

determined to make its operations more efficient and effective. Her passion stems from her professional career as an attorney where she encountered numerous cases of minors that had been negatively impacted by a parent under correctional supervision. She personally committed herself to the GOKIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids the Initiative and Direction to Succeed). Initiative, which launched in 2004 and is dedicated to reaching out to the offenders and their families. Christina foresaw a safer and better Texas and a brighter future for all Texans and took every effort to make this goal a reality. The State of Texas has greatly benefited from her dedication, passion, leadership and her vision.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Christina on her hard work and dedication that has led to this great honor.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation will put an end to pay disparities based merely on gender and ensure that employee rights enforced through the Equal Pay Act fulfill the act's original intent. Specifically, this legislation will require employers to prove that pay disparities between men and women have a business justification.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, year-round full-time female workers make 77.8 percent to the dollar of their male counterparts. Specifically, the median income for year-round full-time male workers is \$45,113. In contrast, the median income for year-round full-time female workers is \$35,102. Based solely on statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the apparent wage disparities between men and women clearly indicate that the provisions contained within the Equal Pay Act need to be revised.

I believe that this legislation will strengthen current law to make certain that wage discrimination based on gender ceases to exist.

Before I close, I would like to thank Representative ROSA DELAURO for having introduced this legislation since 1997 and praise her for being a champion of this issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this important measure to ensure its swift passage.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the National Service Caucus, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 43, recognizing the importance of national service,

supporting the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day, and promoting the Martin Luther King Day holiday as a day of national service.

During the 1950s and '60s, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. King's ideas of unity and purpose highlighted the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal, and these ideas are as important today as they were 50 years ago.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act to transform the King Holiday into a national day of service to meet community needs. Since that time, millions of Americans have participated in community-building activities on King Day, treating the holiday as "a day on, not a day off."

The day before President-elect Obama's inauguration is the Martin Luther King holiday. With thousands of projects planned across the country, in addition to a call to serve from President-elect Obama, the 2009 King Day of Service on January 19 promises to be the most successful national service effort to date.

Both President-elect Obama and Vice-President-elect Biden, along with their families, will be participating in service events to honor Martin Luther King and commemorate the holiday. I encourage my colleagues and their staff to share in the spirit of volunteerism and unity by participating in a service opportunity here in Washington, DC, or back home with their constituents on January 19.

I am pleased that the President-elect has been part of the call to ensure that this day be a day devoted to service. However, I know, as President-elect Obama knows, that one day of good deeds is not enough. Throughout the presidential campaign, the President-elect spoke about a new era of civic engagement, and I hope that the passage of H. Res. 43 will build on Martin Luther King day and the Inauguration and reaffirm our ongoing commitment to service.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF JOHN DE LORENZO, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John De Lorenzo as he retires after 18 years of public service with the city of Fairfield.

Mr. De Lorenzo's career with Fairfield began when he was hired as the city's community services director in 1990. During his tenure, the Community Services Department was recognized with many State-wide, regional and national awards including two Helen Putnam Awards of Excellence from the League of California Cities.

In addition to his outstanding service in Fairfield, Mr. De Lorenzo has also served as both the president and the administrators' representative of the California Park and Recreation Society, District 1, and was a member of the Annual Conference Planning Committee for the California Park and Recreation Society.

He has also served as a member of the League of California Cities Administrative Services Policy Committee, and also was a member of the Annual League Conference Planning Committee.

The honors and awards Mr. De Lorenzo helped bring the Fairfield Community Services Department and his involvement with the numerous committees he has served on over the years are a testament to his hard work and dedication to local concerns.

As John De Lorenzo retires from his position as the director of the Fairfield Community Services Department, I would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of the city of Fairfield. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday January 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 11 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 41), "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 12 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 50), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 13 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 43).

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ROBERT J. SMITHDAS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding humanitarian, Dr. Robert J. Smithdas, whose personal accomplishments and dedication to the U.S. deaf-blind community are truly remarkable. Dr. Smithdas is retiring as director of Community Education at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, HKNC, after many years of dedicated service.

Having contracted meningitis at the age of four, Dr. Smithdas eventually suffered a total loss of both vision and hearing. With great determination, he embraced educational opportunities at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind and the Perkins School for the Blind. Assisted by individualized instruction and speech therapy, Dr. Smithdas thrived in scholastics, earning an average of 98.6. After graduating in 1945, he was accepted to the Industrial Home for the Blind, IHB, and earned a fellowship to St. John's University in New York. Dr. Smithdas earned his BA cum laude in 1950 and later attended New York University, where he became the first deaf-blind individual to earn a master's degree. Dr. Smithdas also earned honorary doctoral degrees from Gallaudet University, Western Michigan University, Mount Aloysius College, and St. John's University.

Dr. Smithdas' commitment to education prepared him for his lifelong service to the deaf-blind community. Having worked in several management capacities at IHB, Dr. Smithdas played a crucial role in offering the kind of rehabilitative services necessary to expand the horizons of succeeding generations of deaf-blind individuals, including the development of appropriate legislation. With Helen Keller herself and deaf-blind community advocate Peter Salmon, Dr. Smithdas played a vital role in helping to enact the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, which sanctioned the creation of the Helen Keller National Center.

Leading by example, Dr. Smithdas has demonstrated that with rehabilitative training, deaf-blind individuals can be active members of our society, and that they have much to contribute. Dr. Smithdas' numerous national awards and achievements include being named both The Poetry Society of America's "Poet of the Year" and "The Handicapped American of the Year" by the President's Committee on Employment of People Who Are Disabled, as well as being inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities.

Dr. Smithdas' impact on the lives of the deaf-blind—both those he has met and those who have just benefitted from his good works—is truly immeasurable. And those who have had the privilege to read his works, attend his lectures, and take advantage of the programs he developed know that he is a truly exceptional American. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please join me in honoring and thanking Dr. Robert J. Smithdas for his lifetime of dedication to the American deaf-blind community.

RECOGNITION OF KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Korean-American Day, which was celebrated yesterday. Korean Americans have played an essential part in shaping our country into its current form. Ever since the signing of the first treaty between the United States and Korea, the Jemulpo Treaty in 1882, our two countries have engaged in an important relationship. In addition, Korean Americans have helped shape the United States into a powerful and influential Nation.

The history of Koreans in America is a proud one. When Koreans first started immi-

grating to the United States, they worked in places such as farms and railroads. These were hard workers who came to this country to seek new opportunities and a better life for their children. At that time, they could not have imagined the amount of success Korean Americans would enjoy over time—nor how large their community would become. After years of steady immigration, which blossomed in the 1960's, Korean Americans became one of the top 5 immigrant groups to the United States. Today, there are about 1.5 million Korean Americans living across the country.

In the past Congress, we passed several pieces of legislation to strengthen the U.S.-Korean relationship. The first was H.R. 5443, the U.S.-Republic of Korea Defense Cooperation Improvement Act, which granted South Korea the same preferential treatment enjoyed by members of NATO. Another important bill passed in the 110th Congress was H. Res. 295. This legislation expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism. A final, integral bill was H.R. 1, which supported efforts to include South Korea in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

As we move forward in the 111th Congress, I trust that we will keep the Korean-American community in mind. Korean Americans play an important role in shaping American culture and Korean-American Day is a celebration that I am proud to recognize.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, during her time of need. Israel's unstable situation continue to get worst. Since 2005, Israel has attempted to promote peace with the Palestinians by withdrawing its civilians and soldiers from Gaza in hopes of lessening day to day conflicts.

Now for more than two weeks, the Hamas leadership in Gaza continues to hold Palestinian civilians as hostages to its terrorist agenda and Israelis now find themselves within range of Hamas rockets. The bloodshed and conflict of this situation will only lead to more devastation. Every day more innocent civilians on both sides of the Gazan border are suffering.

The United States supports Israel and all efforts to promote a cease-fire and a durable and sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I urge my colleagues to remember that our strongest ally in the Middle East is Israel and we must support her efforts towards peace during this time.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 21

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Organizational business meeting to consider committee's rules of procedure for the 111th Congress, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the financial crisis and the breakdown of financial governance.

SD-342

JANUARY 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the Department of Defense.

SD-106