

her parents, Enrique and Amanda Ros, who left Castro's communist regime in search of freedom, when Ileana was just seven years old, so that their daughter could take advantage of the opportunities this country has to offer.

Although DEBBIE and ILEANA come from different backgrounds and different political parties, they share a common goal and that is to improve the lives of South Floridians. They seize all opportunities to work together with the rest of the South Florida Delegation for the best interest of the diverse community which we represent. They truly are an inspiration to woman of all ages.

It is an honor and a privilege to call these outstanding women my friends and serve with them in Congress. As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating our colleagues Congresswomen DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their invaluable contributions to our nation and their remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE ENGINEER
WILLIAM "BILLY" D. PINE

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of fire engineer William "Billy" D. Pine, an American hero who touched the lives of many. Born on July 3, 1979 in Yuma, Colorado, Mr. Pine lived a brave and courageous life putting out fires in his community.

Known as the lovable firehouse prankster with an infectious smile and contagious laugh, Mr. Pine was both admired and respected by his fellow firefighters. After joining the Pueblo Fire Department in 2004, he quickly became active in the Union and planned firehouse activities. Mr. Pine was a "firefighter's firefighter" and his coworkers quickly became his second family.

Mr. Pine was committed to both his work and his family. He met his wife, Janice, shortly after moving to Pueblo in 2003. The two were set up on a lunch date by a mutual friend and immediately became inseparable. They married in July 2005 and, the following April, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Sydney Taylor. Mr. Pine loved being a father and was dedicated to providing a good life for his family.

However, on October 4, 2006, when Sydney was only 6 months old and he only 27, the unexpected happened. When Mr. Pine rolled over in bed to help his wife with her homework, a tumor burst, causing his intestine to erupt. After being rushed to the hospital, Mr. Pine was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and immediately began chemotherapy. While his family and friends struggled with the shocking news, Mr. Pine stayed strong.

Throughout chemotherapy, Mr. Pine remained dedicated to the fire department. On good days, he would go in to work. On bad days, his coworkers would cover his shifts and send him the paycheck. In April 2008, Mr. Pine was able to return to work full-time and fought in one last fire. When a deadly brushfire swept through Olney Springs on April 15, Mr. Pine responded to the call. When he

got there, two of his fellow firefighters were stuck behind a downed power line. Although, as a trained fire engineer, Mr. Pine was required to stay at the controls of his pumper truck, he went into the blaze and saved the two men. He was their hero.

Mr. Pine showed amazing strength and courage until the very end. Tragically, he lost his battle with cancer on August 19, 2008 at age 29. I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Pine and am proud to announce that his name will be added to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs on September 19, 2009. Mr. Pine was a kind, loyal and genuine man who inspired those around him. May he be remembered along with the other heroes in Colorado who have given their lives protecting this country.

IN HONOR OF FRANKLIN CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR OUT-
STANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the faculty and students of Franklin Central High School for their dedication as dynamic and sharing members of their community. Earlier this month, FCHS students raised over \$24,000 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana. The students raised the money at their inaugural dance marathon.

This program was a six hour event with 325 students participating. In addition to the dancing, the dance marathon included a dodge ball tournament and a girl's basketball free throw contest that raised \$6,000. The faculty and staff set an excellent example by raising an additional \$3,500 to contribute to their students' efforts. All in all, the inaugural dance marathon was an extremely successful program that surpassed its intended goal of \$15,000.

The Riley dance program was originally established in 1991 in memory of Ryan White, an AIDS activist and Riley patient. Since the program's inception, thousands of Indiana's high school and college students have committed themselves to raising funds for Riley. It is a program that Riley has come to depend on to facilitate research and provide treatment to children in need of vital health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Franklin Central High School for their dedicated public service.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 90th birthday of Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. On March 31, 2009, Mr. Curls will be 90 years young. This weekend on March 26th and 27th,

he is to be honored in Kansas City, Missouri by family, friends, and acquaintances. I am privileged to be a part of this ceremony.

Mr. Curls is one of the original Founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes. Freedom Inc. was and has been very influential in delivering votes for a candidate or a cause. The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Freedom Inc.'s office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For nearly fifty years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and the civil rights of people of color. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility of giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. when I was Chairman. It was a period when Freedom Inc. was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

The "kids" have also held many public offices. Two of them were and one is presently a Missouri State Representative, one was a city councilwoman, and two have been School Board members in the Metropolitan Kansas City area.

Since the mid-1950s, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals, most notably in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the "Class of 1937," which has been very close to this day. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri as one of its "Legacy Award-ees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He also has been honored by fellow Missourian U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the "Missouri Walk of Fame" designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City's African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles into practice, and the effects of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. He has had broad shoulders all his life and has held us on those shoulders all these years to promote equality in all walks of life.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls on his 90th Birthday celebration. Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri. Whatever

we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history with the election of our first African-American President, Barack Obama. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

THE OVERSEAS VOTING
PRACTICAL AMENDMENTS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman MICHAEL M. HONDA (D-CA) to re-introduce the Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act which would protect the voting rights of the millions of American citizens currently living overseas. The Overseas Citizens Voting Act of 1975 guaranteed the right to vote for military personnel and U.S. citizens living overseas. However, a quarter of our men and women in the armed forces stationed overseas didn't even receive a ballot for November's election. More than half of overseas Americans that tried but could not vote, were unable to because their ballots were late or did not arrive.

Right now, far too many overseas Americans are being disenfranchised by a tangle of bureaucratic red tape. The problems are many, including delivery issues, general lack of awareness of available voter assistance programs, and archaic state voting laws. Our bill proposes simple, inexpensive fixes that will help ensure the votes of every overseas American are counted.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARGARET'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a school in my congressional district, St. Margaret's Episcopal School, that not only excels in academics but is also distinguished on the football field. The St. Margaret's football team won the 2008 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Small Schools State Championship. In the championship game, St. Margaret's defeated Hamilton Union (Hamilton City) 59 to 7.

The football team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They were undefeated in the 2008 season and have earned the title "Champions." The members of the winning football team include:

Team Co-Captains Jeremy Baileys, Alex Brolick, David Mothander, and Chase Smith along with teammates John Murayama, Matthew Duenes, Conner Edgcomb, Michael Schmall, Austin Holden, Brennan Smith, Kent Iizuka, Chris Adams, James Murayama, Travis Anderson, Davis Edwards, JT Carpenter, Adam Miyawaki, Justin Oh, Leo Garcia, Jeff Askin, Colfax Selby, Alfredo Valencia, Will

Findiesen, Connor McClure, Max Carpenter, Brett Nicholas and Mack Santora.

The team is led by Head Coach Harry Welch; Assistants Rod Baltau, Chris Colaw, Mark Davidson, Jay Noonan, Mel Taylor, Fr. Reggie Payne-Wiens, Brent Ward, and Butch Ward; Athletic Trainer Dave Tomlinson; and Team Managers Kira Cahill, Anna Maria Carabini, Emily Furman, and Valerie Wu.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the entire St. Margaret's community, for this truly great achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WIND INCENTIVES FOR A NEW DECADE ENERGY ACT OF 2009

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wind Incentives for a New Decade (WIND) Energy Act of 2009, which would extend the production tax credit (PTC) over the next decade to demonstrate that we are committed to powering our nation with more alternative and clean electricity.

Electricity prices have soared more than 26 percent nationally since 2000. Wind energy and other renewable energy resources are a crucial component to ensuring that Americans have access to clean, reliable, diversified, and affordable electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind energy today accounts for approximately 3 percent of electricity produced in the United States. However, wind energy capacity has the potential to significantly increase in the United States in the future—but only if we have a stable investment climate.

A clean, reliable, and renewable energy source, wind-generated electricity produces no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, in 2007, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) estimated that wind energy displaced more than 28 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. A 2007 report compiled by the American Solar Energy Society indicates that widespread use of wind has the potential to displace up to 1,780 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.

By extending the PTC through 2020, my bill would create long-term fiscal stability primarily in the wind energy market. This certainty is vital to wind energy project planning and development. By providing a long-term credit, wind energy developers can attract investors and plan out schedules for project development, thereby creating an efficient and cost-effective process for allocating resources and encouraging investment in this industry. This alone has the potential to reduce the costs associated with many of these projects thereby making wind-generated electricity more competitive with other types of electricity that is generated.

The wind energy industry currently employs over 85,000 individuals and indirectly employs tens of thousands more in industry-related

support services. With a current national unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, which is higher in the construction sector (21.4 percent) and manufacturing sector (11.5 percent), providing long term stability in the tax code for the PTC would help create sustainable, good-paying jobs. In fact, in 2008, AWEA estimates the wind industry invested over \$7.8 billion in wind turbines, primarily made of steel, which translated into purchases of more than \$3 billion of steel and cast iron components.

Additionally, a report published in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that a 5- to 10-year extension of the PTC, relative to one- or two-year extensions, could reduce the cost of wind projects by up to 15 percent, result in better transmission line planning, enhance private research and development spending, and significantly increase domestic manufacturing of wind equipment thereby, creating American jobs. In addition, this report goes on to indicate that by extending the PTC through 2020, wind energy has the potential to increase in the United States from about 3 percent to 17 percent of our electricity supply by 2030.

Unfortunately, since its creation in 1992, the PTC has been allowed to expire three times, only to be retroactively renewed and extended. In addition, Congress has very nearly allowed this credit to expire many times, but then has passed 11th hour extensions of the provision. The 3-year extension of the PTC included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill is a good start; however, given the history of extending this credit, such uncertainty in this process is a major disincentive to long-term wind and renewable energy development. This situation has led to a boom-bust cycle in wind energy rather than a consistent, longterm investment in one of our nation's limitless green energy resources. For instance, information compiled by AWEA shows that each time the PTC was allowed to expire but then was reactively renewed and extended, the subsequent year wind energy installations decreased 73 percent—93 percent compared to the prior year.

Kern County, which I represent, is a model of renewable energy resources, and Tehachapi, California, is a leader in wind energy development. In fact, the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, located in the Tehachapi Mountains of eastern Kern, has attracted wind energy developers because, if you have ever been there, the wind blows nearly all the time through the mountain tops and valleys. Under-scoring the vast wind energy potential in this area, over 3,500 wind turbines have already been installed, which produce electricity to power more than 250,000 homes and create more than 650 jobs (both directly and indirectly) in the local communities. In addition, Kern County produces over 30 percent of the total wind-generated power in California, and accounts for about 5 percent of the total wind power generated in the United States. Even with all of this, it is my understanding there is still opportunity for significant expansion of wind power in the Kern-Tehachapi area, which some estimates put as high as bringing an additional 6,000 megawatts of wind-generated electricity online. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure that the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, as well as the United States', vast potential for wind energy can be developed in a reliable and timely manner,