

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. SHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, thirty-five years ago today, the Supreme Court guaranteed American women the right to choose abortion in its landmark decision *Roe v. Wade*. In doing so, the Supreme Court brought an end to decades of State and Federal laws that outlawed or restricted abortions and put reproductive choice back in the hands of women and gave them safe, medical options.

Since that time, however, a concerted and organized campaign aimed at diminishing this momentous decision has succeeded in whittling down the original intent of the decision and now presents a very serious threat to the long-term security of *Roe* itself.

I rise today not only to commemorate this important day in American history, but also to remind the supporters of *Roe v. Wade* that it is absolutely critical that the pro-choice movement remain united and vigilant against all attempts to take away a woman's right to choose. As a member of the Pro-Choice Caucus, I promise to do my part and continue to oppose any attempts in Congress to limit, restrict or deny a woman's reproductive rights.

In conclusion, I believe that it is imperative, not only for women's rights, but for women's health as well, that the United States not return to an era in which the government gets to decide what a woman can and cannot do with her own body.

JUDGE RICHARD B. ALLSBROOK
POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader and powerful figure in North Carolina by naming the post office located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina as the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office. Unfortunately, Judge Allsbrook passed away on October 26, 2007, just a few months before we were able to bestow upon him this great honor.

Judge Allsbrook was a native of Halifax County, North Carolina—one of the largest and most populated areas of my congressional district. He was born in 1929 to State Senator Julian and Mrs. Frances Allsbrook.

In his formative years, Richard Allsbrook attended Roanoke Rapids High School where he excelled academically. After graduating, Richard attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where he received a bachelor's of arts degree. He went on to attend law school at the prestigious University of North Carolina School of Law, and subsequently served for 4 years with the United States Navy as a second lieutenant.

Mr. Speaker, after honorably serving his country in the military, Richard returned to Ro-

anoke Rapids to practice law with his father in the firm of Allsbrook, Benton and Knott. During his 20 years as a practicing attorney, he always took time for his clients and worked diligently to ensure that they were represented to the best of his ability. His meticulous nature and even temperament served him well when he was appointed resident superior court judge for the Sixth Judicial District in 1978. Over the next 22 years, he tempered justice with mercy, earning a reputation as a fair, compassionate jurist. All those present in his courtroom—attorneys, defendants, jurors, witnesses and court personnel—consistently found him to be well-prepared, respectful, and courteous. I had the privilege of practicing law before Judge Allsbrook on many occasions prior to my election as Resident Superior Court Judge when I became his colleague.

After serving as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for over two decades, he retired in September 2000 and worked as a mediator in the North Carolina judicial system.

Judge Allsbrook attended the Rosemary Baptist Church for over 50 years. He was a dedicated deacon, trustee and Sunday School teacher where he worked to enrich each person with whom he came into contact. He was also dedicated to improving the community through his involvement in the Kiwanis Club where he served as president, and also the Roanoke Rapids Chamber of Commerce where he also served as president. Because of his dedication and commitment to the community, Judge Allsbrook received the Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award and also received the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, Judge Allsbrook's devoted and loving wife Barbara passed away in February of last year—just 8 months before Judge Allsbrook. Judge Allsbrook and his wife Barbara reared two children, Barbara Alison who resides in Roanoke, and Richard Jr., who resides in Boston.

Judge Richard Allsbrook was indeed a pillar of the Halifax community. He was my dear friend and I am so proud to have known him. Roanoke Rapids, Halifax County, and the State of North Carolina is a better place because of Richard Allsbrook's sacrifices and contributions on behalf of so many.

This legislation—H.R. 4211—has bipartisan support and is cosponsored by the entire North Carolina Congressional Delegation. It is my hope that my colleagues here in the House will join me and my North Carolina colleagues in voting "aye" on H.R. 4211.

HONORING ISAIAS R. GOMEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a community activist, friend, loving husband, and father—Isaias R. Gomez.

Isaias passed away on January 18, 2008 at his home in Colton, California.

He was born in Gallup, New Mexico, and was a resident of Colton, which is in my Congressional District, for almost 55 years.

While born in New Mexico, Isaias was raised in Jalostotitlan, Jalisco, Mexico. There

he met and married his wife, Jessie Gomez. He and Jessie returned to Gallup, where Isaias began to work in the coal mines. Then in 1953, he and Jessie moved to Colton, and Isaias went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Isaias and Jessie's 6 children—Rosa, Eloise, Isaias Jr., Yolanda, Tommy, and Terri—where all raised in Colton. After initially working with the railroad, Isaias eventually became a successful real estate developer and builder.

I had the great privilege of knowing Isaias personally through his daughter Eloise and her husband Frank Reyes, who are both good friends of mine.

In fact, I gave Eloise Reyes a "Woman of the Year" award in 1993, when I was in the California State Legislature. She was recognized for all her great work in the community, and for being a true trailblazer as the first Hispanic, female attorney in the Inland Empire.

Isaias always let everyone know that his family was his greatest blessing. He cherished his time with them—especially the time he spent with his 9 grandchildren.

Isaias will always be remembered for his amazing work ethic and his unending dedication to friends and family. His great influence on those around him is evidenced in the outstanding character of his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his children and grandchildren, Isaias is survived by his wife Jessie; his sisters Angelita, Alfonsina, and Isabel; and his brothers Joel, Jesus, and Arturo.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful man. Let us celebrate the life he lived and the example he led.

Although he is no longer with us, Isaias's legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone he has touched.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

HONORING MR. STU PIKEN

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Stu Piken upon his retirement from civil service in February.

For the past 10 years, Mr. Piken has served as Deputy District Engineer for Project Management in the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is the senior civilian responsible for more than \$650 million in projects for civil works, military, hazardous and toxic waste remediation and interagency agreements.

After my first election to the House in 2000, I have worked closely with him on a project of great importance to the 7th District that I represent, the Green Brook Flood Control Project.

In September 1999, portions of my district were devastated by Hurricane Floyd. Among the areas hardest hit were the communities of Manville and Bound Brook, New Jersey. The flooding in these communities resulted in two deaths, the evacuation of thousands of citizens, damages exceeding \$100 million, major disruption to municipal services, and disruption to the lives of thousands of my constituents.

The Green Brook Flood Control Project began in response to Floyd and other storms.

The Army Corps of Engineers is implementing the project—which includes a system of levees, flood walls, flood gates, pumping stations and retention basins—to protect low-lying communities along flood plains of the Raritan River and its tributaries. Green Brook has received more than \$65 million in federal funding since 2001, and Mr. Piken has been instrumental in its progress.

Before his current assignment, Mr. Piken served in the North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on a special assignment as the Director of Programs. In that position, he was responsible for the development of the water resources program for the Northeast as well as the management of all military design and construction in the Northeast and Europe.

I join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in thanking Stu Piken for his dedicated service—especially to the constituents I represent—and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT PHILLIP
A. BOCKS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Sergeant Phillip A. Bocks of Troy, Michigan. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died serving his country.

Phillip Bocks was not one to back down from a challenge. From the time he was five years old, Phillip insisted on skiing adult courses, and at age fourteen, joined a hockey league even though he had never worn a pair of ice skates. While in high school, Phillip was a member of the swim team, acted in plays, and developed a flair for cooking.

After graduating from high school, Phillip joined the Marines in 2000 and was assigned to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California. As an instructor, Phillip trained Marines how to survive and fight in rugged terrain. On November 9, 2007, while on a mission to a village near Aranus, Afghanistan to make sure the residents had medical supplies and food, Sgt. Bocks was killed in an ambush.

My thoughts, prayers, and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go to Phillip's family. There are no words that can relieve their pain and I can only offer to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Madam Speaker, Sgt. Bocks gave the ultimate sacrifice not only for the freedom and security of his family and our country, but for the people of Afghanistan. I wish to remember his bravery and selflessness as he is honored today.

COMMENDING DISTRICT 02 FIRE
DEPARTMENTS FOR A JOB WELL
DONE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam, Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the brave men and women from the Deer Park, Lindenhurst, North Babylon, West Babylon and Wyandanch Fire Departments. There is no question as to why the firefighters belonging to the FDNY are considered New York's bravest. The exemplary behavior and actions of these fine individuals represent just that, bravery.

When a fire broke out at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch fire fighters' from not only this town, but surrounding towns, joined together. They used their resources and managed to put out a fire that was large enough to severely damage the church rectory, food pantry and community outreach center. They managed to achieve this with no fatalities or injuries.

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church has provided outreach services for over 30 years. While it saddens me that an individual would intentionally start a fire at a place that has provided such charity, I feel a sense of ease at knowing that the brave fire fighters worked so quickly to counter these acts.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to commend the emergency responders for their bravery and a job well done. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to these men and women for their services not only on December 30th but on every day that they go out and risk their lives for others.

HONORING CATHY AND LEN
UNGER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my colleague, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and I rise to pay tribute to our good friends, Cathy and Len Unger, who are being honored by the American Jewish Committee, AJC, at the Ira E. Yellin Community Leadership Award Dinner on January 24, 2008.

The AJC has chosen to recognize Cathy and Len, two remarkable leaders for their deep commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all people and protecting their essential rights and liberties. For over 100 years, the AJC has been a vital organization in the Jewish community. It has continued its efforts to combat anti-Semitism, promote pluralism and democratic values, support Israel's quest for peace and security, advocate for energy independence and strengthen Jewish life.

As with all of us, Cathy and Len are the products of their family experiences. Len was born in a displaced persons camp after his parents survived the Holocaust. Although Cathy's father is a native Angeleno, Cathy's mother fled Germany with her family in 1933.

Cathy and Len were introduced to the AJC by Cathy's father, but their active participation started after a trip to Israel, organized by Ira

Yellin, where they witnessed firsthand the impact of this outstanding organization. Upon their return, they joined the board of the Los Angeles chapter and have worked diligently to help the AJC attain its important mission.

Len graduated from UCLA and received his JD degree from Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley. Cathy also graduated from Berkeley. Len began his legal career in New York, where his pro bono work in a death penalty case earned him a Thurgood Marshall Award from the New York City Bar Association. When he relocated to Los Angeles, he joined the law firm of Levine and Krom, now Levine and Unger, where he currently practices.

Cathy became involved in politics, first working as a staff member for former Congressman Mel Levine during his tenure as a State Assemblyman, and then as a political and non-profit fundraiser. Both Cathy and Len have been politically active at local, State and national levels.

Their community interests involve many organizations. Cathy was appointed to the board of governors of the California Community Colleges. She is active on the local and national boards of Planned Parenthood and currently serves as chair of its Advocacy Project. She co-chaired the Women's Political Committee. Len is a member of the board and former chair of the southern California chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and is a recipient of the organization's Jane Wyman Humanitarian Award. He served as vice-chair of the national board of trustees of the Arthritis Foundation, and he currently sits on the board of Reprise! Broadway's Best, as well as on the boards of several charitable foundations. He also serves as a trustee of the investment board of the Los Angeles County Retirement Association.

Cathy and Len are the proud grandparents of Jack, Emma and Nate, children of Laura and Randy Dudley; and of Dylan, daughter of Susan and Daniel Unger.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Cathy and Len Unger for their long-time commitment to public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, I was not present for votes as my flight from Arkansas to Washington, D.C. was delayed.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 19, H.R. 4211, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 20, H. Res. 866, a bill honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records, I would have voted "yea."