

Saudi Arabia, has already received. This is not a political issue; this is a national security issue. We've already seen the extraordinarily high cost of spreading so-called "peaceful" nuclear technologies around the world: we've been paying that price for decades. The United States simply cannot afford to make this kind of mistake again.

President Bush seems to believe that the United States is in a race, with the French and the Russians, to win contracts to build nuclear power facilities around the world. But he's wrong; that's not the race we're in. We're in a race to contain the atom, not to let it loose. We're in a race to prevent the spread of dangerous nuclear technologies any further, before these technologies can be used against us or our allies. Providing nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia, a country for whom such technology makes no economic sense for electricity generation, is short-sighted and dangerous. The Markey-Ros-Lehtinen bill will block any such unnecessary and dangerous transfers, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS
PARTICIPANTS IN HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40 veterans from the Kansas City area who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight to Washington, DC, on June 11, 2008.

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that was created to honor America's veterans by organizing free trips to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the memorials dedicated to their service. Priority is currently given to veterans who served during World War II or those veterans who are facing terminal illness. Sadly, each day we lose more than 1,200 World War II veterans. It is imperative that these individuals have the opportunity to visit the memorial that was designed to honor their service and I am pleased that Honor Flight has made this a reality for so many of our WWII veterans. I had the opportunity to visit with many of them as they toured the World War II memorial last week and was struck by how many repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, when, in reality, we should be the one thanking them.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to humbly express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the veterans who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, as well as their fellow service men and women from other parts of the United States, for their service to our country. No other group of Americans has stood stronger or more bravely for our democracy than our troops and veterans. We must celebrate, honor and remember these courageous and faithful men and women.

I would like to thank the organizers of the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, Gary Swanson and David Jackson, as well as the many dedicated chaperones and volunteers who worked behind the scenes on June 11 and for many months beforehand to ensure the Honor Flight participants had a memorable experience.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the generous financial contribution my constituents, Norman and Elaine Polsky, made to Honor Flight in order to make the trip to Washington, DC, possible for these worthy service men and women from the Kansas City area. I thank Mr. Polsky for his incredible generosity and appreciate his tireless work in the community on behalf of his fellow veterans.

The T-shirts worn by chaperones assisting Honor Flight participants feature a stirring quote from notable American entertainer Will Rogers, which states, "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand at the curb and clap as they go by." Thank you to all of our veterans, especially those men and women who served proudly and courageously during World War II, and serve as an inspiration to our current armed forces. I am standing and clapping as loudly as I can.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, having remained in my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2964 (Roll no. 414), H.R. 3702 (Roll no. 415), and H. Res. 1275 (Roll no. 416).

HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate June 2008 as National Homeownership Month and would like to thank my colleague, Congressman GARY MILLER, for introducing H. Res. 127, recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

In 2002, President George W. Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month to strengthen our Nation's commitment to equal housing opportunities for all, setting a goal to increase minority homeownership in America by 5.5 million by 2010. Purchasing a home is the largest investment made by most households, providing economic security and an opportunity for homeowners to build wealth.

It has become clear, however, with at least 1.4 million foreclosures predicted next year and as many as 2.8 million Americans projected to lose their homes in the next 5 years due to the subprime mortgage crisis, that we must rededicate ourselves at all levels of private, public, and nonprofit sectors to keep homeowners in their homes and ensure equal housing opportunities for all people. We must work together as a Nation to protect American homeowners and ensure that every American has the opportunity to live and hold onto the American Dream.

HONORING COLONEL BRIAN W.
LAURITZEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Brian W. Lauritzen, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. As a Member of Congress who represents Fort Belvoir, I know firsthand that Colonel Lauritzen has served with great competence, tireless determination and constant communication with the community during a time of great transition for his installation.

Colonel Lauritzen took command of Fort Belvoir, one of our Nation's largest and most diverse military installations, in July 2005 with major challenges awaiting him and even more on the horizon. Fort Belvoir was already engaged in master planning for redevelopment to expand the number of Department of Defense tenants and stretch the functions of the already busy installation. Then, just a few months into his tenure, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's final recommendations doubled the size of Fort Belvoir's incoming workforce by 2011.

The BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir, among the most substantial of BRAC 2005's mandates, will transform the installation into the major support center for the Nation's most senior military leadership. Ensuring a successful transition has brought with it the great challenges of working with both the Department of Defense and the local community. These challenges include timely and transparent planning, assessing the environmental and societal impacts of absorbing more than 19,000 new employees, managing the transportation infrastructure in an area already burdened by traffic, and ensuring that all of Fort Belvoir's defense tenants can still perform their vital national security missions.

Colonel Lauritzen has ably met these daunting challenges with the superb attitude that, in order to be successful, Fort Belvoir must continue to be receptive and responsive to the concerns of all of the surrounding communities. His early promise to the community that there would be "no daylight between us" has held true. Colonel Lauritzen established the BRAC Board of Advisors, a first-in-the-Nation group bringing together members of the Army, incoming agencies, and the region's elected officials and local civic activists to identify development issues and keep open the lines of communication.

I have always found Colonel Lauritzen to be the consummate consensus builder. He personally has made more than 150 appearances and presentations before community groups to keep them apprised of the BRAC expansion, Fort Belvoir's other missions, and their impact on the community. Similarly, he built strong communication coalitions with and between the major commands headquartered at Fort Belvoir in support of their people and their global missions through the Installation Senior Leadership Council.

More than just communication, Colonel Lauritzen continues to facilitate progress, even when progress is difficult. He worked directly with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the

Army Corps of Engineers to address some of the many transportation challenges facing the region. Especially noteworthy is his personal involvement to secure an agreement to complete the extension of the Fairfax County Parkway, a vital connection across the Fort's Engineer Proving Ground, something that had festered unresolved for more than 10 years.

Inside the perimeter of his base, Colonel Lauritzen has steadfastly insisted that our nation's Soldiers and their families deserve the highest quality of life. Fort Belvoir has one of the Army's most successful Residential Community Initiative programs that have revitalized the approach to military housing and neighborhood centers, creating first-class communities for those who serve our Nation in uniform.

On a more personal note, Colonel Lauritzen and his staff have eagerly addressed questions or constituent concerns that my office has brought to their attention. Regardless of how complicated or involved these requests may have been, I have always found his door to be open to discuss the issues and, more often than not, find compromise to difficult situations.

Madam Speaker, at Fort Belvoir's Change of Command Ceremony on Tuesday, July 2, Colonel Lauritzen—West Point graduate, Soldier, and extraordinary officer—will retire from the Army and enter a new chapter in his life. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and wish him all the best as he pursues new endeavors. He has truly served Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and our Nation with the highest standards of leadership expected from the very best of our military commanders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1275, a resolution which honors the life of the late Timothy John Russert Jr. H. Res. 1275 was sponsored by a member of the Oversight committee, Representative BRIAN HIGGINS of New York and introduced yesterday with 89 original cosponsors.

I would like to thank the House Leadership, Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their support in bringing this measure to the floor in such a timely manner. I also wish to thank Edward Leong, senior counsel with House Legislative Counsel's office for his efforts in drafting a very fine resolution. Such cooperation, support and dedication to excellence are truly a fitting tribute to Timothy Russert.

I think the Washington Post said it best. In the June 14, 2008 edition, on the front of the Style section, the caption under Tim Russert's photo read, "The 'Meet the Press' moderator during a taping of his show last year. He got to do what he most wanted to do, and the news business was better for it."

I couldn't agree more. He was on top of his game as the NBC News Washington bureau chief and moderator of "Meet the Press." In between ball games, cheering and supporting those Buffalo Bills, going to Mass, writing

books about the wisdom of our fathers, hanging out with his son, Luke, and checking in on his father Big Russ, he did what he loved best—being an award winning political analyst.

Madam Speaker, Timothy John Russert, Jr.'s sudden death, has left a huge void on the political landscape. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

I commend my colleague Representative HIGGINS for sponsoring this condolence measure and I urge its swift passage.

HONORING MR. PARK M. STRADER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a close friend and exemplary public servant who has brought distinction to the State of Tennessee.

I have known Park M. Strader for many years, and he is someone I hold in the highest regard. In fact, Parkey (as he is known to his friends) was an intern for my father when he was a Member of Congress. Since then, Representative Strader has built an illustrious career in public service, devoting his life to making Tennessee a better place.

During his two terms as a Representative to the Tennessee General Assembly, Representative Strader worked tirelessly for his constituents. No problem was too small for his attention, nor did he hesitate to tackle the big issues of the day.

As a member of the House Commerce and State and Local Government Committees and the House Local Government, State Government, and Industrial Impact Subcommittees, Representative Strader was a major factor in the rapidly expanding economy of East Tennessee. His intellect and dedication earned him a reputation as one of the most respected, knowledgeable public servants in Tennessee.

Representative Strader's public service spans many decades and has earned him many awards. Prior to his service in the Tennessee State House, Representative Strader served seven terms—28 years—as Knox County's Property Assessor.

During that time, he was one of the most important contributors to helping keep Knox County taxes low and help keep Knox County government running economically and efficiently.

With a history of service and dedication to Tennessee, I know Representative Strader will continue to work for the public good even in retirement.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating State Representative Park M. Strader on his commendable service to the people of East Tennessee. I am proud to call him my friend and wish him well on whatever new endeavors await him.

NASA'S TECHNOLOGY IS BETTER TODAY FOR EVERYONE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, better known as NASA, has been an ubiquitous aspect of American life since its inception in 1958. This organization brought the United States supremacy outside of the atmosphere and took us to the moon. They reinvigorated the imaginations of children who applied greater concentration to their studies of math and science. Recent accomplishments, such as the International Space Station and many unmanned probes, have been less in the public purview, but have extended scientific knowledge into the realm of what was previously thought to be science fiction. NASA, contrary to popular belief, was not the inventor of Velcro or Tang, yet it has managed to stay in the lives of Americans despite its lower profile by creating critical elements of some of the most important technology in use today. NASA helps to lower food prices by increasing food production five-fold based on research done on growth in outer space. Their design technology helps manufacturers to create cars, the electric guitar of favorite bands, planes, and skyscrapers. NASA created the temper material that is used in Tempur-Pedic beds, prosthetics, and many wheelchair seats. They are responsible for imaging technology that allows CAT scans, advanced MRIs, and new infrared mammograms that increase detection rates by 98 percent. They even made the needles with small silicon chips that reduce the need for invasive surgery when performing biopsies. NASA created the necessary technology for pacemakers, portable dialysis machines, and programmable insulin pumps which use digital telemetry. Laser eye surgeries are performed with the technology that enables the shuttle to dock with the space station. They are responsible for blood pressure monitors, heart monitors, and laser angioplasties. Bringing it closer to home, NASA created scratch-resistant lenses, polarized sunglasses lenses, and the satellite communication technology which brought about cell phones. The roads America drives on have grooves cut into them because NASA realized that it would help reduce hydroplaning, which has contributed to an 85 percent reduction in wet weather traffic accidents. Robotics, world-wide search and rescue systems, space blankets, light emitting diodes or LEDs, cancer treatments, and the list goes on and on. Describing, or even mentioning, all of them would be a feat that would result in a book hundreds of pages long. In fact, NASA is forced to pare down all of its technological inventions to its top 40–50 each year in its annual publication Spinoff. A world without the technologies developed by NASA would be one without your digital camera or your iPod. NASA may not have sent a man to Mars, yet, but they may be taking us all along with them when they go.