

his devotion to public service, Sandifer was recently inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor. Sadly, he passed away just hours after this induction ceremony, as the result of complications brought about by cancer.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of David Sandifer. May God continue to bless his beloved wife, Pat, and all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for three rollcall votes on Tuesday, April 22.

If I had been present I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 205, on passage of H. Res. 981—Recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, established to increase awareness of glaucoma, which is the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States and worldwide, Representative BALDWIN—Energy and Commerce—I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 206, on passage of H.R. 5151—Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places—I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 207, on passage of H.R. 831—Coffman Cove Administrative Site Conveyance Act—I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary of Statehood.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion announced to the world that the State of Israel had been created. This declaration was made in accordance with the United Nations Resolution 181 which was passed in November 1947. The creation of two states was proposed, one Jewish and one Palestinian. The new State of Israel established an opportunity for Ben-Gurion and other Zionists to realize a return to the “promised land.”

Although the new state would be tested immediately following its creation, its citizens, supporters and ideals would hold. Even at the conclusion of the first Arab-Israeli War, a constant barrage of state and non-state actors would seek to destroy this government. Sixty years later this battle continues, as the entire world copes with the challenging yet necessary task of respecting the beliefs of others and protecting the natural rights of all mankind.

The “land of milk and honey” is significant not only for its ability to offer refuge to a peo-

ple who have been persecuted for the past two millennia, but to also demonstrate the global communities' determination to right wrongs and to help their fellow man. Today there are close to 7 million individuals who inhabit Israel. Although the vast majority of those persons happen to be Jewish, there are also people who follow the Christian and Arab faiths. While there happens to be conflict currently between the Jewish and Muslim populations, the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians coexisting in peace is still feasible.

As a Member of Congress, I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Israel, to talk with those that live there and to see the success that it has become. There exists within the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio and across the United States, a strong community of individuals who are committed to supporting our close ally. I am proud to consider myself a fellow advocate and look forward to supporting the State of Israel in the future.

May the people and the government of Israel continue to enjoy their statehood and be blessed with peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the 60th anniversary of the creation of Israel. On May 14, 1948, thousands of volunteer Yishuv fighters led by David Ben-Gurion celebrated as the Jewish Agency declared Israel an independent nation in accordance with the 1947 U.N. partition plan. The difficult months of fighting ahead were only eased by the knowledge that the volunteer army was fighting for its new and independent nation. U.S. President Harry S. Truman immediately recognized Israel as a sovereign and independent nation forging a bond between our two great democracies that has been one of mutual support and friendship ever since.

The people of Israel have, over the 60 years since Israel has become an independent state, established a vibrant democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices. Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, and is among the world's leaders in the high-tech industry. Israel has also bravely defended itself from numerous military attacks and acts of terrorism.

I stand with my colleagues and with my nation to celebrate the 60 years of a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect. I am a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 322 that was introduced by Speaker PELOSI to celebrate this important milestone. On this occasion I also want to highlight the efforts that Israel and its leaders have made to make a lasting peace with its neighbors. I would like to extend my

warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLADY E. LAUGHLIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gladly E. Laughlin, who passed away on February 23, 2008.

Gladly E. Laughlin played an integral role throughout the Laughlin, Nevada community where she was an outstanding civic leader and dedicated community advocate. Gladly was an educator with the Clark County School District for over twenty years, where she was a dedicated advocate for the children of Laughlin, expanding education programs and social services. Her efforts have inspired generations of students to achieve academic excellence. Among her many community achievements and honors, Gladly was most proud of her service to her community as the principal of the William G. Bennett Elementary School from 1993–2005.

Gladly was also a member on the Laughlin Town Advisory Board and served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of the Colorado River, the Laughlin Family Resource Center, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Colorado River. Gladly was also actively involved with the Laughlin Community Church. She volunteered with the church's choir, praise-worship teams, and served as a spiritual leader and mentor.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Gladly E. Laughlin for her many years of leadership and community service to the Laughlin community. Those who have worked with her on a professional and personal level agree that Gladly has done profound work throughout the community. Gladly was a wonderful individual and a great force on behalf of the people of Laughlin. She is survived by her husband of over 40 years, Pat Laughlin and her two sons Rob and Jim Laughlin. She will be profoundly missed.

DEREK RIEMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Derek Riemer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Derek Riemer is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Derek Riemer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Derek Riemer for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING FARAH JOOMA

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farah Jooma on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Jooma's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Farah Jooma worked with Parkland Hospital and researched alternatives more medical insurance. She created a brochure that she distributed to healthcare clinics throughout the Dallas Fort Worth area. She also held seminars discussing ways of trying to improve medical insurance.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Farah Jooma in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

ALFERD WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alferd Williams, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Williams, a sharecropper's son, who never got the chance to go to school, is now learning to read. Alferd is an inspiration to his teacher and classmates, and a prime example of someone setting their mind to accomplish a goal and then achieving success.

In 2006, Alferd joined a first-grade class at Edison Elementary School, to fulfill a promise he made to his mother and himself. That promise was that he would learn how to read. Mr. Williams is now in his second year at Edison Elementary School, and plans to stay in Ms. Alesia Hamilton's first-grade class until he completes his GED.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Alferd Williams, who is a true inspiration for all that know him, and all that have had the opportunity to hear of his inspirational story. Mr. Williams is living proof that with faith and persistence, you can achieve any goal. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Williams in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Los Angeles County Supervisor

Chair Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, who is retiring this year after an exceptional fifty years in public service.

As an African American and a woman, Supervisor Burke has broken through professional barriers her entire career. She was the first African American woman elected to the California State Assembly, where she served from 1966 to 1972. She was the first African American woman from California elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she represented California's 37th Congressional District from 1972 to 1978. She was the first African American woman appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, the first woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus, and the first Member of Congress to give birth while in office. She was the first female and African American to serve on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

I had the pleasure of serving with Supervisor Burke in both the California State Assembly and the House of Representatives. When my wife Janet and I visited Washington the year I decided to run for Congress, Supervisor Burke, who had been elected just 2 years before, went out of her way to make us both feel welcome. Supervisor Burke and I served 4 years together in Congress, and it was my good fortune to be able to continue to work with her when she left to be a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. I have greatly valued our many years of friendship, the experience, wisdom, and grace she brings to every problem, and her strong commitment to public service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Burke's extraordinary 50-year career and extensive record of accomplishments. Janet and I wish her and her family the very best for the future.

WIND FARMS IN THE WATERS OF THE GULF COAST

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Texas is now the number one wind energy state in the country, producing more power from wind than any other state. Texas is also the first state to allow wind energy production offshore, energy, which could not only power our homes and businesses, but also pay for the education of our children.

The Gulf Coast currently has unused oil equipment in its waters. Those structures now have a new purpose, as wind turbines utilize oil and gas platforms off the Texas-Louisiana coast in the first U.S. offshore wind energy farm. The shallow waters of the Gulf make economic sense for wind farms. Wind farms consist of turbines that harness clean energy and offer another option outside of natural gas. The coastline has a far-reaching continental shelf, in some areas extending 80 miles, while having water depths less than 150 feet. Texas, long a major player in the oil and gas industry, is now a major player in wind energy. In this region, the best wind for generating energy blows mid-day, when electricity demand is the highest. Therefore, the electricity generated from wind farms off the Texas coast will be highly valued by utility companies.

Wind Energy Systems Technology (WEST), conceived by Herman Schellstede and Harold Schoeffler, will be lining nearly 74,000 acres of water with wind farms, which includes part of my district, in the waters off of Jefferson County, on state owned land. Construction of the wind farms should begin in 2009. Once completed, the offshore wind farm will produce enough electricity to provide power to about 40,000 homes. By comparison, an equal amount of electricity would require about 20.7 million barrels of oil, or 6.5 tons of coal to produce. By not burning these fossil fuels to create this amount of energy, the wind farm will displace approximately 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide each year.

It is in our best interest to research and develop alternative energy sources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, in order to become more energy independent. With natural gas depleting, wind farms should become more abundant in the coming years, as wind power becomes more competitive and the technology more efficient. Wind is a clean energy resource with substantial environmental benefits and offers one of the lowest marginal costs of production. This renewable energy means renewable revenue. Some have reported that wind energy provides more jobs per dollar invested or per kilowatt-hour generated, than most conventional resource options. With total installed U.S. wind power capacity now over 16,800 megawatts or enough to serve the equivalent of 4.5 million average households, wind was the second largest source of new electrical capacity in the Nation, behind only natural gas, for the past 3 years.

Wind power is part of our country's sustainable energy solution, and I applaud WEST for their foresight and innovation.

TRIBUTE TO MUJES DE ECELENCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mujes de Ecelencia, one of the most prominent women's organizations in my congressional district, for embarking upon a remarkable educational campaign outreach on health care issues to women in Roma, Texas. The informational campaign outreach, which finished on April 18, 2008, is a mixture of private-public partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and agencies that all strive to bring awareness to important issues that affect women and their families.

Mujes de Ecelencia has consistently worked to provide the latest information about drug and alcohol treatment, family counseling, tobacco awareness, and other health care matters to women in south Texas since 2002. I applaud Mujes de Ecelencia for bringing together businesses, organizations, and local agencies in the informational campaign marketed towards women's health care issues, and for their continued work in advocating for women in south Texas.