Army Corps of Engineers to address some of the many transportation challenges facing the region. Especially noteworthy is his personal involvement to secure an agreement to complete the extension of the Fairfax County Parkway, a vital connection across the Fort's Engineer Proving Ground, something that had festered unresolved for more than 10 years.

Inside the perimeter of his base, Colonel Lauritzen has steadfastly insisted that our nation's Soldiers and their families deserve the highest quality of life. Fort Belvoir has one of the Army's most successful Residential Community Initiative programs that have revitalized the approach to military housing and neighborhood centers, creating first-class communities for those who serve our Nation in uniform.

On a more personal note, Colonel Lauritzen and his staff have eagerly addressed questions or constituent concerns that my office has brought to their attention. Regardless of how complicated or involved these requests may have been, I have always found his door to be open to discuss the issues and, more often than not, find compromise to difficult situations.

Madam Speaker, at Fort Belvoir's Change of Command Ceremony on Tuesday, July 2, Colonel Lauritzen—West Point graduate, Soldier, and extraordinary officer—will retire from the Army and enter a new chapter in his life. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and wish him all the best as he pursues new endeavors. He has truly served Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and our Nation with the highest standards of leadership expected from the very best of our military commanders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1275, a resolution which honors the life of the late Timothy John Russert Jr. H. Res. 1275 was sponsored by a member of the Oversight committee, Representative BRIAN HIGGINS of New York and introduced yesterday with 89 original cosponsors.

I would like to thank the House Leadership, Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their support in bringing this measure to the floor in such a timely manner. I also wish to thank Edward Leong, senior counsel with House Legislative Counsel's office for his efforts in drafting a very fine resolution. Such cooperation, support and dedication to excellence are truly a fitting tribute to Timothy Russert.

I think the Washington Post said it best. In the June 14, 2008 edition, on the front of the Style section, the caption under Tim Russert's photo read, ''The ''Meet the Press'' moderator during a taping of his show last year. He got to do what he most wanted to do, and the news business was better for it.''

I couldn't agree more. He was on top of his game as the NBC News Washington bureau chief and moderator of ''Meet the Press.'' In between ball games, cheering and supporting those Buffalo Bills, going to Mass, writing books about the wisdom of our fathers, hanging out with his son, Luke, and checking in on his father Big Russ, he did what he loved best—being an award wining political analyst.

Madam Speaker, Timothy John Russert, Jr's sudden death, has left a huge void on the political landscape. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

I commend my colleague Representative HIGGINS for sponsoring this condolence measure and I urge its swift passage.

HONORING MR. PARK M. STRADER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a close friend and exemplary public servant who has brought distinction to the State of Tennessee.

I have known Park M. Strader for many years, and he is someone I hold in the highest regard. In fact, Parkey (as he is known to his friends) was an intern for my father when he was a Member of Congress. Since then, Representative Strader has built an illustrious career in public service, devoting his life to making Tennessee a better place.

During his two terms as a Representative to the Tennessee General Assembly, Representative Strader worked tirelessly for his constituents. No problem was too small for his attention, nor did he hesitate to tackle the big issues of the day.

As a member of the House Commerce and State and Local Government Committees and the House Local Government, State Government, and Industrial Impact Subcommittees, Representative Strader was a major factor in the rapidly expanding economy of East Tennessee. His intellect and dedication earned him a reputation as one of the most respected, knowledgeable public servants in Tennessee.

Representative Strader's public service spans many decades and has earned him many awards. Prior to his service in the Tennessee State House, Representative Strader served seven terms—28 years—as Knox County's Property Assessor.

During that time, he was one of the most important contributors to helping keep Knox County taxes low and help keep Knox County government running economically and efficiently.

With a history of service and dedication to Tennessee, I know Representative Strader will continue to work for the public good even in retirement.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating State Representative Park M. Strader on his commendable service to the people of East Tennessee. I am proud to call him my friend and wish him well on whatever new endeavors await him.

NASA'S TECHNOLOGY IS BETTER TODAY FOR EVERYONE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, better known as NASA, has been an ubiquitous aspect of American life since its inception in 1958. This organization brought the United States supremacy outside of the atmosphere and took us to the moon. They reinvigorated the imaginations of children who applied greater concentration to their studies of math and science. Recent accomplishments, such as the International Space Station and many unmanned probes, have been less in the public purview, but have extended scientific knowledge into the realm of what was previously thought to be science fiction. NASA, contrary to popular belief, was not the inventor of Velcro or Tang, yet it has managed to stay in the lives of Americans despite its lower profile by creating critical elements of some of the most important technology in use today. NASA helps to lower food prices by increasing food production five-fold based on research done on growth in outer space. Their design technology helps manufacturers to create cars, the electric guitar of favorite bands, planes, and skyscrapers. NASA created the temper material that is used in Tempur-Pedic beds, prosthetics, and many wheelchair seats. They are responsible for imaging technology that allows CAT scans, advanced MRIs, and new infrared mammograms that increase detection rates by 98 percent. They even made the needles with small silicon chips that reduce the need for invasive surgery when performing biopsies. NASA created the necessary technology for pacemakers, portable dialysis machines, and programmable insulin pumps which use digital telemetry. Laser eye surgeries are performed with the technology that enables the shuttle to dock with the space station. They are responsible for blood pressure monitors, heart monitors, and laser angioplasties. Bringing it closer to home, NASA created scratch-resistant lenses, polarized sunglasses lenses, and the satellite communication technology which brought about cell phones. The roads America drives on have grooves cut into them because NASA realized that it would help reduce hydroplaning, which has contributed to an 85 percent reduction in wet weather traffic accidents. Robotics, world-wide search and rescue systems, space blankets, light emitting diodes or LEDs, cancer treatments, and the list goes on and on. Describing, or even mentioning, all of them would be a feat that would result in a book hundreds of pages long. In fact, NASA is forced to pare down all of its technological inventions to its top 40–50 each year in its annual publication Spinoff. A world without the technologies developed by NASA would be one without your digital camera or your iPod. NASA may not have sent a man to mars, yet, but they may be taking us all along with them when they go.