

was a finalist in 2004 for Iowa High School Athletic Association Athletic Director of the Year. In 2001 Mr. Kibby received the IHSAA Bernie Saggau Award of Merit.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Kibby for his steadfast dedication to education and congratulate him on the honor of being inducted into the Iowa Athletic Directors Hall of Fame.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES P. HAYES, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. James P. Hayes, Jr.

Jim was born in Brewton, Alabama, and graduated from T.R. Miller High School. He then received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Alabama. While at the university, he was a member of the Tau Beta Pi honor fraternity and the Delta Kappa Epsilon social fraternity.

Jim's many years of public service began when he joined former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman's administration in 1999 and served as revenue commissioner. He later served as director of the Alabama Development Office, executive secretary, land commissioner, and senior advisor to Governor Siegelman. Jim also served as director of planning and acquisitions for the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company, and he was director of First Commercial Bank in Birmingham and BancTrust Financial in Mobile.

Not only was he a dedicated public servant, but Jim was also an active civic leader. He was a past president of the Supporters Board of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. He was a supporter of the Lakeshore Foundation, the Crippled Children's Foundation, the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, and numerous other charitable foundations.

In 2002, Jim became president of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and restructured the group. Jim led the EDPA out of debt, while working tirelessly to improve the lives of all Alabama citizens.

The work of Jim Hayes did not go unnoticed. In 1994, the University of Alabama named him its Alumnus of the Year. And, he was recently honored when the University of Alabama's James P. Hayes Moral Forum was endowed in his name. In 2004, the University of Alabama bestowed Jim an honorary doctorate and named him a Distinguished Engineering Fellow. In recognition of all his wonderful work, Jim received the Outstanding Civic Leader Award on National Philanthropy Day in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated businessman, public servant, husband, and friend to all. Jim Hayes will be deeply missed by his wife, Ann Beauchamp Hayes; his sisters, Margaret Hayes Brunstad and Susan Hayes Curry; his five nieces, and his nephew—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT
ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE
ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, I join U.S. and international labor organizations in their strong concern about this bill.

As introduced, the bill goes a long way to improve upon the President's request. The human rights protections have been strengthened, but must be further improved.

We must ensure that before any agreement is authorized and funded, the most basic human and labor rights have been guaranteed.

I have strong concerns about abuses committed by Mexican and some of the Central American law enforcement agencies.

Labor activists and community leaders have been harassed, arrested, and physically assaulted. Many live in fear for themselves and for their families.

I am concerned that these same law enforcement officials will be receiving military-style training, transportation, and weapons. Do we want to be putting military helicopters and weaponry in their hands?

We must proceed with extreme caution on this proposal. I will have to oppose the legislation in its current form. I hope that we will be able to address the concerns of human and labor rights leaders here at home and in the Merida nations when the bill is in conference with the Senate version.

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION
AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passing meaningful climate change legislation that includes programs to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Climate change is one of the most urgent issues of our time and will affect the whole world, but the brunt of the climate burden will undoubtedly be taken by the poorest populations.

Low-lying coastal areas and urban inner cities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The construction of interstate highways has concentrated greenhouse gases in urban communities and increased the prevalence of asthma in those areas. 70 percent of African-American people live near environmentally unfriendly industries like coal fired plants. These plants emit greenhouse gases and other pollutants that adversely affect the air quality in the communities around them.

The issue of climate change is not only about African-Americans, but a much broader Black community. The Black Diaspora and Africans are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of environmental inaction. It is estimated that 75–250 million Africans can be affected by the stresses that climate change

has on water supply and a rapidly changing ecosystem.

The ingenuity of the people of the United States will allow our country to become a leader in curbing global warming by paving the way with well-planned legislation and creating jobs that will boost the economy. Prompt, decisive action is critical, since global warming pollutants can persist in the atmosphere for more than a century.

The most important thing to remember is that the most expensive policy is that of doing nothing. We cannot afford not to take action. The impact that climate change has on our ecosystems, health, and food and energy costs is irreversible. By taking aggressive action on this urgent issue, we are showing our constituents and the world that climate change is highly prioritized by the United States and furthermore, it determines the decisiveness and speed with which we as a country will confront this issue in the future.

IN HONOR OF SAMEER MISHRA,
SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING
BEE CHAMPION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, on May 30, 2008, Sameer Mishra, an eighth grader at West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School in West Lafayette, Indiana, made his family, school, city and State proud when he won the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Sameer outlasted 287 other competitors to become this year's champion.

In order to become the National Spelling Bee Champion, Sameer had to spell many complex words. The final word that stood between him and his victory was "guerdon"—meaning a reward. After 3 years of hard work, he finally received his ultimate "guerdon".

Before Sameer's spelling bee days, he watched his big sister, Shruti, compete in the National Spelling Bee, and he told his family that one day he would win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. True to his promise, he won the title on the very last opportunity that he was eligible.

This was Sameer's fourth and last year in the competition. In 2005 he tied for 98th place. He made a huge jump in 2006 when he received 14th place, and last year he placed a well respected 16th.

When he is not out-spelling middle school students from across the Nation, Sameer loves to read and participates in his school's book club. He enjoys playing computer and video games, as well as board games. Sameer has played the violin for 4 years in his school orchestra. He also likes to ride his bike and hang out with his friends. His favorite subjects are science and math.

Sameer is a competitive student. He participates in contests such as Spell Bowl, Academic Super Bowl and Indiana State School Music Association. With his spelling bee days behind him, Sameer looks forward to high school and lofty goals that include a career as a neurosurgeon.

Sameer Mishra is a remarkable young man. His competitive spirit and drive will take him far in life. His ability to set goals and work

hard to achieve them makes him a shining example that other children can aspire to.

U.S. ARMY RESERVE RETURNS TO LIFE-SAVING AIR AMBULANCE MISSION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, with the delivery of the first two HH-60 Blackhawk helicopters this past Saturday to F Company, 1st Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport in Florida, the U.S. Army Reserve is preparing to resume its life-saving air evacuation mission.

Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, the Chief of the Army Reserve, and I joined in ceremonies to accept the delivery of the first of the 12 helicopters that will be assigned to this unit, which officially stands up its operations this September. The Army Reserve stopped flying air evacuation missions in 1993, but General Stultz, realizing the tremendous demand for these operations throughout the world, made it a priority to reestablish this capability.

Given the advancements of armored vehicles, body armor, and medical care administered in the field, we are able to save the lives of servicemembers who in prior conflicts would have died. With the state-of-the-art helicopters like those we received Saturday, we are saving lives and getting those injured men and women to field hospitals quicker than ever so they can receive the care they need and they so richly deserve.

The HH-60 air ambulance helicopters are emergency rooms in the air. They are equipped with the finest possible medical systems to provide critical care for up to six patients. These systems include an electronic patient litter system, on-board oxygen generation system, medical suction system, patient monitors and high intensity night vision goggle compatible lighting.

The aircraft are also equipped with the most advanced avionics and special mission systems to assist the crew in locating and rescuing injured personnel on the battlefield. These include forward looking infrared (FLIR) systems and an external rescue hoist to quickly raise and lower patients and rescue personnel. In addition, the new HH-60s have additional payload and range to allow them to carry more patients and fly longer distances without refueling.

The men and women who fly these missions as pilots, flight engineers, and medics are the best our Nation has to offer. We owe them the finest equipment to perform their mission safely and securely, but the machinery and technology means nothing if we did not have the people willing to fly into harm's way to save a fellow American.

The MEDEVAC crews are defenseless in flying their machines. They have no defensive systems on board and they often fly unaccompanied and must land under hostile fire to pick up their patients. As I said Saturday, it takes a special person to perform this mission and to perform it so well.

They fly with the same spirit as one of the legendary MEDEVAC pilots, Major Charles

"Combat" Kelly, who died while flying a mission in Vietnam in 1964. He coined what is now the motto for all MEDEVAC crews: "No compromise. No rationalization. No hesitation. Fly the mission. Now!"

Madam Speaker, let us take time today to honor the MEDEVAC crews that have brought home so many of our heroes to their families and friends. It is my distinct honor to have the privilege to represent the newly formed F Company in Pinellas County, Florida, and I look forward to being with the unit when it officially stands up later this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to make the following votes yesterday because of a developing crisis in Iowa's 1st Congressional District. Massive flooding is leading to evacuations and it is only expected to get worse. Although I realize how important it is to cast votes in Washington, the well-being of my constituents comes first, and I need to be in the District to assist in any way I can.

On Rollcall 394, H. Res. 1063, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall 395, H. Con. Res. 318, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall 396, H. Con. Res. 336, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Goodwill Industries of San Antonio, Texas, in its mission of helping change lives through their participation in the AbilityOne Program. In the city of San Antonio, Goodwill has a strong presence, providing over \$15,000,000 of services in document management, administration, and custodial maintenance through the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities to those with disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program got its beginning in 1938 in legislation known as the Wagner-O'Day Act, passed by President Roosevelt, which provided employment opportunities for the blind. In 1971, the program was redesignated as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day, JWOD, Program due to the work of Senator Jacob Javits in expanding the program to include people with disabilities and allowing the program to provide services to the Federal Government. Goodwill Industries of San Antonio was the first agency in the Nation to take on a contract provided by the JWOD Program shortly after its expansion in 1971, and continues to do so through the AbilityOne Program today.

Currently, Goodwill employs over 300 people in 40 diverse commercial, Federal and State contracts. Goodwill is the fourth largest contract services provider in the Nation, amongst 170 other Goodwill locations. Its history of success and development of working relationships has earned Goodwill a 90 percent satisfaction rating for multiple years with their customers. I am proud that the employment of people with disabilities has played a large role in the operation of Goodwill Industries in San Antonio, Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the commitment of Goodwill Industries of San Antonio to ensuring the employment of those with disabilities through the AbilityOne Program.

NEW ERA OF REFORM IN MALAYSIA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to significant political developments in Southeast Asia. Malaysia, which recently held major elections, is embarking on a new set of democratic reforms to deal with some of the serious problems that the country faces. I am pleased to see that Malaysia is moving toward reforms that would support the rule of law and a more open society.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has announced a series of initiatives that would help demonstrate Malaysia's commitment to government reform and to moderate and progressive principles of democracy. The actions respond to the call for reform issued by voters in the March 8 elections.

The Malaysian government has proposed a series of judicial reforms to strengthen the independence of judges and improve trust and respect for the Malaysian judicial system, and steps to fight corruption. The government plans to take steps that would provide greater press freedoms as well.

Malaysia is a moderate country of 25 million people in Southeast Asia with a dominant Muslim population. The country is of significant importance to the United States and our interests in the region. Democratic development in Malaysia is important not only to the political stability and economic growth of Southeast Asia but the fight against extremism.

I would like to submit for the RECORD and for the benefit of my colleagues an editorial by the Wall Street Journal Asia that comments on these reforms.

In closing, I encourage my colleagues to take notice of recent developments in Malaysia and to support the government as it works to implement democratic reforms that could benefit Malaysia and help support U.S. interests.

[From The Wall Street Journal, Apr. 24, 2008]

REFORMING MALAYSIA

Malaysia's economy has long been open to competition, but its political system has not. Last month's opposition-party electoral victories changed all that. Now, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has started to compete for voters' hearts, based on what the people want.