

press, and the legal system. As a result of their leadership and tireless efforts, we are significantly closer to achieving political, educational, social, and economic equality for all.

As the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, I congratulate the NAACP on their 99th anniversary. Their work over the past 99 years has made us a better and more tolerant Nation. I wish them the best as they continue their efforts to eliminate discrimination from all corners of our society.

A TRIBUTE TO JILL THOMPSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jill Thompson. Mrs. Thompson, a registered nurse, was administrator of the Lafayette County, Missouri, Health Department. Sadly, Mrs. Thompson lost her fight with cancer on January 26, 2008.

Mrs. Thompson was an employee at the Lafayette County Health Department for 29 years. She also served two terms as the rural health department representative from the Northwest District on the Partnership Council, was president of the Missouri Association of Public Health Agencies, and served on the board of the West Central Missouri Area Health Education Center. She is fondly remembered by her colleagues as someone who was incredibly dedicated to public health and passionate about serving her community.

Further recognizing her commitment to public health, Mrs. Thompson was a founding member of the Sounds of the Heart organization, which raised money to place automated external defibrillators in locations throughout the community. She was also a member of the Cancer Assistance Relief organization. This organization provides cancer patients with rides to doctors' appointments and hospitals.

Friends and family will never forget her warm personality, dedication, and intelligence. Mrs. Thompson is survived by her husband Larry, three children, and two grandchildren. I'm sure Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the life of Jill Thompson for her vision and leadership in the field of public health in the State of Missouri.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE MARY E. SMITHEY PACE LEARNING CENTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the dedication and renaming of the PACE School to the Mary E. Smithey PACE Learning Center in Duncanville, Texas.

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, a ceremony will be held honoring Mary E. Smithey for her many years as a teacher in the Duncanville school system. When Mrs. Smithey began teaching in Duncanville in 1946, she was one of eight teachers who served 287 students in grades one through twelve in one school building, now known as Central Elementary.

Mrs. Smithey was the first retiree of the Duncanville Teachers Association and spoke highly of her career, particularly of her students.

Mary E. Smithey was an exemplary teacher who was loved and respected by her students, their families and her peers. Mrs. Smithey, along with her husband, Grady Sr., have held long careers in public service in their community and the tradition continues as three of their grandchildren are teachers. The Smithey's two sons, Grady Jr. and Gary Ervin, are Duncanville school graduates.

The Mary E. Smithey PACE Learning Center is an alternative school for students, grades 9 to 12, who need additional assistance in their education. The smaller class sizes and individual learning available at this campus help young people gain confidence and success. Students study a core curriculum, along with electives, on a flexible schedule allowing them the opportunity to achieve a high school diploma.

I am honored to pay tribute to Mary E. Smithey and the Duncanville Independent School District in the dedication and renaming of the PACE School in her memory. The objectives of the PACE Learning Center will perpetuate Mrs. Smithey's legacy in education for many years to come. I am privileged to represent the Duncanville ISD in the 24th District of Texas.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP CHRISTODOULOS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the life of the Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, Mr. Christodoulos, who passed away late last month.

Since becoming ordained as a deacon in 1961 and a priest in 1965, Archbishop Christodoulos showed a dedication to his faith and people that earned great admiration and respect among his followers. He was a leading voice on the origins of Christianity, and on the role Christianity had in the creation of the European world and the identity of its citizens.

It was obvious to many that Archbishop Christodoulos cared greatly for his people and worked tirelessly to represent his faithful followers. He also actively sought to bring faith to younger generations, jocularly inviting them back to the church as they were "earrings and all."

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Christodoulos was a remarkable man whose death will be mourned by many. His legacy, however, will impact generations of loyal Greek Orthodox and other members of the Dyophysite faith.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on February 19, this Nation will recognize the 66th anniversary of the "Day of Remembrance." This was

the day in 1942 that President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The President's decision to intern Americans was an avoidable consequence of racial prejudice and wartime hysteria. The government at all levels was blinded by war, and made decisions that were contrary to our Constitution. The failure of each branch of government to uphold the rights of individuals must be taught so that future generations resist succumbing to the politics of fear.

Because of one of the darkest periods of our Nation's history, we learned of the damage that could be done when we let the politics of fear cloud our judgment. I hope every American will take this day to reaffirm their commitment to our Constitution and the rights and protections it guarantees for all of us. This commitment is a way to prevent such injustice from ever becoming a reality again.

Congress has not only recognized a Day of Remembrance, but it also supports and funds internment site preservation as the physical reminder of past inequality. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that future generations will be able to visit the internment camps to gain a better understanding of the previous generation's experience.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This act proves what is great about our country. When this act passed, our Nation formally acknowledged and apologized for violations of civil liberties and constitutional rights of over 100,000 interned Americans.

As we look back on a time in our Nation's history, and how our country has responded since, we should have hope for the future. Around the world, human rights violations continue unabated. Yet, we can combat this by working with a single purpose towards a future wherein every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality or creed enjoys equal treatment in this world.

And today, 66 years after the signing of Executive Order 9066, we must renew our commitment to bringing these rights to all people.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to pay tribute to my colleague, my neighbor, and my friend, Congressman TOM LANTOS.

For three decades, TOM LANTOS has been an eloquent voice for the voiceless here and around the world. With his passing, our country has lost a great champion for human rights. His dedication to his fellow human beings was rooted in having survived the Holocaust. His story of survival and escape from Nazi forced labor camps in Hungary during the Second World War is inspirational, but it was the memory of those, including his mother,

whom he lost, that motivated him in his extraordinary career of public service.

TOM LANTOS' story was also the story of an immigrant. He said he was an American by choice. Coming to the United States through an academic scholarship, he worked hard and made the most of the opportunities that only America can offer. He earned degrees from the University of Washington and the University of California, Berkeley, and taught economics for 30 years before running for Congress in 1980, winning against a Republican incumbent in a Republican year.

As a Member of Congress, TOM LANTOS raised the profile of human rights in every corner of the world from China to Tibet and from Sudan to Burma. One of the first things he did when he came to Congress was to found the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983. As the only Armenian-American serving in the House, I'm especially grateful for TOM's leadership as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last year when he worked to secure the passage of legislation recognizing, at long last, the Armenian Genocide of 1915. His voice in the face of strong opposition from many fronts helped secure the passage of this resolution through the committee.

Although Congressman LANTOS' expertise was in world affairs, he took care of his constituents in California's 12th Congressional District. For 15 years I've had the privilege to serve with him, representing one of the most remarkable areas of our country. We worked together on efforts to preserve our local environment and improve transportation.

Congressman LANTOS' efforts are clearly visible throughout his congressional district. He worked to expand BART service at San Francisco International Airport and to create a water ferry service from San Mateo County to San Francisco. He led the effort to acquire Rancho Corral de Tierra for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and we worked together to fund a visitor's center for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary at the Fitzgerald Marine Center.

More important than the legacy of his work is the legacy of his family, especially the love of his life, his wife Annette; his daughters Annette and Katrina; and his 18 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They always represented the greatest achievements of his great life.

America was blessed by the life of Congressman TOM LANTOS. May he rest in the peace that he worked so hard to bring to others during his entire life.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN R.
COCHRAN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. John Cochran, Business Development Executive of Bank of America Card Services. John will retire this year from his position as a leader in a company with the largest credit card portfolio in North America, having over 40 million customers amounting to \$190 billion in high-interest loans.

During his time at Bank of America, John was responsible for all business development

endeavors for Bank of America Card Services. Prior to the January 2006 merger with Bank of America, John was the chief operating officer of MBNA Corporation, which he also helped to found in 1982. Under John's direction as head of Business Development, MBNA became a pioneer in issuing so-called "affinity" credit cards—cards endorsed by alumni associations, interest groups, professional organizations, clothing manufacturers, sports teams, and others. Cards emblazoned with the logo of a much-loved alma mater or team proved to be appealing to many consumers and, as a result of John's ingenuity, MBNA enjoyed runaway growth. Within 10 years, MBNA had become one of Delaware's largest employers, and remains so today under the Bank of America name. John is also the person behind Bank of America's 3 major affinity relationships: the National Education Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the American Automobile Association, all 3 of which will celebrate 27 years of successful marketing agreements with Bank of America this year.

John was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Loyola College, where he currently sits on the board and has served as its chairman. Though not a Delaware native, John contributes to the State of Delaware in more ways than just furthering private sector development. John is a member of the board of directors of the Delaware Council for Economic Education. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Delaware Public Policy Institute.

I acknowledge Mr. John Cochran for his many years of service and numerous contributions to Bank of America, the credit card industry, and the State of Delaware. I am confident that as he enjoys his retirement with his wife and children, and cheers for his beloved Baltimore Orioles, he will remain an active and influential member of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 13, I was detained and unable to vote on rollcall 46. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

IN MEMORY OF GLADYS JOY
KENNEDY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Gladys Joy Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy was a devoted and active member of the Pasadena community.

Gladys Joy Kennedy was born on June 1, 1965, the beloved child of Thomas Foster Kennedy, now deceased, and Leola Sudduth Kennedy of Pasadena, California. Gladys, a twin, was the ninth of ten children. A Pasadena area resident all of her life, she attended Cleveland Elementary School, McKinley Junior High School, and Blair High School.

Gladys was active in many churches in the Pasadena area, including Holy Deliverance Church and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church. She was a proud and devout member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Altadena, where she was an enthusiastic and devoted volunteer. Gladys also volunteered extensively for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Pasadena Branch, and assisted with numerous local political campaigns.

Gladys Joy will be greatly missed, and I extend my sincere condolences upon the untimely and very sad loss of Gladys Joy to the extended Kennedy family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY
DOUGLAS MEADE

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Douglas Meade and pay tribute to his 43-year public service career to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Douglas Meade, the son of a coal miner, grew up on a farm in Wise County, Virginia. He started his public service career in 1964 as a social worker in Wise County. In 1970 after receiving a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University, Douglas worked briefly for the Virginia Department of Social Services in Richmond, Virginia, before returning back to his native roots in southwest Virginia.

For the past 36 years, Douglas has been the director of the Washington County, Virginia, Department of Social Services. His office administers and provides annually over \$40 million in services to citizens of Washington County. In fiscal year 2007–2008, the Washington County Department of Social Services will touch the life in some way of over 16,000 county citizens. Over the years, Douglas has served on numerous State and local task forces and committees that focused on improving the quality of life and opportunities for rural Virginians. Currently he is involved in several southwest Virginia regional initiatives that are focused on improving the job skills, employment opportunity, health care access, and educational attainment of area citizens.

Through his advocacy and public policy development work, Douglas has worked extensively with the Virginia General Assembly and has done some work at the Federal level. He has been recognized as a leader in his field and has received numerous awards. In 1994, Douglas received the President's Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives for his work.

Douglas' rural upbringing has helped form his strong work ethic, values and community spirit. His warmth and eternal optimism brighten the lives of his family and friends.

In 2005, Douglas graduated from the nationally renowned University of Virginia's Sorenson Political Leadership Institute. After retiring from a 43-year career in social services, Douglas has not ruled out running for a political office or continuing, in some way, his commitment to public service.