

lives on what would become known as "The Day the Music Died." Fifty years ago today, on February 3, 1959, a plane crashed near Clear Lake, Iowa, killing Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson, and the pilot of the plane Roger Peterson. These musicians individually and collectively influenced a generation.

Charles Hardin Holley, the singer known as Buddy Holly was born on September 7, 1936 and was a pioneer in rock-'n'-roll. He was raised in a musical family and found his calling in rock-'n'-roll in 1955. Buddy Holly shared the stage with many of the artists who were influenced by his work, such as Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, The Beatles, and the Rolling Stones, prior to his untimely death at the age of 22.

Ritchie Valens, born Richard Stevens Valenzeula, was equally influential in his brief musical career. Born of Mexican decent, Valens was raised on mariachi and flamenco guitar music. He later used this influence to develop the unique Spanish language rock so many grew to love, such as in his hit "La Bamba," which was originally a Mexican Folk song.

Jiles Perry Richardson, Jr., known as "The Big Bopper", was a disk jockey, singer and songwriter who thrilled fans with classic recordings such as "Chantilly Lace," and wrote such as "White Lightnin'" for George Jones and "Running Bear" for Johnny Preston. Fifty years later after their death, their songs continue to grace the airways and influence many musicians today.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the lives of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson for their lives were cut tragically short but whose music will continue to live on.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
GERALD SCHOENFELD

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerald Schoenfeld, who, as chairman of the Shubert Organization for more than 3 decades, was instrumental in revitalizing theater in New York and in making Broadway a national brand.

The Shubert Organization owns and operates theaters in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. On Broadway, where it is preeminent in theatrical influence, the organization owns 17 theaters, most of which are in my Congressional District. Additionally, the Shubert Foundation provides major support to nonprofit theaters and dance companies across the country.

Gerry Schoenfeld believed that the Shubert Organization was much more than a custodian of theaters. In fact, the organization invested in and produced many significant plays and musicals, winning numerous Tony Awards. With his friend and business partner Bernard Jacobs, Gerry Schoenfeld was involved in presenting or producing everything from popular blockbusters, like *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, to critically acclaimed productions like *The Life & Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *Amadeus*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *The Real Thing*, and *The Heidi*

*Chronicles*. Again with Jacobs, Schoenfeld was instrumental in moving *A Chorus Line* from the New York Shakespeare Festival to Broadway, where it ran for 15 years.

Gerry Schoenfeld knew all the players, big and small, in the Broadway theatrical community and in the world beyond it. His dedication to Shubert employees was legendary. He knew everyone from the box office workers to the backstage crewmembers by name, and often spent his Saturdays making the rounds of the Shubert theaters, personally ensuring that things were running the way he wanted them to.

Perhaps one of his most important contributions lay in his tireless efforts to demonstrate how powerful an economic engine the theater industry is, not only for New York, but also for the nation. Still another achievement was his success in spearheading the effort to make New York's theater district and the surrounding Times Square area family-friendly destinations.

A native New Yorker, Schoenfeld attended local public schools, graduated from the University of Illinois, served in the Army during World War II, and earned a law degree from New York University's School of Law. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a faculty member of Columbia University's School of the Arts. American theater suffered a true loss with the death of Gerald Schoenfeld on November 25, 2008 at the age of 84.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that Gerald Schoenfeld, who left such an important legacy to Broadway and to America, be remembered and honored.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY  
AND MEDICAL LEAVE ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, Nearly 16 years ago, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA, PL 103-3), legislation that allows employees to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member. Because of this landmark legislation, tens of millions of Americans have been able to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

Building on the successes of the FMLA, today I will introduce legislation that would allow more workers to take leave to care for their family members and allow parents to take leave for parent-teacher conferences and family members' doctor's appointments.

The Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act would broaden protections under the FMLA to allow employees in companies with more than 25 employees to take family or medical leave. Current law applies only to companies with 50 or more employees. The legislation would also provide up to 24 hours per year of unpaid Parental Involvement and Family Wellness leave, which will allow parents and grandparents to attend parent-teacher conferences or to take their children, grandchildren or other family members to the doctor for regular medical or dental appointments. In

these trying economic times, it is more important than ever that family members be able to take time off of work to care for each other, without the risk of losing their jobs.

Then-presidential candidate Obama endorsed this concept in a June, 2008 speech in Albuquerque, NM, saying, "With more and more households headed by two working parents—or a single working parent—it's also time to dramatically expand the Family and Medical Leave Act. Since more Americans are working for small businesses, I'll expand FMLA to cover businesses with as few as 25 employees—this will reach millions of American workers who aren't covered today. . . . We'll allow parents to take 24 hours of annual leave to join school activities with their kids."

On behalf of America's families, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in support of the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act.

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COMMEMORATING STONY BROOK  
FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark an important milestone in the civic life of Stony Brook, New York, a picturesque college town on the shores of Long Island Sound. In 1909, a small group of volunteers founded the Stony Brook Fire Department, beginning a tradition of service that has continued uninterrupted for 100 years.

The job of volunteer firefighting has changed significantly in the past century. Fire alarms in Stony Brook are no longer broadcast with church bells, and the Fire Department's original hand-drawn chemical firefighting apparatus has been replaced with state-of-the-art equipment.

However, Madam Speaker, the spirit of volunteer firefighters remains undiminished, and is as vital today as ever before. I join their neighbors in thanking the Stony Brook Fire Department for 100 years of protecting the community and wish them the best as they enter a second century of service.

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TRIBUTE TO FOUR FLORIDA  
VETERANS

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

MR. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the lives and legacies of the late Ernest Holman, John Joseph Sweet, Nathaniel Henry Winger, and Pedro Aguero. Following years of courageous, dutiful and patriotic service to their country while serving in the United States Army, these four men found themselves homeless and without families.

After dedicating years of their lives, these four brave and patriotic men answered the call of duty by risking their lives to serve and protect our Nation. As citizens we owe these men an overabundance of gratitude and respect for their compassion, commitment, and dedication

in safeguarding our freedoms. As a result of their bravery and the bravery of so many other Americans, millions have enlisted in the American Armed Forces.

Veterans such as Messrs. Holman, Sweet, Winger, and Agüero suffered from a complex set of factors that affect all homeless individuals—an extreme shortage of affordable housing, a livable income, limited access to health care, which is exacerbated by a lack of family and social support networks. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates nearly 196,000 veterans are homeless on any given night and approximately 400,000 veterans experience homelessness during the year. Homeless veterans are in dire need of housing, nutritional meals, physical health care, substance abuse aftercare, and mental health counseling. Messrs. Holman, Sweet, Winger, and Agüero are quintessential examples of the deeply tragic treatment dealt to our Nation's homeless veterans.

In July of 2007, the then Senator Barack Obama stated, "As long as there are veterans or veteran family members searching for shelter on the streets . . . we have failed in our duty to honor our commitment of the brave men and women who chose to serve." I am confident that President Barack Obama's administration will sympathize with the plight of homeless veterans and correct these injustices.

Messrs. Holman, Sweet, Winger, and Agüero inspired our Nation with their dedication and heroic efforts during their respective tenures in the Armed Forces. They will forever be recognized for their honorable services.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Ernest Holman, John Joseph Sweet, Nathaniel Henry Winger, and Pedro Agüero for their contributions to the United States of America and safeguarding its freedoms.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE  
NANOTECHNOLOGY ADVANCE-  
MENT AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES  
ACT

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the introduction of the Nanotechnology Advancement and New Opportunities (NANO) Act.

The NANO Act is a comprehensive bill to promote the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology in the United States. The legislation draws upon the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology, a panel of California nanotechnology experts with backgrounds in established industry, startup companies, consulting groups, non-profits, academia, government, medical research, and venture capital that I convened during 2005.

Nanotechnology has the potential to create entirely new industries and radically transform the basis of competition in other fields, and I am proud of my work with former Science Committee Chairman Sherry Boehlert on the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003 to foster research in this area.

But one of the things I have heard from experts in the field is that while the United States

is a leader in nanotechnology research, our foreign competitors are focusing more resources and effort on the commercialization of those research results than we are.

In its report *Thinking Big About Thinking Small*, which can be found on my website, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology made a series of recommendations for ways that the nation can promote the development and commercialization of nanotechnology. The NANO Act includes a number of these recommendations.

In addition, the bill addresses concerns that have been raised about whether the federal government is doing enough to address potential health and safety risks associated with nanotechnology. The NANO Act requires the development of a nanotechnology research strategy that establishes research priorities for the federal government and industry that will ensure the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology. This strategy will help to resolve the uncertainty that is one of the major obstacles to the commercialization of nanotechnology—uncertainty about what the risks might be and uncertainty about how the Federal government might regulate nanotechnology in the future.

The NANO Act also includes a number of provisions to create partnerships, raise awareness, and implement strategic policies to resolve obstacles and promote nanotechnology. It will: create a public-private investment partnership to address the nanotechnology commercialization gap; establish a tax credit for investment in nanotechnology firms; authorize a grant program to support the establishment and development of nanotechnology incubators; establish a Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for "nano-CAD" tools; establish grant programs for nanotechnology research to address specific challenges in the areas of energy, environment, homeland security, and health; establish a tax credit for nanotechnology education and training program expenses; establish a grant program to support the development of curriculum materials for interdisciplinary nanotechnology courses at higher education institutions; direct NSF to establish a program to encourage manufacturing companies to enter into partnerships with occupational training centers for the development of training to support nanotechnology manufacturing; and call for the development of a strategy for increasing interaction on nanotechnology interests between DOE national labs and the informal science education community.

I look forward to working with Science and Technology Committee Chairman GORDON to incorporate these provisions as his committee works to reauthorize the Nation's nanotechnology research and development program.

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THE THOMASVILLE BULLDOGS  
ARE SUPER

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, while the Super Bowl may be over, we cannot close the books on this football season without mentioning a high school in my district that truly defines the word super. On behalf of the citi-

zens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the varsity football team of Thomasville High School for winning the North Carolina 1-AA, championship. The Bulldogs won the title on December 13, 2008, with a convincing 42-13 win over East Bladen High. This adds to the winning history at Thomasville High, which will place an 8th championship trophy in its collection.

This year's championship, which was won at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, North Carolina, meant that the Bulldogs, who were led by Head Coach Allen Brown, completed an undefeated 16-0 season. The Bulldogs are accustomed to winning; Thomasville has won 4 of the last 5 State championships in their division.

While there were many strong efforts, the championship win was a team effort led by seniors Chris Brooks, D.J. McLendon, Brad Wilkes, Dujan Ingram, Brandon Moss, Heath Stroud, Martez Wilson, Vince Sanders, Alex Parham, David Coard, Desmond Hare, Robert Benjamin, Darius Baxter, Thomas McLendon, and Roberto Duhart, juniors De'arius Dow, Jonathan Hinson-Brady, Malcolm Ivory, Brandon Lucas, Ralph Woods, C.J. Campbell, Tywon Little, Demonte Kearsse, Brandon Royall, Vince Gobble, Mark Green, Tariq Camp, Joe Baranowski, and Kevin Green, along with sophomores Isaiah Williams, Robert Davis, Ian Flowers, John Campbell, Devonte Gordon-Hunter, Lawson Hodges, Lawrence Thomas, Steven Stanly, Jaquan Daniels, Sherrod Young, Kesean Green, and James Boyd.

Also assisting the team during this incredible season were assistant coaches Roger Bryant, Sam Captain, Heath Williamson, Nick Sweitzer, Jaz Tate, Tyler Tobin, Stan Baranowski, Brandon Staton, and Richard Herman, community coaches Vince Brown, Ed Courtney, Kemp Harvey, Don Osborne, and Benjie Brown, trainer Kenney Coker, AV Crew Travis Leonard, Wade Loftin, Casey Medlin, and Adam Oakley, middle school head coach Kelvin Carraway, and team doctors David Williams and Robin Williams.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to congratulate Principal Dirk Gurley, Athletic Director Woody Huneycutt, Head Coach Allen Brown, and everyone affiliated with the Thomasville High School Bulldogs on having another great season and for winning the North Carolina 1-AA football championship yet again. The Bulldogs are super once more.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD  
D. BURNS

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Richard D. Burns, Executive Director of New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Community Center. Mr. Burns proudly serves as the longest-serving Executive Director of any LGBT organization in the United States.

A graduate of Hamilton College and the Northeastern University School of Law, Mr. Burns has built a long and distinguished career of public service, diligently leading a number of important service and advocacy organizations through the years.