

Donna Eastman for her years of leadership and service to the people of Callender. I consider it an honor to represent her in the United States Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING TWO-TIME STATE
CHAMPION IOTA LADY BULLDOGS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Iota Lady Bulldogs basketball team, who again finished their season with a state championship after defeating Capitol 60–49 in strong fashion.

The March 1st win capped the season for Iota, who finished with an impressive 36–4 record. Even more remarkable, the Lady Bulldogs competed in the larger Class AAA for the first time. Capitol had previously dominated the class with five championships in the past 7 years. Over the course of their career, Iota's senior class won an impressive 225 games.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I applaud these student athletes who demonstrated a strong work ethic, determination, and teamwork. The people of Iota share their pride in this team and each of these girls who continue to play so admirably.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the two-time champion Iota Lady Bulldogs for their latest achievement.

CALLING FOR PASSAGE OF THE
FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, two recent events make it clear—the time has come for Congress to enact a Federal media shield.

Yesterday, the House passed legislation to create an independent ethics panel with the stated purpose of holding Members of Congress accountable to the highest ethical standard. Our Founders would have scoffed at the notion that a political panel, appointed by politicians, could hold the national legislature accountable. Our Founders knew the only agency in society with the power to hold the national government accountable is a free and independent press.

Last year, the House acknowledged this fact and passed the Free Flow of Information Act, creating a Federal media shield, with overwhelming bipartisan support. That bill now awaits action by the full Senate. The need for action by the Senate is also evident with the news that another reporter is facing court sanctions based on her unwillingness to disclose confidential sources.

Former USA Today reporter Toni Locy is facing financial ruin as the result of a ruling that she must pay fines that will escalate to up to \$5,000 per day unless she discloses her confidential sources for stories she wrote about the 2001 anthrax attacks. Her case and

the need for greater ethics scrutiny in Congress argue forcefully for the need for a Federal media shield statute.

The one, time-tested way of holding the Government accountable is ensuring the free flow of information to the American people. Threatening reporters or creating an ethics panel of politicians to police politicians will not do it.

Congress must enact a Federal media shield to ensure that those charged with the duty of holding Government accountable have the freedom and independence to do just that.

It is time for the Senate to vote on the Free Flow of Information Act.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. This legislation is named in tribute to Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, whose work on behalf of the vulnerable was well known and well respected.

I also rise to thank my colleague from Minnesota, Congressman JIM RAMSTAD, for continuing Senator Wellstone's fight on behalf of those who the stigma too often attached to the issues of mental health and substance abuse has left voiceless. Mr. RAMSTAD's courage in sharing his experience with substance abuse and his dedication to passage of this legislation is the reason we are here today. This bill will help end the pattern of senseless and immoral discrimination against those suffering from mental illness and put to rest the outdated notion that these challenges are less legitimate or severe than physical ailments.

Mental illness left untreated affects all facets of our society and costs our economy over \$150 billion annually. Mental illness affects 50 percent of the homeless population in Minnesota, 70 percent of those in our juvenile justice system, and those with the highest unemployment rates. Health care costs double when diabetes and heart disease patients have co-morbid depression, and patients with mental illness and substance abuse disorders are often less responsive to treatment.

In addition, the burden that mental illness places upon the health and productivity of our Nation has long been underestimated. One in five adults and one in ten children have a mental illness. And over one-third of our returning servicemembers from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from mental health problems.

The costs of untreated substance abuse are also high for families and our health care system. Studies have shown that 1 in every 5 Medicaid dollars spent on hospital care is related to substance abuse; health care costs for those dependent on drugs or alcohol is 100 percent higher than those without an addiction; and the costs to law enforcement and to employers are significant. Treatment makes a difference. A recent study showed that after treatment, family health care costs dropped 50 percent.

H.R. 1424 requires parity with co-payments, deductibles, and out-of-pocket expenses, and requires that limits on mental health and addiction care are no more restrictive than those on physical health. This legislation requires equality in out-of-network care and ensures coverage for mental illness and substance related disorders included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, DSM.

It is time to pass this bill. We have all been affected in some way—ourselves, a family member, a friend, or colleague—by mental health or substance abuse. As we look to reform our health care system, mental health and physical care can no longer be looked at as separate entities. It is morally right and good for both our economy and our health care system. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

HONORING THE OCCASION OF THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EU-
ROPEAN PARLIAMENT

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the creation of the European Parliament.

As chair of the U.S. delegation of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, I would like to congratulate the European Parliament on its remarkable evolution. Fifty years ago, it was a small assembly with non-elected members, just four official languages, and only consultative powers; today it is a directly elected parliament with members speaking 23 languages, wide decisionmaking powers over legislation and budgeting, as well as control and scrutiny of the European Commission. The Lisbon Treaty, which is currently awaiting ratification, could enlarge the powers of the European Parliament even further.

Members of the European Parliament have also broadened their sphere of influence beyond domestic European affairs, engaging vigorously in our Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue. That dialogue has contributed to bringing the European Union and the United States closer together and continues to be of utmost importance, enhancing national security and stimulating economic growth on both sides of the Atlantic. The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue has held bi-annual interparliamentary meetings since 1972, when a U.S. congressional delegation visited the European Parliament for the first time. Over 60 meetings later, I am proud to have played a role in enhancing and strengthening the ties between the European Union and the United States.

As a long-time advocate of transatlantic relations, I was delighted to host our latest interparliamentary meeting this past October in Las Vegas. During our meeting, we discussed a number of important transatlantic issues, including regulatory initiatives under the Transatlantic Economic Council, the rise of global anti-Semitism, and foreign policy challenges, such as the Middle East, Kosovo, Russia, and China.

I look forward to continuing our transatlantic dialogue at the next TLD meeting—in Ljubljana, Slovenia in May—and to continue following the future development of the European Union. Fifty years after its birth, the European Parliament is growing stronger each

year, and I once again congratulate the Parliament and the European Union as a whole on its achievements.

HONORING TERESA KAY-ABA KENNEDY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognizing Teresa Kay-Aba Kennedy, a business and lifestyle expert who holds certifications in yoga, fitness, weight management and offers unique multidisciplinary approaches to an authentic, healthy and successful life. She has a dual B.A. magna cum laude in Sociology and Design from Wellesley College, an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a Ph.D. in World Religions. Born in Ghana, schooled in Australia and Italy, she comes from a family of high achievers. Her parents Janie Sykes-Kennedy and Dr. James Scott Kennedy were international media pioneers. Her great uncle, James Atkins, was a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet."

Nationally recognized as a motivational speaker and leader in wellness and empowerment, Dr. Kennedy is on the faculty of the Institute of Integrative Nutrition and is Chair of the Board and Interim President/CEO of Yoga Alliance—the non-profit organization that sets standards for yoga teaching in the United States and offers support to its registry of over 18,000 yoga teachers and almost 800 yoga studios.

After almost dying from Crohn's Disease ten years ago, she has personal experience with transformation serving as a role model for healthy living. Her mission is to help people from all walks of life live better lives and has worked with a variety of clients from senior executives and entrepreneurs to people with specific ailments, ranging from Asthma, Anorexia, Diabetes, Hypertension, Obesity, Adult ADD and Leukemia.

Dr. Kennedy has a long record of success in both the business and creative worlds consulting and writing case studies on Fortune 500 companies for Harvard Business School, working as a creative consultant for Universal Studios, and spending seven years as an executive at MTV Networks.

Her wellness and empowerment work has been featured in media around the world from CNN, NBC, Martha Stewart Living Radio, ARD TV in Germany to The New York Times, Yoga Journal, and O: The Oprah Magazine. Dr. Kennedy is the producer of the Power Living: Mini-Escapes relaxation CD, author of "40 Days to Power Living: Think Eat and Live on Purpose", "The Power Living Pledge: An Affirmation for a Purposeful and Powerful Life" as well as three case studies published under the Harvard Business School. She has received a number of awards, including The Network Journal's 40 Under Forty Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to this outstanding woman who has an unparalleled career of leadership, motivation and dedication on behalf of others. Dr. Teresa Kay-Abe Kennedy deserves our profound thanks.

STACEY ELLIOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stacey Elliott of Liberty, Missouri. Stacey is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Stacey has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Stacey has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stacey Elliott for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE WURZER FAMILY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Duane, Joann, Kelli, Staci, Amy, Brooke and Andy Wurzer of Chickasaw County, Iowa for being named the 2007 Outstanding 4–11 Family.

Duane has been involved with the local 4–11 club by coaching softball, conducting service projects and helping with livestock projects. Joann has been a leader of the Lawler Lassies and Lads club for 16 years. All five of their children started in 4–11 as Little Clovers in the second grade. They have all held various leadership positions, earned awards for their efforts in a variety of areas, volunteered in numerous service projects and have had many projects selected at the Iowa State Fair.

4–H's mission is to "empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults." Duane and Joann have been compassionate adults who continue to strive to empower more children to reach their goals each day. As parents and mentors they have touched the lives of many children who have then gone on to inspire others, to continue the cycle for generations to come.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending the Wurzer family's leadership and donation of time and talent for the benefit of Chickasaw County's youth. I consider it an honor to represent Duane, Joann, Kelli, Staci, Amy, Brooke, and Andy Wurzer in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, due to family obligations in Arizona that required my attention, I missed the following votes and had I been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote No. 111, the Motion to Adjourn; rollcall vote No. 112, the Motion to Adjourn; rollcall vote No. 113, the Motion to Adjourn; and rollcall vote No. 114, the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 115, H. Res. 924; rollcall vote No. 116, the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair; rollcall vote No. 117, the Vote to Override the President's Veto of H.R. 2082; rollcall vote No. 118, H. Res. 948; and rollcall vote No. 119, H. Res. 493.

I would have voted against rollcall vote No. 120, the Motion To Adjourn.

I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 121, on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall vote No. 122, H. Res. 1031; and rollcall vote No. 123, the Motion to Adjourn.

IN COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to commemorate the month of March 2008 as Women's History Month in honor of the female trailblazers and unsung heroes in American history.

Historically, women have contributed significantly to the greatness of our Nation. American women from diverse origins have transformed and revolutionized politics, law, business, social service, civil rights, education, music, athletics, science and technology, as well as the military. Together, their dedication, perseverance and courage has generated a wave of opportunities for entire generations of women. The contributions of notable women such as Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Harriet Tubman, Dorothy Height, Coretta Scott King, Sally Ride and many others have sparked an unstoppable momentum for women's rights and others.

In government, trailblazers such as Hattie Wyatt Caraway, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate (1932), and Jeannette Rankin, the first woman in Congress (1917), paved the way for 16 female Senators and 70 female Representatives to be elected to the 110th Congress, which is the highest number ever in congressional history. More importantly, the House of Representatives elected Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to serve as the third most powerful official in America. In the legal sector, women such as Arabella Mansfield Babb, the first woman admitted to the bar (1869), and Belva Ann Lockwood, the first woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court (1879), have opened doors for women to enter the professional workforce as legal experts. Similarly, Lucy Brewer, the first woman marine (1812), inspired her predecessors to defend their Nation with pride and valor.