

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following vote due to a personal family reason:

On Roll Call Vote No. 58 to H.Res. 551, Thanking C-SPAN for its Service to the House of Representatives on the 25th Anniversary of its First Coverage of the Proceedings of the House, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 62: no (on the ordering the previous question for H. Res. 561).

IN HONOR OF JOSE ROHAIDY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose Rohaidy for his years of outstanding work and dedication to the Hispanic community. Mr. Rohaidy was honored by the Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey on Sunday, March 21, 2004, at the Fiesta Banquets in Woodridge, New Jersey.

Mr. Rohaidy was honored for his numerous contributions to the Hispanic community. Mr. Rohaidy was one of the pioneers of the Puerto Rican Parade in Paterson, New Jersey, and also Trenton, New Jersey. He was also one of the four founding members of the Hispanic Statewide Parade of New Jersey. For his tireless efforts and perseverance in the Hispanic community, Mr. Rohaidy has been the recipient of over 200 proclamations, awards, and citations.

Mr. Rohaidy was born in Zulueta, Cuba, to a Lebanese father and a Mexican mother. In Cuba, he worked as the Director of the news show Radio Nacional. While in Cuba, Mr. Rohaidy served as the President of Brigade 21 of the Red Cross. In 1968, when Mr. Rohaidy came to the United States, he continued his passion for journalism working for El Diario La Prensa, as Chief Editor of the New Jersey section of the paper. He also worked

for Radio WADO covering the New Jersey area. Mr. Rohaidy owns Mini-Mundo Printing along with his wife, Magali.

Mr. Rohaidy received a Doctorate degree in Journalism from Essex County Community College and was the first Hispanic to do so. He is a loving husband for over 46 years to his wife, Magali, father to four children, and grandfather of seven grandchildren.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jose Rohaidy, a true pioneer, outstanding leader, visionary, and dedicated servant to the Hispanic community.

HONORING FLOYD IRONS: A DEDICATED LEADER

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Floyd Irons for being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Irons has served 30 years as Vashon High School's basketball coach and is currently the Principal. In addition to being an extraordinary motivator to the players, he has been a mentor to the students and a role-model for the St. Louis community.

Irons graduated from Vashon in 1966. After graduating from Langston University, Irons returned to his alma mater in 1971 to teach Social Studies and coach varsity basketball. He was later named Assistant Principal and took pride in helping many students obtain scholarship information and funding sources for college.

During his 30 years at Vashon High School, Irons has coached his varsity teams to 20 Final Four tournaments and 10 State titles. This year, Irons coached his team through the first undefeated season in Vashon High School's history. In 2003, The National Sporting Magazine named Irons its Coach of the Year and with an overall impressive 791 wins, Irons has the third best record of all of Missouri's high school coaches.

Over the years, Irons has watched the school's facilities catch up with the capabilities of its students. Undaunted by any of the limitations that he faces as Principal of an urban school, Irons continues to exhibit innovation, incredible energy and unyielding commitment to keeping Vashon as a staple in the community. He has dedicated himself to the students at Vashon and its mission.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Floyd Irons today before Congress. He is well-deserved of our respect, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Floyd Irons.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. QUINTINA BENNETT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Ms. Quintina Bennett, who has served with distinction as a classroom teacher of the San Gabriel Unified School District from 1953 to the present.

Ms. Bennett was born November 29, 1930, in the Lincoln Heights region of Los Angeles, California. She was raised in a close-knit Italian family, where strong work ethics and responsibility were a way of life. Ms. Bennett continues to exemplify these values, priding herself in her extended family and commitment to education. She attended school in Lincoln Heights, graduating from Lincoln High School. Ms. Bennett continued her education at Los Angeles City College and graduated from California State University, Los Angeles in June, 1953.

Ms. Bennett began her teaching career at Washington Elementary School in September, 1953. During this tenure, she taught second through fifth grades, and the last 30 years have been spent in the same third grade classroom. She has dedicated one-half a century enriching the lives and minds of approximately 1,500 students, with more to come!

Ms. Bennett has actively promoted the creative arts through classroom music instruction and appreciation. Ms. Bennett has written and choreographed many of Washington School's music programs. She has also been the piano accompanist for all school musical programs. In addition, Ms. Bennett has played an active leadership role in developing district science curricula, serving as team leader for the advancement of technology for Washington School's third grade class.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating and recognizing Ms. Quintina Bennett on a truly remarkable career as she reaches her 50-year milestone year in education at Washington School. Best wishes for many more rewarding and fulfilling years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHULAMITH KOENIG: A CHAMPION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shulamith Koenig's outstanding contributions in the field of human rights. Ms. Koenig is the founder and executive director of PDHRE-People's Movement for Human Rights Education, an organization dedicated to promoting human rights and democracy worldwide through workshops, lectures, articles and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

books. Ms. Koenig has conducted workshops with educators, human rights advocates and community leaders in Asia, Africa, Central Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

For the last 14 years, Ms. Koenig has dedicated her life to educating people in the field of human rights as well as economic and social development around the world. Her efforts were recognized when the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights award was presented to her on December 10, 2003. The United Nations Prize is given to individuals and organizations every 5 years in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. I am proud to say that Ms. Koenig is a resident of my congressional district and I commend her receipt of this prestigious honor. She now joins the list of prominent persons who have received the prize, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, former South African President Nelson Mandela, and President Jimmy Carter.

Supported by the United Nations Development Program, Ms. Koenig spearheads the Human Rights Cities project, which has trained 500 young community leaders as human rights educators in 30 cities around the world. Founded by Ms. Koenig in 1989, the People's Movement for Human Rights Education is a nonprofit international organization, designed to improve the lives of people in more than 60 countries around the world. The organization has offices in New York, Argentina, India, Philippines, Mali, and Austria. There are schools and libraries bearing Ms. Koenig's name in Mumbai, India; Chennai, India; and Bamako, Mali; and the library Kensington Rights Welfare Union in Philadelphia, PA.

Ms. Koenig was born in Jerusalem and majored in Industrial Engineering and Management at Columbia University. She has edited and published articles in numerous books and journals and is a lecturer and an award-winning sculptor. Ms. Koenig and her husband Jerome have three children and four grandchildren.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY BETH HAYWARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, January 20, 2004 saw the unexpected passing of a beloved member of Toledo, Ohio's medical community, a philanthropist, mentor, and friend to many, a wife, mother, sister and grandmother. Mary Beth Hayward, RN, MSN, passed from this life at the age of 65.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Mary Beth was the only daughter of George and Evelyn Ludwig. She received her undergraduate RN from St. Mary's College and her Master of Science in Nursing from Catholic University, graduating from both magna cum laude. She followed graduation with a teaching position at Georgetown University's School of Nursing. That same year, she married John Hayward, a strong union lasting nearly 42 years. In 1966, the Haywards moved to Toledo, Ohio, and Mary Beth began teaching advanced

medical and surgical care nursing at the former Mercy School of Nursing. In 1974, Mary Beth joined the faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, where she remained for the next 30 years until her untimely death. A visionary leader in the nursing profession the MCO associate professor pioneered the development of new teaching methods including online courses. She was a member of MCO's Faculty Senate, and a testament to her teaching was the 18 Excellence in Teaching awards she received during her tenure.

A leader in her profession, Mary Beth at the time of her death was president of the Northwest Ohio Nurses Association and secretary of the Ohio Nurses Association Board of Directors. She was a member of the International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, and president of the Ohio League for Nursing for a 2000–2003 term.

Along with her husband and singly, Mary Beth was a respected community leader. She gave service to the Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio, Sunset Retirement Communities, the Junior League of Toledo, the Toledo Bar Association Auxiliary, and Hospice of Northwest Ohio. In addition to this service, she could be counted upon to lend her support to many other causes.

Mary Beth Hayward leaves a legacy in nursing and in our community. Yet her strongest legacy is her family. Our prayers remain with her husband John, her children Beth, Mary Bridget, John, Thomas, and Ethan, her eight grandchildren, her brother William, and many more family and friends.

Lofty words and poetic phrase could easily be used to describe the life of Mary Beth Hayward, but the eulogy noting her passing encapsulates her perfectly, "She loved God, she loved life, she loved her family, and she loved teaching. She was a force for good who gave much and took little."

HONORING JACKIE SHERRILL

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished 13-year coaching career of Jackie Sherrill at Mississippi State University, where he has served as head coach since 1991. With his retirement at the conclusion of the 2003 season, Coach Sherrill exits as a quarter-century coaching institution after serving at eight different universities. His trailblazing efforts as a coach and player have netted him two national championships as a player, countless accolades as a coach, and the satisfaction of driving three major programs to unparalleled heights on the college grid scene.

At the time of his retirement he was the dean of Southeastern Conference football coaches and the face of Mississippi State University football. During his tenure as coach of the Bulldogs, Coach Sherrill:

Recorded back to back winning seasons during his first 2 years at MSU. Prior to that time the Bulldogs had produced only one winning season in the previous nine before him.

Directed the Bulldog program to six postseason berths, recurring prosperity unmatched in the school history. He is only the

second head coach ever to take the institution to more than two bowl games and the first to lead the school to two consecutive postseason victories.

Retired as the most winning football coach in MSU history. Over his 13-year span at the helm of the Bulldogs he won 74 games, lost 74 games, tied 2 games and had 7 winning seasons. For the span from 1997–2000, Coach Sherrill's teams won 33 games, of which 20 were SEC games, lost 15 games, won the Western Division Championship, and participated in three consecutive bowl games. No school in the SEC West had a better five-year regular season mark during that time.

Bulldog fans responded. Coach Sherrill rallied a fractured fan base, producing record amounts of giving and attendance. He gave Bulldog fans a winning attitude and elicited emotion and passion for the program like no one else. The number of fans grew, as did appreciation for Mississippi State football on the State, regional, and national level.

Twenty-three of the top 25 crowds—including the top 14 ever to see the Bulldogs play at MSU's Scott Field, have come during Coach Sherrill's tenure. In addition to the sell out throngs, he has made the Bulldog football program attractive for national and regional television network audiences. MSU football has been televised 70 times during his 140 games as head of the program.

All that success on the field, at the turnstiles, and in achieving national rankings and postseason bowl berths, has fueled success in the construction and improvement of football facilities. Coach Sherrill oversaw the refurbishing of State's entire football complex. New or renovated weight training facilities and sports medicine areas, modern equipment and locker rooms, full team meeting rooms and individualized teaching cubicles were just the beginning of a stronger program's modern infrastructure. In 1996, MSU completed the John H. Bryan Sr. Athletic Administration Building that holds all the football coaching offices. A \$30 million enlargement of Scott Field's east side in 2001 added 50 luxury skyboxes, an additional 1,700 club level seats, and 7,600 seats in the upper deck. The stadium hosts completely remodeled dressing rooms for both home and visiting teams, and a new recruiting lounge for Bulldog football prospects.

Coach Sherrill has been loyal to Mississippi State, even when at the height of his success larger universities called, he always reminded fans that he planned to retire at MSU. For Coach Sherrill, it isn't just about football. You will see his fevered enthusiasm at the Bulldog basketball games as well. Coach Sherrill is a fan, not just of Bulldog football or even basketball, but of Mississippi State University and all the students that make up the MSU family.

His support is not surprising; after all, his arrival as State's 30th head coach was a homecoming of sorts for Coach Sherrill in Mississippi. Though born in Duncan, OK, Jackie Sherrill spent his youth in Biloxi where he starred on the football team at Biloxi High School. He played on two Shrimp Bowl teams and as a senior earned high school all-America distinction and most valuable player honors before graduating in 1962.

From Biloxi, Jackie moved to Tuscaloosa to play for the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant. Jackie played seven different positions for the

Crimson Tide from 1962 until 1965. He lettered 3 years at Bama and played on Bryant's 1964 and 1965 national championship teams.

Upon earning a bachelor of science degree with a major in general business and a minor in social science at Alabama in 1966, Jackie launched an assistant coaching career that included stints on not only Bryant's staff, but those of respected coaches Frank Broyles at Arkansas and Johnny Majors at Iowa State. He followed Majors to Pittsburgh where Jackie served as Assistant Head Coach until launching his own head coaching career at Washington State in 1976. He returned to Pittsburgh when Majors departed for the University of Tennessee, and Coach Sherrill continued his storied career at Texas A&M and finally at Mississippi State University.

Coach Sherrill's record extends beyond MSU, and we are proud he concluded his career in his home state. Coach Sherrill is number No. 4 behind Joe Paterno, Bobby Bowden and Lou Holtz as the NCAA's Most Winning Active Coach by wins; and No. 22 by win percentage.

Coach Sherrill is one of a select group of head coaches in NCAA history to take three different schools to postseason bowl competition. Jackie Sherrill joins Lou Holtz, Ken Hatfield, Dennis Franchione, John Makovic and Mack Brown as the only active head coaches with that distinction. Coach Sherrill is one of only two Division 1-A head coaches ever to lead three different schools to 10 wins or more in a season.

Over 100 of Coach Sherrill's pupils have advanced to careers in professional football and over 80 percent of his student-athletes have graduated during his career. Currently, 20 Mississippi State players coached by Jackie Sherrill play in the National Football League.

Away from reporters and public relations experts, Coach Sherrill would quietly visit hospitals dressed and painted as a clown to cheer up sick children. He would hear about a terminally ill State fan in the hospital and routinely and discretely visit the fan. He would take children with cerebral palsy, cancer, mental disorders or other afflictions to games with the team, or to eat meals with the players.

Jackie Sherrill has become a leader in supporting the Leukemia Society of Pittsburgh, the Boys Club, the Shriners Children's Hospital of Houston, the Boy Scouts, and the Palmer Home for Children in Columbus, Mississippi—where my wife Leisha serves on the Board. Jackie is a popular motivational speaker, missing few opportunities to address student and campus groups, alumni gatherings, and civic organizations.

Coach Sherrill was always gracious in victory giving full credit to his team. In defeat he took the high road and accepted the blame. His relationship and commitment to the players began during recruiting and remained steadfast through graduation. He stood by his players when some fans or sports writers would criticize. He was supportive and loyal and faithful to his players. He loved them and they played their hearts out for him.

Coach Sherrill's future is still undecided. He wants to spend more time with his wife Peggy and his children Elizabeth, Kellie, Bonnie, Justin, and Braxton. He has said he may coach his grandson's little league team or help out in junior high or high school. He says he looks forward to actually being able to play golf in season, but we expect to see him every foot-

ball Saturday in the stands dressed in Maroon and White with a cowbell in his hands.

Mississippi State University will miss Jackie Sherrill, but his legacy at MSU will never be forgotten.

REMEMBERING MR. DUNLAP
ROBERT "BOB" ROBINSON

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor an outstanding citizen from the City of Auburn, California, Mr. Dunlap Robert "Bob" Robinson. Following a lifetime of dedication to family, country, and community, Bob Robinson passed away on March 8, 2004, following a series of strokes. He was 86 years old.

Throughout his youth, Bob attended schools in his native Auburn. While at Placer High School, he served as student body president and captain of the basketball team. In fact, he led his team to the state championship by hitting the game winning shot at the buzzer. After graduating from high school, he earned an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a law degree from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall.

Bob served admirably in the United States Navy during World War II. At the age of 27, he became the youngest naval officer to command a destroyer. He was assigned the post after surviving a kamikaze attack against the U.S.S. *Caldwell*. As a mark of his character and decency, he stood up to his shipmates who wanted to mistreat the charred body of the kamikaze pilot who had killed and wounded scores of Americans onboard. In fact, Bob afforded the enemy full naval burial honors for having discharged his own duties faithfully.

Mr. Speaker, those who served with him recall his bravery and leadership. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for valor in combat and the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with eight battle stars for his service.

Bob was known for his courage away from battle as well. In 1943, he spoke to Placer High School students about the unfair treatment of Japanese Americans. Due to the popular sentiment at the time, this position was not very well received. He received hate mail from people in his own community. However, Bob always had a clear sense of justice. Perhaps it was this sense of justice and being the son and grandson of attorneys that instilled in Bob the desire to attend law school and follow in their footsteps. He returned to his home in Auburn where he embarked on a long legal career. He served as the Auburn City Attorney for 30 years. During this time, he was a consistent guiding hand in settling city affairs. Following his retirement from the city, he returned to the local law firm of Robinson, Lyon & Springford. Those who worked with him remember him for his honesty, intelligence, and exemplary work ethic.

Outside of his profession, Bob was an avid hunter who enjoyed the time in the beautiful natural surroundings near his home. He also served on the board of his father's favorite charity, the Auburn Community Foundation for three decades. In this capacity, he helped to enhance the city he loved.

Bob is survived by his wife of 26 years, Dulcie, daughters Linda Scott, Nina Cushing, Marty Overmiller, and Carolyn Basque; sons David Burns, and Kelly Robinson; 10 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Today, I join with Bob Robinson's family, friends, and community to commemorate his life of committed service, good citizenship, and uncommon decency. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the American Lung Association and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

As one of the Nation's oldest voluntary health organizations, the American Lung Association was founded in 1904 by a network of community-based physicians, nurses, and volunteers. United together by one resounding goal, the members strove each day to eliminate tuberculosis.

Today, after closely achieving their 1904 goal of eradicating tuberculosis, the association has turned its focus to a world free of lung disease. With close to 344,000 Americans dying each year of lung disease, the association expanded its research, education and advocacy programs to combat the growing problems of chronic lung disease. As the disease climbs to be America's number three killer, the volunteers at the Lung Association are focusing their energies on tobacco control, environmental health, and asthma. Knowing that the association is committed to excellence in all their endeavors, Americans can breath easier.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to thank the American Lung Association for their 100 years of dedicated public health service to the American people.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE VALIANT SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, at a time when our country is at war, Members of this House must stand, not as either Democrat or Republican, but together as Americans totally united in support of our troops.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, it is with bitter disappointment and regret that I find that I must stand in opposition to House Resolution 557. By introducing this flawed partisan resolution, which is therefore tainted in purpose, the Republican leadership has chosen, once again, to try to divide us rather than unify us during this dark time in our Nation's history.

What makes H.R. 557 even more misguided is the fact that our Ranking Member Congressman JACK MURTHA—who many in this

august body would surely agree has no equal in Congress when it comes to supporting our troops—was not even consulted or given the opportunity to take part in the drafting of this resolution to ensure a well-deserved bipartisan tribute is paid to our troops in Iraq.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to extend my own personal praise and appreciation for the sacrifices and outstanding service of our brave men and women in Iraq.

Like all Americans, I am extremely proud of their service, their commitment, and, yes, their willingness, if necessary, to pay the ultimate price to protect our country at home and abroad.

Brave men and women such as Lance Corporal Henry Lopez, Army Spec. Joo H. Bahk, and Corporal Alex Argumedo, and Marines Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Juan Silva and Javier Martinez, and many others from my 34th Congressional District who are true heroes in every sense of the word.

Like all Americans, I am grateful to the thousands of soldiers who have been wounded in battle and whose lives have been forever changed because of their severe injuries suffered on our behalf. I had the privilege of meeting with some of them at Walter Reed Army Medical Center last year, and I found the experience both moving and humbling. They are truly an inspiration and deserve our praise and the support they need to heal. They also deserve and have earned every opportunity we can give them and their families to look forward to a better future.

And Mr. Speaker, to compensate for that which H.R. 557 fails to do, I offer my deep personal sorrow, regret, and respect to those like Army Specialist Jason Kristoffer Chappell and Army Spc. Jose L. Mora who paid the ultimate price for our country. And to all the families who lost a loved one, I extend my most heartfelt condolences.

In closing Mr. Speaker, let me, once again, extend my praise and appreciation for the sacrifices made by our troops in Iraq and throughout the world. Every day, in ways both large and small, they make us all very proud to be Americans. May God continue to bless them and keep them safe.

**HONORING DANIEL J. WUENSCHEL
ON HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure but great sadness that I rise today to honor Daniel J. Wuenschel on his impending retirement from the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure but great sadness that I rise today to honor Daniel J. Wuenschel on his impending retirement from the Cambridge Housing Authority.

As president and chief executive officer, Ken Guenther has led the ICBA with an uncompromising intellect, conviction and courage. Through unceasing effort, he strengthened the trade association to help shepherd community banks through a period of remarkable challenges and change for the banking industry.

Throughout his tenure, Ken Guenther has represented community banks with unflagging passion, credibility and tenacity in Washington. He demonstrated foresight and innovation in harnessing the collective economic might of community banks to assure their future. His integrity and commitment to excellence will be long remembered. His lasting legacy will be a

in more than 15 different locations throughout the city. His work has been essential in ensuring that Cambridge has an economically diverse population at a time of skyrocketing housing costs in Massachusetts.

Dan has been honored with the 1986 Governor's Design Award, the 1989 Massachusetts Historical Commission's Preservation Award, the 1990 Ford Foundation/Harvard University Innovations in State & Local Government Award, and a 1998 Boston Society of Architects' Citation for Urban Planning. The CHA has also been recognized many times for its superior work in providing service to its residents.

Dan has also been an innovator in the public housing field. The CHA recently opened Neville Manor at Fresh Pond, a 71-unit, mixed-income assisted living facility and Neville Center, a 112 bed skilled nursing facility. He also secured a HOPE VI grant to rehabilitate the John F. Kennedy Apartments, a 69-unit affordable housing complex for seniors. CHA has also been instrumental in supporting numerous nonprofit affordable housing developers in Cambridge.

As executive director, he led the Cambridge Housing Authority in its role as cofounder of the National Council of Large Public Housing Authorities. He became the first president of CLPHA, an office he held for 6 years, during which time CLPHA became the premier industry group representing housing authority interests at the national level and here in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Dan Wuenschel has provided a home for thousands of families and my district and this country are the better for it. We are extremely grateful for all of his work, and he will be sorely missed. Dan, congratulations on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KENNETH A. GUENTHER

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of an extraordinary man who, for a quarter century, devoted his whole heart, mind and spirit to the success of the Nation's community banks. Today the Independent Community Bankers of America at their National Convention is honoring and celebrating Kenneth A. Guenther, as he completes 25 years of leadership.

As president and chief executive officer, Ken Guenther has led the ICBA with an uncompromising intellect, conviction and courage. Through unceasing effort, he strengthened the trade association to help shepherd community banks through a period of remarkable challenges and change for the banking industry.

Throughout his tenure, Ken Guenther has represented community banks with unflagging passion, credibility and tenacity in Washington. He demonstrated foresight and innovation in harnessing the collective economic might of community banks to assure their future. His integrity and commitment to excellence will be long remembered. His lasting legacy will be a

vibrant community banking industry, the foundation of America's economic prosperity and liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the quarter century of incomparable service and dedication Kenneth A. Guenther has devoted to the Nation's community banks.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. GADSON L. GRAHAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a devoted and inspirational member of my community, Rev. Dr. Gadson L. Graham, on the occasion of his 45th Pastoral Anniversary.

Dr. Graham will be honored this month by the members of the Canaan Baptist Church of Paterson, New Jersey, and I am honored to join with them in extending my best wishes to this man who has dedicated his life's work to serving others. He has ministered to our community as a preacher, a teacher, a mentor, and a counselor.

In 1975, Dr. Graham founded the Haitian Project, Canaan Baptist Church's first foreign mission program, and has extended this global outreach to many other countries, including Liberia, Senegal, Benin, and Uganda. His global ministry has offered him the opportunity to meet with members of the British Parliament, the Honorable Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, and His Excellency Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe.

Dr. Graham serves on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and serves as Advisory Board President of the Rutgers School of Nursing, both in Newark, New Jersey. Among his many honors and awards, he was named Pastor of the Year by Brothers in Blue, a Policeman's Fraternal Organization in the City of Paterson; was the first African American minister to mentor African American students at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck; and was the recipient of the Z-HOPE HONOREE Award, given by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., State of New Jersey, and Rho Tau Zeta Chapter of Paterson for his humanitarian pursuits to uplift women and their families in Haiti, Africa and other countries.

I am grateful for Dr. Graham's leadership in the community, and I value his commitment to meeting the needs of his brothers and sisters in Paterson, the United States, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending thanks to Dr. Graham for 45 years of pastoral ministry; and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him the strength and grace to continue for many years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO "THE" EAGLE PRIDE BAND

HON. IKE SKELETON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. SKELETON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention the "THE" Eagle Pride Band from

Calhoun, Missouri, has been selected to perform at the Indianapolis 500 in May. For the 26 students who participate in the band this honor is well deserved.

The students have been recognized for their combined talents, but they also deserve credit for efforts on behalf of those in need. A benefit concert held in the fall raised over \$2,000 for needy families in Calhoun. In December 2001, following the terrorist attacks on Washington and New York City, the band put on a patriotic concert. Over 700 attended, and the contributions for relief efforts exceeded \$4,000.

Continuing its tradition of excellence, in May the band will travel to Indiana to perform at the Indianapolis 500, participating in a parade, a prerace ceremony and at a special performance at the Indiana State Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, the students of "THE" Eagle Pride Band, under the direction of Brandon Harris, represent their school, their community, and their State with honor and distinction. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments and thanking them for their dedication to helping others.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. CONNIE L.
RICHARD**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued member of my district, Mr. Connie Richard. Mr. Richard has been a respected educator and administrator in the Newark Public School System for 35 years and will celebrate his retirement on March 26, 2004.

Mr. Richard was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but moved to Newark as a young child with his parents and sister. During his teenage years, he and his sister, Belita, were active participants in the Newark YMCA/YWCA programs that I directed. His sister, Belita, was one of the two Newark High School teenagers selected to participate in a YMCA-sponsored international travel program, which included a 3-week tour of Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru. His dedication to his studies and his academic achievements earned him a scholarship to study at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. He returned to Newark after graduation and began his career with the public school system.

For the past 35 years, he has worked tirelessly within the Newark Public School System as both teacher and administrator. He has served as Project Coordinator of Elementary Reading Centers, District Title I Coordinator, Central Office Title I Coordinator, Chapter I Supervisor, Director of Special Projects, and Special Assistant to SLT Assistant Superintendent.

Never content to end his day when working hours were over, he has been an active volunteer with the Sussex Avenue Recreation Program, the Alexander Street School Aerospace Club, and neighborhood athletic and leadership programs. He is a member of the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey Minority Caucus, the Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of Federal Program Administrators, the Associa-

tion for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association of Federal Program Administrators, the National Coalition of Title I/Chapter I Parents, the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the Organization of African American Administrators.

I can assure you that his retirement will be as active as his working life, full of time spent with family and friends, enjoying camping, athletics, and great jazz music, traveling to destinations both familiar and uncharted, and honing his woodcarving skills. I salute Mr. Richard for his dedication to the students, parents, and teachers in our community. I am proud to have him in my district, and I am proud of the legacy he has left for our public school system. Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Mr. Richard for his lifetime of public service, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him a happy, fulfilling retirement.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DONALD J. SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor a wonderful public servant and a good friend who has made pioneering contributions to the field of public housing administration in the City of Los Angeles and throughout our country, Donald Smith.

Don will be retiring on April 30 as executive director of the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). For 32 years, Don has played a vital role in improving the lives of countless families by helping them to obtain clean, safe, and affordable housing; and he will be sorely missed. His expertise, sound judgment, and good humor are tremendously rare and valuable assets. He will be leaving very big shoes to fill.

Don began his career as HACLA's director of management from 1971 to 1980 before moving to the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, where he served as assistant director of the housing division, director of assisted housing, and assistant executive director of housing. In 1994, Don returned to the HACLA as executive director.

Since Don's return, HACLA has been rated as a "high performer" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in recognition of its high lease rate in public housing and its record of achieving 100 percent section 8 voucher utilization even in a difficult market. In addition, under Don's leadership, HACLA was the first housing authority to receive a Welfare-to-Work grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and subsequently received local and national recognition for its excellence and success with this program.

During Don's tenure, HACLA has helped to improve and beautify my City of Los Angeles by demolishing public housing that dates from the 1940s and replacing it with vibrant, mixed-income communities including Harbor Village/Normont Terrace in the Harbor area and Pico Aliso and Aliso Village/Pueblo del Sol in Boyle Heights. Don was a prime reason why HUD chose the HACLA to administer all of its section 8 properties in 10 Southern California counties.

HACLA is a state-chartered public agency that administers the largest stock of affordable housing in the Los Angeles area. While the HACLA gets the majority of its funding through HUD, Don has built many key partnerships with city and State agencies, nonprofit foundations, community-based organizations, and private developers, which have proven invaluable to achieving HACLA's mission.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his dedication to the City of Los Angeles and the thousands of people he has helped, I have introduced a resolution recognizing Don for his outstanding work. I hope that the Congress will join me in thanking Don for his service to Los Angeles and to our Nation.

Thank you, Don, for your tremendous work and for your friendship. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

SENSENBRENNER REMARKS BEFORE THE U.S. JUDICIAL CONFERENCE REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE JUDICIARY

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends this remarkable speech because of its brevity and clarity and the extraordinary manner in which the speaker explains the appropriate and honorable role of federal judges.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr. (R-Wis.) spoke this morning before the Judicial Conference, a body composed of federal judges of districts and levels from across the country and headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Chairman SENSENBRENNER delivered the following remarks:

Thank you for the invitation to speak this morning before the Judicial Conference of the United States.

As we all know, the Founders of our Republic drafted a blueprint for self-government that has endured for well over two centuries because it delineated a balanced relationship among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The tripartite system engrafted into our Constitution has served as a model charter of government for nations around the world; and the intellectual legacy of our Founders is the proud birthright of every American.

The Founders anticipated, indeed welcomed, a dynamic interplay among the branches of government. For example, in a speech to the House of Representatives in 1789 concerning the proper role of the judicial branch, James Madison stated: "I acknowledge, in the ordinary course of government, that the exposition of the laws and Constitution devolves upon the judicial; but I beg to know upon what principle it can be contended that any one department draws from the Constitution greater powers than another, in marking out the limits of the powers of the several departments." The relationships among the federal branches over the course of our nation's history has been typified by comity and mutual respect. While sometimes rivalrous, relations among the branches have been free of the destructive impulses that have proven ruinous to other nations.

The relative tranquility in these interbranch relations is at least partly attributable to the clarity with which the Constitution assigns authority to each branch.

The Constitution provides Congress a central role in regulating the Judiciary. Article I provides Congress the authority to establish the lower federal courts, determine the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction, impeach and remove judges, and to enact laws necessary and proper for executing these authorities.

Unfortunately, over the past year or so, Congress, and the House Judiciary Committee in particular, has been under sustained criticism for its constitutionally-mandated legislative and oversight actions concerning the federal judiciary. The stridency of these remarks has sometimes taken on a harshness that is not only uncommon, but inconsistent with the historic amity that has governed relations between the branches.

As we all know, Congress passed the PROTECT Act last year, which among other things reformed the federal criminal laws concerning child abduction and child pornography. Among the provisions of the bill were reforms of the federal sentencing guidelines; particularly, reforms correcting abuse by federal judges of downward departure authority. The Feeney Amendment was approved by the House of Representatives on a straight up-or-down vote by an overwhelming bipartisan majority—357 to 58. The final bill, which included weakened Feeney provisions, passed the House 400 to 25 and the Senate 98 to 0.

The Feeney Amendment represents a legislative response to long-standing Congressional concern that the Sentencing Guidelines were increasingly being circumvented by some federal judges through inappropriate downward departures, resulting in a return to sentencing disparities.

Much attention has been focused on the Judiciary Committee's oversight of the Chief Judge of the District of Minnesota following misleading testimony before the Committee concerning the application of the federal sentencing guidelines. He identified specific cases as relevant to the Committee's consideration of pending legislation. Thereafter, the Committee sought the public records of these cases and certain others in which the Chief Judge had departed downward. Among other documents, the Committee obtained a transcript of one of the Chief Judge's sentencing hearings in which he admitted to having granted "an illegal departure" in the case and dared the United States to appeal his one month variance. Surely reasonable persons would conclude that Congress has a responsibility to inquire further in the face of such an admission.

In a letter to me dated November 7, 2003 this body (the Judicial Conference of the United States) objected to "the dissemination of judge-specific data on sentencing in criminal cases," and suggested that "Congress should meet its responsibility to oversee the functioning of the criminal justice system through use of this data without subjecting individual judges to the risk of unfair criticism in isolated cases." I have been perplexed as to why such furor has been raised over obtaining records from a judge's publicly decided cases.

Assuredly, federal judges in a democracy may be scrutinized, and may even be "unfairly criticized." Subject to removal from office upon conviction of impeachment, Article III judges have been given lifetime tenure precisely to be better able to withstand such criticism, not to be immune from it.

That the Congress, the elected representatives of the people, may obtain and review the public records of the Judicial branch is both Constitutionally authorized and otherwise appropriate. Over 200 years of precedents show that the Judiciary as a collective body, or an individual judge, is subject to

Congressional inquiry. For example, every year Congress scrutinizes budget requests and appropriates money. On a more targeted basis, articles of impeachment against federal judges stemming from their conduct on the bench have led to both impeachment by the House and trial and conviction in the Senate and removal from office on several occasions.

Of course, I think we all can agree that impeachment ought not lie simply because Congress may disagree with a judge's "judicial philosophy," or because Congress considers a judge's ruling "unwise or out of keeping with the times." That is a far cry from the suggestion that Congress lacks authority, or should not exercise it, to conduct appropriate oversight of the judicial branch including individual judges.

The Committee's oversight of the sentencing record of the Chief Judge of the District of Minnesota is not premised upon disagreement concerning the "wisdom" of a particular sentence, but upon its legality.

I think it is important to note that Congressional oversight has assumed increased importance because of the delegated authority currently possessed by the Judiciary to investigate and impose appropriate discipline upon its members and its decidedly mixed record in this regard. I have previously noted my profound disappointment with the whitewash of the Congressional complaint against the Honorable Richard D. Cudahy of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals while serving on the Special Division of the D.C. Circuit Court overseeing independent counsels. Judge Cudahy, whether inadvertent or otherwise, leaked confidential sealed grand jury material to an AP reporter on the day that former Vice President Gore was nominated to run for President. Judge Cudahy admitted to his acts only upon threat of exposure by a criminal investigation and polygraph examination, after seeking to preclude any investigation.

In response to my formal complaint as Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, Judge Richard Posner, only eight days after its receipt, simply whitewashed the matter regarding his colleague Judge Cudahy without conducting any investigation. Judge Posner dismissed the matter out of hand by noting that Judge Cudahy had apologized and Judge Posner concluded that the leak simply did not constitute Rule 6(e) "matters occurring before the grand jury." This conclusion is contrary to the view of the Chief Judge of the Special Division of the D.C. Circuit Court, Judge David B. Sentelle.

The Judiciary's response in the Cudahy matter stands in contrast to the Congressional Judicial complaint concerning Judge Norma Holloway Johnson. In this case, an independent investigator was hired to review and evaluate allegations, outlined in a congressional complaint, that the Chief Judge of the D.C. judicial district bypassed the random case-assignment process in four campaign finance cases that were potentially politically embarrassing. The rules of the court with respect to case-assignments changed as a result.

The experience with the Cudahy matter and the Chief Judge of the District of Minnesota raises profound questions with respect to whether the Judiciary should continue to enjoy delegated authority to investigate and discipline itself. If the Judiciary will not act, Congress will—consistent with its Constitutional responsibilities. Congress will begin assessing whether the disciplinary authority delegated to the judiciary has been responsibly exercised and ought to continue.

Before I conclude, I wish to touch briefly on a point that has generated significant scholarly debate and renewed urgency in light of recent Supreme Court decisions: the

Court's increased reliance on foreign laws or judicial proceedings in the interpretation of American constitutional and statutory law. Article VI of the Constitution unambiguously states that the Constitution and federal statutes are the supreme law of the land. America's sovereignty may be imperiled by a jurisprudence predicated upon laws and judicial decisions unfound in our Constitution and unincorporated by the Congress. Inappropriate judicial adherence to foreign laws or legal tribunals threatens American sovereignty, unsettles the separation of powers carefully crafted by our Founders, and threatens to undermine the legitimacy of the American judicial process. I anticipate Congressional examination of this issue in the coming months.

Thanks again for the opportunity to speak before the conference today.

HONORING BOROUGH OF STANHOPE IN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Stanhope, in Sussex County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On March 24, 2004 the good citizens of Stanhope are celebrating the Borough's Centennial Anniversary with a special re-enactment of the Incorporation Ceremony that took place over 100 years ago.

Stanhope is an old "iron town," and as the industry grew, so did Stanhope, which until 1904 was part of neighboring Byram Township. The earliest records indicate that the first iron production at Stanhope occurred about 1794. Silas Dickerson, brother of the future state governor and U.S. Senator Mahlon Dickerson, erected a forge and nail factory on the Musconetcong River in Stanhope—one of the first such forges in New Jersey.

By the 19th century, Stanhope was a substantial iron-manufacturing community. The proximity of the Borough to the Morris Canal, which flows through its center, was pivotal to the early development of this rural town. In fact, the completion of the Morris Canal in the mid 1800s saved the iron industry and consequently the town. By 1830, the wood supply needed for charcoal to fire the forges was depleted and the industry shut down. But when the Morris Canal opened up a link to a new fuel, anthracite coal from northeastern Pennsylvania, the iron economy of New Jersey and Stanhope was revitalized. Stanhope also became a well-deserved rest stop along the 102-mile canal from Phillipsburg to Jersey City, with a busy General Store and hotel and a large coal transfer station.

The iron industry in Stanhope thrived for another 100 years, and by 1930, people discovered Stanhope for what it remains today: a beautiful, rural community in the New Jersey Highlands, bordered by the Musconetcong River and Lake. Between 1930 and 1980, Stanhope's population tripled in size and today the quaint community boasts more than 3,500 proud residents. In recent times, citizens have become more and more aware of the importance of protecting Stanhope's natural resources and efforts to balance development

with the preservation of open space, clean water and air have been a commendable priority for its municipal leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of Stanhope on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history and the building of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The regional Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based upon their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities both school related and outside school activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my district are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

Adam Christopher Denison, Bethany Sue East, Caitlin Jo Hill, Carla Rae Cunningham, Daniel Sean McBride, James William Benson, Stephen Patrick Russell, Amber Mae Cooper, Joshua Gregory Berkley, and Layton Ashley Noel.

Michelle Denise Graham, Stephanie Dawn Hedgepath, Chaz Ganster, Elizabeth Woodward Starling, Jenna Anne Foltz, Jennifer Elaine Martin, Jessica Leigh Monroe, Jessica Renae Durbin, Rosa Ramsey Groves, and Andrew Bryan McGregor.

Christine Caylin Mudrick (Caylin), Elizabeth Marie Silva Collier, Justin Bennet Sedlak, Jr., Lauren Melissa McCormick, Sarah Jane Bodell, Signe Jordan McCullagh, Adam Christopher Denison, Evan Lee Allen, Joquela S. Quarles, and Lacey Dyan McGinnis.

Meagan Kay Bush, Stacy Watkins, Evan Turner Roberts, Justin Bennet Sedlak, Jr., Leigh Ellen West, Lindsey Bell Bostick, Sara Elizabeth Downs, Sarah Savannah Hughes (Savannah), Ashley Lauren Russell, and Benton Russell Avery Farmer.

Holly Marie Sisk, Stephen Wesley Boren, Thabbet Hassan Abukuppeh (Tad), Aaron Lewis Nelson, Clifton Ross Martin, John Christian Cooke Mahre (Chris), Julianna Leigh Sta-

ples, Rebekah Elizabeth Logan, and Savannah Rose Galloway.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

HONORING THE 4TH ANNUAL UDALL YOUTH TASK FORCE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of young people in my district, the 4th Annual Udall Youth Task Force.

Every year, I invite high school students throughout the Second Congressional District of Colorado to participate in the Udall Youth Task Force. The Task Force is set up for the purpose of helping young people in the district to become more engaged with their government. Each fall, Task Force members convene to set an agenda of topics they wish to tackle throughout the school year. This year's Task Force has proven to be exceptionally insightful about the issues facing our country. From the war in Iraq, to the environment, to concerns about the erosion of civil liberties, these students show clear understanding about the goings on in Washington, DC, and around the world.

I am aware of the fact that the Task Force members have very busy schedules between jobs, sports and other extracurricular activities. That is why I am so heartened and honored by the fact that these young people have taken the time to be a part of this program. It is inspiring to watch these future leaders of America take interest and pride in their government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this exceptional group of young people. We all benefit from their contributions to this great system, and it is my greatest hope that their participation in the Udall Youth Task Force has sparked an interest in public service that will continue throughout their lives.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMP SHELBYVILLE GOLDEN EAGLETTES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shelbyville Golden Eaglelettes for winning this year's Tennessee Class AAA girls high school basketball championship. The March 13 win earned the Golden Eaglelettes a record 12th state title.

Such a feat deserves much respect. The team of highly motivated players went 31–5 this year, capping a championship season with a resounding 57–43 win over a tough Memphis Craigmont team. This is the third year out of the last four that Shelbyville has captured the Class AAA state championship.

Shelbyville residents can be proud of the accomplishments of the Golden Eaglelettes, who are a recognized powerhouse in high school girls basketball. I commend the team and its coach, Rick Insell, for an outstanding season and a remarkable achievement.

The following are the members of the 2003–04 state champion Golden Eaglelettes: Samantha Houston, Tabatha Almader, Alex Muckle, Latoya Stone, Amy Beech, Kayla Bryant, Brittany Smith, Andria Johnson, Abby Canon, April Snipes, Ashleigh Newman, Katrina Kelly, Alex Fuller, Nisha Buchanan and team mangers Sarah Riddle and Anna Sneed. LaBora McCroskey, Chad Spencer, Mark Potts and Jennifer Gray serve as assistant coaches for the team.

CONGRATULATING CITIZENS BANK OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution honoring one of the foremost institutions in my district—Citizens Savings Bank & Trust of Nashville, Tennessee. Citizens Bank enjoys the distinction of being the nation's oldest continuously-operating minority-owned bank and is celebrating a truly significant milestone this year—its 100th anniversary.

Minority-owned banks have played a crucial role in the economic development and revitalization of minority communities across the country. Through dedicated investment in the neighborhoods they serve, minority-owned banks have provided a vital source of economic opportunity and entrepreneurial capital for countless individuals and small businesses, especially those who had historically been underserved by other financial institutions. With combined assets of more than \$48 billion and more than 3 million depositors nationwide, minority-owned banks continue to serve as pillars of economic stability and trust.

Citizens Bank stands as a model example of a minority-owned bank that has made significant and lasting contributions to its community. Founded in 1904 as the One Cent Savings Bank, Citizens Bank has provided funding and economic assistance to entrepreneurs, civic and social groups, educational programs and public schools and universities.

The bank has been especially notable for its service to African-American churches in the Nashville area. Citizens Bank has served as a principal source of financing for the construction and operation of church-based day care centers, assisted living facilities, and other community-based centers that promote the social and economic well-being of Nashville residents. The bank has also donated a great deal of its resources to the economic empowerment of Nashville residents by offering free home-buying and consumer education seminars.

I am proud to be the lead sponsor of a Congressional resolution that recognizes the achievements of Citizens Bank and the achievements of all minority banks across the country. It is my hope that this Congress will

acknowledge the many contributions that minority-owned banks have provided to individuals, businesses and communities for generations. I also extend my sincerest congratulations to Citizens Bank for its 100 years of service to the people of my district and offer my best wishes for another prosperous century of service.

AN INSULT TO OUR SOLDIERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the New York Times published an opinion piece on payroll system problems in the military—specifically in our National Guard. The piece quoted a letter from a soldier in my district, SGT Daniel Romero, who was killed in an explosion in Kandahar, Afghanistan, nearly two years ago.

In a letter to a fellow sergeant, Sergeant Romero wrote, “Are they really fixing pay issues [or] are they putting them off until we return? If they are waiting, then what happens to those who (God forbid) don’t make it back?”

Sergeant Romero was referring to payment problems that he and his fellow soldiers had experienced. In a November 2003 report that studied the payroll processes of six Army National Guard units called up to active duty, GAO found—among other things—that some soldiers did not receive payments for up to six months after mobilization. Payment problems are not limited to the Guard, but as my colleague Representative SHAYS pointed out, the payroll process is antiquated, designed for a time when members of the Guard were not often called up to active duty.

The following piece asks an important question: “As we mobilize troops from around the country and send them off to fight and possibly die in that crucible of terror known as combat, is it too much to ask that they be paid in a timely way?”

SGT Daniel Romero died for our country. He was a brave and dedicated soldier who proudly served when his nation called on him to fight in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan.

It is the very least we can do to ensure we work as hard for soldiers like SGT Romero as they work for us. That’s why I believe that fixing these payment problems should be an immediate priority for the Department of Defense.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 15, 2004]

AN INSULT TO OUR SOLDIERS

(By Bob Herbert)

Tom Davis, a Virginia Republican, is chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform. He tells a story about Sergeant Daniel Romero of the Colorado Army National Guard, who was sent to fight in Afghanistan.

In a letter dated March 23, 2002, Sergeant Romero asked a fellow sergeant: “Are they really fixing pay issues [or] are they putting them off until we return? If they are waiting, then what happens to those who (God forbid) don’t make it back?”

As Mr. Davis said at a hearing this past January, “Sergeant Romero was killed in action in Afghanistan in April 2002.” The congressman added, “I would really like to hear

today that his family isn’t wasting their time and energy fixing errors in his pay.”

As we mobilize troops from around the country and send them off to fight and possibly die in that crucible of terror known as combat, is it too much to ask that they be paid in a timely way?

Researchers from the General Accounting Office, a nonpartisan investigative arm of Congress, studied the payroll processes of six Army National Guard units that were called up to active duty. What they found wasn’t pretty.

There were significant pay problems in all six units. A report released last November said, “Some soldiers did not receive payments for up to six months after mobilization and others still had not received certain payments by the conclusion of our audit work.”

This is exactly the kind of thing that servicemen and women, especially those dealing with the heightened anxiety of life in a war zone, do not need. Maj. Kenneth Chavez of the Colorado National Guard told a Congressional committee of the problems faced by the unit he commanded:

“All 62 soldiers encountered pay problems. . . . During extremely limited phone contact, soldiers called home only to find families in chaos because of the inability to pay bills due to erroneous military pay.”

These problems are not limited to the National Guard. But one of the reasons the Guard has been especially hard hit is that, in the words of another congressman, Christopher Shays, its payroll system is “old and leaky and antiquated,” designed for an era when the members of the Guard were seen as little more than weekend warriors.

That system has been unable to cope with widespread call-ups to extended periods of active duty and deployment to places in which personnel qualify for a variety of special pay and allowances, particularly in combat zones.

The G.A.O. report said, “Four Virginia Special Forces soldiers who were injured in Afghanistan and unable to resume their civilian jobs experienced problems in receiving entitled active duty pay and related health care.”

The country is asking for extraordinary—in some cases, supreme—sacrifices from the military, and then failing to meet its own responsibility to provide such basic necessities as pay and health care.

“The military knows that it’s really blown it,” said Mr. Shays, who heads a subcommittee of the Government Reform Committee. He noted that National Guard and military reserve units were given enhanced roles in the aftermath of the cold war. But the payroll systems (and some other basic functions) were not upgraded accordingly.

“This is a huge problem,” he said.

And it is not likely to be solved soon.

“Anything that could be done in the short term is kind of like Band-Aids, things that will hopefully result in fewer errors but will not fix the problem,” said Gregory Kutz, who supervised the G.A.O. report.

A lasting solution to the pay problems, he said, will require a completely new system.

Defense Department officials insist they are working simultaneously on short-term fixes and the creation of a brand new system. Patrick Shine, acting director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, told me that a 49-step “plan of action” has been developed in response to the G.A.O. report.

He said he hoped that a completely new payroll system could be unveiled in the spring of 2005.

I asked how confident he was about the deadline. “Well,” he said, “I’ll be very honest with you. I don’t think we’re all that different from private companies, seeing sometimes slippages in schedules.”

But he was optimistic, he said.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION LIVINGSTON ACADEMY LADY WILDCATS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Livingston Academy Lady Wildcats for winning this year’s Tennessee Class AA girls high school basketball championship. The March 13 win earned the Lady Wildcats their fourth state championship.

Such a feat deserves recognition. The team of highly motivated players went 37–3 this year, capping a championship season with a strong 50–38 win over a tough McMinn Central team. This is the fourth state championship in the past 14 years for the Lady Wildcats.

Livingston residents can be proud of the accomplishments of the Lady Wildcats, who won their first championship in 1990 when current head coach Lesley Smith was a player. Assistant coach Elizabeth Woodard was also a member of that first championship team. I commend the team for an outstanding season and a remarkable achievement.

The following are the members of the 2003–04 state champion Lady Wildcats: Katrina Beechboard, Krista Clinard, Ashley Matthews, Megan Thompson, Jada Ledbetter, Megan Brown, Mallie Stephens, Kristin Hoover, Kasey Baltimore, April Handy, Whitney Sells, Brittany McCain, Haley Mullins, Kellie Thurman and team mangers Samantha Sidwell, Tiffany Livingston, Blair Hill and Amber Peck.

REMEMBERING MR. ATHAN GIBBS, INNOVATOR AND COMMITTED ADVOCATE OF DEMOCRACY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DEATH

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Athan Gibbs, of Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Gibbs was a patriot, a pastor, and a visionary entrepreneur who took it upon himself to restore Americans’ faith in the democratic process after the disheartening controversy we experienced in November of 2000. Democracy lost one of its chief champions with Mr. Gibbs’ unexpected death on the morning of Sunday, March 14, and on behalf of Congressman RUSH HOLT and other colleagues, I send his family our heartfelt sympathy for their loss and deepest gratitude for his life.

A Memphis native who came of age in the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Gibbs experienced first hand the struggle for equality at the voting booth. Four decades later, these seminal experiences informed his observations of the 2000 Florida election controversy, and drove him to invent a technology that would ensure the fair exercise of democracy—the first electronic voting system with a “paper trail” to allow voters to verify that their votes were appropriately logged and counted.

Athan Gibbs' TruVote system was a timely invention, and the product of a unique career. As a student of both business and theology, Mr. Gibbs entered public service in 1970 as a financial analyst with the Tennessee Public Service Commission. But while he pursued this public service career and later his own tax business, he served double duty as a pastor, most recently at the Mount Zion Baptist Church. In the words of a friend, The Reverend Enoch Fuzz, "Athan was consumed by a desire for justice, equality and freedom for all people."

Mr. Gibbs' desire for justice and equality was matched only by his tenacious drive to realize these goals. After reading studies quantifying the unequal treatment of African-American votes in the 2000 Florida election, he saw an opportunity to put his accounting skills to work in pursuing his overall democratic goals. In 2001, he founded TruVote in order to prevent disenfranchisement and restore faith in the democratic system. His invention caught on quickly and earned the backing of state and local officials, the World Conference of Mayors, and Microsoft. Last spring, my colleague Mr. HOLT introduced H.R. 2239, a bill requiring that voting systems provide a verifiable paper receipt, just as Mr. Gibbs had envisioned and invented two years previously. This bill now has bipartisan backing from 128 cosponsors.

While the nation and the democratic world lost a dedicated patriot and talented innovator when it prematurely lost Athan Gibbs, his vision and mission live on through his family and colleagues who pledge to carry on his work. On behalf of the fifth district of Tennessee as well as my colleagues in Congress, I send my deepest condolences to Athan Gibbs' family and loved ones, and celebrate the life of this remarkable American.

**REMOVING NAME AS H.R. 1673
COSPONSOR**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I sought and obtained unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1673, the bill to establish a Department of Peace.

I joined as a cosponsor of a similar bill in the 107th Congress. That bill was introduced in July 2001, a year after the observance of UNESCO's International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000 and in the context of a UNESCO resolution declaring an International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children 2001–2010.

I cosponsored H.R. 2459 in the spirit of these events and at the urging of a very persuasive group of young high school students from my district because I wanted to underline the symbolic importance of promoting justice and democratic principles to expand human rights and developing policies that promote the peaceful resolution of conflict. I do not believe these ideas require the establishment of a new bureaucracy.

After careful review, I have determined that while the bill's goals are idealistic and worthy, its specific provisions and practical application

are problematic. In particular, I think that endorsing the establishment of a new bureaucracy—even if only symbolically—would not be appropriate at a time when the federal budget is in deep deficit. The recent recession and the urgent need to spend more for national defense and homeland security, combined with excessively large and unbalanced tax cuts have brought us to the point where both the entire Social Security surplus and massive borrowing—which will have to be repaid with interest—are required to cover the shortfall.

Under these circumstances, I think proposals for further expansion of the federal government must be subject to even more strict scrutiny. In that light, I have reviewed the legislation that I have supported and have concluded that it is no longer appropriate for me to remain as a cosponsor of H.R. 1673.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
SAMUEL AMASA PEER**

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life of Samuel Amasa Peer of Beloit, Wisconsin, who passed away on March 7, 2004, at 79 years of age. Sam was a courageous veteran of the Second World War, and his hard work, diligence and willingness to face the most difficult of problems have inspired those who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his family and loved ones, and I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing my thoughts and prayers with them during this difficult time.

I am honored to pay tribute to this outstanding individual and would like to read before the Congress the eloquent eulogy given by his grandson, Adam Peer.

EULOGY OF SAMUEL AMASA PEER, MARCH 13, 2004

My grandfather like all of us was complex, understood only by his Creator. Early on he learned that there was little he could expect from his own parents. Born during the midst of the Great Depression, he was thrust into manhood when duty called him to care for and protect his younger siblings.

It is hard for me to imagine the world he came into. When he answered his second call to duty aboard the USS West Virginia, a question of whether a free world would survive was very real and very unknown. The hardship that was born into and the war that tempered him during his youth is what exemplified him as a self-made American in the very truest sense of the term. And he took great pride in that.

Much of what he did to do his part in making the world safe for democracy will be lost to antiquity. He always kept the most essential parts of himself so private and well-guarded that it put limits on the things he could talk about, even to those that most desperately needing his acknowledgment and love.

But, the unspoken gifts he leaves all of us are very real.

I have never met someone more diligent and hard-working than my grandfather, and that lives on in my father. My grandfather was so proud of the man you became.

I have never met someone who expresses what they feel so passionately and with greater conviction, and that lives on in my

sister. The same passion for right over wrong and freedom over oppression burns in her heart.

And I hope I never lose his optimism for the future; he never met a problem that couldn't be solved.

Today, as another member of the "greatest generation" passes from this life to the next, we inherit what they have instilled in us and the unfinished tasks now left to younger hands.

It is now our charge to leave this world a better place than we found it, and like my grandfather and his generation, inspire another generation to great things.

**TRIBUTE TO GRANT MITCHELL
ARMSTRONG**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend Grant Mitchell Armstrong on his retirement that celebrates a career spanning 34 years of steadfastly guarding the ideals of criminal justice at the County of Santa Clara's Office of the Public Defender.

With Mr. Armstrong's assistance, the Santa Clara County Office of the Public Defender was awarded the National Defender Leadership Institute's prestigious Gideon Award of Excellence for 2003. The Office was specifically recognized in areas of accountability, cost-efficiency, innovation and effective representation of clients, and was cited as a "Best Practices" model for public defender offices nationwide.

Mr. Armstrong played a key role in the recruitment and training of a multi-ethnic, multicultural cadre of attorneys within the Office. In May of 2000, the Office of the Public Defender was awarded the County Executive's Unity in Diversity Achievement Award for the significant staff diversity the Office achieved. While less than 15 percent of the lawyers in California are Black, Hispanic or Asian, 35 percent of the lawyers in the Office are minority group members and 45 percent are women.

Mr. Armstrong also played a vital role in the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court through his leadership roles with the Mentoring Program that pairs young participants with adults committed to the development of healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

I am proud and grateful to thank Grant Mitchell Armstrong for his significant contributions to our criminal justice system.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was not present for several recorded votes because pressing business required me to remain in Colorado. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 42—H. Res. 519—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 43—H. Res. 392—Congratulating the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 44—H. Res. 475—Congratulating the San Jose Earthquake for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 45—On approving the Journal, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 46—S. 1881: to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make technical corrections relating to the amendments by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, and for other purposes, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 47—H. Con. Res. 373: expressing the sense of Congress that Kids Love a Mystery is a program that promotes literacy and should be encouraged, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 48—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. SCOTT (VA) to add a new section which provides that the bill does not apply to an action brought by a State agency to enforce a State consumer protection law concerning mislabeling or other unfair and deceptive trade practices, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 49—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. WATT to limit the provisions of the bill only to cases brought in Federal court, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 50—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. ANDREWS to permit civil liability suits to be brought in cases related to a food that contains a genetically engineered material unless the labeling for such food bears a statement providing that the food contains such material and the labeling indicates which of the ingredients of the food are or contain such material, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 51—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. ACKERMAN to expand the definitions in the act to exclude any establishment that manufactures or sells meat from downed animals for human consumption from the protections of the bill, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 52—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE (TX) to provide that the bill would not apply to civil actions that allege a product claiming to assist in weight loss caused heart disease, heart damage, primary pulmonary hypertension, neuropsychological damage, or any other complication which may be generally associated with a person's weight gain or obesity, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 53—Amendment to H.R. 339 offered by Mr. WATT to strike section 3(b) of the bill which provides that a qualified civil liability action that is pending on the date of the enactment of the bill shall be dismissed immediately by the court in which the action was brought or is currently pending, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 54—Final passage of H.R. 339, to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 55—Final passage of H.R. 3717, to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the

prohibitions against transmissions of obscene, indecent, and profane material, and for other purposes, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 56—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 15, Commending India on its celebration of Republic Day, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 57—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 540, as amended, expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski, I would have voted “yes.”

TRIBUTE TO MARK HAWKINS
PRESIDENT GREATER RIVERSIDE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Mark Hawkins is one of these individuals. On Thursday, March 25, 2004, he will be honored at the Chamber's Inaugural Dinner.

Mark began his career in business in 1974 when he obtained his bachelors degree. After completing his Masters of Business Administration from Florida Southern College in 1987, he assumed to the post of Chief Executive Office of Riverside County's Credit Union. He also attended continuing education at Stanford in 2000.

Mark serves on the board of each of the four Riverside County Credit Union's subsidiary companies as well as the board of the credit union's scholarship foundation. In addition to his leadership within the business community, Mark is also very active in community organizations. He serves on the board of the Kiwanis Club of Riverside; the Raincross Club; the Riverside Orange Blossom Festival Association; the United Way of the Inland Valleys; and the Mayor's Youth Action Plan. Mark has also been involved with the Riverside Art Museum, the Parkview Community Hospital Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Riverside's Endowment, the Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation, and the City Manager's office for the City of Riverside.

In recognition of Mark's tremendous contributions to our community and the business climate in the Inland Empire, he has been a recipient of several awards including the California Award for Performance Excellence; being named “Top Company to Work for in the Inland Empire” in 2001, 2002, and 2003; Business of the Year in 2002; voted best financial institution by the Press Enterprise in 2003; and voted best employer by the Press Enterprise in 2003.

Mark's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community and business environ-

ment of Riverside, California. He has been instrumental in many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service as President of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce and salute him.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MR.
MARVIN H. FELDMAN

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Marvin H. Feldman, the 2004 recipient of the Circle of Life Award of the Million Dollar Roundtable.

Mr. Feldman is a native of East Liverpool, Ohio and a nationally recognized leader in the financial services industry. As an agent for New York Life, Marvin is well known in the world of insurance and financial planning as a global leader in sales. His hard work and record of accomplishment earned him a place in the prestigious Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation. Not only has Marvin been a member of this exclusive organization, he also served as past president. Membership in this Foundation requires agreement to a stringent code of ethics and conduct and exceptional professional knowledge and client service.

Mr. Feldman is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Mahoning Valley Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Ohio Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the Society of Financial Service Professionals, the Association for Advanced Life Underwriting and the Financial Planning Association. His previous industry experience includes serving as a member of New York Life's Strategic Planning Committee and the Universal Life Product Committee, as well as secretary of New York Life's Agents Advisory Council.

Marvin has not only been a leader in his profession, but has also been a civic and philanthropic leader in his hometown of East Liverpool, Ohio. He has contributed to East Liverpool through his work on the Economic Development Committee, the Megafund Committee and the East Liverpool City Hospital Fund Raising Committee. He has also served as chair of the East Liverpool United Jewish Appeal, co-chair of the Kent State University local branch, and Advanced Gifts Capital Campaign Program. Mr. Feldman was a founder and is currently a director of the First National Community Bank in East Liverpool. In addition, he has served as a trustee and chairman of the East Liverpool City Hospital.

Before beginning his career with New York Life, Marvin attended Ohio State University in Columbus. He and his wife Vicki are the proud parents of two daughters, Terri and Barbi.

Appropriately, Mr. Feldman's outstanding leadership, commitment, and dedication will be honored later this month at a ceremony in Pittsburgh, when he will be named a “Circle of Life Award Honoree” by the Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN WATERS AND FARM LANDS PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Western Waters and Farm Lands Protection Act.

The bill's purpose is to make it more likely that the energy resources in our Western states will be developed in ways that are protective of vital water supplies and respectful of the rights and interests of the agricultural community.

Toward that end, it addresses three aspects of oil and gas development.

First, it establishes clear requirements for proper management of ground water that is extracted in the course of oil and gas development.

Second, it provides for greater involvement of surface owners in plans for oil and gas development and requires the Interior Department to give surface owners advance notice of lease sales that would affect their lands and to notify them of subsequent events related to proposed or ongoing energy development.

Finally, the bill would amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require developers to draft reclamation plans and post reclamation bonds for the restoration of lands affected by oil and gas drilling.

This bill is based on H.R. 3698, which I introduced last December. Since then, I have consulted with people interested in this subject, to see whether further refinements of the legislation would be appropriate. The bill I am introducing today reflects those conversations, and in particular incorporates a change in the wording of section 102 proposed by the Colorado Farm Bureau.

That section deals with application of the Clean Water Act to waters extracted from an underground formation in connection with development of oil and gas, including coalbed methane. The Colorado Farm Bureau was concerned that the wording of the corresponding section in H.R. 3698 might be read as applying to other activities in addition to oil and gas development. That was not my intention, but to remove any doubt on that point, I agreed to the proposed revision, which is included in the bill I am introducing today.

Mr. Speaker, the western United States is blessed with significant energy resources. In appropriate places, and under appropriate conditions, they can and should be developed for the benefit of our country. But it's important to recognize the importance of other resources—particularly water—and other uses of the lands involved—and this bill responds to this need.

Its primary purposes are—(1) to assure that the development of those energy resources in the West will not mean destruction of precious water resources; (2) to reduce potential conflicts between development of energy resources and the interests and concerns of those who own the surface estate in affected lands; and (3) to provide for appropriate reclamation of affected lands.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

One new energy resource is receiving great attention—gas associated with coal deposits,

often referred to as coalbed methane. An October 2000 United States Geological Survey report estimated that the U.S. may contain more than 700 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of coalbed methane and that more than 100 tcf of this may be recoverable using existing technology. In part because of the availability of these reserves and because of tax incentives to exploit them, the West has seen a significant increase in its development.

Development of coalbed methane usually involves the extraction of water from underground strata. Some of this extracted water is reinjected into the ground, while some is retained in surface holding ponds or released and allowed to flow into streams or other water bodies, including irrigation ditches.

The quality of the extracted waters varies from one location to another. Some are of good quality, but often they contain dissolved minerals (such as sodium, magnesium, arsenic, or selenium) that can contaminate other waters—something that can happen because of leaks or leaching from holding ponds or because the extracted waters are simply discharged into a stream or other body of water. In addition, extracted waters often have other characteristics, such as high acidity and temperature, which can adversely affect agricultural uses of land or the quality of the environment.

In Colorado and other states in the arid West, water is scarce and precious. So, as we work to develop our domestic energy resources, it is vital that we safeguard our water—and I believe that clear requirements for proper disposal of these extracted waters are necessary in order to avoid some of these adverse effects. That is the purpose of the first part of the bill.

The bill (in Title I) includes two requirements regarding extracted water.

First, it would make clear that water extracted from oil and gas development must comply with relevant and applicable discharge permits under the Clean Water Act. Lawsuits have been filed in some western states regarding whether or not these discharge permits are required for coalbed methane development. The bill would require oil and gas development to secure permits if necessary and required, like any other entity that may discharge contaminants into the waters of the United States.

Second, the bill would require those who develop federal oil or gas—including coalbed methane—under the Mineral Leasing Act to do what is necessary to make sure their activities do not harm water resources. Under this legislation, oil or gas operations that damage a water resource—by contaminating it, reducing it, or interrupting it—would be required to provide replacement water. For water produced in connection with oil or gas drilling that is injected back into the ground, the bill requires that this must be done in a way that will not reduce the quality of any aquifer. For water that is not reinjected, the bill requires that it must be dealt with in ways that comply with all Federal and State requirements.

And, because water is so important, the bill requires oil and gas operators to make the protection of water part of their plans from the very beginning, requiring applications for oil or gas leases to include details of ways in which operators will protect water quality and quantity and the rights of water users.

These are not onerous requirements, but they are very important—particularly with the

great increase in drilling for coalbed methane and other energy resources in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and other western states.

SURFACE OWNER PROTECTION

In many parts of the country, the party that owns the surface of some land does not necessarily own the minerals beneath those lands. In the West, mineral estates often belong to the federal government while the surface estates are owned by private interests, who typically use the land for farming and ranching.

This split-estate situation can lead to conflicts. And while I support development of energy resources where appropriate, I also believe that this must be done responsibly and in a way that demonstrates respect for the environment and overlying landowners.

The second part of the bill (Title II) is intended to promote that approach, by establishing a system for development of federal oil and gas in split-estate situations that resembles—but is not identical to—the system for development of federally-owned coal in similar situations.

Under federal law, the leasing of federally owned coal resources on lands where the surface estate is not owned by the United States is subject to the consent of the surface estate owners. But neither this consent requirement nor the operating and bonding requirements applicable to development of federally owned locatable minerals applies to the leasing or development of oil or gas in similar split-estate situations.

I believe that there should be similar respect for the rights and interests of surface estate owners affected by development of oil and gas and that this should be done by providing clear and adequate standards and increasing the involvement of these owners in plans for oil and gas development.

Accordingly, the bill requires the Interior Department to give surface owners advance notice of lease sales that would affect their lands and to notify them of subsequent events related to proposed or ongoing developments related to such leases.

In addition, the bill requires that anyone proposing the drill for federal minerals in a split-estate situation must first try to reach an agreement with the surface owner that spells out what will be done to minimize interference with the surface owner's use and enjoyment and to provide for reclamation of affected lands and compensation for any damages.

I am convinced that most energy companies want to avoid harming the surface owners, so I expect that it will usually be possible for them to reach such agreements. However, I recognize that this may not always be the case—and the bill includes two provisions that address this possibility: (1) if no agreement is reached within 90 days, the bill requires that the matter be referred to neutral arbitration; and (2) the bill provides that if even arbitration fails to resolve differences, the energy development can go forward, subject to Interior Department regulations that will balance the energy development with the interests of the surface owner or owners.

As I mentioned, these provisions are patterned on the current law dealing

with development of federally-owned coal in split-estate situations. However, it is important to note one major difference—namely, while current law allows a surface owner to effectively veto development of coal resources, under the bill a surface owner ultimately could not block development of oil or gas underlying his or her lands. This difference reflects the fact that appropriate development of oil and natural gas is needed.

RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

The bill's third part (Titles III and IV) addresses reclamation of affected lands.

Title III would amend the Mineral Leasing Act by adding an explicit requirement that parties that produced oil or gas (including coalbed methane) under a federal lease must restore the affected land so it will be able to support the uses it could support before the energy development. Toward that end, this part of the bill requires development of reclamation plans and posting of reclamation bonds. In addition, so Congress can consider whether changes are needed, the bill requires the General Accounting Office to review how these requirements are being implemented and how well they are working.

And, finally, Title IV would require the Interior Department to—(1) establish, in cooperation with the Agriculture Department, a program for reclamation and closure of abandoned oil or gas wells located on lands managed by an Interior Department agency or the Forest Service or drilled for development of federal oil or gas in split-estate situations; and (2) establish, in consultation with the Energy Department, a program to provide technical assistance to state and tribal governments that are working to correct environmental problems caused by abandoned wells on other lands. The bill would authorize annual appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal 2005 and 2006 for the federal program and annual appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal 2005, 2006, and 2007 for the program of assistance to the states and tribes.

Mr. Speaker, our country is overly dependent on a single energy source—fossil fuels—to the detriment of our environment, our national security, and our economy. To lessen this dependence and to protect our environment, we need to diversify our energy portfolio and increase the contributions of alternative energy sources to our energy mix. However, for the foreseeable future, petroleum and natural gas (including coalbed methane) will remain important parts of a diversified energy portfolio—and I support their development in appropriate areas and in responsible ways. I believe this legislation can move us closer toward this goal by establishing some clear, reasonable rules that will provide greater assurance and certainty for all concerned, including the energy industry and the residents of Colorado, New Mexico, and other Western states. Here is a brief outline of its major provisions:

OUTLINE OF BILL

Section One—This section provides a short title ('Western Waters and Farm Lands Protection Act'), makes several findings about the need for the legislation, and states the bill's purpose, which is "to provide for the protection of water resources and surface estate owners in the development of oil and gas resources, including coalbed methane."

Title I—This title deals with the protection of water resources. It includes three sections:

Section 101 amends current law to specify that an operator producing oil or gas under a federal lease must—(1) replace a water supply that is contaminated or interrupted by drilling operations; (2) assure any reinjected water goes only to the same aquifer from which it was extracted or an aquifer of no better water quality; and (3) to develop a proposed water management plan before obtaining a lease.

Section 102 amends current law to make clear that extraction of water in connection with development of oil or gas (including coalbed methane) is subject to an appropriate permit and the requirement to minimize adverse effects on affected lands or waters.

Section 103 provides that nothing in the bill will—(1) affect any State's right or jurisdiction with respect to water; or (2) limit, alter, modify, or amend any interstate compact or judicial rulings that apportion water among and between different States.

Title II—This title deals with the protection of surface owners. It includes four sections:

Section 201 provides definitions for several terms used in Title II.

Section 202 requires a party seeking to develop federal oil or gas in a split-estate situation to first seek to reach an agreement with the surface owner or owners that spells out how the energy development will be carried out, how the affected lands will be reclaimed, and that compensation will be made for damages. It provides that if no such agreement is reached within 90 days after the start of negotiations the matter will be referred to arbitration by a neutral party identified by the Interior Department.

Section 203 provides that if no agreement under section 202 is reached within 90 days after going to arbitration, the Interior Department can permit energy development to proceed under an approved plan of operations and posting of an adequate bond. This section also requires the Interior Department to provide surface owners with an opportunity to comment on proposed plans of operations, participate in decisions regarding the amount of the bonds that will be required, and to participate in on-site inspections if the surface owners have reason to believe that plans of operations are not being followed. In addition, this section allows surface owners to petition the Interior Department for payments under bonds to compensate for damages and authorizes the Interior Department to release bonds after the energy development is completed and any damages have been compensated.

Section 204 requires the Interior Department to notify surface owners about lease sales and subsequent decisions involving federal oil or gas resources in their lands.

Title III—This title amends current law to require parties producing oil or gas under a federal lease to restore affected lands and to post bonds to cover reclamation costs. It also requires the GAO to review Interior Department implementation of this part of the bill and to report to Congress about the results of that review and any recommendations for legislative or administrative changes that would improve matters.

Title IV—This title deals with abandoned oil or gas wells. It includes three sections:

Section 401 defines the wells that would be covered by the title.

Section 402 requires the Interior Department, in cooperation with the Department of

Agriculture, to establish a program for reclamation and closure of abandoned wells on federal lands or that were drilled for development of federally-owned minerals in split-estate situations. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal years 2005 and 2006.

Section 403 requires the Interior Department, in consultation with the Energy Department, to establish a program to assist states and tribes to remedy environmental problems caused by abandoned oil or gas wells on non-federal and Indian lands. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

IN HONOR OF THE INSTALLATION OF RABBI HOWARD A. STECKER AT TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the House's attention a wonderful event which reflects the vibrancy and dynamism of the Jewish community in my district. On Sunday, March 28, Temple Israel of Great Neck will celebrate the installation of Rabbi Howard A. Stecker as Spiritual Leader.

Originally from Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Rabbi Stecker received a Bachelors Degree in English literature from Columbia University before going on to The Jewish Theological Seminary, where he was ordained in 1992. While in Seminary, he served as a student chaplain at Lenox Hill Hospital, counseling patients of all faiths.

Rabbi Stecker served for 4 years as Assistant Rabbi of the Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, New York, under the leadership of Rabbi Myron Fenster before serving for 7 years as Rabbi of the Jewish Community Center of West Hempstead. In December of 2003, Rabbi Stecker became Rabbi of Temple Israel of Great Neck.

Rabbi Stecker served on the Board of Directors of the Solomon Schechter Day School, in Nassau County. He also played an important role in the formation of its high school and spent 5 years as co-chairman of its education committee. Rabbi Stecker currently serves as President of the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, an organization that provides educational and social opportunities for local Rabbis. Despite his many responsibilities in the community, Rabbi Stecker makes plenty of time to spend with his wife, Deanna, and their three sons, Joshua, Daniel and Zachary.

I commend Rabbi Howard A. Stecker for his continued dedication to Jewish community on Long Island. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating Rabbi Stecker on his appointment as Spiritual Leader of Temple Israel of Great Neck.

RECOGNIZING DEVIN HARRIS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Devin Harris of the University of Wisconsin men's basketball team, who was recently named the 2004 Big Ten Conference player of the year. Devin is only the fifth Badger player in history and the first since 1950 to receive the honor. He led his team to a twenty-four and six record entering the NCAA tournament and a second-place finish in the Big Ten while scoring over twenty points a game. He was also among the Big Ten leaders in assists, steals, assist-to-turnover ratio, and three-point field goal percentage. In addition to being the player of the year, Devin was the only unanimous first team all-conference selection, and was also named the Most Outstanding Player of the Big Ten Tournament after leading the Badgers to the tournament championship, the first in school history.

Beyond statistics and awards, Devin has continually amazed the Badger faithful with his effervescent style of play and penchant for playing even better when it mattered most. His silky smooth ballhandling and signature step-back jump shot contribute to his astounding ability to break down a half-court defense and find a way to score, while his speed and leaping ability have led to some spectacular dunks in transition. His versatile game makes it difficult for one defender to stay with him, which opens up opportunities for his teammates, and he consistently gets them the ball when those opportunities arise. Everyone plays better when Devin is on the court, and that is what makes him a truly special player.

If Badger fans needed any other reason to love Devin, he is also a homegrown talent, coming to UW from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, where he was the state high school player of the year at East High. Even with that, however, it would have been difficult for anyone to predict that he would develop into the player that he has. This past fall, when the Big Ten coaches named him the pre-season conference player of the year, Devin was as surprised as anyone. But there is no surprise left in awards for Devin Harris. No one who saw him play this year could doubt that he deserves this honor, and our recognition.

SONGS OF CUBA, SILENCED IN AMERICA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article by singer-songwriter Jackson Browne, which appeared in yesterday's March 22, 2004, edition of the New York Times. As my colleagues are aware, for nearly three decades, Mr. Browne has been a popular and valuable contributor to American music and culture. Cementing his role and contributions to American culture, last week, on March 15th, Mr. Browne was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

In his article, "Songs of Cuba, Silenced in America," he laments and challenges the current U.S. policy of denying visas to Cuban artists who wish to perform and share their musical art with the U.S. public or who are being honored for their work by their American peers. I couldn't agree more with Mr. Browne when he describes these artists' work as a way for Americans to hear in song a reflection of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the Cuban people—a cultural communication that is frustrated by a U.S. policy which aspires itself to suffocate all such contact and communication.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that when change does come to Cuba we will deeply regret the lack of contact, communication, and genuine understanding between the United States and the people of Cuba. I believe the United States would better prepare for change by encouraging now the free exchange of ideas, the freedom of travel, the rich exchange of culture and heritage between our two peoples, including our artists and ordinary Americans.

I want to thank Mr. Browne for sharing his views and insights, and I commend his article to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

[From the New York Times, March 22, 2004]

SONGS OF CUBA, SILENCED IN AMERICA

(By Jackson Browne)

LOS ANGELES.—Carlos Varela, the great Cuban singer-songwriter, applied for a visa to come to the United States to sing his powerful, amazing songs. He had concerts planned in Miami, New York and Los Angeles. Our government turned him down.

Visas have been denied to other Cuban artists because their visits are "detrimental to the interests" of our country. In essence, the government says that if Carlos Varela plays concerts in the United States, the money he makes would go to Fidel Castro. This is untrue. In Cuba, renowned artists keep much of what they earn, because the government does not want them to leave the country and live somewhere else. Yet, the Bush administration used the same reasoning to keep Ibrahim Ferrer, of the Buena Vista Social Club, and Manuel Galbán from attending the Grammy award ceremony in Los Angeles last month. (Both men won awards.)

It also forced the postponement of concerts by the Spanish flamenco master Paco de Lucía because he plays with Alain Pérez Rodríguez, a Cuban-born bassist. I congratulate the State Department on finally determining that Mr. Pérez is not "detrimental to the interests" of our country, although those of us who were able to reschedule and hear him play this month know that he is a truly dangerous man.

In a profound way, our government takes on the role of oppressor when it tries to control which artists will be allowed access to our minds and our hearts. We may think we are isolating Cuba with our embargo and our travel restrictions, but it is we Americans who are becoming isolated. People travel to Cuba from Australia, Britain, Canada, Italy and Spain—countries we consider staunch allies.

United States foreign policy toward Cuba is unpopular in America, and for good reason. It stops Americans from traveling to Cuba and Cubans from coming into the States. It stops us from sharing medicine with the ill and restricts our ability to sell food to the hungry. This policy is an outdated relic of the cold war and exists only as a political payoff to Republican-leaning Cuban-American voters in Miami.

The policy of punishing Cuba works only when Americans see the angry face of Cuban

repression. But in the face of Carlos Varela, and the language of his music, Americans would not find the mask of a demon, but hear the aspirations of people just like themselves.

Perhaps the most prominent paradox here is that Carlos Varela is known not only for his talent, but also for his courage to speak out through his songs, many of which have been interpreted as critical of the Cuban government.

While these young Cubans respect the accomplishments of their leaders, they are ready, indeed impatient, to run their own affairs. They want freedom for themselves and independence for their country. They want the new Cuba to be created by the Cuban people, not by the United States.

I believe in justice and human rights in the United States and abroad. I am saddened by the treatment by the Cuban government of the political dissidents in their country. I long for the day when there is freedom for both Cubans and Americans to travel in both directions across the Straits of Florida without undue interference by their governments.

I want this freedom not just for artists but for all people, American and Cuban, who live each day in the hope for a just and prosperous future. Giving Carlos Varela a visa to sing in America would be a good way to begin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I unavoidably was absent last Thursday. Had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call 66—"no"; on Roll Call 67—"no"; on Roll Call 68—"yes"; on Roll Call 69—"yes"; on Roll Call 70—"yes"; on Roll Call 71—"yes."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO END PENALTY FOR CITIZENSHIP

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to ensure that family members who have petitioned to immigrate into the United States are not penalized as a result of an award of citizenship to a sponsoring parent or spouse.

My office has been involved in many cases in which my constituents are caught in a contradictory situation. If a legal resident sponsor of immigration applicants becomes a U.S. citizen, the petition he or she filed as a legal permanent resident is essentially moved from the second preference category to the first preference category with accompanying alteration of the category priority date.

While this is not a problem for most, as the wait list for the first preference category is generally shorter, it has become a problem for some, primarily our families from the Philippines. It is here that, unfortunately, the quota for unmarried sons or daughters of American citizens is longer than that for unmarried sons and daughters of legal permanent residents. As a result, the wait time for some petitions is

in fact lengthened, even though their preference status is improved.

My bill will end this unwitting penalty of citizenship and allow the approved petition, originally filed by a legal permanent resident, to keep that given priority date or place in line should a reclassification of a sponsor occur. This will ensure that a family member will not have to wait for a longer period just because his or her petitioner became a U.S. citizen.

We should not continue to penalize both those who we welcome to the responsibility of citizenship and their families. I urge the bill's passage.

HONORING REV. DR. AND MRS.
F.O. HOCKENHULL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan to honor their

Pastor the Rev. Dr. F.O. Hockenhull and First Lady Marion J. Hockenhull for 35 years of dedicated service to the Church community. On Friday, March 26, 2004 the congregation of First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church will gather to honor their Pastor and First Lady during a special dinner to be held at the Holiday Inn located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

1 Cor. 4:1-2 reads: "Let a man consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull have exhibited the character of true Christians. They have dedicated their lives to spreading the word of God to all of mankind. They are leaders who lead by example. They set high standards for themselves and the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Their serious stance on education and the teaching of Christ have helped their church to blossom into one of the most influential church families in the city of Flint. Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull have worked as a team for 35 years of build a strong ministry at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Hockenhull beyond his duties as Pastor is the

President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Leadership and Educational Congress-Flint, Michigan, Associate Director General, National Baptist Congress of Education, and Co-Chair of the Stewardship Commission, National Baptist Convention, USA, to name a few. Proverbs 31:29 reads: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Mrs. Hockenhull is a virtuous wife, mother, and child of God. Her commitment to spreading the gospel of Christ is unwavering. She is an impressive role model for young women. Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull have made sufficient contributions to both the City of Flint and the State of Michigan. The First Trinity Missionary Baptist church family thanks their Pastor and First Lady and so do the citizens of the communities they have inspired. I pray that God will continue to bestow his blessings upon Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull and the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church as they continue their march onward as Christian soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues of the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring two of my dearest friends, Rev. and Mrs. F.O. Hockenhull for 35 years of commendable service to community.