

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Askouhy Jallyan-Vassilian. Her legacy will continue to serve as a reminder of the audacity of human resilience.

#### IN HONOR OF SPIKE LEE

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of distinguished producer, writer-director, educator and actor, Spike Lee, whose insightful, intelligent films have had a significant impact not only on the film industry but also on American political discourse.

The son of a jazz musician and teacher, Shelton Lee was born in 1957 in Atlanta, Georgia and later moved to Brooklyn, New York, the setting for many of his films and home of his production company, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks. Mr. Lee learned the value of film as a tool of social commentary and developed his film making skills while attending Morehouse College, where he made his first student film. He also took film courses at Clark Atlanta University and later earned a degree from Tish School of Arts graduate film program at New York University. Through his films and ability to capture the attention of audiences everywhere, Mr. Lee's films such as "Do the Right Thing" and "Malcolm X" have been used as vehicles to significantly raise levels of social awareness about a variety of important social and political issues that continue to plague American culture and society.

He has revolutionized the role of Black talent in cinema. Widely regarded as one of today's premier American filmmakers, Mr. Lee is a frontrunner in the "do it yourself school" of independent films. His most recent work, "When the Levees Broke," a ground breaking documentary focusing on the plight of Americans stranded in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, has garnered rave reviews and is considered by many to be the definitive account of that catastrophic event.

Mr. Lee's trend-setting filmmaking, acting, and groundbreaking producing are just a few of the contributions he has made to greater American culture throughout his career. He has not only paved the way for numerous filmmakers, but has also positively changed public conversations on many social issues.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the talented and inspirational producer and director, Spike Lee, whose genius will continue to touch the lives of generations to come.

#### HONORING DERICK RAY BONNER

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derick Ray Bonner of Kearney, Missouri. Derick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derick has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Derick has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derick Ray Bonner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### COMMENDING THE IMMIGRANT AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO NEW YORK CITY'S VIBRANCY

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my delight that immigrants have carved out a sacrosanct place in the American story and accordingly introduce a New York Daily News piece showcasing that contribution. The vivacity and freshness that come with a heavy immigrant population has been a defining characteristic of New York City—and we have been the better for it. We define ourselves as a city of immigrants and recognize the importance of the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of what has helped make our city great. We live immersed in a potpourri of culture, all components distinctly American but each with flair and a kaleidoscopic beauty.

Our children have benefitted most from this variety, learning not just from their teachers, but from a diverse cast of neighbors and peers. The February 14 article—"Immigrants' Stories Not Foreign to Kids"—narrates the story of a New York classroom filled with Americans, through and through, all with ancestral ties to foreign nations. This newest generation will inherit this country far better equipped to be citizens of the world than generations before them. They are bound by a fervid love and allegiance to America, their home, married with a sensitivity and respect for our global neighbors.

It is a good day in America when our commonalities bind us, and our differences bring us that much closer.

#### IMMIGRANTS' STORIES NOT FOREIGN TO KIDS

It's a wonder immigrants in the U.S. haven't been blamed for global warming. After all, from the crumbling economy to increases in crime, they've been accused of just about every other of society's ills.

Which is why walking on Tuesday into teachers Joe Briscat and Kristen Grolimund's fourth-grade class at Public School 199 in Long Island City was so uplifting. Their students are lively, smart, curious and diverse, everything you would expect from New York kids. And as it can happen only in this city, particularly in Queens, they—or their parents—come from 11 different countries.

"Raise your hand if your parents came from a foreign country," the group of 24 9- and 10-year-olds was asked. All the students did.

There was Anita, a self-assured 9-year-old with big green eyes who wants to be a doctor. A Muslim, she was wearing a beautiful gold head scarf.

"My parents are from Yugoslavia, but I was born here. I am a citizen," she said proudly.

And there was Ángel, also 9, with a ready smile and mischievous eyes, who wants to grow up to be a pilot. He came from Mexico with his parents, as did Maura, who is tall for her 9 years and very shy.

"I want to be a teacher," she said.

Tenzin, 9, was born in Tibet and was not shy at all. And Shrabonti, 10, arrived in New York from Bangladesh and is proud of her good grades.

"I love school," she said.

That's why "A City of Immigrants—Dreams and Realities of Life in New York, 1840-2007," the history course Briscat and Grolimund are teaching, is so appropriate. For these kids, history is more than learning about events that took place many years before they were born.

For them, the history of New York is their own and that of their parents; it is the struggle and the hopes and dreams of people like themselves who make our city vibrant and alive and unique.

"Immigration has defined the history of New York City," reads the introduction to the curriculum of "A City of Immigrants," which was developed by the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives of LaGuardia Community College.

This became even more evident for the students on Tuesday, when three of the people they had been studying in class—all of whom have their immigrant experiences chronicled in the fourth-grade curriculum of "A City of Immigrants"—came to visit them.

Esther Levine, born in 1919, was the daughter of Morris Levine, one of millions of Eastern European Jews who fled religious persecution from the 1880s through the 1920s.

She told the children about her father, who became a traveling salesman, about Dora, her mother, and their life on Essex St. on a very different lower East Side of Manhattan.

Juan Rodriguez, a graphic designer at LaGuardia, a Dominican immigrant in his mid-30s, dreamed of being a baseball player. The kids were fascinated by his tale of playing pelota with a glove made from cardboard in his native country when he was about their age.

Fern Kahn, a former associate dean at LaGuardia, told the children about her life in New York in the 1950s, when she arrived from Jamaica to study at NYU. But it was when she spoke about her native country, and how she kept close ties with its culture, that the children could not stop asking questions.

"Many fourth- and fifth-graders, especially those in public schools in Queens, are members of these ethnic groups," said Richard Lieberman, the archives director. "By inviting Fern, Juan and Esther to speak to the class, the children will gain an understanding of their own place in history and the important role they play in American society."

They, these diverse New York children, will be the doctors, pilots and teachers of the future. And they will keep writing the history of our vibrant and unique city, which is, after all is said and done, their own story.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 12, I was unable to vote on roll No. 126

on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this motion.

HONORING WILLIAM D. WHITE OF  
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and former high school classmate, William D. "Bill" White, who has retired from the Napa County District Attorney's Office after 35 years of dedicated public service in law enforcement.

Bill grew up near Lake Berryessa in Napa County and attended a small county elementary school that was variously housed in a county roads building, a laundromat, and a teacher's home before a proper elementary school was built. When he moved to the "city schools" in St. Helena, he prospered. He was on the high school football and track teams, was both vice president and president of the Student Body Council and Model U.N. representative.

Bill began his law enforcement career shortly after he graduated from St. Helena High School. He enrolled in Napa Valley College and soon thereafter joined the campus police force.

In 1973 Bill began working for the Calistoga Police Department as a patrolman and as a police dispatcher and later worked as a patrolman with the Suisun Police Department in Solano County. Bill joined the Napa County Sheriffs Department in 1977 and distinguished himself over the next 18 years as a patrol deputy, narcotics investigator, and homicide investigator.

He joined the Napa County District Attorney's Office as an investigator in 1995, later becoming supervising investigator in 2004 and chief investigator in 2005. In these years he became an expert in domestic violence and homicide investigations. In the course of his career he has worked on more than 3,000 domestic violence cases and became a court-approved expert in investigating these crimes.

Madam Speaker, Bill White has provided an invaluable service to the people of Napa County for many years, and it is fitting and proper to honor him today and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING BRIGHAM MATTHEW  
BARZEE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brigham Matthew Barzee of Kansas City, Missouri. Brigham is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 2137, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brigham has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Brigham has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brigham Matthew Barzee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 135–142.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 135—"yes"—On Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair; rollcall No. 136—"yes"—On Approving the Journal; rollcall No. 137—"yes"—Kilpatrick of Michigan Substitute Amendment; rollcall No. 138—"yes"—Lee of California Substitute Amendment; rollcall No. 139—"present"—Call of the House; rollcall No. 140—"no"—Ryan of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment; rollcall No. 141—"yes"—Revising the congressional Budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013; and rollcall No. 142—"yes"—Recognizing the exceptional sacrifice of the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th, in support of the Global War on Terror.

#### HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY ALL YEAR AROUND

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the everlasting accomplishments and contributions of women as we look to celebrate National Women's History beyond the month of March.

This year's theme, as resolved by the House of Representatives on March 4, 2008, was to increase awareness and knowledge of women's involvement in history. It is an effort that is long overdue. Women have been pillars in our communities for centuries despite the sexism and discrimination that have limited their opportunities to succeed across all fields and disciplines. Their stories are undeniably woven in the fabric of our history, from colonial times up through today.

The fight of our sisters and mothers to overcome stereotypes and other obstacles has helped carry out the promise of our democracy and drawn us closer to a more perfect union. The names of those who have broken through the barriers of the status quo include Harriet Tubman, whose stewardship of the Un-

derground Railroad helped free hundreds of thousands of African American slaves; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, whose activism pushed open the ballot box and made it possible for all women to vote; Rosa Parks, whose refusal to move to the back of an Alabama bus jumpstarted the modern civil rights movement; and Dolores Huerta, who, as co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union, helped secure fair wages and working conditions for thousands of rural and urban workers.

In our very own House of Representatives, the list of heroes includes the first woman in the U.S. Congress, Rep. Jeannette Rankin, and Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress who later become the first female and black Presidential candidate. It includes our very Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, who last year became the first woman elected to lead this grand Chamber.

My district, New York's 15th Congressional District, is not without its share of accomplished heroines. It is home to accomplished community leaders like Dr. Ramona Hernández, Director of the Dominican Studies Institute at the City University of New York; technology advocate Dr. Georgina Falú, founder and president of the Falú Foundation; prominent Harlem physician and activist Dr. Muriel Marjorie Petioni; and Susan Susman, founder of the Preserve West Park North Coalition, who is an active member of the Mitchell Lama Residents Coalition and fierce housing activist. These are just some of the extraordinary residents whose accomplishments sometimes go unnoticed by the media but who are working continually to improve the lives of their families and their communities.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions made and realities faced by women in the month of March and every day of the year. It is an effort that will bring us one step closer to a Nation that not only values equality and justice but is also firmly committed to securing it for all.

#### REBUILDING AMERICA'S FUTURE

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, with an economic slowdown looming and the war in Iraq draining billions of dollars in public resources every week, a strong Federal budget will give families the help they need to weather tough times and prepare for a prosperous future.

A budget that invests in America's future will direct federal funding to where it's needed most, especially health care, education, housing, nutrition, job training and other priorities that promote economic growth and expand opportunity.

A budget resolution that invests in America's future will include bold new investments in high-quality, affordable health care; strong public education; infrastructure and the development of clean energy sources to end our dependence on foreign oil. It also means an end to the costly war in Iraq, and the repeal of President Bush's irresponsible tax breaks for those who don't need or want them.