

Meghan North Lampo of Fairway, Kansas, was killed on May 15, 2008, in an automobile accident in Overland Park, Kansas. She was born on February 12, 1979, in Kansas City, Missouri. She was a graduate of St. Paul's Episcopal Day School and St. Theresa's Academy. Meghan earned a bachelor of arts in Japanese studies at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and spent her junior year in Morioka, Japan. She was a student ambassador to Kansas City's sister city in Kurashiki, Japan, a Rotary International scholar in Myaboshi, Japan, and participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, a Japanese governmental program in Nagano, Japan.

Meghan was a beautiful young woman who loved people from every walk of life and has been described as a creative and free spirit who loved and lived life to the fullest. She described herself as someone who colored outside the lines in order to make a masterpiece. She had boundless energy and her own sense of style, a strong will, a huge heart, and a desire to help others in any way she could. Meghan particularly enjoyed volunteering for Bacchus Foundation, a philanthropic, social and service organization which introduces and integrates young adults into Kansas City's civic, cultural and educational communities. As Meghan said, "A little sparkle goes a long way these days." She is survived by many friends and her family, including her mother, Jane Lampo and stepfather, Rick Welsch, of Fairway, and her father Joe Lampo of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to a very special young constituent whose life was tragically snuffed out when she was much too young. I thank you for this opportunity and I know that all members of the House of Representatives join with me in paying tribute to Meghan North Lampo.

HONORING EARLIE MAYS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earlie Mays, who is retiring from his position as International Representative of the United Auto Workers, Region 5, after 31 years of exemplary service. Earlie has been based in Fremont, California, through much of his career in the labor movement. I have been privileged over the years to work with him on issues of importance to working men and women.

Upon his graduation from high school in 1963, Earlie enrolled in Laney Junior College in Oakland, California, and soon thereafter he was hired at Oakland's General Motors Plant (GM). He always had a great love for the Auto Workers' Union and was fiercely dedicated to workers' rights. He also had a great thirst for knowledge with a goal of promoting the welfare of others. In 1970, Earlie took a leave of absence from GM and attended the UC Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations, where he earned a certificate in Labor Studies. Immediately upon receiving his certificate, he was recruited by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees'

National Union to organize and service its Northern California local unions. During this period, Earlie honed his skills as a negotiator, grievance handler, organizer, and negotiator of collective bargaining agreements.

Earlie returned to GM, which relocated to Fremont, California, and worked himself up through the ranks of labor. He was elected to various positions, including Alternate Committeeman, Executive Board Member at Large, and Chairperson of the Civil Rights Committee. He continued his educational endeavors attending United Auto Worker Summer Schools and the Walter and May Reuther Educational Center in Black Lake, Michigan. He frequently conducted classes for rank and file members in various subjects.

In 1973, Earlie was elected Chairman of the Bargaining Committee of the General Motors Plant in Fremont. In doing so he became the youngest person, as well as the first African-American, to hold that office. His adept bargaining skills earned respect for the UAW.

Earlie served for sixteen years as a Commissioner on the California Prison Board as an appointee of California Governors Jerry Brown and George Deukmejian. He has served as President of the Western Region A. Philip Randolph Institute, as Director of the UAW Regional Civil Rights Program, and as a member of the NAACP and the American Red Cross.

I join the community in thanking Earlie Mays for his exemplary career in labor and his dedication to community service.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Montgomery County Humane Society as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Our household is fortunate to count Chessie, a golden retriever/yellow Labrador mix, as part of our family, and our entire community is grateful to the Montgomery County Humane Society for providing compassionate animal welfare services in our region for half a century.

Each year, the Montgomery County Humane Society takes in over 10,000 animals and provides assistance to more than 100,000 local citizens. It offers many critically important services in the county such as its nationally renowned Adoption/Foster, Spay-Neuter Programs, as well as the Rescue Partners Program, Lost & Found, 24-Emergency Hotline Services, Safe Haven Program, and Humane Education for both children and adults.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer my congratulations and warmest wishes to the Montgomery County Humane Society as it celebrates this important milestone. May it continue to thrive, shelter all needy animals, and find good homes for abandoned animals.

SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINE INVESTMENT CONFERENCE IN BETHLEHEM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, on May 21, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad convened a large gathering of international business leaders in Bethlehem to promote investment in the Palestinian economy. This three-day conference, organized by the Palestinian Authority, is an important milestone on the road to a lasting and secure peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Earlier this week, Congressman RAHM EM-MANUEL, the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, and I participated with Speaker NANCY PELOSI in a Congressional leadership visit to Israel to mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Jewish State. During our time there, we had the opportunity to meet with U.S. diplomatic officials, and my colleague spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority officials to assess the progress of efforts to bring peace to that region.

Following our discussions with Palestinian and American officials, we both express our strong support for the efforts of President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad to chart a course of moderation and tolerance and develop an economy and society that provides hope and opportunity for the Palestinian people. The international community must support efforts, like this investment conference, which are designed to improve the lives of peoples in the region.

Madam Speaker, in this regard, we note our strong appreciation for the participation of business leaders from throughout the region, including Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and the Arab Gulf states. We express our thanks to the Government of Israel for its efforts to make the conference a success, including by making the travel of so many participants possible. This conference is a demonstration of what is possible in this troubled region when people work together for a common good and reject the forces of extremism.

We express our thanks to major U.S. corporations that have joined the Palestinian Authority in this effort, including Cisco, Intel, Marriott and Coca-Cola. When they create jobs, spur investment, and strengthen communities, these corporations are truly furthering the cause of peace.

Madam Speaker, a recent World Bank report put unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza at more than 23 percent. This young and rapidly expanding labor force presents both an opportunity and a challenge for those of us who seek to promote the cause of peace. If these young people can find jobs, support a family and become part of the global economy, they will be a force for peace. The durability of the bonds between the Israeli and Palestinian business communities is testimony to the power and potential of these relationships.

If however, these young people are forced to rely on Government handouts and the charity of others, they are ripe for exploitation by those with extremist agendas.

Madam Speaker, the Palestinian Authority has begun making some of the difficult

choices necessary to create a prosperous future for its people. The contrast in the Middle East between those that seek a peaceful, negotiated solution to a conflict that has gone on far too long, and those that oppose this path, has never been clearer. We must use every tool at our disposal to support those who seek to build the institutions of free societies in the Middle East. The promotion of a strong, prosperous Palestinian economy is a critical component in this struggle, and we commend President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad for their efforts and assure them of our continued support.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT
BOBBY LINDSEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Bobby Lindsey, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Round Rock High School in Round Rock, Texas. Bobby has shown exceptional leadership qualities through his involvement in numerous activities which makes him a great candidate for this award.

Bobby has been involved in band throughout high school and is a volunteer and tutor for English as a second language students. Outside of school, Bobby works as a volunteer with people who are learning to speak English.

I congratulate Bobby Lindsey for his achievements in school and in his community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB
CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This important legislation would provide critical tax relief to families coping with increased costs of gas and food, while continuing our national investment in renewable energy and conservation programs to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes \$3 billion in energy conservation bonds to help States reduce greenhouse gases.

Protecting the environment for future generations is a collective responsibility. We must each do our part to leave a better, cleaner world than the one we inherited. That has been a guiding principle for my efforts in Congress, and it is our mutual obligation.

Recently, both Rockland County and Westchester County in my district in New York have joined communities nationwide moving to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by passing plastic bag recycling laws.

We know that the production of plastic bags and film plastic worldwide uses over 12 million

barrels of oil per year, accounting for more than 4 percent of the world's total oil production. We also know the disturbing truth that in the United States we use more than 1 billion plastic bags a year, and less than 1 percent of those bags are recycled. Even more troubling, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average plastic bag takes up to 1,000 years to decompose—in the process breaking down into smaller pieces that contaminate our soil and waterways and cause injury, illness or death to marine and animal life.

I recently introduced H. Res. 1161 to honor retailers and those State and local governments throughout the nation that have taken similar proactive steps to tackle this critical energy and environmental challenge. In the coming weeks I will also be introducing legislation to establish a national program promoting plastic bag recycling at our retail outlets, and I look forward to working with the members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming to tackle this issue.

Thank you again to Chairman RANGEL for your leadership on these critically important issues, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6049.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE CHABOT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The National Guard Association of the United States.

Address of Requesting Entity: One Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. 20001, (202) 789-0031.

Description of Request: The National Guard and the active Army have developed a two-pronged program to support the continued modernization of the National Guard Black Hawk fleet, however, it is not fully funded. The National Guard wants to accelerate the fielding of "M" series Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. In addition, the Army is recapitalizing Army National Guard UH-60A helicopters with a UH-60A recapitalization program funded in the Operations and Maintenance accounts. This program includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacements of components with the latest configurations, however the portion of the program to upgrade the recapitalized UH-60A to the UH-60L configuration is not funded. Upgrading to the UH-60L provides a Black Hawk that is cheaper to operate and one that has 1,000 pounds greater lift than the UH-60A model. A rate of 38 upgrades per year is required to enable Army National Guard units to upgrade or replace all the UH-60As at pace with the active Army.

TROUBLING REPORTS OF MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S HURRICANE EVACUATIONS PLANS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, officials recently participating in a Texas hurricane evacuation drill were shocked to learn that the Border Patrol, CBP, planned to check the citizenship or immigration status of the people that they were helping to evacuate. Such a policy is fraught with problems. One car with a flat tire can back up an evacuation for hundreds of miles. Just think about how disruptive and dangerous immigration checkpoints would be, and how many people would remain in harm's way for fear of arrest.

The outrage in Texas, and across the country, was instantaneous. Other law enforcement agencies, State officials, and the press condemned the announcement, and DHS started backpedaling. But this was not an isolated incident or just a mistake. Rather, this comes on the heels of other evacuations in which DHS' priorities have been confused. Such as the California fires in which undocumented aliens were afraid to risk immigration checkpoints and died in the flames. And the administration's refusal to suspend immigration enforcement in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as had been done after September 11. The immigration enforcement mission must be carried out in the proper context; in the face of a natural disaster or mass casualty event, public safety and humanitarian exigencies must take priority.

We asked for an immediate briefing to get to the bottom of this. Just hours before they were supposed to come brief us, the Border Patrol suddenly said that they had reassessed the policy in light of last week's exercise. They told us that CBP's "primary role in such events will be the safeguarding of life. No enforcement role will be undertaken that will in any way impede the safe and orderly evacuation of any member of the south Texas population." Frankly, I would have been more reassured if the CBP's purported change in policy had not been couched in such equivocal terms.

Later yesterday, Secretary Chertoff stated that "Priority Number One" will be "the safe evacuation of people who are leaving the danger zone." He said that clear instructions have been given to the Border Patrol "to do nothing to impede a safe and speedy evacuation of a danger zone."

So the message seems to have been heard. Rest assured that we will be watching to make sure that the focus truly is on having all hands on deck for humanitarian and evacuation needs, as opposed to diverting DHS resources into ill-conceived—and dangerous—immigration enforcement.

I am very troubled by this episode. It comes on the heels of revelations in recent weeks about medical abuse of immigration detainees. And it comes in the wake of a massive raid in Iowa that disrupted a Department of Labor investigation and resulted in assembly line arrest and prosecution of workers, but not of those who may have abused them. This cascade of controversy leads me to pose one