

The people of Hillsborough have a real connection to their town. The public schools are a source of shining pride to the entire community, and indeed diplomas my children earned at Hillsborough public schools have a place of distinction in our home. The dedicated public servants of the Police, Fire, Public Works and Administration Departments are among the very best in our great state of California. The town cares deeply about their natural resources, and Hillsborough has set a very high standard for preservation of public space and preservation of natural beauty. Indeed, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary, the town will dedicate a new Centennial Park, which will be donated by the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation, which privately raised all of the funds for this wonderful community treasure.

The town of Hillsborough has a rich tapestry of history. Hillsborough has hosted Theodore Roosevelt for a Presidential visit, as well as Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Residents of Hillsborough have included such notable citizens as Bing Crosby, William Randolph Hearst, William Crocker and Rickey Henderson.

There will be a Memorial Day Parade of the Century planned for May 31. There is much to celebrate in the past 100 years in Hillsborough, and I join my many friends and neighbors there in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Hillsborough.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating this great occasion for this great town.

HONORING STATE SENATOR
ROGER STEWART'S SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Iowa State Senator Roger Stewart for his service to Iowa and our country. Senator Stewart is retiring from the Iowa State Senate at the end of the 2010 state legislative session.

Senator Stewart has represented Dubuque, Jackson, and Clinton County in the Iowa legislature for the past eight years. He has been a principled, pragmatic leader. Communities throughout Iowa have benefited from his commitment to responsible economic development and common sense business practices. Senator Stewart is chair of the Economic Growth Committee and a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He serves on the Rebuild Iowa Committee which is creating conditions for sustainable development in communities damaged during the 2008 Midwest floods and tornadoes.

Senator Stewart has also been an effective advocate for Iowa farmers and agribusinesses. He has received several awards for his work on agriculture issues including the Chamber Friends of Agriculture Award and the National Banking Award for work during the 1980's farm crisis.

Madam Speaker, the Hawkeye State is fortunate to have great leaders like Roger Stewart. Please join me in thanking the Senator, his wife Jennie, and the entire Stewart family.

HONORING RONALD L. LYNN,
PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL CODE COUNCIL BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of building safety, and to recognize the leadership of the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC develops and publishes the building safety, energy efficiency and fire safety model codes used in most cities and States of the United States, as well as in many other nations.

We don't have to look far to see how important the issue of building safety is to people in America and around the world. This year, we had sobering reminders of the importance of properly enforced building codes in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. The loss of life and catastrophic property damage of those disasters might have largely been avoided had modern building codes been in place and enforced, as they are throughout the U.S.

With those tragedies in mind, I want to congratulate the leaders of the ICC who sponsor Building Safety Month, celebrated in May. The leaders of the ICC, including my constituent and the Director of Development Services for Clark County, the President of the Board of Directors, Ronald L. Lynn, of Las Vegas, Nevada; Vice President, James Brothers, from Decatur, Alabama; Secretary/Treasurer, William Dupler, from Chesterfield, Virginia; Immediate Past President, Adolf Zubia, from Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Director Guy Tomberlin, from Fairfax County, Virginia, have joined ICC's Chief Executive Officer Rick Weiland in Washington this week to discuss the critical need to support the adoption and administration of the latest building codes, to make sure Americans are safe at home, at work, at school and at play.

In particular, I am pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments and contributions of Ron Lynn. During a career that has spanned almost 30 years, Ron has been an incredible asset to the Las Vegas community and has played a central role in helping our city grow. We have all benefitted from his involvement in groups such as the McCarran Airport Hazards Area Board of Adjustment, Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, Nevada Organization of Building Officials, the Western States Seismic Policy Council's Architecture, Engineering and Construction Committee, the Nevada State Hazard Mitigation Planning Steering Committee, and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Advisory Committee.

Ron is among the very best of the thousands of men and women who work every day to make sure our buildings comply with building and fire codes. Their work, largely unseen and often unnoticed, is critical to keeping Americans safe.

Congratulations, Ron, on a distinguished career spent ensuring the safety of your fellow citizens, and congratulations to the hard working members and leadership of the ICC.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 29, 2010, I was not present for rollcall vote 241.

Had I been present for rollcall vote 241, a motion to recommit H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Association of California Water Agencies on the occasion of their 100th anniversary, aptly recognized as "A Century of Leadership, Vision for the Future."

The Association of California Water Agencies, ACWA, was established in 1910 after five irrigation districts united as one voice to lay the groundwork for developing California's water supply and delivery system. The Association represents the interests of its members at the State and Federal levels, and assists them in promoting the development, management, and use of quality water in an environmentally balanced and cost-effective manner. Since its inception, the work of the ACWA has been reflected in scores of local, regional and statewide water projects.

As the largest coalition of public water agencies in the Nation, the ACWA has become a leader on California water issues and a respected voice in both the legislative and regulatory arenas in Sacramento and Washington, DC. In 1991, the ACWA expanded its offices to the District of Columbia to advocate for California water communities on Federal issues. Since that time, the ACWA has participated in efforts that led to enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996; efforts to keep MTBE out of drinking water; efforts leading to the issuance of the CALFED Record of Decision; efforts to derail a Federal chlorate cleanup exemption and produced "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California's Water Future" for the California congressional delegation, among other achievements.

The Association of California Water Agencies has been a guiding force in California's water policy for the past century, and they continue to help shape the laws, policies and regulations that affect the State's urban and agricultural water users. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Association of California Water Agencies for their advocacy and leadership on California water issues, and commending them for the role they have played in developing the State's water policies and regulations. Again, congratulations to the Association of California Water Agencies on their centennial.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WARE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and memory of John Ware. John was a remarkable person, and his vision and ability truly embody the spirit of Dallas. As city manager from December 1993 to August 1998, he was credited with leading the city's negotiations for the construction of American Airlines Center and was the driving force in creating the city we know today. After courageously battling cancer, John passed away at the age of 62.

John was born on March 16, 1948, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, to J.A. and Allie Ware. He was married to Shirley Porter in 1974 and to this union two sons were born. John was an active member of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. He also actively served in the United States Army, and during his tour of duty in Vietnam he earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

John earned his B.A. degree from Ouachita Baptist University, where he graduated Cum Laude and was a member of the Inaugural Honors Program. He received his M.P.A. degree in 1974 from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University where, in addition to earning an academic scholarship, he was named an Andrew Mellon Fellow. He holds certificates from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management at Rice University, the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University Business School, the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University, and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

John's innovative ideas and education were truly profound, but it was really John's personality and personal investment in his work that people remember. Truly, no one knew this better than those who will miss him most—his family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley Ware of Dallas; two sons, Jawn Ware and Brandon Ware; four sisters, Cathie Murphy, Rose Gale Jones, Gloria Hart, and Angela Helms; five brothers, Joshua Ware, Ollie Charles Ware, Melvin Ware, Ronald Ware, and Sabian Ware; and one grandchild.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to be able to bring the life and contributions of John Ware to the attention of Congress and this nation. His passion and dedication to his work serve as an example to us all. John will be deeply missed by those whose lives he touched, but his memory will live on through his contributions to Dallas and the work from which we have all benefitted immensely. During this difficult time I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring this great man.

PUERTO RICO DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2009

HON. TODD TIAHRT
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2499) to provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I stand in opposition to H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act. I believe that H.R. 2499 will lead to a situation where the government of Puerto Rico could demand recognition as the 51st state in the Union despite the will of the Puerto Rican people. This bill represents the fourth time since 1991 that Puerto Ricans have been asked to vote on their status, and all four times they have rejected statehood as their desired political status. The two-step voting process contained in this bill will skew the results in favor of a minority of the people who support statehood, and drown out the voices of the majority who do not.

I am also deeply troubled by the provision in the bill that would allow anyone born in Puerto Rico, but not currently residing there, to vote in this plebiscite. With hundreds of thousands of people born in Puerto Rico, but not residing there, I believe this aspect of the bill dilutes the voices of Puerto Rican residents and again sets the stage for a skewed result supporting statehood.

Finally, I believe that as a condition of possible statehood, Puerto Rico must officially adopt English as its primary language. It is currently officially a bilingual territory, where only 1 in 5 people speak English fluently. The last states admitted to the Union, Alaska and Hawaii, both adopted English as their official language and, although they respect the culture and language of their native population, the vast majority of their populations are fluent in English.

For these reasons, I cannot vote to support H.R. 2499 or the Burton/Young Amendment, which does not adequately ensure that English would be the official language of Puerto Rico.

RECOGNIZING IWAO MATSUDA

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, later this week, the 43rd Session of the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program and the 11th Session of the United States-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Exchange Program will commence here in the U.S. Capitol. These meetings are the result of the vision and initiative of Iwao Matsuda, a Member of the House of Councilors of the Japanese Diet. Sadly, it also will be the last that we will have the privilege of meeting with Mr. Matsuda as a Member of the Diet, as he will be retiring. For this reason, I want to honor Mr. Matsuda and officially recognize his many contributions to United States-Japan relations and for fostering greater friendship and cooperation between the U.S. Congress and the Japanese Diet.

Born in Gifu-City, Japan, in 1937, Mr. Matsuda graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1967. He started his career in public service at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) with posting in various locations around the world—including the United States. He served in the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet from 1986 to 1996 and was elected to the House of Councilors in 1998. Throughout his public service career, he has served in a variety of distinguished positions, such as the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Food Safety and Information Technology.

Early in his career in the Diet, Mr. Matsuda saw the need for more open communications between the U.S. and Japan. During that time, when Japan-U.S. relations could be tense regarding trade and other issues, Mr. Matsuda knew that personal interaction between Members of Congress and Members of the Diet could lead to greater understanding and cooperation between our two countries. In 1989, along with Rep. Norm Shumway and with assistance from professors at George Washington University and others, the first meeting of the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program was held. Semi-annual meetings have been held since and, in 2003, the exchange was expanded to include Members of the South Korean National Assembly.

I have had the privilege of participating in many meetings over the years, and consider Mr. Matsuda to be a colleague and a friend. He is an example to all of us in his leadership, commitment to democratic values, and understanding of the importance of maintaining alliances with friends in good times and bad. Through his resolve in establishing the exchange, we are able to discuss issues of common concern in an open, informal way that leads to better understanding and stronger partnerships.

So it is altogether fitting that we recognize the many contributions of Iwao Matsuda as his final exchange program begins. He has had a lasting impact on United States-Japan-South Korean relations, and we are thankful for—and honor—his leadership, service and friendship today.

THANKING GEORGE BARTON AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE INC.

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank Mr. George Barton and the entire Community Health Care Inc. (CHC) team for working to meet the health care and wellness needs of the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities. This spring George starts as CEO of the federally qualified health center (FQHC) in Madison, Wisconsin, but Community Health Care will continue to thrive because of the foundation this team has built over the past years.

In the Quad Cities—like so many communities in America—we have an urgent need for health care services for low and moderate income families, individuals who are uninsured or have no insurance, Medicaid eligible patients, and children who rely on state children's health insurance programs. Fortunately there are three FQHC's in my district—