

made many moves across northwest Missouri with USDA during his tenure, working in the Savannah, St. Joseph, Maryville, Bethany, and Maysville offices.

On October 15, 1995, Gary was reassigned to Community Development Manager of the USDA—Rural Development area office in St. Joseph, MO, where he worked Community Development in a 5-county region consisting of Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, DeKalb and Platte Counties. Gary worked in the St. Joseph Office until he retired at the end of 2007.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Gary Baumann, whose dedication to USDA and northwest Missouri has been truly exceptional. In my time in Congress, USDA Rural Development has been a great resource to work with, and it is people like Gary who have made that relationship between my office and USDA Rural Development what it is today. I am honored to serve him in the United States Congress.

IN MEMORIAL OF LORETTA S.
WOODARD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I use to honor the life of Loretta S. Woodard of Princeton, North Carolina, who passed on Friday, January 4, 2008 at the age of 64. In her passing, I have lost a dear friend and North Carolina has lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a woman who was instrumental in her community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved women, my friend Loretta S. Woodard, was a native of Johnston County and the daughter of the late Muldrow and Hilda Barbour Sawyer. Loretta was a graduate of Elizabeth City Schools and received her business degree from Hardbarger's Business College in Raleigh. She worked in the dental project at the UNC School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology. She was married to Carlyle Woodard in 1966, and following his graduation from the UNC School of Pharmacy, they moved to Princeton to make their home.

Loretta was a long-time member of Princeton Baptist Church and served in many capacities through the years. She was involved in all areas of life in Johnston County—educational, civic and political. She was a member of the board of trustees of Johnston Community College, the Johnston Community College Foundation, and the Paul A Johnston Auditorium on stage series board. At the time of her death she served on the Johnston County Heritage Commission and was a founding member of the Heritage Center following the Johnston County's 250th anniversary celebration, where she was a member of the steering committee.

Loretta Woodard was brought into the political arena by her mentor, the late NC House Representative, Barney Paul Woodard. She became active in the Democratic Party, on the precinct and county levels. She served as chairperson of the Johnston County Democratic Party and later as president of the Johnston County Democratic Women. She served 13 years as chairman of the Second District Democratic Party. She also served on the State Democratic Executive Committee, was a

former national convention delegate, and for a number of years was responsible for the decorations at the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner. She successfully chaired political campaigns in the county for Representative Woodard and Jack Gardner and for numerous other candidates, including Jim Speed, Charlie Whitley, Martin Lancaster, Allen Wellons, and she also worked on my campaigns. Loretta served on the restoration committee for the Goodwin House, home to the North Carolina Demarcated party. Loretta is survived by her husband Carlyle Woodard, and her two sons Carlyle "Lyle" Woodard III and wife, Janet, and Bradford Stuart Woodard.

Madam Speaker, Loretta was an outstanding person who used every minute of her long and productive life to make the world a better place. She was a well respected and dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor her and her family today.

CONGRATULATING CECILIA
DANIELS

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, Ms. Cecilia Daniels of Castle Rock, Colorado. Ms. Daniels is a teacher of English as a foreign language at Highlands Ranch High School 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 Ms. Daniels and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE PERSONS, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPOVERISHED, DISADVANTAGED OR OTHERWISE IN POVERTY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 198, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States has a moral responsibility to meet the needs of those who are disadvantaged or impoverished and that our country should set a national goal of cut-

ting poverty in half over the next 10 years by promoting good jobs at livable wages.

In this land of hope and opportunity, all working families should also be able to rely on the product of their labor to feed, clothe, house and provide health care for their families. Unfortunately, all too many working Americans are unable to do so. Today, 35 million Americans will go to sleep hungry. Thirty-seven million Americans still live in poverty and 47 million Americans are without health insurance. In my home state of Texas, 16,000 brave men and women who have served nobly in our Nation's military go homeless every night.

These statistics are unbecoming of the wealthiest Nation in the history of our planet. As a Nation, we must undertake all efforts necessary to end the scourge of poverty. One of the best ways to move forward in this effort is to promote good jobs and to ensure that all jobs pay livable wages.

Congress made great progress last year by passing a long-overdue increase in the minimum wage and providing that it will increase to \$7.25 per hour next year. A full-time job should be a bridge out of poverty, an opportunity to make a living through work. Unfortunately, for many Americans, especially those with families, it is not.

In our great country, it is unacceptable that poverty continues to devastate the lives of tens of millions of our fellow Americans. For this reason, I strongly support this resolution and believe that Congress must continue working to make the principles expressed in the resolution a reality. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution and I commend my good friend and colleague, Ms. BARBARA LEE of California, for introducing the resolution.

HONORING IRVIN DYER

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about an American who is making a real difference in the fight against alcohol and other drug addiction. At the same time, he is projecting a positive image of Americans among the international community.

On November 29 of last year, the National Anti-Drug Agency of Romania presented its National Excellence Awards. Honorees included the French Ambassador, the Russian Ambassador and the United Nations Representative. I'm proud to say, Madam Speaker, that an American was also recognized for his efforts, Mr. Irvin Dyer.

Born and raised in Arizona, Mr. Dyer moved to Romania for business 15 years ago. Having become a successful businessman and the father of three beautiful children, Mr. Dyer was moved to action by the debilitating effects that drug and alcohol addiction was having on the people of Romania. In 2003, he became an advisor to the president of the Romanian Anti-Drug Agency, President Pavel Abraham. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to assist the Anti-Drug Agency in its efforts to stem the tide of illegal drugs and to help and treat those who have fallen victim to addiction's awful grip.

Irvin Dyer's actions in Romania serve not only the people of Romania, but the whole world. The goodwill he spreads reflects well on Americans and our belief in caring for those less fortunate, protecting the future for our children and making the world a better place for all people.

We should all be grateful for the wonderful example of Mr. Dyer, and like him, reach out to help the millions of people suffering the ravages of addiction.

HONORING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wonderful organization in my State of Florida, the Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB).

FAASB has an honorable mission to serve as a united voice and be the organizational support empowering private agencies serving Floridians with blindness and visual impairment to provide state of the art professional vision rehabilitation services which enhance the quality of individual and community life.

I would like to praise FAASB for its successful initiative to create the first-ever state license plate benefiting the blind. Additionally, I must commend them for creating a vision caucus in the Florida State Legislature, similar to the Congressional Vision Caucus, which I co-chair. This State Vision Caucus will educate members of the State Legislature so they comprehend the scope of eye problems in our country and will ensure adequate resources are directed towards the research, prevention and treatment of eye disease.

FAASB has also created an annual Florida Vision Summit, where they look to create a statewide vision strategy to raise awareness about the increasing number of Americans with vision loss and provide better understanding of the importance of necessary steps to preserve and protect eyesight.

Once again, I would like to thank FAASB for their continued commitment to prevention, better eye care, and services to those who already live with low vision and blindness. I congratulate them on their achievement and service to the community.

HUNTING IN THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia was designated as a unit of the National Park System in 1978. At times referred to as the 'Grand Canyon of the East' we in West Virginia refer to the Grand Canyon as the 'New River Gorge of the West.' The national river is comprised of over 70,000 acres of mostly rugged terrain and is renowned as a

destination for its world-class whitewater recreation, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. But it is also a place where generations of West Virginians have hunted and fished. Unfortunately, the ability to hunt in the gorge is now being drawn into question.

As the Congressman from New River County, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

I view it as a God given right for West Virginians to hunt in the New River Gorge. This area is not immune from activities such as housing developments that are placing a premium on lands where hunting by the general public may take place.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service, as part of the development of a new general management plan for the park unit, has included a no hunting alternative. It is doing so because the legislation which established the New River Gorge National River states that hunting "may" be permitted. The enabling statute for the nearby Gauley River National Recreation Area, on the other hand, states that hunting "shall" be allowed. In fact, this is the case for the vast majority of the 62 units of the National Park System in which hunting is permitted.

The bill I am introducing today simply changes the "may" to a "shall" in the law which established the New River Gorge National River. While there is no doubt in my mind that the current Superintendent of this park unit will do the right thing and allow hunting to continue in the final general management plan, this is too important of an issue to remain at the discretion of future managers of the park unit.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Metropolitan Family Services on its 150 years of service to individuals and families of the Chicago metropolitan area.

Metropolitan Family Services, MFS, was launched on February 15, 1857, as the Chicago Relief and Aid Society, renamed as United Charities in 1909, and then renamed again in 1995 as Metropolitan Family Services.

MFS was assigned by Chicago Mayor R. B. Mason to help citizens recover after the Chicago Fire. It assisted more than 18,000 families, constructing more than 7,000 temporary homes and administering more than \$10 million, in 1871 dollars in aid donated around the world.

MFS was one of the Nation's first organizations to provide free legal services for the poor through the Legal Aid Society.

A leader in meeting the needs of thousands of people through the Great Depression, World War II, and postwar years, MFS provided a range of services including mental health counseling, elder care, and early childhood education.

MFS successfully advocated for State legislation enacted in 2005 that protected poor and

lower-income families from predatory lending practices.

Presently, Metropolitan Family Services employs 559 professionals serving close to 55,000 families and individuals. It has seven community centers that provide a full range of services, including child and youth development, mental health services, child welfare, employee assistance programs, legal aid, services for older adults and their families, social policy and community development, and violence prevention and intervention.

I congratulate MFS on its success in providing and mobilizing the services needed to strengthen Chicago area families and communities.

CONGRATULATING KIRSTEN AMBORS

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, Ms. Kirsten Ambors of Parker, Colorado. Ms. Ambors is a mathematics student at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy 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 Ms. Ambors and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPON ITS 10TH YEAR

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth year of a unique program in the annals of our Nation's proud military heritage. On January 28, 1999, the Honorable Mahlon Apgar, IV, then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment, first presented the Residential Communities Initiative, known as RCI, in a briefing to the Urban Land Institute. Few in that distinguished audience of real estate developers, financiers and public officials appreciated the far-reaching impact that RCI would have on the Army, on industry, and, most importantly, on improving the quality of life for thousands of military families.

At that time, the Army faced a monumental challenge in its Government-owned housing and infrastructure. Seventy-five percent of the family housing on Army posts was substandard, and the poor conditions were hurting