

classes we have for newly arrived refugees. We can not hire teachers or build schools fast enough to give all these, often highly motivated pupils a good start in their new country.

Secondly there is a lack of living accommodation. A great many of the refugees lodge with relatives or friends. We know of cases of fifteen people sleeping on mattresses in a two room apartment.

And last but not least we have a shortage of job opportunities. A small town can not possibly produce jobs for a thousand refugees each year. Here the United States could really help Södertälje. American companies looking to set up businesses or expand in Europe, are most welcome to visit my home town. We need all the job opportunities we can get.

I am in awe of the refugees' ambition and will to make new lives for themselves. Many of those who come to our town are well educated and motivated to start a new life in a new country. We need immigrants if we are to manage the demographic challenges we face, as the number of aging citizens in the western world rises.

Despite the fact that we need immigrants, Södertälje has become a town that must now say—STOP, STOP, STOP! Do not misunderstand me. We will always help others when we can. We must act when the lives of our brothers and sisters—are in danger. It is imperative—that we have a humane refugee policy world wide. Our common agreement, that all people are equal, no matter what color religion or gender must become a reality.

The millions of refugees in the world must be a concern for us all, not just for those areas bordering on the breeding grounds of war, or for a small number of countries and cities such as Södertälje.

Södertälje works hard to spread the reception of refugees equally over the whole of Sweden, to all cities and towns. Internationally, we must find a model for an equal and more responsible reception of refugees. We must also have special support for the refugees on site in Iraq, in Jordan and in Syria. Most of all, we must put an end to this and other ongoing wars.

The children I met last week have cousins and friends who are left behind in Iraq. Those children are trying to lead a normal childhood in a land where uneasiness and fear are always present.

I am not a President; I am not an Ambassador; but I know that we must create a new future for the children fleeing from war.

And I know there is no time to lose.

Thank you for your attention.

COMMENDING BILL AND PEGGY ZACK FOR DEVOTION TO THE POCKET FLAGS PROJECT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the patriotism and dedication of Bill and Peggy Zack. These two New Mexico residents have fully devoted their time and money to lifting the spirits of our troops deployed in Iraq.

Mr. and Mrs. Zack began the Pocket flag project in 2002 and have since sent out over 70,000 pocket flags. The pocket flags are small folded American flags that are enclosed with a message. On a small piece of paper reads "A flag for your pocket so you can al-

ways carry a little piece of home. We are praying for you. Thank you for defending our freedom." A heartfelt message that is sure to lift the spirits of our service men and women. Pocket flags have been sent to the 647 Support Group at Fort Bliss, Texas and all National Guard and special units being deployed through Ft. Bliss. Additional receipts of these flags include the Mountain Brigade in Fort Drum, NY and the AYN of the Alabama National Guard. The list goes on.

It should also be noted that Bill and Peggy don't accept any donations to help them with materials and shipping expenses. In fact the cost of shipping all 70,000 pocket flags has summed up to about \$10,000 and over 7,000 hours. The only reimbursement the Zacks will accept are the letters written by soldiers currently deployed. While the letters vary, most say how thankful they are for Bill and Peggy taking the time to send them a little piece of home.

It is inspiring to know that citizens like Bill and Peggy Zack are trying to do all they can to lift the morale of our troops. On behalf of all servicemen and women I would like to thank Bill and Peggy Zack for all their efforts to comfort the troops in the Middle East.

JULIA M. CARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5489 which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office."

Congresswoman Davis was the second woman and first Republican woman in Virginia's congressional delegation. She came from humble beginnings and rose to become a successful business woman before being elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1997.

I came to know Congresswoman Davis personally over the years since we first arrived to Congress together in 2001. She was a wonderful woman with whom I was honored to serve. We shared a strong commitment to ensuring that military families and veterans receive the care and compensation they deserve. I will always remember and admire Jo Ann for her strength during her courageous fights with breast cancer.

Madam Speaker, today I have the privilege in joining my colleagues in honoring this distinguished woman and good friend by designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 14,

2008. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 183, rollcall 184, and rollcall 185.

TRIBUTE TO THE 125TH BIRTHDAY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the occasion of Mesa County's 125th birthday. I would like to express my appreciation of this unique, diverse and vibrant county and all its citizens.

Since before the county was founded in the 1880's, the area's history has been remarkable. Dinosaurs that roamed this area left behind their tracks and bones to tantalize historians and geologists. The advent of the main line of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroads through this valley in 1887 brought the prospect of "civilization." The foresight of the founding fathers to build a major irrigation system, still used today, has helped create some of the best fruit crops in the country. As a farmer, I appreciate the importance of agriculture and the tremendous value it imparts to a community.

Mesa County is also a national leader in many industries and fields. Mesa County residents helped develop the New Deal, worked on the Manhattan Project and served in Congress.

The area is also blessed with a variety of natural resources, including uranium, natural gas and oil shale. In the 1980's the shale-dependent economy crashed after the withdrawal of Exxon Mobile, but with its typical determination, Mesa County is now a thriving economic power. In 2008, Mesa County was named the 9th fastest growing area in the country, a tribute to the resiliency and strength of this county.

On the 125th birthday of Mesa County, we pay tribute to a special area that embodies the best of Colorado. Its blend of rural and urban life has enhanced the life of its citizens. The past and traditions of this special place on the Western Slope are worth celebrating. It is an honor and a privilege to represent Mesa County as it commemorates its 125th birthday.

VIRGINIA TECH

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, one year ago, the idyllic calm of campus life at Virginia Tech, and everywhere in America, was shattered forever. We mark this somber occasion in solemn memory of those too soon taken from us, and in prayerful sympathy with their still-grieving families and friends. Part of our State's future was lost that day. Immeasurable potential abruptly and cruelly cut short. Remembering hurts, but forgetting would be unforgivable.

It falls to us to make some sense of unthinkable tragedy and do our best, in their honor, to build the world they could only envision

through bright, inquisitive eyes. At Virginia Tech, in Richmond, and throughout the Commonwealth, grief has given life to action, spurring positive steps to help and to heal. Campus security has been strengthened and sentinel systems to identify and confront potentially violent students have been made more sensitive, more vigilant. We do these things for them, and for the safety of the students who follow in their footsteps. And we work in their memory to mark our calendars from this

day forward with memorials to youthful accomplishment and growth, not tragedy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Tuesday, April 15,

I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 186, 187 and 188 due to an official congressional delegation to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 186 (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5719), “yea” on rollcall vote 187 (H. Res. 1102—Rule providing for H.R. 5719—Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008) and “yea” on rollcall vote 188 (H.R. 5036—Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008).