

The players, parents, and coaches of the Southern Guam Little League represented Guam with pride throughout the 2008 Little League Baseball World Series competition. I commend the parents and coaches for their hard work and dedication to the players in their road to Williamsport. Most of all, I join with all the people of Guam and baseball fans everywhere in commending the Southern Guam Little League players who inspired us with their skills and their sportsmanship.

Congratulations and thanks for the memories.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPERVISOR JOHN F. SILVA IN THE COUNTY OF SOLANO IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleague, the Hon. GEORGE MILLER, in the House of Representatives to recognize Supervisor John F. Silva, as he retires after 53 years of public service with the County of Solano.

Supervisor Silva's career with Solano County began as a police officer in the Benicia in 1956. In 1978, he was appointed Benicia city manager. Following his time as city manager, he was elected to two terms as a city councilmember. Supervisor Silva was elected to the Solano County Board of Supervisors in 1997.

Supervisor Silva's outstanding service in Solano County also includes several achievements that significantly impacted the quality of life of the residents of Solano County. As supervisor, he was dedicated to representing his community and exemplified a strong work ethic. To address Solano County's escalating crime levels, he pushed hard for the successful development of a county-wide Gang and Drug Task Force. In addition, he was involved in the construction of the juvenile hall, the probation building, an award-winning new county administration center and parking facility.

One of Supervisor Silva's biggest achievements was his involvement in the program, Insure All Kids. Through the relentless fundraising efforts of supporters, the county was recognized by the State of California for achieving an astounding level of 96 percentile of health insurance for Solano County children.

The honors and awards Supervisor Silva has earned over the years are a testament to his hard work and dedication. This year, he has received the prestigious Circle for Service Award from the California State Association of Counties, as well as the Solano Transportation Authority's Outstanding Leadership in Transportation Award.

As Supervisor John Silva retires from his seat on the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of Solano County. I wish him and his wife Jan the best of luck in their future endeavors.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 15th Anniversary of South Texas College to congratulate them for enrolling 22,000 students, the highest amount enrolled in South Texas College's history.

The South Texas College was created by the Texas legislature in 1993 and signed into law by former Governor Ann Richards. They are only one of three community colleges in Texas accredited to offer bachelors degrees and the only community college in the state to offer two Bachelor of Applied Technology Degrees. Their faculty and staff of over 1,500 have been leaders in higher education by not only providing education to college students, but by providing unique workforce training programs and the College Express dual enrollment high school program. Partnered with sixteen school districts in Hidalgo and Starr Counties, these programs help minority students find a pathway to higher-paying careers in math and science.

In recent years, South Texas College received the MetLife Foundation's 2008 Community College Excellence Award for promoting educational and economic advancement, thirty-one Excellence Awards from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development in 2008, and the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2003 through 2007.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize South Texas College for their record enrollment in 2008, and I thank you for this time.

IN MEMORY OF MARILYN LACEY
McMULLEN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. Marilyn McMullen of Mission Hills, Kansas, a lovely person and dear friend.

Marilyn, whom I affectionately called "Lace," was a proud graduate of Webster High School, Webster Groves, Missouri. She attended Milliken College and the University of Missouri, Columbia, where she graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Education and where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She established scholarships at the School of Education in honor of her mother.

Marilyn taught second grade at LaDue Elementary School in St. Louis. She was a member of the Grace Bibb Society in support of the MU School of Education and a member of the Friends of the MU Library and MU Kansas City Alumni Club. She was also a member and a past Director of the MU Jefferson Club.

At Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral Marilyn had served in the choir and vestry. She was a long-time member for over 40 years and Director of the Altar Guild at the Cathedral.

Marilyn was a Cub Scout Den Mother and President of the Boy Scout Mother's Club. She also served on the Board of Bishop Spencer Place to whom she was very grateful for the wonderful care provided to her mother.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to her family: her husband, Larry McMullen; her two sons and daughters-in-laws, Michael, Andrew, Bonnie and Yvette; and her grandchildren, Matthew, Hannah, Sarah, Rachel, Abby and Sophie.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MRS. PATRICIA M. BOYLE
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
NAVY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Patricia M. Boyle of the Department of the Navy, who is retiring after more than 36 years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in her service as the Legislation Specialist in the Department of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

Mrs. Boyle started her federal service in 1972 with the Office of Legislative Affairs as a Legislation Assistant. She was responsible for researching, routing legislation for comment throughout the Department of the Navy, and for maintaining all working files on current or past legislation of interest to the Department of the Navy. She worked in this position until July 1974.

She then worked in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Legal and Legislative Office, as a Legal Technician. She served in that position from July 1974 to December 1981. In that position, she helped coordinate comments on items of legislation and executive orders for the Chief of Naval Operations staff.

In 1981, Mrs. Boyle returned to the work at the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, DC, where she has remained since December 1981.

Mrs. Boyle has provided superb support as the Legislation Specialist to the Chief of Legislative Affairs within the Office of Legislative Affairs. This position marks the culmination of 36 years of Federal service in which she has continued to serve the Department of the Navy's legislative agenda. She has had a major impact on the identification of high-interest legislative items and the coordination of complete and thorough Navy positions to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Congress.

Responsible for acting as central coordinator for the Department of the Navy for more than 300 legislative proposals per year, she has consistently provided timely and thoroughly vetted Navy positions, thereby ensuring the Navy's interests were furthered. She monitored the progress of legislation critical to the Department of the Navy and communicated the status and any outstanding requirements to ensure that Navy leadership was fully informed of important legislative initiatives. Her diligent, thoughtful, and timely coordination ensured that the Navy's message was effectively communicated to Congress.

In addition, she managed the coordination of all legislative items, approximately 1,000 per fiscal year, which included House and Senate Bills, executive agency proposals, testimony and executive orders. She provided consolidated Navy positions on these legislative items to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress, while successfully meeting all deadlines and suspense dates. Her effective coordination and thorough review consistently ensured a concise and well thought out Navy message to Congress.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Patricia Boyle that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank her and her family for her honorable service to our Nation with the United States Navy. I wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career of public service.

VETERANS DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Veterans Day. This national holiday serves as reminder of the enormous sacrifices that brave men and women have made for the ideals and beliefs that all Americans value. Veterans Day is also an opportunity to give thanks to the hundreds of thousands of armed forces personnel serving our country to protect our Nation and to secure the peace around the world.

To mark this special holiday, I had the honor of attending both a ceremony for Mexican American Post 5, where I learned of the hardships faced by American soldiers of Mexican descent, and the Minnesota State Veterans Day program to pay tribute to the men and women serving our country in uniform. This year, I also had the privilege of visiting our troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan to witness the tremendous sacrifice they and their families make each day.

On the battlefield, the U.S. Armed Forces pledge to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it must be our promise that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. Fully preparing our troops, and providing the necessary healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans, is our responsibility and moral obligation.

The 110th Congress has honored our commitment to veterans by making their needs a priority. This Congress passed the largest funding increase in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which ensures that our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the quality health and mental health care they deserve. This year, we have also provided tax relief for military families, increased pay for members of our armed services, established a suicide prevention program, improved housing assistances for homeless veterans, and helped military families avoid home foreclosure. Lastly, this Democratic led Congress passed a GI bill for the 21st century that fully restores four-year college scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan

veterans, on a par with the educational benefits after World War II.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor during times of war and peace deserve the best this country can afford. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and President Obama to ensure veterans receive the highest level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country. This is a commitment to which I hold fast on Veterans Day and everyday.

To all veterans, you have my thanks and that of a grateful nation.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS CHAIRMAN DANA GIOIA

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and laud Dana Gioia's service as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2003 when he began his service, Chairman Gioia has played a vital role in advancing America's cultural vitality and economic prosperity by promoting and expanding access to the arts. As a co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am grateful for Chairman Gioia's efforts and look forward to his future contributions to the arts in America after he leaves the NEA in January 2009.

Chairman Gioia has launched a handful of national initiatives that have spread the reach of the NEA across the country and expanded arts education in schools and communities. One favorite program of mine, The Big Read, provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The initiative includes innovative reading programs in selected cities and towns, comprehensive resources for discussing classic literature, an ambitious national publicity campaign, and an extensive Web site providing comprehensive information on authors and their works. The NEA inaugurated The Big Read as a pilot project in 2006 with ten communities featuring four books. The Big Read continues to expand to include more communities and additional books. By 2009, approximately 400 communities in the U.S. will have hosted a Big Read since the program's 2007 national launch.

Chairman Gioia has democratized the arts. Last year, the NEA awarded over twenty-two hundred grants totaling over \$100 million in 435 congressional districts. The National Endowment for the Arts is the largest national source of arts funding in the United States and supports local arts programs in every congressional district across the country. While the NEA's budget represents less than one percent of total arts philanthropy in the United States, Chairman Gioia has successfully leveraged NEA grants to have a powerful multiplying effect, with each grant dollar typically generating seven to eight times more money in matching grants.

Chairman Gioia is a Renaissance Man. As an artist himself, he recognizes that the arts are more than just a cultural or emotional enterprise. With his background in business, he

knows that the arts have immense financial and social impact. Creativity, innovation, and imagination fuel today's global economy, and America's artists are a large source of that investment. Chairman Gioia led the NEA with this always in mind. When Chairman Gioia visited my congressional district, he brought not only great enthusiasm and energy to all of the arts organizations he toured, but imparted valuable guidance and advice to these organizations on how to increase their membership, spur local investment in the arts, and expand their presence in the community.

As a blues singer myself, I can empathize with Chairman Gioia's decision to return to his artistic craft. But despite his departure from the NEA, Chairman Gioia will continue to enrich the arts community. Art transcends barriers of language, time, and generation, translating cultural differences, breathing life into history, and bridging experiences across cultures. Chairman Gioia's exceptional writing and poetry no doubt enrich the lives of all Americans. Chairman Gioia will leave big shoes to fill, but I am confident that his leadership has trickled down in the NEA over the years. The NEA will continue to drive excellence in the arts with his spirit always in mind.

THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN RUSSIA AND THE STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, after the summer recess, the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, was preparing to conduct a hearing on United States and Western businesses at risk entering markets in Russia and the former Soviet Republics without the protections guaranteed by the rule of law and government adherence to market principles. The hearing had to be postponed due to the invasion of Georgia, but it is our intention to take up this issue in the next Congress.

The Helsinki Commission, and the OSCE, is fully committed to the development of democracy, civil society, the rule of law and free markets in the Russia Federation and in other states of the former Soviet Union. We trust that Russian President Medvedev shares that commitment when he proclaims that "my most important task is to further develop civil and economic freedoms."

Yet we see evidence that Russian authorities continue to selectively prosecute and harass human rights advocates, prominent business leaders and journalists by employing arbitrary and extralegal means to achieve state and political ends. This is often accomplished through a manipulated court system, thus denying its citizens and foreign investors the impartial application of the rule of law and equal justice.

In June, 1992, the United States and Russia negotiated and signed the Bilateral Investment Treaty, which grants investors the protections and safeguards necessary to conduct business in a fair and transparent environment. Unfortunately, Russia has failed to ratify this important measure that would ultimately serve the economic interests of both our nations.

Along the same lines, it is regrettable that Russia refuses to ratify the Energy Charter