

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court for civil litigants. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS  
OF THE IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of international religious freedom and to voice my concern for the seven Baha'i leaders, known as the Yaran, who were unjustly convicted by the Iranian regime and sentenced to 10 years in prison for their religious beliefs.

As documented by years of reported abuse and discrimination by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, and other international organizations, government respect for religious freedom and human rights in Iran is steadily declining. According to the State Department's 2010 International Religious Freedom report, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution over 200 Baha'is have been killed, many have been imprisoned, and thousands more have faced regular discrimination and public admonishment by the Iranian government.

Government rhetoric and actions create an oppressive environment for religious minorities in Iran, particularly the Baha'i, and instances such as the incarceration of the Yaran provide ample evidence of this. As a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, my colleagues and I have worked to bring attention to these injustices and hold human rights violators accountable. The Iranian Baha'i are deeply devoted to peace and unity and their bravery in the face of injustice encourages others to work for universal human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. government and the international community must continue to speak out against these oppressive acts. I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in denouncing the imprisonment of the Yaran and partner with the international community to insist Iran release these individuals, strengthen the basic rights of their citizens, and provide an environment in which individuals can express their religion without fear of persecution or intimidation.

LUIS NAZARIO TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Luis Nazario of Pueblo, Colorado, for pioneering the use of technology in education. Mr. Nazario became a leader among Colorado's community colleges and online education programs before use of the internet for teaching purposes was popular.

As an English teacher, Mr. Nazario has been commended not only by his school, Pueblo Community College, but also by the Colorado Community College System at large. Students have broader access to educational tools both in the classroom and online in large part because of his efforts. Colorado stresses the importance of education for all of its citizens and Mr. Nazario is an example of innovation in that pursuit.

Mr. Nazario graduated from Inter American University in Puerto Rico with a degree in English Literature. He emigrated to the United States to receive his master's degree as a teacher of English to other languages from New York University. He then moved to Colorado to begin teaching in the state's community college system. Mr. Nazario continues to teach English and foster learning among students who speak English as a second language in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Luis Nazario for his exceptional commitment to the emerging presence of technology in education. I thank him for dedicating himself to education and reaching out to Colorado's youth.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY MAYOR  
GERALDINE TOUSANT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant. Geraldine has served the city of Gary for many years and for her efforts, she was honored at an event celebrating her 50 years of service to the city on Saturday, August 14, 2010, at the Gary City Hall. Her complete dedication and endless enthusiasm put forth toward her community have allowed her the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless people.

Geraldine was born in Ensley, Alabama, and moved to the city of Gary when she was three years old. She graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School in 1957, and soon after married the late Marshall Tousant. The couple was happily married for nearly 51 years. Geraldine has three children and is the proud grandmother of five. Amidst her time in office, Geraldine courageously battled breast cancer, and I am happy to report that she is a twenty-year cancer survivor.

Geraldine began her service to the city of Gary in 1960 at the age of twenty-one. She started out as a clerk-typist in the city's Department of Redevelopment. Working her way

through the Department's ranks, Geraldine eventually became Director of the Department of Redevelopment. On February 14, 2003, Geraldine was recognized by former Mayor Scott King for her commitment to the people of Gary as he appointed her Deputy Mayor of the city of Gary.

Impressively, Geraldine has worked for seven mayors during her 50 years of service to the city: George Chacharis, my father John Visclosky, A. Martin Katz, Richard G. Hatcher, Thomas Barnes, Scott King, and current Mayor Rudy Clay. Throughout her many years of service, Geraldine has accomplished many impressive tasks, including handling the management and demolition of structures attained in other city agencies and computerizing the city's utility billings and payments.

Today, Geraldine is 71 years young and has no plans to retire anytime soon. Geraldine has said, "I hope my 50 years with the city of Gary have been a role model for other employees." Without a doubt, she has been just that.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant has always given her time and efforts selflessly and has truly been an inspiration to so many people throughout the years. We have all been enriched because of her lifetime commitment serving others, particularly those most in need. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Geraldine on her 50 years of service to the city of Gary.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ANNA MARIA PIER

**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Anna Maria Pier in Florida's 13th Congressional District.

In 1911, Will Bean, the son of the first Anna Maria Island homesteader, George Emerson, had a 776 foot pier constructed by the Anna Maria Beach Development Company at the foot of Pine Avenue.

The pier has been in continuous use since then by hundreds of thousands of residents, fishermen, boaters and tourists. In fact, the pier has been named the number one tourist attraction in Manatee County by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In 1928, the pier was acquired by the City of Anna Maria, which provides for its maintenance.

In 2008, the Anna Maria City Commission designated the pier as an historic structure and added the pier to the Florida Master Site File.

This year, the Mayor of the City of Anna Maria proclaimed May 14, 2011, as the Centennial Celebration Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anna Maria City Pier's construction.

I join the City of Anna Maria in the centennial celebration of this important landmark.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed the rollcall vote on amendment 548 to "H.R. 1—Fiscal Year Continuing Appropriations Act for FY2011." Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Additionally, I inadvertently cast a "no" vote during the rollcall vote on amendment 94 to "H.R. 1—Fiscal Year Continuing Appropriations Act for FY2011." I would like to change my vote on the amendment to "yea."

## NATIONAL ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT (NASPER)

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about legislation I have introduced that will reinforce our Nation's commitment to combating prescription drug abuse by reauthorizing the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act, NASPER, for three additional years.

On August 11, 2005, NASPER was signed into law to assist States in combating prescription drug abuse of controlled substances, through prescription drug monitoring programs, PDMPs. NASPER is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, and provides grants to States to establish and improve prescription drug monitoring programs.

Just last week, the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, ONDCP, Gil Kerlikowske, embarked on a three-day visit to Kentucky where he saw firsthand the significant problems with prescription pill abuse, an issue many in my district struggle with. It's estimated that 82 Kentuckians die each month as a result of overdoses. Nationwide there were more than 27,000 deaths from prescription drug overdoses in 2007, a number that has risen five-fold since 1990. These statistics are unacceptable and a testament that more must be done.

While Kentucky has made great strides through its PDMP and collaboration between the public and private sector, illicit drugs continue to flow across our borders from States without PDMPs, such as Florida. Last Wednesday, law enforcement officials from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, conducted a massive raid in South Florida arresting 20, including five doctors, after a year-long investigation involving trafficking of prescription pills. What's more concerning is the recent decision by the Governor of Florida to repeal funding for the creation of a PDMP approved by the State legislature in 2009.

By reauthorizing the NASPER program we will ensure States have the support they need to address prescription drug abuse by making NASPER grants available for planning purposes as well as for "establishing, improving,

and maintaining" their programs. Through these grants, States will be given resources to help prevent patients from doctor shopping and abusing prescription drugs. This also will help to ensure that appropriate law enforcement, regulatory and State professional licensing authorities have access to prescription history information for the purposes of investigating drug diversion and errant prescriber/pharmacist prescribing and dispensing practices.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital piece of legislation and to push for swift passage in the House.

## INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER 9TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Indian American Cultural Center of NIIHRC will be celebrating its 9th anniversary by hosting a gala dinner and banquet on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Halls of Saint George, in Schererville, Indiana.

The Indian American Cultural Center, which opened on March 9, 2002, was established with the following goal in mind: to foster peace and harmony amongst the people of Northwest Indiana by showcasing their cultural heritage and creating spiritual awareness in both youth and adults, as well as to engage in various charitable events, both nationally and locally. Since its inception, the Indian American Cultural Center has been instrumental in educating Northwest Indiana's citizens on the traditions and customs of the Indian heritage.

The members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NIIHRC are to be commended, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their commitment to making improvements that benefit all mankind. Proceeds from this year's gala, which throughout the years has demonstrated the immense generosity of its attendees and organizers, will go to support the Carmelite Home for Girls. In the past, proceeds from the gala have gone to such noble causes as cancer research, educational scholarships, the American Red Cross, and tsunami relief, as well as to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Kashmir, India.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the board and members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NIIHRC for their outstanding contributions to society. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

## HONORING TERRELL LIONS CLUB

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service that the

Terrell Lions Club provides the communities in Kaufman County, Texas.

Lions Club International was founded in 1917 in Chicago to aid the blind and visually impaired. The Terrell Lions Club was founded on February 28, 1921 and was one of the first chartered in Texas.

Since that time, the Terrell Lions Club created the Lions Club Park in 1948 on sixteen acres of land for the National Guard Armory, as well as two community tennis courts.

The Terrell Lions work to eradicate blindness by providing free vision screenings, eye examinations and glasses for the needy, as well as promoting the Lions Eye Bank.

Lions contribute time, talent and resources to the Texas Lions Club Camp in Kerrville, which provides free residential camping experiences for children with physical disabilities, Type 1 diabetes and cancer.

This organization provides an invaluable service to those in the community who truly need assistance. Over the years, thousands of individuals and families have been blessed by the men and women of the Terrell Lions Club.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize the Terrell Lions Club for their 90 years of service to Kaufman County. To all the men and women who give of their time and efforts so generously, on behalf of all the constituents of the Fifth District, I would like to extend our most sincere gratitude.

HONORING ITASCA FIRE CHIEF  
JAMES D. MACARTHUR**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of James D. MacArthur on the occasion of his retirement. On March 31st of this year, Mr. MacArthur will conclude his loyal service as Fire Chief of the Itasca Fire Protection District.

Chief MacArthur has served the community for a total of 38 years, including 8 years as Fire Chief of the Itasca Fire Protection District No. 1 and 15 years as Fire Chief of the Elk Grove Village Fire Department.

Throughout his career, his extraordinary leadership has earned him great respect among colleagues and members of the community. He has held many noteworthy positions, including President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association. Along with other members of the Illinois fire service task force, Chief MacArthur assisted in the Louisiana response and relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Time and time again, Chief MacArthur has exhibited the characteristics this line of duty necessitates: enormous sacrifice and courage.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.