

Burkart, who died of injuries sustained in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 11, 2006.

Specialist Burkart was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, with which he served in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a high school student in Derwood, Maryland, Specialist Burkart participated in ROTC. He attended Lehigh University on an ROTC scholarship before enlisting with the United States Army in July 2000.

Specialist Burkart always dreamed of a career in the military, following in the footsteps of his two grandfathers, who were both retired Navy captains. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Christy, and a fine soldier.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I recognize Specialist Burkart's heroic service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENT JAROD DITTMAN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and commemorate the service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman, who died from injuries sustained while on duty Sunday, March 30, 2008.

A Border Patrol agent since March 2007, Agent Dittman was assigned to the Brown Field Border Patrol Station in California. Agent Dittman's life-ending injuries were sustained in a vehicle accident while driving in the early morning to his assigned patrol area in Jamul, California.

Prior to joining the Border Patrol, Agent Dittman served 6 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he achieved the rank of sergeant. While in the National Guard, Agent Dittman served in Kosovo and was deployed to Louisiana supporting relief operations following Hurricane Katrina.

Agent Dittman is the 18th U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent killed in the line of duty in the San Diego sector. His unfortunate death is a reminder of the danger and risks these officers face as they work to secure our Nation's borders.

Agent Dittman will be remembered for his commitment to his job and country through his service in the United States military and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. May God bring peace to his wife, Paveline, their daughter, Angela, his parents, brother, sister, grandparents, family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

On behalf of the people of the United States, we honor and commemorate the life and service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 1, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted

"yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 150, rollcall No. 151, and rollcall No. 152.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unexpectedly absent from rollcall votes 164, 165, and 166.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 164, H. Res. 1084, ordering the previous question on H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

On rollcall 165, on agreeing to H. Res. 1084, the Rule for H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 166, H. Res. 1077, calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, nearly every longtime Washingtonian knows of a beautiful location on Woodley Road, the 18-acre compound known as the Twin Oaks estate. It was built in 1888 by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society. The estate's 26-room house in the early Colonial, Georgian, Revival style and modeled after a New England frame summer house, is the only remaining example of that style in the District of Columbia.

The estate was rented to the Republic of China, ROC, Government in 1937 and was later sold to the ROC Government in 1947. In its heyday, the estate was the official residence of 9 ROC ambassadors, who used it to entertain senior members of the U.S. Government, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, including future President Gerald Ford, and other members of the diplomatic corps in Washington, DC. It began a tradition of hospitality and friendship at Twin Oaks that continues to this day.

Twin Oaks was also the place where the ROC's senior diplomat H. K. Yang negotiated with the U.S. administration and Members of Congress to chart a positive course for future relations between Taiwan and the United States, after the termination of official ties between our two countries in 1978.

The product and result of Minister H. K. Yang's negotiations was the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act in April 1979. The TRA set the framework for unofficial relations between the U.S. and Taiwan. For the last 29

years, the TRA has served both the U.S. and Taiwan extremely well. We have continued our unofficial, but strong ties with Taiwan. Taiwan, in turn, has become one of the most prosperous and democratic countries in Asia. It is my hope that as we celebrate the 120-year history of the Twin Oaks estate, we also celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act this April.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LAND- SCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, today I am pleased to rise in support of the National Landscape Conservation System Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the National Wildlife Federation, EarthJustice, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and more, would officially establish America's newest conservation system. With 26 million acres of land under its jurisdiction, the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, protects our nation's crown jewels.

From the Lewis and Clarke National Historic Trail to Nevada's Red Rock Canyon, this legislation works to conserve the fabric of the West. In 2000, the Secretary of the Interior established the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the best of the lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This bill provides statutory recognition of the existing National Landscape Conservation System as well as its permanent establishment as a land conservation system equivalent to that of the National Park Service. At no cost to the taxpayer, Congress has the opportunity to protect these lands for millions of Americans for generations to come.

Nothing in this legislation changes the way in which NLCS lands are currently administered, including hunting and recreation management. H.R. 2016 adds no land to NLCS, nor does it contain any provisions diminishing private property rights. Following in Theodore Roosevelt's footsteps, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this landmark legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. KATHLEEN WILBUR

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kathleen Wilbur, who is being honored with the renaming of the Range Hill Elementary School to Kathleen H. Wilbur Elementary School. Kathleen was selected for this honor because of her dedication and service to the Delaware public school system for the last 48 years.

Kathleen has been instrumental throughout her years of service to the Delaware public

school system. Through her 20 years of service on the Board of Education in New Castle County's Colonial School District as both the Vice-President and President, Kathleen played an extremely active role in key decisions that have affected thousands of students' lives. Kathleen remains active working with the schools in Delaware, and she continues to volunteer with students with disabilities at the John G. Leach School.

Kathleen was honored by the Delaware School Boards Association throughout her dedicated years of service, as she served as a member, chair, and eventually president of the association. She also served the association as Delaware's State representative delegate to the National School Boards Association. Kathleen received the Boardmanship Certificate every year they have ever been presented due to her relentless service to the Delaware School Boards Association. In 1993, the Delaware School Boards awarded Kathleen the Distinguished Service Award for her 33 years of service. The National School Boards Association honored her with the Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge Mrs. Kathleen Wilbur for her many years of service and numerous contributions to the State of Delaware. She has been an invaluable asset to the Delaware public school system and positively impacted the lives of thousands of Delaware students.

ADDRESSING SURVEILLANCE LEGISLATION IN AMERICA

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of surveillance in our country, and the efforts of this Congress to reform our laws in a way that protects both our national security and our individual freedoms.

Over the past several months, competing legislation from the House and Senate has repeatedly come to a vote in an effort to reform existing FISA laws. I have great respect for the men and women working to see this come to light, but am dismayed at the unwillingness of some on both sides of the aisle to seek consensus on this important issue.

For me and my constituents, the issue is clear: that a terrorist threat exists, and we cannot deny our intelligence community a necessary tool in the fight against this global threat. To see this done, we must work quickly to reach an agreement within the House and Senate that can become law. The Senate has already passed such a bill, and I again urge my colleagues in the House to consider that legislation.

I would like to add that these negotiations reached some of their most heated moments just as the Congress's district work period was upon us. Away from Washington's heated po-

litical rhetoric, I spent two weeks with my constituents as I traveled the 10,000 square miles in my district holding town hall meetings. It is revealing to me that folks back home wanted to talk with me about health care and energy costs, but on rare occasion did anyone come forward to discuss FISA. I can only take away from this that they expect us to pass a bill that protects their safety and their civil liberties with expediency so we can return to the business of addressing their most immediate concerns.

There are those who have said that an agreement is on the horizon, and I commend our leadership in their efforts to make this happen. I look forward to casting my vote for legislation that provides the intelligence community with an effective means to conduct surveillance on the enemies of this nation. Moreover, in this time of uncertainty at home and unrest overseas, we cannot confuse our friends with our enemies by failing to protect those who aided the government in seeking out terrorist threats after September 11th. The final version of this bill must contain legal protection for the industries that faithfully answered their country's call for help in a time of need.

I have great hope that common sense, and the needs of our safety and security will prevail in this effort, and I look forward to seeing us pass a bill in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO ELOISA CARRASCO BACA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor a great friend and outstanding contributor to the robust life and rich culture of my 51st Congressional District, Eloisa Carrasco Baca. Eloisa passed away on April 2, 2008.

Eloisa was born on May 16, 1916 in the little farming community of Los Lentes, New Mexico. She had one brother Nicolas (deceased), and was the eldest child of Thomas and Rosalia (Montoya) Carrasco. In 1941, Eloisa married her husband of 57 years, Nicolas Baca. Shortly after marriage, husband Nick began serving a very distinguished military tour in World War II, and as a Ranger scout with the Second Ranger Battalion, scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on the Normandy coast of France to destroy enemy bunkers in June of 1944. He also served honorably at the historic "Battle of the Bulge" where after being taken a prisoner of war behind enemy lines, he escaped, finished his service to his Country, and triumphantly returned back home to his beloved Eloisa.

Nick and Eloisa moved to California in 1952 and resided in National City, California for 53 years. Eloisa led a wonderful life and contributed fully to her family and community. She was the loving mother of 6 children, Tommy, George, Jose, Robert, Rosalie, and Herman.

In fact her son, Herman Baca, is a very prominent Mexican-American activist in San Diego County. She was also the proud grandmother of 19 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

In a lasting tribute to Eloisa, her son Herman stated on behalf of family and friends. "Your children, grandchildren, family and many friends thank God for granting you 91 years of life, and blessing all of us with your presence and love."

Eloisa Carrasco Baca will be truly missed by all who were touched by her spirit, her energy and love for life.

Descanse en paz.

HONORING LANE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE FIRST CHASE URBAN DEBATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lane Technical High School on their victory at the first Chase Urban Debate National Championship held in Chicago last weekend. I want to specifically congratulate Lane Tech students Andrew Hobaugh and Nick Locke for taking first place in the tournament.

Lane Technical High School is the largest public high school in Illinois with a strong tradition of superior education on Chicago's north side since 1908. Lane Tech offers students a superb college preparatory curriculum, with particular emphasis placed upon the technological aspects of a modern education. Lane Tech holds itself to its mission statement to provide all students with a superior academic, technical, and fine arts education that prepares students for success in their post-secondary endeavors of school, career, community and family life.

The debate tournament was hosted by the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, NAUDL, and was held at the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management's downtown Chicago campus. Competing against 33 other urban debate teams from around the country Andrew Hobaugh and Nick Locke took first place after beating Atlanta's Grady High School in the final round on Sunday.

According to NAUDL, Urban Debate Leagues have proven to increase literacy scores by 25 percent and achieve high school graduation rates of nearly 100 percent.

Lane Tech is an outstanding educational institution in Chicago. Year after year, they continue to be committed to improving and educating our youth to secure a promising future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand today to recognize Lane Tech High School and particularly, Andrew Hobaugh and Nick Locke for their outstanding performance at the first Chase Urban Debate National Championship.