

drafted countless constituent correspondence, assisted visitors and callers in her always patient and thoughtful manner, and helped several staffers with legislative research and special projects. While her professional skills and academic credentials are certainly impressive, Katrina is also an absolute pleasure to work with. No matter the assignment, she is always eager to help and approaches every new task with a smile. The anecdotes of her adventures as a first-time visitor to the United States were a constant source of entertainment, and her tales of life in Australia gave our office a greater understanding of her country's rich history, culture, and values. Katrina arrived on Capitol Hill hoping to acquire a better understanding of the U.S. legislative process, and it is my sincere hope that she benefited as much from this experience as we did from having her with us.

Madam Speaker, in addition to Siobhan and Katrina, I am delighted to recognize our colleagues here in the House and other colleagues in the Senate who have been congressional hosts in 2008:

James Paterson of Melbourne University, interning with Rep. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART; Monique Salm of Griffith University, interning with Sen. CHUCK HAGEL; Madelene Fox of Deakin University, interning with Rep. JERROLD NADLER; Lucas Robson of Melbourne University, interning with Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD; Clare Anderson of Griffith University, interning with Rep. JOHN TIERNEY, Stephanie Lyons of the University of Canberra, interning with Rep. SAM FARR; Suzanne Allan of the University of Canberra, interning with Sen. MIKE CRAPO; Katrina Mae of the University of Wollongong, interning with Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS; Stella Rieusset of Melbourne University, interning with Rep. MIKE CASTLE; Anthony Bremner of the University of Queensland, interning with Rep. JAMES CLYBURN and the Majority Whip's office; Tim Goyder of the University of Western Australia, interning with Del. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA; and Ally Foat from the University of Queensland, interning with Rep. JAMES CLYBURN.

Let it not go unnoticed the hard work that goes into the Uni-Capitol Internship Program is done by founder Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of a dozen years, who successfully combined his experience in Washington with his extensive travels and lectures throughout Australia into an ingenious program of diplomatic exchange through cultural appreciation and understanding. I have said in the past that I heartily congratulate him on making his vision a reality. This program is a step in the right direction of supporting our young people who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Over the last nine years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from the relationships that have been made from the result of this program as it continues to provide all of us an extraordinary experience with our friends on the other side of the ocean. It has been a great privilege to host Siobhan and Katrina and I ask all my colleagues to extend their open arms to the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to our Australian friends in the future.

## A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the 190,000 former and current volunteers of the United States Peace Corps, as we celebrate the 47th Anniversary of this extraordinary agency.

In a 1960 speech to students at the University of Michigan, President Kennedy issued one of his most historic challenges. He asked Americans to trade the comforts of home for the adversities of volunteer work overseas and, in doing so, serve our country by serving the rest of the world.

President Kennedy's original mission for the Peace Corps remains unchanged today. The Peace Corps volunteers—who range from college graduates to retirees with decades of experience—help the people of host countries by sending trained men and women with expertise in a variety of professional fields. The volunteers also promote a better understanding of Americans abroad and create bonds of friendship that last a lifetime.

More than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers currently serve in 74 countries. In some of the most deeply impoverished regions of the world, the volunteers are often the first glimpse of America that the people have ever encountered. These volunteers make significant and lasting contributions in each host country through their work in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, youth, environment, health and HIV/AIDS.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, Peace Corps volunteers continue to meet the challenges of the HIV/AIDS pandemic working both formally and informally in 10 of the 15 focus countries. In 2007, approximately 93 percent of all Peace Corps posts contributed to HIV/AIDS activities. These volunteers assisted more than 1 million people.

I am especially proud of the seven volunteers from the 34th District currently in service with the Peace Corps. These remarkable men and women from my Los Angeles district and the countries they are currently serving in are as follows: Jennifer Baez, Ecuador; Roberto Dubon, Paraguay; Anna Frumes, Ukraine; Joyce Hahn, Azerbaijan; Roanel Herrera, Panama; and Christina and Justin Senter, Mauritania in North-West Africa. I congratulate them and all of the 821 Californians currently serving around the globe as Peace Corps volunteers.

I also thank Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter, himself a former volunteer in India, for his service at the Corps's helm since September 2006. Mr. Tschetter is the latest in a long line of distinguished Peace Corps Directors that includes Jack Vaughn, Carol Bellamy and, of course, Sargent Shriver, who served as the organization's first leader under President Kennedy.

Peace Corps volunteers each cross the borders of language and culture to inspire new perspectives, provide real assistance in their host countries, and extend American values

and friendship around the world. They are a unique and effective corps of informal ambassadors for this country.

Madam Speaker, as the organization observes its 47th Anniversary, please join me in congratulating Ron Tschetter and the Corps's thousands of volunteers on a job well done. They truly represent the best of what our great Nation has to offer.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), which will otherwise expire at the end of 2008. The CBGN provides grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Since 2000, it has grown to include 156 Gateways in six States and the District of Columbia, and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails.

My own Congressional District includes several such Gateways sites. For example, the Annapolis Maritime Museum, which sits on the banks of Back Creek, promotes an understanding of the maritime heritage of Annapolis and how that history has influenced the evolution of the State of Maryland. The museum campus occupies the site of the old McNasby's Oyster Packing Company. For years, from the shores of the Back Creek and other tributaries, watermen came and went delivering their daily catch. Boatwrights and craftsmen ran boatyards to sustain the industry. Employees of McNasby's and other businesses shucked, canned, and shipped oysters and other seafood as far as the Rocky Mountains. The maritime and seafood industry made Annapolis a prosperous town—and they were all connected to and dependent upon the Chesapeake Bay. The Annapolis Maritime Museum teaches current residents and youth about this connection to the water and how it continues to influence our culture and economy to this day.

As reported in the Baltimore Sun late last year, the museum has established a program with Eastport Elementary School to connect students with the Chesapeake Bay through activities that fit into their studies in reading, math, and science. The students participate in activities such as "measuring water temperature, salinity and clarity; they observe, measure and document the museum's terrapins and oysters; and account for funds they're raising to support the upkeep of the terrapins." These kinds of programs have a profound and long lasting impact on students as evidenced by the feedback from one parent who said, "My child has become more excited and interested in the bay and what it means to the area where he lives."

By maintaining the Gateways network and providing access to sites such as the Annapolis Maritime Museum, we can help develop

the next generation of environmental stewards, which is one of the best ways to truly "Save the Bay." It is therefore critical that we act now to reauthorize the Gateways program so that the Network and its partners can continue to educate residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed about how their communities relate directly to the health of our largest estuary and a national treasure—the Chesapeake Bay.

#### TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Sunday, March 2, 2008, marked Texas Independence Day. 172 years ago that day, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Driven by the same spirit of freedom that drove the patriots of the American Revolution to throw off the shackles of tyranny and oppression, the Texas Declaration of Independence was produced, literally, overnight. Its urgency was crucial, because while it was being prepared, the Alamo in San Antonio was under siege by Santa Anna's army of Mexico.

Immediately upon the assemblage of the Convention of 1836 on March 1, a committee of five of its delegates was appointed to draft the document. The committee worked long into the night to prepare the declaration. It was briefly reviewed, then adopted by the delegates of the convention the following day.

The declaration was an announcement to the world that all Texans would fight to protect their rights. The declaration stated that they would no longer live under the dictatorship of Santa Anna or a government that had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

It spoke of the numerous injustices inflicted upon the settlers of the state then known as Coahuila y Tejas: the elimination of the state's legislative body; the denial of religious freedom; the elimination of the civil justice system; and the confiscation of firearms, this last one being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

The declaration stated that Texas was 'a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes' that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they 'fearlessly and confidently' committed their decision to 'the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations.'

The Texan Army was ready to defend itself from the oppression of Santa Anna and his army. Outnumbered by the vastly larger Mexican army, approximately 200 Texans and Tejanos under the leadership of Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis and Tennessee Congressman David Crockett made their stand in the defense of Texas at an old Spanish mission known as the Alamo.

They bravely held their position for 13 days, enduring wave after wave of attack, and on the morning of March 6, 1836, they made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom as they were killed in action defending Texas at the Alamo.

Two weeks later on March 27, 1836 Colonel James W. Fannin and 300 men under his command were massacred by Santa Anna's army at Goliad.

The sacrifices made at the Alamo and Goliad would not be forgotten as they became the battle cry of the Texan Army: "Remember the Alamo. Remember Goliad!"

On April 21, 1836 a much smaller Texan Army led by General Sam Houston launched a surprise attack on the much larger Mexican force at San Jacinto. After only 18 minutes the Battle of San Jacinto was over, and Texas had won its independence.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Baytown, Texas in the 29th district, the district I represent.

Texas Independence Day is important to all Americans because the events show that the brotherhood of freedom can be stronger than the brotherhood of ethnicity or nationality, as Tejanos proved at Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, along the banks of the San Jacinto River, and in the government of the Republic of Texas.

People sometimes wonder what makes Texas and Texans so different, and I believe part of that answer is that the desire for freedom that gave us the first Texas Independence Day is still alive today.

Madam Speaker, I hope that Congress and this whole country join all Texans in honoring these brave men who stood up for liberty and freedom 172 years ago. God Bless Texas and God Bless America.

#### TO COMMEND RIPON COLLEGE FOR ITS INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PROMOTING THE USE OF BI- CYCLING ON CAMPUS

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Ripon College for the exciting, innovative approach it is implementing to tackle transportation needs on their campus. Ripon College, a liberal arts college in Wisconsin, last year faced for the first time a greater number of applications for parking permits than they had available spaces. In today's car-centric society, most people would have addressed this problem by laying more asphalt.

But the Ripon College president, David Joyce, refused to consider the idea of paving over any more of Ripon's beautiful and historic campus. Instead, he championed the school's new "Velorution" program, which provides free bicycles for incoming freshman who pledge not to bring a car to campus.

With contributions from trustees and alumni, the university teamed up with several bike retailers to provide each car-free freshman with a Wisconsin-built Trek 820 mountain bike, a helmet, and a bicycle lock.

For too long, our transportation planning and decision-making have focused solely on the automobile. It's time we support non-motorized transportation for the many benefits it can bring. This program provides a fun and easy way for students to incorporate exercise into their daily routines, and can encourage a

lifetime of healthy, active transportation choices. The program will also take cars off the road, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the negative impact our transportation system has on the environment.

Ripon College is following in the footsteps of their representative, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. PETRI, who is a leading cycling advocate in Congress. Mr. PETRI co-chairs the Congressional Bicycle Caucus, previously served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and has been a leader in the development of the Non-motorized Pilot Program, which has shown early success in promoting walking and cycling as important modes of transportation in his district. Ripon College is fortunate to be led by the gentleman's vision and understanding of the necessity of making sustainable transportation choices.

I commend President Joyce and Ripon College for their fresh vision for meeting the transportation needs of students, and hope that their program will be an inspiration for colleges and universities across the country to develop sustainable communities.

#### HONORING KNOXVILLE COLLEGE

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Knoxville College, a predominantly African-American institution in my hometown.

On March the 6th, Knoxville College will hold its 110th Founder's Day Celebration.

The school was founded by Reverend Joseph Gillespie McKee, a Presbyterian minister who came to the United States from Ireland in 1852.

It was during the American Civil War that Mr. McKee settled in Nashville, Tennessee and organized the school for black people.

East Tennessee was settled primarily by very poor Irish and Scots-Irish immigrants and in 1875 the school was moved from Nashville to Knoxville, Tennessee, where it stands today.

Thousands of graduates have gone on to serve our country and communities well in their chosen fields.

Today, many young people come from all over the United States and several other countries to receive the special attention that Knoxville College can give.

I am very proud to have this College in my hometown, and I am sure they will continue to serve its students well for many years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY SEMBLER

#### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Mrs. Betty Sembler as she receives the Drug Enforcement Agency Museum Foundation "2008 Lifetime Achievement Award." It is certainly well-deserved as