

H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act. As you know, in advance of debate on the Flake Amendment, House leadership announced that further consideration of H.R. 2537 would be postponed until the week of April 14th, 2008. Had I been present to vote on the Flake Amendment, I would have voted "aye."

I was scheduled to be in Medford, Oregon, for a series of events that began at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 11, 2008, including two economic stimulus tax clinics with senior citizens and a presentation at Jewett Elementary School. This schedule of events required that I travel from Washington, DC, to Medford on the evening of April 10, 2008, prior to the time that the House voted on the Flake Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ALAN
KALKIN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21 years of service of Superior Court Judge Alan Kalkin on the occasion of his recent retirement from the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

Prior to his service on the bench, Judge Kalkin graduated from William and Mary College and the University of Richmond Law School in Virginia. After practicing briefly, he and his wife moved to southern California, where he served as a prosecutor in the city of Burbank for 11½ years.

Judge Kalkin was appointed to the Los Angeles County Municipal Court in 1987 by Governor George Deukmejian. In 2000, he was elevated to the Los Angeles Superior Court after the approved consolidation of the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Courts.

The communities of Los Angeles County have benefited tremendously from his years of service as a judge and a prosecutor, where he earned a superb reputation as a fair, thoughtful, and ethical lawyer and jurist.

The Congress of the United States joins in thanking Judge Kalkin for his many years of valuable service.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
BUCKEYE HILLS-HOCKING VAL-
LEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT FOR 40 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District has been enhancing the lives of Southeast Ohio residents for 40 years; and

Whereas, the nine rural counties of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Noble, Perry and Washington came together in 1968 to create a centralized planning effort for the entire region; and

Whereas, the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District serves over

255,000 residents by planning public works projects and social services that benefit the entire region; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District on their contributions and service to the people of Southeast Ohio. Congratulations to Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District for 40 years of committed service.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN
ANTONIO COLLEGE FOLK DANCE
FESTIVAL

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, as a San Antonio native, I'm personally familiar with the role our city's culture and diversity plays in the lives of our citizens. We proudly celebrate our heritage throughout the year and recognize the importance of our culture through various events and activities. The annual San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival is no exception.

This year's festival will celebrate its 50th year of providing entertainment and education to patrons. The festival provides a multitude of different enriching activities, ranging from craft shows to culture sessions and, of course, dance lessons with live music. The festival is not solely for adults either, as it caters to people of all ages with many exhibits specifically tailored for children.

Most importantly, the San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival benefits the San Antonio College's student scholarship fund. The festival's proceeds contribute to this fund which extends higher education opportunities to many students across our community. San Antonio College's generosity with this scholarship program, and for hosting the San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival, provides a great public service for our community through the students they help and the citizens they entertain.

I am honored and privileged to represent this great community and this institution that serves the people of San Antonio, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize their success during the last 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO DICK VITALE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dick Vitale for being inducted with the 2008 class to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. In his long career as a teacher, coach, and commentator, Mr. Vitale has become known around the world for his unrelenting and unyielding passion for the game of college basketball.

Dick Vitale was born in Passaic, New Jersey, where his parents taught him to give "110 percent all of the time," a lesson that has stayed with him throughout his life. After graduating from Seton Hall University, Vitale took

a job at Mark Twain Elementary School in Garfield, NJ, where he began his coaching career. After several years he returned to his alma mater, East Rutherford High School, and coached the basketball team to two state championships over the next 6 years.

In 1970, Dick Vitale burst onto the college basketball scene when he was brought on as an assistant coach for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights basketball team. He was soon hired as the head coach of the University of Detroit, and led the Titans to a 78 and 30 record and a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 1977. His success at the college level caught the eye of another team in Detroit, and he was hired to coach the NBA's Pistons in 1978. Although his professional coaching career wasn't as successful as he hoped, what was supposed to be a temporary job while waiting for another coaching opportunity ended up leading Mr. Vitale to his true calling. He signed up with the then fledgling ESPN network as a basketball analyst and the rest, they say, is history "baby!"

Since calling the first college basketball game in ESPN's history in 1979, Dick Vitale has been courtside for more than 1,000 contests. His pithy comments seem to keep even the most lackluster games interesting and colorful. Love him or hate him, Mr. Vitale's trademark catchphrases and endless enthusiasm have become a part of college basketball history. As he approaches his 30th year with ESPN, his election to the Basketball Hall of Fame as a contributor to the sport is well deserved.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Mr. Vitale, and I thank him for the personality and passion he has brought to the game of college basketball.

THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON
FOUNDATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize the National Florence Crittenton Foundation on its 125th year anniversary. As the first charitable organization created under a congressional charter, the Crittenton Foundation continues to perform good works for communities across the country.

The city of Portland, Oregon, was just over 40 years old when the Portland Crittenton Refuge Home was founded there in 1893, resulting from a donation made by the organization's founder. Charles Crittenton. Today, the headquarters of the National Crittenton Foundation is still located in the heart of Portland.

The work of the Crittenton foundation in reaching out to welcome and care for girls and young women seeking support during their unplanned pregnancy is well known. However many are less familiar with the extensive work of the national network of affiliated Crittenton agencies and how they have shaped the way social services are offered and the mentality of self-empowering the girls and young women they serve.

The unique relationship between the National Crittenton Foundation and the family of affiliated agencies continues to be based on

the beliefs of co-founders Charles Crittenton and Dr. Kate Waller Barrett. They believed that the best way to address compelling social issues in the United States was through a network of independent, local agencies supported by a national body. This belief grew into a national movement encompassing, at one point, 76 agencies in 5 countries, and continues to guide the organization today.

There are now over 23 Crittenton agencies across the country, which have provided valuable support and services to 5 million vulnerable girls, young women, and their families. Their success has come from over a century of providing forward-thinking and innovative services grounded in research, compassion, and a belief that change comes through empowerment. Crittenton programs address complex social issues, including teen pregnancy, mental health, substance abuse, and interpersonal violence, and they do so in ways that are gender and culturally specific.

Most importantly, Crittenton services build upon the individuality, resiliency and strength of this country's young women.

Please join me in wishing another successful 125 years to the National Crittenton Foundation and its family of agencies across the country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission has been enhancing the lives of Southern Ohio residents for 40 years; and

Whereas, the twelve rural counties of Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton came together in 1968 to create a centralized planning effort for the entire region; and

Whereas, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission serves these twelve counties by planning public works projects and social services that benefit the entire region; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission on their contributions and service to the people of Southern Ohio. Congratulations to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for 40 years of committed service.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today, pleased to recognize a milestone anniversary

for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, TMACOG, in northwestern Ohio and southeast Michigan. TMACOG celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

When in the early 1960s Federal funds began to go to local governments directly, local leaders from communities in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan had been meeting informally as the Area Cooperation Committee and building a regional organization. In 1968 the group formally adopted bylaws and elected leadership as TMACOG. Andy Devine, who was then a member of Toledo City Council, was elected to be the first chair. The newly formed executive committee held its first meeting in the council chambers in the city of Oregon, Ohio. In celebration of TMACOG's 40th year, the April 16, 2008, meeting of the TMACOG executive committee will also be held in the city of Oregon.

TMACOG's areas of concentration are transportation planning, environmental planning, and commuter services. Looking to the future, member concerns also include alternative energy and energy conservation measures, economic development, and more interest in freight transportation and logistics.

TMACOG's vision statement, adopted in 2002, states that "TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges." Over the course of four decades, local leaders have looked to the organization to lead the region forward. While we celebrate TMACOG's achievements the past 40 years, we join with the organization to promote a bright future of opportunity and growth.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, of which Virginia Tech is a part.

One year ago, a tragedy of a scale and senselessness that defied explanation befell the university, and it came to a campus that is known across the Nation for its friendliness, peacefulness and close association among students and faculty.

In the year that has passed, an incredible spirit of cohesion and determination and a generous outpouring of support from across the Nation have benefited the campus, and much healing has occurred.

The university's proud traditions and its reputation as an exemplary institution of teaching, learning and research have carried on, and the resilience of students, faculty and the community has assured for Virginia Tech a strong recovery.

Today as we remember the enormous loss of young lives full of promise and mature lives of major contribution from a violent and inexplicable act, we also remember the poise and dignity with which the university's faculty and administration responded in a time of uncertainty;

The courage of the Virginia Tech, Montgomery County and Blacksburg first responders in a time of emergency;

The heroism of those who risked personal safety to prevent further loss of life;

The generosity of those who offered their support and financial contributions to the victims and their families in their time of greatest need;

And the remarkable spirit of the Virginia Tech community and resilience of our region when faced with great tragedy.

Today, as we remember an act of great violence, we also remember Virginia Tech's strong resurgence, and we look forward and are committed to its even greater future.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AT VIRGINIA TECH

HON. VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting incident, which occurred one year ago today. On April 16, 2007, a great tragedy shocked and saddened the world, claiming the lives of 32 innocent members of the Virginia Tech community and injuring many others. I continue to pray for the families and friends of the victims as they cope with the pain this heartbreaking incident brought upon them. At the same time, I am moved and touched by how the world united over the past year to support the Virginia Tech community as it navigates the difficult recovery process.

In the days that followed the tragedy, citizens across America and around the world watched as the Virginia Tech community pulled together to demonstrate the power of "Hokie Spirit." The Nation also provided an outpouring of support, caring, and compassion for the students and families affected by this event. With the world's assistance, the Virginia Tech community exhibited its resilience, collective strength, and courage in the days, weeks, and months following the tragedy. Virginia Tech Professor Peggy Meszaros described this process by stating, "The reverberations around our campus, and the community, and the state and the nation, if not the world, this Hokie spirit, this belief that we will support one another, that we will survive this tragedy that we will, if we can, even become stronger—that's been a real unifying theme in all of this."

Moving forward, we should remember the victims for how they lived: as loving, caring scholars and citizens who wanted to make the world a better place. Today, the victims' families and friends carry on this legacy on behalf of those who lost their lives. For example, last year Virginia Tech created V.T.-Engage, a volunteer program for persons in the university community to perform public service in honor of the victims of the tragedy. The program volunteers have already completed more than 200,000 hours of service this year, paying tribute to the memory of those lives lost.

I ask Congress to honor and remember the victims of this tragedy and continue to show support for those affected by it. May God continue to bless the families and friends who lost loved ones and the entire Virginia Tech community on this day of solemn remembrance.