

tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

This is a sunset memorial, Madam Speaker. It is January 28, 2008, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

CONGRATULATING JAMES LONG

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. James Long of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Long is a student of political science at the University of California, San Diego and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Long and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY AT THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues of the 5th anniversary of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, located at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. NPS has always been at the forefront of military graduate education for all the military Services and no more so than 5 years ago, when the School was selected by the Department of Homeland Security to fill a critical gap in graduate level education for our current and future leaders of homeland defense and security.

Since 2002, the Center has graduated nearly 200 students from the ranks of our Nation's first responders—public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency management and other disciplines that make up homeland security, and from almost every State in the country. The highly competitive application process and the rigorous academic excellence of the master's degree program ensures that Center graduates are having a significant impact on protecting the Nation. Moreover, the success of the Center in Monterey compelled the Department of Homeland Security in June 2007 to establish the DHS Homeland Security Academy in the National Capital Region. NPS was again called upon by DHS to replicate the Center's success by providing faculty and cur-

riculum for DHS employees at the second site in West Virginia. At that time, FEMA Administrator Paulson said the following, "The NPS master's program has a proven track record of building a national network of leaders who work across agency and jurisdictional lines to solve problems and protect the American people. We are very pleased to be able to leverage this successful program and offer more opportunity for DHS employees to learn in a setting that mirrors homeland security across the Nation."

Success has many fathers and I would like to pay special tribute to two former NPS leaders who were instrumental in bringing the Center to NPS—Provost Dick Elster and Associate Provost Paul Stockton. Their recognition that NPS offers a highly qualified, multi-disciplinary academic faculty, together with Dr. Stockton's willingness to do the hard work necessary to develop a Homeland Security master's degree curriculum—literally from scratch—coupled with the school's inherent relationships with the COCOMS—in this instance NORTHCOM—reinforced former Secretary Ridge's decision to select the Naval Postgraduate School for one of our Nation's most important homeland security education missions.

There are many other partners, stakeholders, and sponsors who have influenced the success of the Center and who deserve recognition, including current Center Director Glen Woodbury and David O'Keeffe, who leads the DHS Homeland Security Academy in Shepherdstown, WV, along with the current president of NPS, Admiral Oliver and Provost Dr. Ferrari. All of these folks will continue to lead the Center into the future with the same success that has been achieved in these last 5 years.

HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3524) to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3524, the "HOPE VI Improvement and Revitalization Act of 2007," which eradicates severely distressed public housing.

Ever since public housing was first created, there were many obstacles that hindered its success. As time progressed, many public housing units became nothing more than a highly concentrated community containing many of society's social problems such as poverty, high crime, and unemployment. Consequently, many units became deplorable and uninhabitable. But H.R. 3524 would help transform many severely distressed neighborhoods into the livable communities that public housing was originally intended to be for many low-income families.

The HOPE VI program was created in 1992 and has been credited with eliminating and replacing some of the most dangerous and dis-

tressed public housing in the country with new mixed income communities. It has been reported that mixed-income communities have resulted in increases in per capita incomes, decreases in unemployment rates, decreases in the number of households receiving public assistance, and declines in violent crime.

Therefore, one of the reasons why I support H.R. 3524 is because this bill would require public housing agencies to create more mixed-income housing on demolished low-income housing sites. Also, these mixed-income housing units developed to replace demolished public housing would have to be built in low-concentrated poverty areas to avoid concentrating public housing in low-income neighborhoods.

Other reasons why I support this bill is because it provides more replacement housing units; ensures residents have access to revitalized sites; provides residents with more involvement in the planning and redevelopment process; and establishes green development standards for HOPE VI revitalization activities.

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues for strong bipartisan support of the HOPE VI Improvement and Revitalization Act of 2007, which will redefine public housing by transforming distressed communities into new, safe sustainable communities for many families who deserve it.

CONGRATULATING NATHANIEL CAMPBELL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Nathaniel Campbell of Bailey, Colorado. Mr. Campbell is a literature student at Boston College and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Campbell and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO ALBERT NÁJERA AND HIS 36 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Albert Nájera, Sacramento's outstanding police chief as he retires from the department he has spent the last 36 years serving. Chief

Nájera rose through the department's ranks to become the city's police chief in 2003. As his friends, family and coworkers all gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

Chief Nájera is a native son to Sacramento. He was born and raised in Sacramento, and attended Luther Burbank High School before moving on to California State University, Sacramento, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Following his studies, Chief Nájera joined the Sacramento Police Department on April 1, 1971. Nájera started his career as a community oriented police officer and distinguished himself as a reliable and dedicated officer who would work tirelessly to protect the public.

On October 22, 2003, Chief Nájera was appointed as Sacramento's 42nd Chief of Police. He inherited a department under tough circumstances and worked hard to remedy the difficulties. At the time of his installation, violent crime was on the rise, relations with the local union were strained and the department was experiencing an alarming rate of turnover. Chief Nájera's leadership provided much needed stability and the city's police department has made tremendous progress under his tenure.

Chief Nájera has often been lauded by officers for his hands-on and personable style. He has successfully rebuilt relationships between the community and the police department, while also raising the morale of his officers. Chief Nájera has been a champion of attendance centers at local high schools to deal with chronic truants who otherwise might be caught up in gang-related crime. His leadership on this issue and efforts to curb gang activity are evident by the decline in homicides during 2007. Chief Nájera led a crackdown in the previous summer that involved moving officers from other units into gang enforcement. This reorganization is evidence of Chief Nájera's ability to reinvent the department under dire circumstances.

As chief, larger issues such as emergency preparedness also were on his mind. In June of 2007, Chief Nájera was appointed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's, FEMA, newly created National Advisory Council. The National Advisory Council was initiated to advise FEMA on all aspects of preparedness and emergency management in an effort to increase coordination with its partners across the country. Chief Nájera's appointment to this critical position is evidence of his understanding of complexities of emergency management and homeland security.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Sacramento Police Department Chief of Police Albert Nájera during his 36 years with the department, and the last 4 as Chief. Chief Nájera accession to the department's top post is a testament to his hard work and devotion to the city of Sacramento. I wish him, his wife, Barbara, and his daughter Alesandra continued success in his retirement. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend, Chief Nájera for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING FATHER VAHAN
GOSDANIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Father Vahan Gosdanian upon celebrating his 10th anniversary of service to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, California. Father Gosdanian is being honored at the 107th Annual Banquet held on January 24, 2008.

Father Gosdanian was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He immigrated to the United States in 1986. After his primary and secondary education he pursued a career in graphic design. As a graphic designer he owned his own business in Beirut. Due to the civil war in Beirut, Lebanon, Father Gosdanian, and his wife, Sossie Simonian, immigrated to Los Angeles and he continued to work as a graphic designer. However, he always wanted to attend seminary school and become a Vertabed. Prior to becoming a Vertabed, his religious background included attending Sunday school, becoming a Sunday school teacher and principal and altar serving.

Father Gosdanian began taking classes through the Western Prelacy and was ordained into priesthood on March 14, 1993 in Los Angeles, California. He was appointed as the pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Pasadena, California. While there, he published the monthly newsletter and attended to the needs of his parish. To further his education, Father Gosdanian attended classes at the Mennonite Brothers Bible College.

In the 10 years that Father Gosdanian has served at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno he has implemented many new programs. The church now holds an annual graduate banquet to honor all Central Valley high school and university graduates that are of Armenian descent. The church serves a traditional dinner for Christmas Eve and Easter for those that attend the service. He also leads a Tuesday night Bible study group and regularly visits the California Armenian Retirement Home and other adult day care centers. For the Fresno community, Father Gosdanian performs prayers as needed or requested by civic leaders and attends prayer breakfasts. He is also among a group of pastors that recently joined the prison chaplain program.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Father Vahan Gosdanian on 10 years of service to the church and the community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Father Gosdanian many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS DAVID H.
SHARRETT II

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of PFC David H. Sharrett II and to recognize his service to our Nation.

Private First Class Sharrett was a true patriot who served his country with honor. Throughout his life he selflessly dedicated himself to his fellow soldiers, family and friends, and to our country.

David Sharrett grew up in Oakton, Virginia, where he attended Oakton Elementary, Cooper Intermediary, and Oakton High School. During his high school career he was a star defensive end for the Oakton football team, helping the Cougars set the school record for greatest number of wins that season.

Before joining the Army, Private First Class Sharrett worked several jobs and attended Northern Virginia Community College. Yearning to serve his country, he enlisted in the Army in August 2006, and began his first deployment shortly thereafter. PFC Sharrett was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Tragically, he was killed on January 16, 2008, after sustaining injuries from grenade and small arms fire during combat operations in Balad, Iraq. Throughout his military career he was honored with the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Expert Weapons Qualification Badge.

Private First Class Sharrett is survived by his parents, David Sharrett and Kimberly Drummond, his two younger brothers, Chris and Brooks, and his wife, Heather Shell.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to honor the memory of PFC David H. Sharrett II. I call upon my colleagues to remember him as a man who gave his life protecting the American people.

RECOGNIZING GARY BAUMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gary Baumann, of Savannah, MO. On December 31, 2007, Gary retired from the United States Department of Agriculture—Rural Development with 21 years and 5 months of Federal service.

Gary started his career with USDA in 1975 as an Emergency Loan Assistant County Supervisor working for Farmers Home Administration in the Savannah, Missouri, office. Gary