

billion a year, and the U.S. Drug Czar, Barry McCaffrey has reported that illegal drugs account for 114,000 American deaths a year. Assisting Colombia is clearly in the interest of our nation and especially in the interest of our nation's youth.

In 1999, Colombia's President Pastrana unveiled a proposal, known as Plan Colombia, to address the country's drug production and civil conflict. The Government of Colombia has estimated that \$7.8 billion will be needed over the next three years to reverse the country's role as the hemispheric center for drugs, rebuild its economy and bolster its democratic institutions.

But as we offer assistance to Colombia, it is important that we include tangible means for measuring the actions of the government-supported forces. We must ensure that the funds we provide to Colombia are utilized in a manner consistent with our national interest. That is why I supported the amendment offered by my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY that would have delayed funding for military hardware and training contained in the Colombia assistance package until July 15, 2000. The amendment would have provided for immediate funding of all drug interdiction efforts under the Administration's plan, but with withheld military aid until sufficient review by Congress. The delay would have provided the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on International Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence time to hold hearings about the conflict in Colombia and the need for this kind of hardware and training before the funds are appropriated.

I believe the funding contained in the aid package should not serve as a blank-check for the Colombian military to engage in actions that may violate human rights, including the killing of innocent civilians. It is important to remember that since 1987, it has been reported that more than 35,000 noncombatant civilians have been murdered or made to disappear by the Colombian security forces and their paramilitary allies. While President Pastrana has made important strides in restoring the rule of law and improving the human rights record of the military, the U.S. should act very carefully before appropriating funds to any army with such a decidedly bloody record.

I also believe this legislation should have included drug prevention measures to reduce the demand for illegal drugs in the United States. Such an effort must be part of a comprehensive U.S. anti-drug strategy. Indeed, I find it ironic that we're considering an emergency supplemental bill in the House of Representatives whose emergency status is in part due to the production of illegal drugs in Colombia, without one dollar in the bill being used for drug prevention in the U.S.

Illegal drugs are killing our kids at an alarming rate. In 1998, five million young people in this country required treatment for drug addiction, and nearly 600,000 required an emergency room visit. In the United States, there are 1.6 million drug-related arrests annually, and over half of our prison population committed drug-related crimes. Even more disturbing, while the average age for marijuana users is increasing, heroin abusers are getting younger. The cost of drug abuse to our society is estimated to be \$110 billion per year, but it is much higher if measured in countless lives lost and young dreams broken. This problem, Mr. Chairman, is staggering. As

such, I supported the motion to recommit the bill back to the Appropriations Committee with instructions that it be reported back to the full House with sufficient domestic drug prevention funding. While this effort failed, I hope the Administration and the Majority take important steps to address the demand side of the drug problem in this country. If we are to truly eradicate drugs from our streets, we must recognize that when there is a demand, there will always be a willing supplier.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that, should this bill progress, the leadership will pare back spending which is not truly emergency. Much of this bill can be considered under the regular appropriations process for FY 2001. We should be reticent to completely ignore spending caps for the current fiscal year as this bill does.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH  
BIRTHDAY OF NEAL TRAVIS

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neal Travis, one of New York's most celebrated newspaper columnists and writers, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Neal Travis' insightful analysis of the New York scene has educated and entertained those in the big apple for many, many years. His column in the New York Post, Neal Travis' New York, has covered all aspects of life and has attracted the attention of all segments of our society. His blend of wit, sarcasm, compassion and searing observations have inspired, motivated and always informed New Yorkers.

Born in New Zealand, Neal Travis emigrated to the United States in 1964 where he served as a foreign correspondent for Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. He then rose quickly up the ladder and secured his own column in the New York Post. Some 15 years after its inception, Neal Travis' New York is more popular than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in sending our warmest congratulations to Neal Travis on his 60th birthday. Life in New York will always be more significant and exciting because of his presence and his gift with the written word.

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IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BROOKLYN POLISH  
AMERICAN HOME, INC.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Polish American Home, Inc.

Established in 1935 when South Brooklyn was a growing community full of various ethnic backgrounds, the community felt a cultural center should be established. This center would serve, not only as a meeting place for the entire community, but as an educational

tool where people could visit and learn about their own heritage and the heritage of others. Thus, the Brooklyn Polish American Home was born. The Home's objective is to further not only Polish ideals, but the ideals of the entire community; in addition it serves as a civic, social, and recreational center.

With a goal of serving the community, and with generous donations from the entire area, a parcel of land was purchased on April 10, 1935. The Home serves not only as a meeting place, but as a builder of futures for young people. The Home managed to establish a Scholarship Trust Fund, awarding grants to high school graduating seniors entering college or any other approved higher education institution. The first grant was provided in 1971, and through 1999 a total of 81 individuals had received financial assistance, totaling over \$32,200.

The Home has not been without hardships, though. Throughout the years, numerous renovations have been done to the Home. In the late 1980's, two fires caused substantial amounts of damage and had to be renovated again. As a result of the generosity and involvement of the entire Brooklyn community, sufficient funding was acquired making these extensive repairs possible. The fact that the Home was able to overcome these challenges is a testament to the character, will and stamina of the community's residents.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join in honoring the 65th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Polish American Home.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Thursday, March 30, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 89-95. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 89 on Agreeing to the Kasich Amendment; Rollcall vote 90 on Agreeing to the Weldon Amendment; rollcall vote 91 on Agreeing to the Stearns Amendment; roll call vote 92 on Agreeing to the Paul Amendment; rollcall vote 93 on Agreeing to the Tancredo Amendment; rollcall 94 on the Motion to Re-commit with Instructions; and rollcall vote 95 on Passage of H.R. 3908, Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for F.Y. 2000.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 90, 94 and 95. I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 89, 91, 92, and 93.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DEACON  
WILLIE MARTIN, SR.

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Deacon Willie Martin Sr., as he celebrates his 100th birthday on April 8, 2000 in Pineland, South Carolina. Congressman JAMES E. CLYBURN, my distinguished colleague from the 6th District of South Carolina, joins me in this tribute.

Although our celebrant lives in South Carolina, he travels to Miami-Dade County to visit his daughter, Mrs. Rosanna McCormick, who has been a resident of the city of Opa-Locka since 1950. Deacon Martin's grandson, Freddie L. Judson (Rosa), also resides in Miami-Dade County. Accordingly, our centennial is an ex-officio resident of the 17th Congressional District of Florida, and I am extremely delighted indeed to have the privilege of representing the members of his immediate family.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Deacon Martin for the exemplary life with which God saw fit to bountifully bless him. The hallmark of excellence that defined his life for a century truly evokes a magnificent longevity of service to others in his role as a deacon of Bethel Baptist Church in Pineland, South Carolina. Amidst the ever-enduring presence of God, our celebrant has touched people from all walks of life through his genuine consecration to both their social, moral and spiritual enhancement.

His charitable spirit deeply nurtured his home into an oasis of love and encouragement for his family and countless others who sought refuge and comfort within its sanctuary for so many years. Deacon Martin's centennial birthday is indeed a joyous occasion when his loved ones and friends can truly take comfort in giving testimony to his exemplary dedication to his Christian stewardship.

Buttressed by his faith and his willingness to serve others under the aegis of his church, God has truly seen fit to bless him with the longevity of an extraordinary life. The happy occasion on April 8, 2000 will eloquently symbolize a historic testimony of the respect and admiration he has forged in his community and church-family.

I wish him warmest congratulations on this magnificent milestone of his life!

HONORING JAMES H. "JIM"  
PATTERSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James H. Patterson—a devoted father, husband, friend and transportation industry leader—who passed away Saturday morning. Jim Patterson was 55 years old and resided in Blackhawk, CA, with his wife Theresa, son Jimmy and daughter Laura.

Before moving to California, Jim was born and raised in Portland, OR, and the proud son of Howard and Dorothy Patterson. Jim was with United Parcel Service since 1966 and was serving as vice president of Public Affairs for the Northwest Region upon his formal retirement in December. Jim had served in many positions during his tenure, including being one of the youngest regional managers in the history of the company.

Jim was truly a remarkable person. He had the respect of everyone that had the pleasure to work with him. Jim's keen insight and knowledge of the industry was unparalleled. His uncanny ability to assess complicated political situations and offer appropriate remedies was remarkable. And Jim's humor would dis-

arm the fiercest of opponents and ultimately result in their affection and respect.

Jim's devotion to his friends and family was well known. Jim loved talking to people and getting to know people. In addition, he loved collecting cars and most of all—spending time with his two kids.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to all of Jim's family and especially to Theresa, Jimmy and Laura.

IN HONOR OF SAINT EDWARD  
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Year 2000 state champion Saint Edward High School wrestling team. Their four-year hold on Ohio high school wrestling's top honor shows no sign of weakening.

The Saint Edwards High School wrestling team, year in and year out, finds a way to keep their edge. This past month, the team won its fourth straight state championship, winning in resounding fashion. The Eagles' final tally of 186.5 points was nearly 100 points greater than the second place finishers. Five individual state champions set the tone for the Eagles' overwhelming dominance. Seniors Mason Lenhard and Mark Jayne each won their third titles. Jayne and senior Ryan Bertin both finished undefeated. Freshman Ryan Lang and senior Zak Schweda round out the Eagles' roster of title winners.

The 2000 Eagles squad fulfilled with ease the sort of expectations that any sporting dynasty raises. This year's state championship was the school's sixteenth all-time, a new state record. St. Edward's point total for the 2000 state tournament was the third highest in Ohio history. The Eagles' total of five individual state champions was one short of the all-time state record. The journey to Columbus was a difficult one: the Eagles grappled through what was widely recognized as the toughest schedule in school history. Taking on the best teams from across the nation, the Eagles were undefeated, finishing 14 and 0.

The 2000 Saint Edward wrestling team was, in a way, all about the journey. As Coach Gregg Urbas commented, "What we have is a room full of the hardest working kids you'll ever see, and they are very coachable. They all love this sport. Their work ethic is contagious. Those qualities will take you a long way in this sport. All of our 16 state championship teams were a little different. This team is loaded with wrestlers who kept improving week by week."

Saint Edward's dominance doesn't end at the state level. Two Eagles recently played pivotal roles in Ohio's state team's winning the national championship. Mason Lenhard and Ryan Bertin both won national titles in setting the pace for a "buckeye smackdown" at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

My fellow Members of Congress, join me in congratulating the 2000 state champion Saint Edward wrestling team. The Eagle grapplers do honor to my district, to my state, to their

school, and to their sport. Their recent success at both the state and national levels is a deserved reward for many days' hard work done well and done right.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING WAYNESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ERWIN MORRISS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career is nearing an end. Mr. Erwin Morriss, of Waynesville, Missouri, is retiring after 39 years in the education profession.

Mr. Morriss began his career in 1961 as a biology teacher and athletic coach at Jefferson City High School. In 1966, he became a teacher, coach and athletic director for Maryville schools. After that, he started his 31 years of service to the Waynesville School District as the Wood Junior High School Assistant Principal. Mr. Morriss moved to Waynesville High School in 1970 to be the Assistant Principal, and then served as the Principal for four years. He assumed the duties of Waynesville R-VI School District Assistant Superintendent in 1976 and was named Superintendent in 1991.

Mr. Morriss has earned numerous awards during his career. Most recently, he was a recipient of "The Eddy Award" presented by Governor Mel Carnahan for the school district's Governor's Choice Award. In 1997, he was a Pearce Award Nominee for the "Outstanding Missouri School Administrator," South-Central District of the Missouri Association of School Administrators. Also in 1997, Mr. Morriss received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service for his meritorious service to the Fort Leonard Wood community and the education of military children. The Missouri State Teachers Association recognized him as Missouri's Administrator of the Year in 1990 and the Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce named him as Citizen of the Year in 1987.

An active participant in his community, Mr. Morriss belongs to many civic and professional organizations. He is a member and former chairman of the Waynesville City Planning Commission, a member and past president of the Waynesville-St. Roberts Lions Club, as well as a member of the Waynesville-Fort Leonard Wood Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association, the United Methodist Church of Waynesville, Masonic Lodge No. 375, and the Association of the United States Army. Mr. Morriss also belongs to the American Association of School Administrators, the Missouri State Teachers Association, the Waynesville Community Teachers Association and the Phi Delta Kappa Education Honor Fraternity.

As he prepares to spend more time with his wife, Susan, his son, Michael, and his daughter, Lindy, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to my friend Erwin Morriss and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.