a chair named for him). His students felt blessed to have had the benefit of his wisdom.

He was a mentor to so many younger Democrats, cheering us up when we lost, and cheering us on when we won. We will always cherish his concern, his generosity and his support.

Personally, I will always remember his standing by my side, wearing his biggest grin, as I announced my own candidacy for Congress.

Although he lived life long and full in nearly 94 years, those of us who knew him are still greedy for more of this remarkable man and his life partner, Mary Jo.

But we must be content with the legacy he has bequeathed to us. By his work in Congress, through his leadership, his teaching and writing, and by the example of how he lived his life, he has taught us many lessons. He taught us the importance of giving of yourself to your fellow citizens, he taught us that working together we can accomplish much, he taught us to delight in shared achievement and not be concerned with who gets credit. He showed us how to be upbeat, positive, and happy. He taught us that politics can be fun, that losing is not failure, an opponent is not the enemy.

He taught us to treat everyone respectfully. He taught us about dignity and decency, and the sweetness of life as it should be lived, with enthusiasm, zest and verve—filling every moment to the fullest. He taught us to believe as he did, in the innate goodness of humanity.

He taught us to be loyal to our friends and to love our families as he so unconditionally loved his.

Lionel Van Deerlin—a man of character, integrity, and humility. Van—classy, enthusiastic, fun.

We should celebrate him the way he would want us to, with happiness and joy in having had this sweet and decent man in our lives.

Yes, we will miss the twinkle in his eyes, his witty tweaking of the high and mighty. Yes, we will miss his friendship and his presence, but we can best honor this consummate man of good will by embracing the lessons he taught us.

He left us with an ineffable sense of optimism and hope, so let there be no sadness, because surely he is with his beloved Mary Jo whistling an old tune and telling her a corny joke.

INCLUDE FIREFIGHTERS IN THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a longstanding disparity between professional firefighters who are employed by States, counties, or municipalities and Federal firefighters.

In 1985, Congress amended the Fair Labor Standards Act so that firefighters around the country could engage in a practice called ''trade time.'' Trade time allows two firefighters, solely at their option and with the approval of their supervisor, to switch shifts without affecting the pay rate of either firefighter. The Congress made this change because firefighters work uncommon schedules involving 24 hour shifts and 72 hour work weeks, followed by a period of time away from the firehouse. Trade time enables firefighters to meet personal obligations such as attending a child's birthday or assisting a sick family member without exhausting their annual leave. It also ensures that firehouses across the county can maintain staffing requirements and keep our communities safe.

Federal firefighters are not covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act and therefore have been ineligible for trade time. The legislation I am introducing today amends Federal employee labor law to fix this problem.

Federal firefighters work side-by-side with their non-federal colleagues, so this is fundamentally an issue of equity. It will also help Federal agencies recruit and retain firefighters. Just like other firefighters, Federal firefighters risk their lives on a daily basis. They also accept the irregular hours that their jobs require. This legislation merely gives them some modest flexibility to balance that irregularity and meet their family obligations.

I hope my colleagues will support this simple but overdue legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Special Olympics.

When the Special Olympics was founded in 1968, individuals with developmental disabilities were all too often separated from their families and segregated from their communities.

My aunt, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, was able to see the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities through her sister, and my aunt, Rosemary.

She was confident in her, and other disabled individuals', ability to participate in a meaningful way in their communities.

By using sport as a vehicle and stage for demonstrating the dignity and capability of people with intellectual disabilities, Mrs. Shriver recognized the impact not only on the athletes themselves, but on the Nation.

Today, the Special Olympics serves more than 2.5 million athletes in 180 countries around the world.

Yet, the benefit of the Special Olympics to athletes, families, volunteers, and coaches cannot be adequately measured by statistics and numbers.

It can be best represented by the recognition of the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities by our society.

Congratulations to the Special Olympics on almost 40 years of extraordinary service.

EXPAND THE ROLE OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would expand the Army Corps of Engineers' role in Chesapeake Bay cleanup—a mission they first took on in 1996. The legislation would provide the Corps with continuing authority to engage in this work; expand the Corps' work to all six States in the Bay watershed and the District of Columbia; and provide flexibility for the Corps to work with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and other not-for-profit groups engaged in Bay cleanup.

Next year, the Congress will move to enact a full reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act for the first time since 2000. This represents an opportunity to turn the tide in Bay cleanup efforts so future generations can continue to enjoy the cultural, historic, and recreational benefits of the Bay and so it can continue to be an economic driver for the Mid-Atlantic region. This year, we have laid the groundwork for great progress in achieving this goal by securing substantial resources in the Farm Bill for agricultural-based Bay restoration. This measure serves to provide the water-resources complement to that effort.

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, which was established in section 510 of WRDA 1996, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to provide design and construction assistance to State and local authorities in the environmental restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. These projects range from shoreline buffers to oyster reef construction. As it is currently structured however, the program has been limited in its scope for several reasons. First, the Corps' restoration efforts have been limited to Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which has precluded a comprehensive, watershed-wide plan that adequately prioritizes projects. Second, unlike all other major Federal agencies engaged in Bay restoration, the Corps has no small watershed grants program that engages State and local governments in small scale restoration projects. This is compounded by the Corps' intricate procurement processes. Finally, the matching fund requirements of the section 510 program do not allow for the use of in-kind services or contributions, which stifles collaboration. The Chesapeake Bay Commission, a multi-State legislative assembly dedicated to the restoration of the Bay, recognizing these deficiencies has recommended several improvements to the program that are the basis for this legislation. The bill would address the issues I have previously mentioned and strengthen the section 510 program so that the Army Corps of Engineers can continue to be a strong partner in Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation through the WRDA process.