", to provide medical care and nutrition to HIV-positive children who have parents but live in poverty in the many slums in and around Nairobi. Today there are approximately 2,500 people who benefit from this community outreach program and stand a chance to survive under extreme hardship because of Father D'Ag.

However, Father D'Ag was not done. After reading the stories about abandoned street children that had been slain by police, Father D'Ag felt a need to expand his reach and protect the ever burgeoning number of street children in Kenya. He designed an additional program, one that pairs children and the elderly, the two groups most vulnerable to the ravages of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Father D'Ag designed this program in his mind, and through his perseverance and guile acquired a tract of land in Kitui that became his beloved Nyumbani Village. In this eco-friendly, self-sustaining village the grandparents care for their own grandchildren as well as other needy children in a house with a garden, access to the village school, and training in one of the many income-generating projects. While this village is still a work in progress, it already has 258 residents, 29 grandparents, and 229 children, with a capacity of 1,000 residents.

These achievements by Father D'Ag should serve as an inspiration to us all. He changed the world one child at a time, and he expanded his reach to do so much for so many people who are in desperate need of food, medical care and love. Even though he has departed from this world, he has left behind an enduring legacy through his programs for children. His passion and commitment are carried on through his incredible disciple and partner, Sister Mary Owens, who continues his work. She is joined by many other dedicated staff members and volunteers who will continue to nurture and protect Father D'Ag's children. No one can visit Nyumbani without being changed forever.

Today, Kenya, the home of Father D'Ag's work, is facing unusually difficult civil discord. This recent civil unrest reminds us how fragile life can be in a nation where so many people live in such quiet desperation. Hopefully, these tribal divisions will soon be healed. In the meantime, we must stop and take a moment to reflect upon one man—a Jesuit priest and medical doctor—who put his heart, soul and life into caring for those who could not care for themselves. It is an honor to rise today and call on all of my colleagues and people around the world to join in celebrating the great fortune that the birth and life of Father D'Agostino was for the children of Kenya and each of us who had the opportunity to know him.

Happy Birthday, Father D'Ag, and thank you for your enduring contributions.

HONORING HURON HUMANE SOCIETY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Huron Humane Society (HHS) in Alpena, Michigan, on its 25th anniversary this year. HHS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for the homeless dogs and cats of Alpena County. On any given day, the shelter is charged with caring for more than 20 dogs and more than 80 cats. With a maximum capacity of 120 animals, the shelter often houses closer to 150. With so many urgent needs in our local communities, our pets are often overlooked. The Huron Humane Society is making sure the welfare of four-legged friends, considered family to many, is not overlooked.

The Huron Humane Society has been providing a valuable service to Alpena and the surrounding communities for more than a quarter century. HHS is a no-kill shelter and works to heal and rehabilitate the pets that come through its doors. While HHS cooperates with local governments to provide services to the surrounding city, township and county, it relies mostly on private donations to keep the doors open. Fundraisers, grants and donations account for more than 85 percent of its budget. And even with limited resources, the shelter continues to put the animals it cares for first.

The Huron Humane Society provides a full range of services to help keep animals in homes and rehabilitate those animals that come to the shelter. The shelter serves as safe haven for stray animals, and provides a service for the residents of the community by making sure all animals that come through its doors are properly vaccinated. HHS provides shelter for stray and lost pets, rehabilitates those that are ill or injured, and ultimately locates suitable homes for those pets. The Huron Humane Society promotes a public education program, urging individuals to spay and neuter their pets, helping to reduce the number of unwanted animals in the community. HHS also offer valuable training to pet owners on properly caring for their pets, and offers a microchipping service to the community to aid in locating pets should they become lost.

The shelter manages to accomplish this great work with a full-time staff of three and three additional part-time employees. While the shelter also receives assistance from those required to perform community service and local inmates, it is the community volunteers that provide the additional labor to keep the Huron Humane Society running.

This coming weekend, the Huron Humane Society will hold its 25th Anniversary Gala. One year ago, this annual event raised more than $15,000. More than 200 people opened up their checkbooks to help the shelter continue to provide its valuable service to the community. Especially as we see story after story in the news of helpless animals being abused and mistreated, it is important every community have its own Huron Humane Society to look out for the animals that can't look out for themselves.

Madam Speaker, as the Huron Humane Society celebrates its 25th anniversary, I ask that