

Darmanian was also counselor and dean of the boys at Roosevelt High School. In 1959 he purchased a small farm in the Sunnyside area, where he built a home and raised a family for many years.

In 1969 he became the assistant principal at Edison High School and then moved on to become the principal in 1972. He was also the principal at Hoover High School, and he served as district administrator in the Instruction Division from 1984 until 1988, where he was responsible for all the Fresno Unified School District's high schools.

Mr. Darmanian not only had a passion for education but also for his Armenian community where he was both very active and an influential member. In 1950, he became a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF, in which he served several terms as a member of the Regional Executive Committee and the Central Executive Committee. From 1952 to 1970 he served as regional secretary of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia, Armenian National Committee. Also, as one of the founding members of the Armenian Community School that opened its doors in 1976, he served as chairman of the board of education for 6 years.

His strong values and community ties led him to serve as a long-time member of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Board of Trustees, as well as a member of the Executive Council of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, where he was appointed to the Education Council of the Armenian Schools under the jurisdiction of Western Prelacy during the period of 1990 and 1994. He was also a member of the California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Advisory Board.

Richard enjoyed the simple things in life and loved to be surrounded by his family, friends and colleagues from the Armenian community. He was especially proud to see the younger Armenian generation alongside with him engaged in activities that were dear to his heart. Those who were close to him are better people today thanks to his influence on their lives.

It goes without saying that Mr. Richard Darmanian was an honorable man with a commitment to family, friends and the Armenian community that will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. His passion for family, education, and the Armenian culture will be remembered by all who knew him. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was delayed in reaching the floor and missed rollcall vote No. 441. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### STATEMENT HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINDORO "CUT"

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the centennial anniversary of the completion of the Mindoro "Cut" and its addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Mindoro Cut is a perfect example of the ingenuity of rural Wisconsin residents. When the need arose to market perishable dairy products from the countryside to the local creamery, neighbors and families came together and surveyed a route through the region's rugged terrain.

From 1907 and into 1908, workers dug and hacked through hard rock with little technology outside of wheelbarrows and hand tools and a good strong back. Digging 74 feet deep, 25 feet wide and 86 feet long, the Mindoro Cut is the deepest of its kind still remaining in America.

Eventually, about 14,000 cubic feet of rock would be removed. Although they initially assumed that the hilltop ridge was made of sandstone and dirt, cutters found hard rock just under the surface.

The Mindoro Cut is still in use today. From its creation in 1908, the "Cut" has more than served its original purpose. Today, tourists and visitors travel from across the country to marvel at the scenic views while they drive the winding highway through this man-made historical landmark.

Today I pay tribute to the workers who undertook this great endeavor and to the community of Mindoro for honoring their efforts. With its natural beauty and continued usefulness, the Mindoro Cut is a link to our region's history and people.

#### EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE TITLE IX

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, introduced by Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance," states the Title IX Law of 1972. Passed by Congress, the act prohibits discrimination against girls and women in federally funded education, including athletic programs. Many controversies arose from the bill. It was protested that boy's sports would suffer if women's sports became equally funded. Despite all the difficulties, the newly enacted law created numerous opportunities for girls and women in many fields, such as science or math, health care, school bands, cheerleaders, clubs and athletics. Because of Title IX, many young women gained a chance to receive scholarships and opportunity for higher education.

The Title IX Law greatly improved the lives of females and will continue to affect women for years to come. Title IX has influenced many areas of education, giving the possibility for women to become lawyers, scientists, economists, politicians, doctors. Even at the present time gender equity is still an issue. By protecting and supporting Title IX, we can ensure full and equal educational opportunities for all people pursuing their education.

#### CONGRATULATING MEGHAN VITTRUP FOR HER APPOINTMENT AS UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYSTEM STUDENT REGENT

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meghan Vittrup, who will be sworn in today as the Student Regent for the University of North Texas System. Appointed by the governor of Texas, the student regent serves as a member of the University's Board of Regents, which governs the University of North Texas, the UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth, and the UNT Dallas Campus. Meghan will hold a one-year term, and she is charged with representing the interests of students as well as the interests of the State of Texas and the university system. The student regent is a very important position within the UNT system, and I am honored to recognize such an outstanding individual.

At UNT, Meghan is pursuing a degree in journalism, with a double minor in political science and Spanish. Additionally, she has been director of internal operations for the Student Government Association, and vice president of Eagle Angels, an on-campus organization. This summer, Meghan is working at the Pentagon as an intern writer for American Foreign Press Services, (AFPS), in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. AFPS provides the news content for the official Department of Defense website.

As an alumnus of UNT, it makes me especially proud to see a leader from within the student body involved in such an important role as a Member of the Board of Regents. It is encouraging to see current students taking such an active role in governing the school. It is because of dedicated individuals like Meghan that the University of North Texas continues to shine as one of the leading universities of Texas.

Again, I commend Meghan for her outstanding accomplishment. Her appointment is well deserved, and I am confident that the UNT system will benefit from her involvement. I am proud to represent Meghan in the 26th District of Texas.

#### HONORING THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WILDOMAR, CA ON JULY 1, 2008

#### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of the City of

Wildomar on their official incorporation as a city on July 1, 2008. Located in southwest Riverside County within the 49th Congressional District, Wildomar stands to be the 456th city in the great state of California. I commend the citizens of Wildomar for their decision to take the responsibility of self governance by utilizing the fundamental principles of democracy, a tradition that goes back to the founding days of our nation.

Established as a community in 1891, Wildomar has a long and rich history in California. The three founders constructed the name "Wildomar" from their first names, "Wil" from William Collier, "Do" from Donald Graham and "Mar" from Margaret Collier. Once a common stop for the Pony Express on the Butterfield Stage route, Wildomar provided a much needed break for the express riders. Thanks to the establishment of a rail line and stop at Wildomar, the village has continued to grow throughout the last century.

Today, the area of Wildomar consists of many custom built homes set on large ranches and communities along the hillsides with sweeping views of the valley. Wildomar remains a relaxing and naturally beautiful area of California. Wildomar is home to 27,000 people, many of them first time home buyers and long time residents.

On February 2, 2008, the citizens of Wildomar voted to incorporate the city, while at the same time electing the leaders that will set the standards for future growth and stability in a rich area of California. It is my honor to recognize the first city council of Wildomar: Council Members Ms. Sheryl Ade, Mr. Bob Cashman, Mr. Scott Farnam, Ms. Bridgette Moore, and Ms. Marsha Swanson. I look forward to working with the new council on issues important to their new and growing community.

As the Representative of the 49th Congressional District of California in the United States House of Representatives, I wish the new city of Wildomar great success as it begins the next chapter of Wildomar's storied history.

#### COMMENDING THE UNITED STATE'S LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH SWAZILAND

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as a proud co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Swaziland, I rise today to educate my colleagues about the history of Swaziland and strong but unfortunately too often overlooked relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The Swazi nation has a long and rich history going back to the 16th century when, according to tradition, the Swazi people migrated south from what is now Mozambique. Following a series of conflicts with people living in the area around modern day Maputo, Mozambique, the Swazi people settled in northern Zululand—part of present day South Africa—in about 1750. Unable to resist the growing power of the Zulu nation in the region, the Swazis moved gradually northward in the 1800s and established themselves in the area of modern Swaziland. From 1894 to 1902

South Africa administered Swazi interests with the British assuming control of the country in 1902. On September 6, 1968, the Kingdom of Swaziland became officially independent from the British crown.

Today, Swaziland is a full fledged member of the United Nations, the African Union, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Ten accredited ambassadors or honorary consuls are resident in the country and Swaziland maintains diplomatic missions in Brussels, Copenhagen, Kuala Lumpur, London, Maputo, Nairobi, Pretoria, Taipei, the United Nations, and Washington, D.C.

The United States has maintained good bilateral relations since the kingdom became independent in 1968 and these good ties have developed substantially over the years through talks of trade and assistance to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic that plagues the Kingdom.

Approximately five years ago, the United States began negotiations to launch a Free Trade Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) made up of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. While the negotiations are currently on hold, the United States is still engaged in cooperative efforts to launch a program to intensify the trade and investment relationship in preparation for a Free Trade Agreement that would eventually eliminate tariffs, reduce non-tariff barriers, liberalize service trade, protect intellectual property rights, and provide technical assistance to help the five African nations, including Swaziland. To compound these future goals, the U.S. supports small enterprise development, education, military training, and development of institutions and human resources, and agricultural.

In addition to promoting economic reform and improved industrial relations, the United States has worked closely with many organizations within Swaziland, and through U.S. agencies, to develop HIV/AIDS initiatives and programs. The U.S. is also the largest bilateral donor to the Global Fund, Swaziland's principal HIV/AIDS funding source. Through this source, many Swaziland groups such as the Hope House, Anglican United Against HIV/AIDS, World Teach, Salvation Army etc, have received funds to help in the scourge against AIDS. As exhibited in this year's large reauthorization amount for Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States is committed in the fight against AIDS, and will stand alongside any country willing to join us in this serious fight.

The Peace Corps has made substantial contributions to this common fight as well. In 2003, Peace Corps volunteers returned to Swaziland after a nine-year absence. The current Peace Corps program in Swaziland focuses on HIV/AIDS and provides assistance in the execution of two components of the HIV/AIDS national strategy—risk reduction and mitigation of the impact of the disease. Volunteers encourage youth to engage in appropriate behaviors that will reduce the spread of HIV; they work with children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and they assist in capacity building for nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations.

I was also pleased to learn that the U.S. Government sends, on average, four Swazi professionals to the United States each year, from both the public and private sectors, pri-

marily for master's degrees, and about five others for three- to four-week International Visitor programs. Such programs are vital to continuing substantial progress between our two countries' common goals. Given the great potential for progress and development between the United States and Swaziland as outlined above, I am excited to co-chair the Congressional Swaziland Caucus with my friend and colleague Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York. I urge my colleagues to learn more about the Kingdom of Swaziland and to consider joining the Congressional Swaziland Caucus to help us bolster the long standing ties of friendship between our two great countries.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF JUSTICE REVIUS ORTIQUE, JR.

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, the death of Justice Revius O. Ortique, Jr. this past Sunday marked the passing of a true public servant and a selfless leader. A man of historic firsts, most notably the first African-American member of the Civil District Court in Louisiana, and the first African-American member of Louisiana's Supreme Court, he blazed a trail for others to follow.

He was an outstanding lawyer, winning landmark civil rights cases, and serving as President of the National Bar Association. He served our community as a leader of our Urban League and chair of the New Orleans Aviation Board. He served our Nation, as an army officer and as an appointee to significant federal posts by five different Presidents.

Justice Ortique was a man of community, of faith and of family. He was a man who loved justice and pursued it for himself and others his entire life. Our Nation is better for his service, his leadership and his commitment to his country. We pray God's comfort for his wife of over 60 years, Miriam; his daughter, Rhessa; and her husband, Alden; and his grandchildren, Chip, Heidi, and Todd.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and call attention to one example of important NIH-supported research being conducted through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIDCD.

Of the five standard senses—sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—hearing is the one that people are most likely to lose. Approximately 32 million American adults have some form of hearing loss, ranging from mild to profound. Loss of hearing can occur at any age. Between two to three out of every 1,000 infants in this country are born deaf or hard of hearing. This impairment can make it difficult