

break human beings, to convert the population into specimens in a zoo—obedient to our keepers, but dangerous to each other.”

Is that our goal? Are jails and prisons rehabilitating or are they simply creating more dangerous criminals? We need to better understand what is happening in our society and take account for it. This legislation maintains a log—a report that will track deaths in custody. The more we know what is going on, the more responsible we must become. It is my belief that this is just the beginning of a criminal justice system that needs reform.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR
FLIGHT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Honor Flight for their ongoing work to honor America's veterans. Honor Flight provides World War II veterans the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the World War II Memorial constructed in their honor. Funded by donations from businesses and individuals, the trip is absolutely free of charge and serves as an excellent tribute to veterans who sacrificed, some paying the ultimate price, in the name of freedom.

Started in 2005 by Earl Morse, Honor Flight has grown from a small operation, flying a dozen veterans at a time in small private planes, to a network of affiliates that spans 30 States and transports hundreds of veterans to Washington on commercial airliners to see their memorial.

On October 8, 2008, the local Honor Flight Affiliate in my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin, will be flying some 180 veterans, many of whom reside in my district, to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II memorial. I would like to personally thank Neil Duresky, Chuck Hanson, and Randy Eddy for all their hard work to make this dream a reality for Wisconsin veterans, who served their country so admirably and with such courage. Without Honor Flight, many veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was constructed in their honor.

Given the enormity of the sacrifice made by those who have served and continue to serve our country with the highest degree of honor and bravery, there is nothing we can do to fully repay them for their efforts. Thanks to Honor Flight, however, we can offer them the chance to visit the memorial dedicated to their service.

It is my sincere hope that the actions of Honor Flight inspire others to pause and reflect upon the sacrifices made and effort expended by our men and women in uniform, who are the best in the world. I will continue to honor and pay tribute to those who serve our country for their sense of duty and extraordinary courage.

HONORING ROBERT AND DONNA
DEPRIEST

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to select Robert and Donna DePriest as the Fifth District of Tennessee's Angels in Adoption nominee this year.

Robert and Donna, and their children, Matthew and Melissa—all of Old Hickory, Tennessee—have devoted almost 15 years of their lives to the love, care, and support of numerous children from Tennessee's foster care system. I greatly admire their service to help provide a home to some of the neediest children in our society.

The DePriests stand out as foster parents because of their commitment to medically fragile children—many of whom had a very short life expectancy. The devotion and sacrifice this family has made to these special children has been truly above and beyond their call of duty. Due to the specific needs of these children, the family is often required to be specially trained in a variety of medical procedures. Though the level of care needed for these special children has frequently made it difficult for the DePriests to participate in family activities outside the home, they have still remained both willing and passionate about continuing to provide homes and care for many children in Tennessee.

The DePriest family has adopted four of the children that they cared for over the years. These children are Zachary, 12, Angel, 5, Heaven, 4, and Savannah, 2.

I appreciate all that the DePriest family has done, and thank them for their service. I hope that the DePriest family will continue to love and care for Tennessee's children for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LOPEZ

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to remember Richard Lopez, a long-time champion of those less fortunate in West Texas. Mr. Lopez passed away on June 8, 2008, at the age of 74.

Richard Lopez inherited his charitable spirit from his father, with whom he would travel long distances as a child to collect fruit and vegetables to deliver to their neighbors in need. He carried these lessons learned as a child forward and become known for his work as the executive director of the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation and as the co-founder of the South Plains Food Bank.

Born in Edinburg, Texas, Mr. Lopez attended the University of Mississippi and married Rachel Bustillos on April 7th, 1982 in Lubbock, Texas. Following the destructive tornado that struck Lubbock in 1970, Mr. Lopez worked to help rebuild devastated parts of North Lubbock.

He was a tireless advocate for area migrant workers and of the less fortunate in Lubbock. He was widely known as the “Cesar Chavez

of West Texas” because of his compassion for others. A rare leader, Mr. Lopez never missed an opportunity to help people find affordable housing or to offer encouragement to farm laborers before they left to work on the harvest.

Mr. Lopez was dedicated to his community. In addition to more than 25 years of service with the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation and the South Plains Food Bank, he was the founder of the Ad Hoc Committee for Farm Workers in West Texas and a founder of the Lubbock Indigent Health Consortium. He also received countless community service awards in recognition of his devotion to others.

Those from District 19, including myself, will miss Mr. Lopez's enthusiasm for life, dedication to the betterment of his community, and his great passion for helping those around him.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CONGRES-
SIONAL MEMBER U.S. REP-
RESENTATIVE DAVE WELDON
(FL-15)

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and friend, U.S. Representative DAVE WELDON who has served this body and the people of Florida well over the last 14 years.

Congressman WELDON has made valuable contributions not only to the people of Florida's 15th Congressional District, but also to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American public at large, who will continue to realize his long-standing efforts and contributions into the future.

As most in this body know, Dr. DAVE WELDON, M.D., F.A.C.P. of Melbourne, Florida, is a practicing physician and Army veteran. His background and expertise have been called upon on numerous occasions to strengthen this nation's space program, healthcare policy, energy resources, foreign affairs, and veterans' programs among others.

Dr. WELDON was the first medical doctor to have served in Congress from the State of Florida, and continues to treat patients at a Veterans' clinic in his congressional district on a volunteer basis. Rep. WELDON served on the House Appropriations Committee, and in that capacity was a member on various subcommittees, including the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee, which has funding oversight of several key executive branch agencies including NASA. In the 110th Congress, he served on the Labor, Health, and Human Services, as well as the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

I have had the privilege to work closely with Dr. WELDON regarding many issues affecting Florida, as his congressional district borders my own in central Florida. In areas such as the space program and NASA, he has become a leader and will be long-recognized. I also worked hand-in-hand with him during several tumultuous hurricanes, in which he gave so generously of his efforts to benefit and rebuild for the people of our state.

His leadership in the House included serving as Vice Chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, for 8

years, where he represented the interests of his constituents at Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Station, and surrounding aerospace community. He is the co-founder and chairman of the Congressional Aerospace Caucus.

Rep. WELDON is also a member of the Autism Caucus, the Cancer Caucus, the Renewable Energy Caucus, the Tourism Caucus, and the Military Veterans Caucus. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 453A, known as the "Rocket Post," in Rockledge, Florida.

Madam Speaker, I rise to again express my appreciation, as well as those of the people of the State of Florida and my colleagues in Congress, for the dedication of Dr. DAVE WELDON in his service in the United States Congress. My best wishes go out to him and his family for his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FIXING
THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM ACT OF 2008"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative HONDA (D-CA), I am introducing the "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act of 2008" which would do two things: (1) make the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Office a presidential nominee confirmable by the Senate, and (2) create an advisory board to strengthen oversight of the office to ensure better access to the ballot by overseas military and civilians voters.

The recent history of the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP) is one of clear lapses in the Government's efforts to help ensure access to the ballot for thousands of

overseas voters, both civilian and military in recent elections. This legislation is designed to bring greater attention to the voting office in the Department of Defense and enhanced oversight to ensure that it does its job of providing greater access to voting for our soldiers, sailors and airmen, their families, as well as civilians living overseas.

The "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" is a necessary step in ensuring that overseas voters are counted in elections. Unfortunately, it will not help with the coming election. I believe that Americans serving in the military abroad or civilians residing overseas will still not have adequate help from the Government in facilitating their right of access to the ballot. I and Representative HONDA believe we need to start working on improving access to the next election now while the problems are still fresh in our minds so that we are not facing them again in 2010.

COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Taiwan's National Day, also known as Double Ten Day. This day marks a special moment in Taiwan's history. It was the start of the Wuchang uprising that led to the overthrow of the Ching dynasty and laid the foundation for the establishment of the first democracy founded in Asia.

Taiwan has been a long time supporter and ally of the United States and its people. Taiwan continues to be our ally in the war on terrorism by cooperating with humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have shown generosity and compassion by contributing to the Twin Towers Fund and Pentagon

Memorial Fund, and now to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Continually, Taiwan has proved to be a true ally to the people of the United States.

In sharing the same beliefs in freedom and democracy, we can further our ties by protecting these ideas in our countries and throughout the world. May this year's celebration be one of the most memorable and enjoyed in Taiwan's history.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, for 18 years, Members of Congress have had the pleasure of working with an exemplary representative. And for 18 years, the constituents of northern Alabama have been represented by an extraordinary man. Today, I would like to honor the service of my friend and colleague, BUD CRAMER.

Over his time here in Congress, BUD has generated a noteworthy list of accomplishments: co-founder of the Blue Dog Coalition, one of the strongest allies for NASA, and a tireless advocate for children, authoring the monumental National Children's Advocacy Program Act. He managed to balance national needs while staying true to his Huntsville roots. BUD, your absence will be a loss not just for the Blue Dog Coalition, not just for Congress, but for the Nation as a whole. I wish you the best in your years to come.