

Mr. Harris had previously been involved in another type of assistance to Iraqi officers; a joint venture to financially assist a wounded officer that had been working with the California National Guard. This gave Mr. Harris a good grasp of the short supply of equipment in Iraq and he came up with the idea to take the surplus supplies and send them to the Iraqi government for their police forces. After working through the Iraq government for a waiver of liability, as well as working with the Fresno City Council, the organization came to fruition. In February 2004, five people, including Mr. Harris, traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to donate vests, radios, helmets, leather equipment and riot equipment. The Fresno group outfitted five hundred Iraqi police officers.

In the spring of 2006, the Brotherhood of the Badge, International made a second trip to Iraq, this time the mission was different. The team made the trip to personally assess the needs of the civilian Iraqi police forces in the Salah ad-Din Province. This trip was also made at the invitation of General Turner of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne. The mission of the 101st is to work to help the Iraqis establish the proper local government and police functions that will allow them to function on their own.

Since 2003, the Brotherhood of the Badge, International has gained non-profit status and has established a board that includes members of local law enforcement, the fire department, an elected official and a community volunteer. The organization has sent 20,000 bulletproof vests, thousands of helmets, radios and other protective equipment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Over one hundred law enforcement agencies from across the United States have donated equipment and the group has collected over 2.7 million dollars in private donations for the purchase of new bulletproof vests. U.S. military forces distribute the gear and it is currently being used to protect Iraqi police officers and firefighters.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Brotherhood of the Badge, International for their commitment to serve law enforcement agencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
FRANCESCO "KID" FRATALIA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francesco "Kid" Fratalia, in recognition of his remarkable life and outstanding career in the boxing ring.

Born in 1926 in his beloved hometown of Civitavecchia, Italy, "Kid" Fratalia, nicknamed by his dear friend Rocky Marciano, began his amateur career in 1939 at age 13. As an amateur welterweight, Fratalia had 81 fights in a 10-year period, during which time he became the regional state champion of Lazio, Italy, from 1946 to 1948, and was selected to represent his country in the Olympic Games. He celebrated the joy and endured the agony of a boxing career that stretched 15 years and spanned 3 decades, included 112 fights, and covered 2 continents.

Fratalia's professional career led him to the United States in 1949, specifically, to Brockton, Massachusetts, where he met and began a lifelong friendship with the legendary Rocky Marciano. More importantly in 1949, he met the love of his life, Gloria Vena, of Roxbury. Within 55 days they married and subsequently raised 6 wonderful children; Ernest, Vincent, Stephen, Francesca, Robert, and Christopher.

"Kid" Fratalia's American experience included noteworthy undercard bouts, once to a Joe Louis main event and twice to Rocky Marciano's main events. He returned to fight in Europe in 1951, and in that year solidified his reputation as a fighter's fighter. But it was to America, his new home, that he returned in 1952, to complete his career and raise his family.

When all was said and done, "Kid" Fratalia battled his way to 92 wins against 14 losses, along with 6 draws. In his 112 amateur and professional fights, one thing was certain: he emptied his bucket every time; there was nothing left when the final bell rang. For "Kid" Fratalia, a true warrior, win, lose or draw, it was about effort and valor in the face of a challenge. In October of 2008, Francesco "Kid" Fratalia was inducted into the Massachusetts Ring 4 Boxing Hall of Fame. Bestowed by his peers, this recognition was an honor that he and his family were deeply proud of, and that he cherished to the end.

The real winners in this remarkable life and career were "Kid's" family and friends, both home and abroad, who were so very proud of him. Hard work, fearless determination, respect for others and unwavering devotion to family was what mattered most to him.

Francesco "Kid" Fratalia was truly a man to be reckoned with, a man to emulate, a man to respect, a man to fear, a father and husband to love, a true friend to count on in time of need and a man of character and uncommon kindness. His gifts of family values and his tireless work ethic truly defined him as a man and will be his lasting legacy.

Francesco "Kid" Fratalia passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. He and his kind spirit will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I offer this; to "Kid" Fratalia others of his time and era, may you rest in the eternal peace and light of the Almighty. We thank you for making this world a more interesting and better place.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND
CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 631, the "Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act." H.R. 631 recognizes the need to increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of protecting our water resource cannot be overstated. In economic terms, the measurable contribution

of water to the economy is difficult to estimate. In environmental terms, water is the lifeblood of the planet. Without a steady supply of clean, fresh water, all life, including human, would cease to exist.

The quantity, quality and economic problems we face as a result of our use of water are complex but, at least one of the causes of these problems is easy to manage—the way we waste water. And, the solution is straight forward—water conservation. Simply stated, water conservation means doing the same with less, by using water more efficiently or reducing, where appropriate, to protect the resource now, and for the future. Using water wisely will reduce pollution and health risks, lower water costs, and extend the useful life of existing supply and waste treatment facilities.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that water utilities will need about \$277 billion for infrastructure construction, upgrades, and replacement during the next 20 years. In addition, waste water treatment utilities will need multi-billion dollar infrastructure upgrades and expansions, with much of this investment tied to the volume of water needing treatment. By reducing water consumption through efficiency measures, water and wastewater utilities can delay or reduce infrastructure costs, while reducing environmental impacts.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 631 will allow for the leading authorities to conduct the research on water consumption within major economic sectors. The surveys are highly detailed, carefully constructed to be statistically representative of the entire population, and are indispensable analysis and policy planning. In gauging the success of any water efficiency program, data on consumption, price, and product—both prior to and after the research program's implementation—are needed to calculate the change in water use, cost, and product purchase tendencies.

Establishing a baseline of consumption and price levels by sector for a variety of end-uses and customer classes will assist policy planners to better identify the highest-value products to target in designing their programs.

Mr. Speaker, at least 31 water efficiency projects in Texas are ready to go and will create jobs and improve clean water supply, according to a quick survey conducted by the Alliance for Water Efficiency. The projects which provide a sample of water efficiency projects across the state include retro-fitting plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems, upgrading water meters, and planting water wise plants and other vegetation to decrease wasteful water use.

I thank my colleague, Rep. JIM MATHESON, of Utah, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we preserve our planet's most treasured resource, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this H.R. 631.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the First Church of the Nazarene was founded in 1833 and celebrated its 175th anniversary with a "Heritage Days" celebration focusing on missions and culminating in an international celebration, and

Whereas, preparations for the celebration began in 2004 with the writing and translation of materials sent to every Nazarene church around the world with an intention that all 1.6 million members of the church will hear the same sermon, and

Whereas, the First Church of the Nazarene has its roots in Methodism and became the First Church of the Nazarene in 1908, and

Whereas, through its missionary activities, the church now includes graduate theological seminaries in North and Central America and Asia-Pacific, liberal arts colleges in Africa, Canada, Korea and the U.S., and

Whereas, the church is affiliated with more than 40 theological schools worldwide and hospitals in Swaziland, India, and New Guinea; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the First Church of the Nazarene for 175 years of service to the community and their continued dedication to international cooperation and learning.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDER'S
DAY CELEBRATION AT NEW
GREATER BETHEL AFRICAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate the 222nd year since the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The New Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Tennessee—which I am honored to represent in this chamber—is hosting a Founder's Day celebration, beginning today.

Pastor Sabrina Transou and Mr. Parrish Transou Sr. expect to share the event with parishioners from all across the country, including Presiding Prelate, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the first female consecrated as Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I join Pastor Transou in welcoming Bishop McKenzie and their numerous other guests to West Tennessee.

The names of my dear friends Dr. Wesley McClure, President of Lane College, and Shirlene Mercer, who recently retired as our office's long-time Director of Constituent Services, have been submitted to Bishop McKenzie for the Legendary Award for outstanding service within the community. The award will be presented Friday evening. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all that both of these individuals have done for our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in honoring the New Greater Bethel African Methodist as it begins this celebration of the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Thank you.

SERGEANT JOHN J. SAVAGE, USA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the state of Texas and of our nation.

Sergeant John J. Savage was a soldier in the United States Army and a true American hero. John gave his life in the service of his country on December 4, 2008, when an explosives-laden SUV broadsided Sergeant Savage's armored vehicle in Mosul, Iraq.

Assigned to 103rd Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, Sergeant Savage did his part during a time of war, an action that speaks volumes far greater than words about his character and patriotism.

A native of Weatherford, Texas, John had aspirations for a life in the military from a young age. As stated by his mother, "He loved the military. It was a lifelong dream of his."

John had been on active duty in the United States Army for six years. He spent three years stationed in Germany prior to his first deployment to Iraq in 2005 and was then deployed for a second tour in September of 2007.

Sergeant Savage's three-year-old daughter, Nicole, will continue to learn of her father through family and friends. John's father, who is the son of a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Army himself, commented on his own son by stating, "His family was his number one priority."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Savage's daughter, parents, siblings, and all of his family and friends. His community and nation honor his memory, and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Sergeant Savage will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR
HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE
LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 154, which honors JOHN D. DINGELL for holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

This resolution pays tribute to a man who has given his life to public service. Prior to Congress, JOHN served with dedication as a Congressional page, National Park Ranger, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and a county prosecutor.

On December 13, 1955, JOHN won a special election to replace his father in the House of Representatives and has been reelected 27

times to represent the families of Michigan. He has served honorably as dean of House of Representatives since the 104th Congress.

I first met Congressman DINGELL when I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. It has been a true honor to serve as a Representative along with such a distinguished gentleman.

Throughout his tenure in the House, JOHN has fought tirelessly for working families. As a member, ranking member, and chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, he has been a leader in protecting the environment and health of all Americans.

As the Congress looks towards reforming our healthcare system, we must thank JOHN for paving the way by increasing access for family and children. Every year since 1957, JOHN has introduced a bill that would provide national health insurance for all Americans. The passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law in 1997 and an expansion of the program in 2009 could not have been done without him.

JOHN has also been instrumental in the passage of environmental legislation including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

I want to take this time to recognize JOHN's wife Debbie who has been his dedicated partner during his service to our great nation.

Congratulations JOHN. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with respect and admiration to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and support H. Con. Res. 35. The struggle for racial equality has been and continues to be one of the greatest testaments of America's progress throughout its history. The NAACP was founded February 12, 1909 to ensure that the voices of all people of color are heard. The NAACP has a strong legacy of pioneers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary White Ovington, Joel Elias Spingarn and Roy Wilkins, along with the countless others of diverse ethnicities who have worked tirelessly to fulfill the NAACP's mission. Through tireless work and often great personal sacrifice, the members and leadership of the NAACP have fought for justice, to ensure political, educational, social and economic rights for all peoples. While there is still significant work to be done, these efforts have helped to mold the America we have today.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 35, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.