

Mr. Abdullah's announcements over the past two weeks are nothing short of remarkable. Last Thursday, he acknowledged "perceived corruption" in the judiciary and announced an independent committee to vet prospective judges. On Monday, he promised to beef up the nation's Anti-Corruption Agency, implement laws to protect whistleblowers, and make changes to government procurement practices—long a source of patronage for his party, the United Malays National Organization, and the coalition it leads, the National Front.

None of these ideas are new. In fact, Mr. Abdullah himself promised better, cleaner governance when he took office in 2004. Malaysia's voters gave him four years to implement his promises. Last month, voters delivered their verdict: They handed opposition parties control of five out of 13 states, up from one—their biggest parliamentary gains since the country's founding.

With that reprimand, Mr. Abdullah now seems to realize that democracy in Malaysia matters. And he's ripped reform ideas straight from the opposition parties' playbooks. Anwar Ibrahim's National Justice Party, for instance, has long advocated judicial reform and the protection of whistleblowers. The new chief minister of Penang, a member of the Democratic Action Party, called for an open tender system for government procurement last month.

A wise leader will always appropriate good ideas, especially ones recently endorsed at the ballot box. Doing so is also a savvy political move for Mr. Abdullah. His standing as head of UMNO was put in question after his party's electoral losses last month. It still is—on Sunday, a former finance minister, Razaleigh Hamzah, said he'd contest for the party leadership.

If the Prime Minister can reposition himself as a reformer who enjoys public support, it will be harder for his internal challengers to unseat him, come the party congress in December. Showing that UMNO can reform is also a chance for Mr. Abdullah to slow the opposition's political momentum at a time when it is still enjoying the aftermath of last month's election victories.

The Prime Minister may also be thinking about his legacy. The first to hold that office after over two decades of rule under Mahathir Mohamad, Mr. Abdullah was seen as a transitional figure who would bring greater freedoms to his country. At first, he did, loosening controls on the press and cracking down on a few corrupt officials. But largely as last month's vote showed—he has so far failed.

Malaysia needs the reforms now on offer, and fast. Corruption undermines the country's economic competitiveness and its attractiveness as a place to do business. That depresses investment, and employment opportunities for Malaysians. Without a strong judiciary or a free press, the only way citizens feel they can show their discontent is to protest on the streets. Giving Malaysians a justice system they trust would help alleviate some, if not all, of those grievances.

None of these reforms can be implemented overnight, and most will be strongly opposed by UMNO's political machine, which has benefited for years from its opaque patronage system. But the threat of being unseated from office should be a good motivation for the party to take Mr. Abdullah's ideas seriously. Its about time.

IN HONOR OF THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, located in the heart of historic downtown Cleveland, Ohio, and in recognition of the site's significant contributions to preserving American culture.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened its doors in 1995 and attracts visitors from all over the country and the world. The Museum provides educational programs and opportunities for visitors to fully experience the history and impact that music has had on our culture. Artists and musicians from all over the world perform at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and teach their audiences about the social significance of making music.

With carefully preserved artifacts from many of our country's favorite artists and the history behind some of the most beloved songs, the Hall of Fame and Museum showcases the significant impact that music has had in so many of our nation's social, cultural and political historical events. Throughout history, musicians have used their music as a vehicle to give voice to the voiceless, to challenge many social, cultural and political norms, and to celebrate that most human of emotions, love. This year, on June 13, 2008, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, along with the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County, is commemorating Flag Day, the 233rd Birthday of the U.S. Army, and hosting a naturalization ceremony. I join the Hall of Fame and Museum and the JVCOC of Cleveland in their celebration of these important events.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum and in recognition of its unique and significant contributions to preserving American Culture and of its outstanding educational outreach programs.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Bonnie Baker of Clarion, Iowa on her 26-year postal career and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement. Mrs. Baker has been a shining example of dedicated public service throughout her career.

Mrs. Baker began in 1982 by working as a window clerk in Dows, Iowa. The following year she moved to the Clarion Post Office, again working the front window. During her tenure in Clarion, Mrs. Baker worked periodically at the EDS plant when her services were needed. In October of 1993 she accepted a full-time position working for EDS.

Mrs. Baker was responsible for a variety of duties at her most recent position, including

resolving different mailing problems that may arise, managing the transportation system, and instructing new employees on their various assignments.

I commend Bonnie Baker for her service to the State of Iowa throughout her many years in her postal career. It is an immense honor to represent Mrs. Baker in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues join me in wishing her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE CHEERLEADERS OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SENIOR HIGH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations to a special group of cheerleaders in my Congressional District. The cheerleading team of Booker T. Washington Senior High recently took first place in their division at the Ameri-Cheer International Competition in Orlando, Florida. This is a wonderful accomplishment and I know that I join with our whole community in honoring their success.

With all their hard work, skill, and commitment to excellence, these young adults managed to bring home to their school a very notable title. These athletes truly deserve to be recognized as models for perseverance. All who know them can readily appreciate the can-do feeling that emanates from the group and their unyielding desire to succeed. They have shown us what it means to be the best.

I also recognize that it was with the support of their parents, teachers, and friends that these cheerleaders were able to win such a demanding competition. Those closest to this team were just as vital in its success as components in the motivation that allowed them to go so far. The devotion that family and friends offer is incredibly important and I am delighted with their involvement in this endeavor.

At this time I would like to submit into the RECORD the names of the cheerleading team from Booker T. Washington Senior High: Luria Davis, Head Coach; Sharon Parker, Assistant Coach; Frankeetha Roberts, Assistant Coach; Bridgette Godfrey, Senior; Samkia Kirkland, Senior; Tamkia Kirkland, Senior; Tania Hall, Senior; Prensata Adams, Senior; Constance Caffey, Senior; Rudellee Lewin, Senior; Tiffany Cruz-Brown, Junior; Sheltonise Clements, Sophomore; Laquanna Farquharson, Freshman; Tatianna Johnson, Freshman; Shamira Abbott, Freshman;

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful students and teachers for their success at this year's Ameri-Cheer International Competition.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENNIS MANGERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Dennis Mangers as he retires after

nearly 27 successful years with the California Cable & Telecommunications Association. As Dennis enters the next phase in his life and his family and friends gather to celebrate his illustrious career, I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring his many remarkable accomplishments.

For the last 27 years, Dennis has been a tireless pioneer for the cable industry. As a chief lobbyist and then the head of the California Cable & Telecommunications Association, Dennis has garnered many accolades for his efforts. In 1994, he was given the Brad Wojcoski Award, an honor reserved to recognize a cable and telecommunications industry employee whose efforts have made a significant impact in the fight against HIV and AIDS in their local community. In 1998 he received the Vanguard Award, which is the cable industry's highest decoration for outstanding service at the State and regional level. And in 2004, Dennis was inducted into the Cable Center's Cable Pioneer Exhibit, which applauds groundbreaking leaders in the cable industry.

In addition to his invaluable work in the private sector for the cable industry, Dennis has had an impressive career in the public sector. His remarkable journey began as a teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District in 1964. As an educator, Dennis worked diligently to ensure that every child received equal access to quality education. In 1968, he became one of California's youngest school principals, serving first at the Earlimart Elementary School in Tulare and later at the Fountain Valley Elementary School in Orange County.

Dennis's devotion to improving our educational system continued with him as a California State Assemblyman. Elected in 1976, he quickly became the chair of the Subcommittee on Educational Reform. This allowed him to lead the State Legislative Task Force for the Improvement of Pre- and In-Service Training for School Administrators. This program helped recruit teachers and school administrators for California's educational system. Additionally, during his time in the Assembly, Dennis authored the Gifted and Talented Education Act (GATE). The GATE program is now a staple of California's educational system and allows for unique educational opportunities for students who have been identified as high achieving.

From his love for singing, to his enthusiasm for education, to his years giving back to the public as an elected official, Dennis has experienced many great things in his lifetime while also being active with many nonprofits. Throughout his career Dennis has championed tolerance and appreciation of diversity in the Sacramento region and across California. Dennis was a founding member and currently serves as the chairman of the board of directors for the Capitol Unity Council. The council was formed after the murder of a gay couple and the torching of three of Sacramento's synagogues in 1999. The council works to promote tolerance in the community, and Dennis has been leading the effort to build a center for diversity in downtown Sacramento. Thanks to his vision, this project is moving forward and upon completion will serve as an interactive learning experience where youth and visitors will engage in programs and activities that embrace inclusion, honor California's diversity, and motivate people to play an active role in building unity in their communities.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Dennis during his lifetime of service. During his career he has worked tirelessly to further causes he believes in and has touched many people's lives both directly and indirectly. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend, Dennis Mangers, for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ST. MARY'S COOPERATIVE CREDIT ASSOCIATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 1145, which recognizes the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of St. Mary's Cooperative Credit Association. Created to service the financial needs of textile workers, St. Mary's Cooperative Credit Association, or the People's Bank, as it was appropriately renamed, was the Nation's first credit union.

Since the creation of St. Mary's Cooperative Credit Association, credit unions have grown to become a major part of the American financial services system. Today there are over 8,500 credit unions in the United States, serving over 90 million members.

During my years of service on the House Committee on Financial Services, I have had the opportunity to get to know many credit union employees. I have always been impressed with their commitment to serving their credit union members and their communities. In many ways, credit unions exemplify the best of the free market system. Since credit unions are formed specifically to serve their members, credit unions put the interests of their depositors first.

I hope that Congress will follow-up today's legislation by soon considering H.R. 5519, the Credit Union Regulatory Relief Act of 2008, which repeals Federal regulations that hinder credit unions from improving their services.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 1145, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and saluting all credit unions for their vital role in strengthening America's financial services industry.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL E. GALLIS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Dr. Paul E. Gallis, specialist in European Affairs with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service. Dr. Gallis is retiring on July 3, 2008, after serving the Nation for approximately 28 years in various

positions at CRS, in the Senate, and in the State Department. In particular, Dr. Gallis served the Congress for 24 years as an expert in and objective observer of European security affairs. He has been the institutional memory of Congress on vital transatlantic political and security issues spanning multiple Congresses, several U.S. administrations, and key events in foreign policy. He has been an especially valued resource to Members and committees in Congress on all matters relating to the NATO alliance and relations with our European allies.

Dr. Gallis started working at CRS in June 1984 as an analyst in West European affairs. He came to CRS after working for 3 years in the office of Senator JOSEPH BIDEN as a policy advisor and speech writer. Before that, he served as a special assistant to Ambassador Rozanne Ridgway at the Department of State. Dr. Gallis received an M.A. and Ph.D. in European history at Brown University, and a B.A. in history and French from Davidson College. He studied at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, France.

Dr. Gallis quickly emerged as a leading CRS expert on European security affairs. His early work focused on vital and often controversial cold war-era security issues such as the Strategic Defense Initiative, SDI, and allied responses; the conventional arms balance in Europe; and policy issues surrounding the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force, INF, Treaty. With the end of the cold war, Dr. Gallis's work incorporated significant changes in the transatlantic relationship, turning to burdensharing issues surrounding the first Persian Gulf war, as well as international diplomacy leading to Germany's unification.

Throughout his career at CRS, Dr. Gallis served as an authority on NATO political affairs and the allied relationship. He produced numerous timely reports on NATO's missions and institutional processes, including alliance partnership programs and enlargement. He led or coordinated important studies on NATO's emerging operational challenges in the Balkans and in Afghanistan. Over the telephone and in person, Dr. Gallis frequently shared his expertise on these difficult issues with tact and judgment. His work informed thousands of Members and staff in congressional offices over the years as they grappled with the complex foreign policy and security issues of the day in hearings, legislative initiatives, and ongoing consultations with U.S. and foreign officials. In all of his work, Dr. Gallis upheld an unwavering commitment to the core CRS mission of supporting an informed national legislature with nonpartisan research and analysis.

In addition to the above, Dr. Gallis spent several years at CRS handling managerial duties as head of the Europe, Middle East, and Africa section of the Foreign Affairs Division. In this capacity he supervised the work of many CRS analysts and instilled in them his high standard of work and professionalism. He represented the Library of Congress at the National War College in 1991–1992.

I got to know Dr. Gallis personally in the context of his many years of intensive work with Congressional delegations to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. For the past several years, Dr. Gallis has been asked to serve as lead policy staff for delegations to the regular meetings of the NPA. In this capacity he has taken on yeoman's work in coordinating preparatory research analysis for delegation