

Wayne Werts of Auburn, Maine on the occasion of his retirement.

Having served his community for 33 years as a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Wayne Werts exemplifies the dedication and perseverance that our country holds in the highest esteem. Wayne joined the Auburn Fire Department on May 2, 1977. As an EMT, Wayne further advanced himself through an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, and then through a Paramedic certification—credentials which helped lead to Wayne being named Auburn Fire Department Chief on March 22, 2001.

In addition to his accomplishments as an active firefighter and EMT, Wayne is a long-standing leader in his community. He served as President of the Auburn Firefighters Association for 6 years and is in his seventh year serving on the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association Board of Directors as the representative for Androscoggin County. For 12 years, he has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board as the Municipal EMS Provider Representative. In addition, Wayne serves on the Task Force for the All Hazards Training Facilities Study. While Wayne's dedicated leadership will be missed, he leaves a legacy that has increased the effectiveness and strength of his community's safety departments as well as that of the entire State of Maine.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Wayne Werts for his lifelong dedication and service to his community.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 944, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on religious minorities in Iraq. Today's resolution highlights the struggles of Iraqi minorities since the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and offers solutions for peaceful reconciliation for the Iraqi people.

Madam Speaker, Southeast Michigan has one of the largest Arab-American populations outside the Middle East. It is estimated that there are well over 300,000 in Michigan, many of whom are Iraqi-American and are concerned on the future of Iraq. Specifically, the bill calls on the United States and United Nations to urge the Iraqi government to provide religious minorities with safe places of worship, guarantee protection of religious minorities, and ensure legal and political rights of this vulnerable population. This is vital because many of the more than 2.7 million Iraqi refugees are religious minorities.

Today's resolution will compliment President Obama's commendable plan to withdraw from Iraq in the summer of 2011. While withdrawal will do much to stabilize and empower the sovereign nation of Iraq, it is also important that the United States do its part to actively assist the Iraqi people in establishing policies that protect the civil rights and liberties of all Iraqi citizens.

HONORING TIFFANI JONES FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a student in my district, Tiffani Jones, from Central Islip High School.

Tiffani will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, she wrote her own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Tiffani for her academic and personal achievements and congratulate her upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE TUCSON RODEO PARADE—"LA FIESTA DE LOS VAQUEROS"

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tucson Rodeo Parade which on Thursday celebrates its 85th anniversary. The Parade Grand Marshall is James "Big Jim" Griffith, beloved storyteller, musician, and folklorist and a Tucson tradition in his own right.

Known as "La Fiesta de los Vaqueros," the parade is a time-honored tradition for thousands of residents and visitors. It is a much-anticipated community event that reminds us of our past as a region shaped by the independence, drive, and determination of cowboys and cowgirls.

The Tucson Rodeo Parade first was held on Saturday, February 21, 1925. Arizona had been a State for only 13 years, and Tucson was still very much a rough and tumble community on the edge of the American frontier. My hometown and home State were very different places 85 years ago. All of Arizona back then had a population smaller than Tucson is today.

The inaugural Rodeo Parade rolled through downtown Tucson the same year the city purchased 1,280 acres on its cactus-studded outskirts for a municipal airport. This swath of desert would, in just a few short years, become the home of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, one of our Nation's premier military installations.

Prizes for entrants in the first parade, long before air conditioning or the modern supermarket, included a 750-pound block of ice, 100 pounds of potatoes and a "Big Cactus" ham.

This colorful and exciting parade continues today as a kickoff for the Tucson Rodeo. The parade is a salute to southern Arizona's rich ranching history and our community's close ties with Mexico. With the nickname of "La Fiesta de los Vaqueros," the rodeo and the parade are a true "party of the cowboys."

The Tucson Rodeo Parade keeps alive the spirit of that first parade. It long has been known as "The Largest Non-Motorized Pa-

rade" in the country and achieves its success through strong community participation and the commitment of the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee.

The Tucson Rodeo Parade has become such a cherished event that schoolchildren long have been given the day off so they can attend the festivities. In offices and work places all across Tucson jeans and cowboy boots are acceptable attire on parade day.

As a third generation southern Arizonan, I am proud to recognize the Tucson Rodeo Parade on its 85th anniversary and to commend the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee for sustaining this wonderful tradition.

COMMENDING ROBERT BUSHELL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert Bushell, who recently won national recognition from the Reading Recovery Council of North America. Mr. Bushell is currently the elementary education director in my home town of Warwick, Rhode Island.

Mr. Bushell has devoted more than 40 years to public education, including time as principal of Lippitt Elementary School. It was there that he began his involvement with the Reading Recovery program, a short-term program of one-on-one tutoring for first graders struggling with early reading and writing. When training locations for Reading Recovery closed in Rhode Island, Mr. Bushell fought to obtain funding for the construction of a Reading Recovery site in Warwick. Several different school districts in the State now use the Warwick facilities to train in the program.

In addition to securing funds to open up the Reading Recovery location, Mr. Bushell's efforts have paid off with the students themselves. After 20 weeks of 30-minute tutoring sessions with a trained teacher, these students are achieving higher scores on the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) and maintaining those scores for years afterwards.

Robert Bushell has richly earned the commendation that the Reading Recovery Council is bestowing upon him. Rhode Island has been lucky to have Mr. Bushell as an educator for over 40 years and to have his support on this educational program for 20 years as well.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Robert Bushell and wishing him continued success with the Reading Recovery Program in Rhode Island.

HONORING ARIANNA PANTIN AND JANAI CLARK FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two students in my district, Arianna Pantin and Janai Clark, from Deer Park High School.

Arianna and Janai will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, they wrote their own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Arianna and Janai for their academic and personal achievements and congratulate them upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
RICHARD CODEL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Michael Richard Codel, longtime journalist, Democratic activist and former member of the Peace Corps, who passed away January 13, 2010. Mr. Codel was a resident of Arlington and neighbor and dear friend of my colleague, Representative MIKE PENCE. He was born in Baltimore on April 20, 1939. Prior to graduating from Oberlin with a degree in political science in 1960, he spent many hours at the campus radio station, WOBC Radio. Unbeknownst to him at the time, his hours spent at the WOBC would become a launching pad for the endeavors he would delve into for the duration of his life.

Mr. Codel lived a life that was nothing short of exciting. Following graduation, he worked as a copy boy at the Democratic National Presidential Convention, and shortly thereafter found a post at the Cincinnati Post for a year and a half as a desk reporter. In December of 1962 he traveled to Nigeria to teach English for his Peace Corps assignment. In June of 1963, he transferred to Radio Kaduna TV, where he produced educational TV programs, driving around on a moped with a cameraman and interviewing government officials. Mr. Codel returned to the States in 1964, and took a job as a desk assistant to Howard Cosell. Longing to return to Nigeria, he landed a job with the AP London office to return to Nigeria, where he was posted in the Congo, instead. For the next few years, Mr. Codel covered a number of coup d'etats in Africa up until 1967. In 1965, on a trip to Congo, Mr. Codel took a picture of a Congolese man rolling up his sleeves. Soon thereafter, this picture was used on all Congolese paper money. After he wrote an article that President Mobutu found displeasing, he was asked to leave the country. But, it was also in the Congo where he met his future wife Birte Nielsen, who was working for the Danish Red Cross at a teaching hospital. Mr. Codel returned to London to work for the AP until 1969. There, his son, Edward Kai Codel was born.

In 1969, he moved his family to Geneva to work for Business International as an associate editor for the Magazine Business Europe covering Africa and Scandinavia. While working for Business International he wrote Sweden: Toward a Post-Industrial Society and Prospects for Business in Developing Africa, and his daughter, Kirsten Roslyn Trego was born. Mr. Codel and his family returned to the United States in 1974, where he worked as a

Public Relations specialist for the American Health Care Association. During his time at the AHCA, he wrote the Patients Bill of Rights for nursing home residents. In 1982, Mr. Codel suffered a brain tumor, which left him unable to perform his duties at AHCA, and he became a free-lance writer.

Along with his passion for family, travel, and work, he also had a great love for politics and the political process. He was involved with the Arlington Democratic Committee for many years, campaigning for several County Board members, several Governors of Virginia, and also volunteered under the Carter administration in the White House press section. Michael Codel led a good life and left behind a legacy which will keep him in our hearts forever. He will be greatly missed by many.

HONORING SGT. ALAN HAYMAKER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero of Chicago, police Sgt. Alan Haymaker. Alan was killed in the line of duty Sunday night in a tragic car accident while responding to a burglary call. A husband and father of three, Alan was just 56 years old.

Alan was a third generation police officer, but before he was an officer he was a man of the cloth. A graduate of both the Moody Bible Institute and Trinity Evangelical University, he spent the early part of his life as an associate pastor at an evangelical church on the Northwest Side. In 1988, he traded in his robe for a badge, but his faith made him a different kind of police officer.

Alan's commitment to his community never wavered for an instant after he changed career paths. He stood out for letting neighborhood meetings run sometimes hours long just so he could hear from everyone in the room. Twelve years ago he was promoted to Sergeant, where he mentored countless young officers ensuring that Chicagoans will benefit from his counsel, service and wisdom for years to come.

Today, I offer my deepest sympathy and most profound condolences to the Haymaker family and anyone who ever knew or worked with Alan and grieves his passing. Portage Park and all of us in the 5th district have lost one of our finest. May Sgt. Alan Haymaker rest in peace.

HONORING ASHLEY MORENO AND
JAMILAH LINDO FOR WINNING
THE HONORING OUR FUTURE
LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two students in my district, Ashley Moreno and Jamilah Lindo, from Amityville High School.

These students will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, they wrote their own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Ashley and Jamilah for their academic and personal achievements and congratulate them upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on February 23, 2010. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 55, final passage of H. Res. 1046.

BILLY'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my support of H.R. 3965, the Help Find the Missing Act, a.k.a. "Billy's Law."

Named after Billy Smolinski, a 31-year-old Connecticut man who went missing in 2004, this Act revamps our national systems for finding and identifying missing persons for the 21st century, and provides families with the updated tools and technology they need to find loved ones who have disappeared.

Right now, we have two databases for missing persons and unidentified remains in America—the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) and the FBI's National Crime Information Center, NCIC. And yet, neither share data with the other, and thus too much information slips through the bureaucratic cracks.

"Billy's Law" rectifies this glaring error by combining these two systems into one comprehensive database and funding it appropriately, one that families can use and even update with additional information on loved ones who have disappeared. This bill is an outgrowth of recommendations made in the wake of Connecticut's 2007 Law Enforcement and Missing Persons Act, and it is an easy fix that will redound to the benefit of families all across America in search of a missing loved one.

No one should have to deal with all the bureaucratic frustrations and red tape experienced by Billy's family as they searched for him. Put simply, "Billy's Law" removes a needless barrier between two stovepiped databases and brings our missing persons systems up-to-date with 21st century technology. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and to give thousands of American families the tools and the peace of mind they deserve.