

trips to welcoming exchange students into her home.

Last fall, Ellie, along with volunteers from Scottsdale, helped mobilize relief efforts when Alamos, Mexico was struck by a devastating hurricane. She helped provide clothing, food, and relief funds to the residents of Alamos in their mission to rebuild their town.

Ellie and her husband John have had the privilege of traveling all over the world in support of Sister Cities' programs, forming long-standing relationships along their way. Her incredible commitment has raised the bar for all of our citizens and has already inspired many to follow in her path.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ellie Ricker's 30 years of work and dedication to Scottsdale Sister Cities and the peoples' lives she has touched.

IN HONOR OF WOODROW WILSON
HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATING ITS
80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodrow Wilson High School which will celebrate its eightieth anniversary on April 25, 2009.

Since its founding, Woodrow has always been a special part of Dallas. This historic high school was designed by famed Dallas architect Mark Lemmon. To honor its namesake, the school's cornerstone included a piece of wedding cake from Jesse Wilson Sayre, President Woodrow Wilson's daughter. Over the course of its history, Woodrow has educated thousands of bright individuals, nurturing their talent while providing them with a wonderful learning environment as well as many fond memories. In 2006 and 2008, Woodrow made it to Newsweek's list of America's Top Public High Schools.

It is also the only public high school in the United States proudly hailed as the alma maters of two Heisman Trophy winners: Davey O'Brien and Tim Brown. Other notable alumni include legendary real estate developer Trammell Crow, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, Congressman Jim Collins, Texas Attorney General Jim Maddox, Chief Justice Tom Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court, civic leader Ruth Sharp Altshuler, and seven Dallas area mayors. As Woodrow celebrates eighty years, I know it will continue to be a beacon of academic excellence in Dallas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Woodrow Wilson High School.

HONORING RON LAWSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Lawson upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr.

Lawson was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Mr. Lawson was born in Los Angeles and attended high school in Bell, California. At seventeen he enlisted in the United States Army. He completed basic training at Fort Ord, California and was on his way to Korea. Once in Korea, he joined the First Cavalry for thirteen months, serving with a heavy weapons infantry unit with duties along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). He was then transferred to Germany where he served for five years with the First ARB 46th Infantry and with the 24th Infantry Division. He had duty in Berlin along the wall at Checkpoint Charlie. Upon his return to the U.S. he was assigned as a weapons instructor at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

He was at Fort Polk for a short amount of time before returning to Korea for a second tour. He served in the 7th Cavalry with the 2nd Infantry Division. When he returned to the U.S., he was selected as an instructor at the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After completion of the academy, he served as a drill sergeant for new recruits, readying them for advanced training and deployment to Vietnam. In 1970, Mr. Lawson was deployed to Southeast Asia and joined the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. He was assigned to Team 25 and Mobile Advisory Team 97; Team 25 worked with South Vietnamese Regional Forces in the Central Highlands of II Corps. He provided expert advice to the regional soldiers in tactics while accompanying them on operations against Viet Cong and NVA forces in heavy jungle canopy and rugged mountain terrain. His units also worked with and fought alongside native Montagnard tribesmen. Mr. Lawson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his actions while serving with Team 25 and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for action with Mobile Team 97.

After completing twelve months in Vietnam, Mr. Lawson returned to Fort Ord and reassigned duties as a drill sergeant. He was reassigned to Germany and joined the 1st Armored Division as Operations Sergeant. He returned to Fort Ord to serve as a first sergeant for the 7th Light Infantry Division until he retired.

During Mr. Lawson's time in the Army he completed many training courses including German Language School, the 24th division NCO Academy, Instructor Preparation Course, Pre-commissioning Course at Fort Benning, Officer Leadership at Fort Ord, Infantry Armor NCO Advanced Course at Fort Benning, the NCO Republic of Vietnam Orientation Course and Drill Sergeant Academy. For his service he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a Gold Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Army Occupation award, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Berlin and Korea), Korean Defense Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. Mr. Lawson received six letters of commendation and was honored as Fort Ord Drill Sergeant of the Year.

After Mr. Lawson retired he and his family moved to Chowchilla, California and he was employed as a maintenance supervisor. He is a member of the Young Men's Institute, Saint Columba Church and has served as a member of the City of Chowchilla Planning Com-

mission for twenty-one years. He is a life member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896 and member of the American Legion Post 148. He is also the Past Commander of Post 9896 and has held the position of Post Quartermaster for several years. Mr. Lawson currently resides in Chowchilla with his wife Mathilda, they have two children and two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ron Lawson upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lawson many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, during rollcall 161 on the amendment offered by Representative GOODLATTE to H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, I recorded a "yes" vote. This was in error; I intended to vote "no."

This amendment would create a new contract authority for the Secretary of the Agriculture to enter into contracts with states regarding projects on National Forest System lands. I, and many of my colleagues, were concerned that these new contracts might not be subject to Davis-Bacon protections or other relevant federal laws that provide wage protections for workers.

I have been a strong and consistent supporter of Davis-Bacon and of ensuring that America's workers are paid a fair wage. Recently, I voted "no" on an amendment to H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act, that would have removed all Davis-Bacon prevailing wage provisions from the bill.

I regret the error and am pleased that the Goodlatte amendment did not pass.

TRIBUTE TO RON SILVER

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ron Silver and mourn his untimely passing.

Ron Silver's talent and passion as an artist was evident on the screen, television and the stage. He received numerous awards and accolades from his peers for his memorable performances and his ability to entertain audiences. He cared about his craft and was beloved by the people who had the good fortune to work with him.

It's rare that an individual can successfully navigate through the personalities and politics of both Hollywood and Washington, but Ron Silver was able to master both and gain the respect of all he touched along the way. Ron's good nature and principled patriotism led him to be accepted and trusted by Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike. He was able to accomplish this because no matter

what side of the issues you were on, Ron did not question one's patriotism—he believed that all Americans were united by a common bond and love of country—even if they stood on opposite sides of an issue. That fact in and of itself says a lot about the man.

In Washington, Ron Silver understood the importance of taking the time to study the issues he championed and to Ron that included taking into account all points of view. As a fierce independent, he knew that criticism could come from all sides. Ron knew that it was important not only to understand the policy and politics but also to respect the process and nuances of Washington that too many overlook and, as a result, find themselves facing a more difficult and challenging path to achieve their goals.

Ron Silver's abilities were illustrated in his work as a founder of the Creative Coalition, a collection of artists and entertainers from across the political spectrum who work to educate people about issues ranging from arts funding to First Amendment Rights to fighting poverty. Ron earned immense respect for his tireless work with the Coalition. It wasn't Ron Silver's nature to simply write a column or cut a check—although he was able to do both—he simply had too much energy and too much of an interest in making the lives of others better to limit his advocacy. That was the Ron Silver way—always striving to make a difference and contribute to building a stronger and more secure America.

Ron Silver leaves behind a grateful nation and a loving family. Our nation would be enriched if more of us exercised the same sense of country, level of thoughtfulness and aptly placed priorities as Ron Silver. At the top of such order was his family, who graciously shared their devoted husband and father with the rest of us. Our condolences are with each of you. Please find solace in the memories of the time and special moments you shared and the knowledge that your loved one was the embodiment of all that Thomas Jefferson valued in his countrymen—a citizen who never shied from his responsibilities to make his country a better place. He will be sorely missed.

Thank you Ron Silver.
May God bless you and grant you peace.

THE WORLD'S WORST
PERSECUTORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the right to worship according to the dictates of your conscience is among the most precious freedoms.

Tragically this basic freedom has not been realized for millions around the globe. On January 16, the State Department designated the annual "Countries of Particular Concern." This notorious distinction is given to countries deemed particularly severe violators of religious freedom. This year the list included Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

Oftentimes the most powerful testimony of the repressive nature of these governments is found in the accounts of their own people.

Take the words of a 23-year-old Burmese monk: "We did not expect that the junta would

crush down a peaceful demonstration but when they raided the monasteries, shot and arrested the monks. I was so surprised and unbelievable that I could not express how my feelings were. All my beliefs were also destroyed."

Or the reflections of a Chinese house church leader: "First, when they arrest you, they try to convince you to give up your faith. And when you surrender to them they will offer you an office in a position such as community member or a position in the Three Self church. If you do not deny your faith and surrender to them, then they will attack you. First they put you into a small place, isolate you, and they let you starve to convince you."

Or these insights from North Korea: "North Korea is a prison without bars. The reason why the North Korean system still exists is because of the strict surveillance system. When we provide the information like 'this family believes in a religion from their grandfather's generation,' the National Security Agency will arrest each family member. That is why entire families are scared of one another. Everyone is supposed to be watching one another like this . . .".

With the 1998 passage of the International Religious Freedom Act, legislation which I authored, the promotion of religious freedom became official U.S. foreign policy. Sadly, 10 years later, the fight for this "first freedom" has never been more necessary. We must commit ourselves anew to standing with persecuted people of faith around the world who against all odds, in the face of fear, intimidation, imprisonment, torture and worse gather secretly to worship as their conscience demands.

CONGRATULATING DR. JIM
JACOBS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Dr. Jim Jacobs, as he is inaugurated as the Fifth President of Macomb Community College. Jim has the creative intelligence, passion, in-depth knowledge of the challenges facing Michigan, and collaborative energy to lead this fine institution through these next vital years of economic transformation for our State's businesses, workers and communities.

Jim Jacobs has more than 40 years of experience at Macomb Community College. He began teaching economics in 1967 and continued teaching both economics and political science for sixteen years before leading efforts to establish both the Tech Prep and Machinist Training institutes.

Jim Jacobs has a vast array of expertise in the areas of occupational change and technology, suburban economic development, occupational education, retraining of displaced workers and needs assessment of occupational programs. He has played a significant role in these areas at the national, state and local level, both conducting and publishing research and developing programs.

Jim Jacobs is the past president of the National Council for Workforce Education, a national post-secondary organization of occupa-

tional education and workforce development specialists. He served on the team that assisted the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in the development of Reshaping Michigan's Workforce: An Action Plan of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. He was also part of the research staff and a report writer for Lt. Governor John Cherry's Commission on Higher Education & Economic Growth.

At the local level, Jim Jacobs is viewed by many as the authoritative voice on the economic climate in Macomb County. Each January for the past 23 years, Jim Jacobs has presented his economic forecast for Macomb County to an often sell-out crowd of business, government and civic leaders. He has also served on a number of community boards, including Peoples State Bank, Macomb Inter-Faith Action Center, United Way and St. John Hospital, and is a member of the board of directors of the Community College Research Center, New York.

I have had the pleasure of working with Jim Jacobs on numerous projects over the years. Including, school-to-work efforts, the redevelopment of the Tank Plant property (the local committee was co-chaired by Jim), worker retraining, and the impact of trade and monetary policies. On a whole range of issues, Jim is always available with wise and thoughtful insights and the economic statistics to make his case.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Jim Jacobs as he assumes this important position. With his immense skills and masterful understanding of the local area he and the community college will play a key role in continuing efforts to revolutionize the work force in Macomb County to prosper in this new economy.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENTS AT
ANOKA HIGH SCHOOL, MN

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students at Anoka High School. These students are taking their talents to the next level and joining with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to help fellow students that are afflicted by this lifelong disease.

Using the Tony Award-winning musical, Aida, as well as their reputation as one of Minnesota's best high school musical theater programs, students at Anoka High School are learning more than choreography and stage cues. They'll be raising money and awareness for juvenile diabetes. Through the "Kids Showing They Care" program, teens are able to be involved in a larger cause that affects their community and have the opportunity to use their talents and skills to help others. They can also see the growing impact of their seemingly small efforts and understand the importance of a collective effort in a successful production.

I rise today to honor the students at Anoka High School who have taken on an ambitious endeavor today, producing a school musical, that will have a lifelong impact on themselves and others. I commend them for their desire to help others in need and their very mature sense of community.