only begin to appreciate, what might have been given to the world by the millions who did not survive. We mourn their loss, to this day. Every fiber of our people, feels their lack. Every family knows pain, including my own—my wife's grandparents and seven of their eight children, were taken and killed.

Mr. President, Israel and the Jewish people owe a debt to the liberators of the death camps, and so does all of humankind. In the face of unspeakable evil, these liberators, from many nations represented here today, showed the human capacity for good. In the face of overwhelming indifference to the suffering of others, they showed compassion. And in the face of cowardice, they shoed bravery and resolve.

We recognize, too, the courage and humanity of Righteous Among the Nations, we refused to look away. People such as Raoul Wallenberg, who saved thousands of Jewish lives, and whose niece, Nane is here with us today. These heroes helped our dry bones live again. Mr. President, the dry bones have lived again not only in the lives of the survivors, but also in two entities established on the ashes of the Holocaust: the United Nations and the modern State of Israel.

The tragedy of the Holocaust was a major impetus in the reestablishment of the Jewish people's home, in its ancient land. As Israel declared in its Declaration of Independence:

The Holocaust, which engulfed millions of Jews in Europe, proved anew the urgency of the reestablishment of the Jewish state. A state which would solve the problem of Jewish homelessness, by opening the gates to all Jews, and lifting the Jewish people to equality in the family of nations.

And indeed, since its establishment, Israel has provided a haven Jews facing persecution anywhere in the world. At the same time, it has built a society, based on the values of democracy and freedom for all its citizens, where Jewish; life and culture and literature and religion and learning—all those things which the Nazis sought to destroy—can flourish and thrive.

The fact that so many survivors came and played their part in the building of the State of Israel, was itself a remarkable fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy. As the prophet said: ''Thus says the Lord: Behold, O my people, I will take you from the graves. I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live in your own land, in the land of Israel.''

Mr. President, if Israel represents one heroic attempt, to find a positive response to the atrocities of the Second World War, the United Nations represents another. The very first clauses of the UN Charter bear witness to the understanding of the founders, that this new international organization must serve as the world's answer to evil, that it comes, and I quote: ''to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,'' to ''reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights'' and ''the dignity and worth of the human person.''

By convening here today in this historic special session, we honor the victims, we pay respect to the survivors, and we pay tribute to the liberators. We convene here today for those who remember, for those who have forgotten, and for those who do not know. But we also convene to remember that the Charter of this United Nations, like Israel's Declaration of Independence, is written in the blood of the victims of the Holocaust. Unbelievable as it seems, there are those who would delete form history, six million murders.

Could anything be worse than to systematically destroy a people, to take the proud Jewish citizens of Vienna, Frankfurt and Vilna and even Tunisia and Libya, to burn their holy books, to steal their dignity, their hair, their teeth; to turn them into numbers, to soap, to the ashes of Treblinka and Dachau? The answer is yes, there is something worse; to do all this and then deny it. To do all this and then take form the victims—and their children and grandchildren—the legitimacy of their grief.

To deny the Holocaust is not only to desecrate the victims and abuse the survivors. It is also to deprive the world of its lessons—lessons which are as crucial toady, as they were 60 years ago.

These lessons are crucial today for three urgent reasons.

First, because today, once again, the plague of anti-Semitism is raising its head. Who could have imagined, that less than 60 years after Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, the Jewish people and Israel would be targets of anti-Semitic attacks, even in the countries that witnessed the Nazi atrocities. Yet this is exactly what is happening. The Holocaust teaches us that while Jews may be the first to suffer from anti-Semitism's destructive hate. They have rarely been the last.

The lessons of the Holocaust are crucial today for a second reason: because today once again we are witnessing, against Jews and other minorities, that same process of delegitimazation and dehumanization, that paved the way to destruction. Let us not forget. The brutal extermination of a people began, not with guns or tanks, but with words, systematically portraying the Jew—the other—as less than legitimate, less than human. Let us not forget this, when we find current newspapers and schoolbooks borrowing caricatures and themes from the Nazi paper Der Sturmer, to portray Jews and Israelis.

And finally these lessons are crucial today, because once again, we are witnessing a violent assault on the fundamental principle of the sanctity of human life. Perhaps the greatest single idea that the Bible has given to humanity, is the simple truth that every man, woman and child, is created in the divine image, and so, is of infinite value. For the Nazis, the value of a man was finite, even pitiful. How much work could he do? How much hair did she have? How many gold teeth? For the Nazis, the destruction of one human being, or of a hundred, a thousand, six million, was of no consequence. It was just a means to an evil end.

Today again, we are pitted against the forces of evil, those for whom human life—whether the civilians they target, or their own youth who they use as weapons—are of no value, nothing but a means to their goals. Our sages teach us that he who takes a single life, it is as if he has taken an entire world.'' No human life is less than a world. No ideology, no political agenda, can justify or excuse the deliberate taking of an innocent life.

Mr. President, for six million Jews, the State of Israel came too late. For them, and for countless others, the United Nations also came too late. But it is not too late, to renew our commitment, to the purposes for which the United Nations was founded. And it is not too late, to work for an international community that will reflect these values fully; that will be uncompromising in combating intolerance against people of all faiths and ethnicities; that will reject moral equivalence; that will call evil by its name.

We will never know whether, if the United Nations had existed then, the Holocaust could have been prevented. But this Special Session today confirms the need for the United Nations, as well as each individual member state, to rededicate to ensuring that it will never happen again. In the context, I wish to commend the Secretary General for his moral voice and leadership in bringing this Special Session to fruition, and my colleague foreign ministers, for their presence here today.

As the number of survivors shrinks all the time, we are on the brink of that moment, when the terrible event will change—from memory, to history. Let all of us gathered here pledge, never to forget the victims, never to abandon the survivors, and never to allow such an event to be repeated.

As the Foreign Minister of Israel, the sovereign state of the Jewish people, I stand before you, to swear, in the name of the victims, the survivors, and all the Jewish people: Never again.

INTRODUCTION OF POVERTY STATS LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY (D–MO), introduce legislation that requires the annual poverty estimate and the National Assessment of Educational Progress to be subject to certain guidelines on the release of the information to the public. I am deeply concerned at what appears to be the politicization of data by the Bush Administration on important issues ranging from worker safety to the dangers of lead paint to emergency contraceptives. Because data regarding poverty and educational progress are essential to lawmakers at all levels of government to implement policies addressing these issues, it is critical that this information is disseminated in an open and timely process.

Two years ago, the Census Bureau decided to break with tradition by releasing its annual poverty estimates on a Friday in Suitland, Maryland, rather than during the middle of the week at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Because that report was expected to announce the loss of millions of jobs, the questionable circumstances regarding the release of those statistics led myself and Representative Clay to seek an investigation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) as to why the Census Bureau made its decision. We should not be playing politics with science, which is why I believe this legislation is so important.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 26, which recognizes the significant contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen to our national security and honors their service to a grateful Nation.

As an aviator myself, I have had the honor each year to join some of the Nation's most distinguished military aviators at an event known as "The Gathering of the Eagles." At those events, I have met many of the Tuskegee Airmen, and can personally attest to

their character. These men are outstanding military heroes who gave so much to this Nation and set such an outstanding example for future generations of aviators. Several of them are in the pictures produced there each year hanging in my office.

These African American men, determined to do their part to serve their Nation during World War II, enlisted to serve their Nation at a time when segregation limited opportunities. But they were given a chance to excel in the military. During World War II, they completed 15,500 missions, destroyed over 260 enemy aircraft, sank one enemy destroyer, and demolished numerous enemy installations. They destroyed more than 100 German aircraft while building an unprecedented record of flying with more than 200 bomber escort missions—all without the loss of a bomber. That is a huge feat.

Every bit as important, they set an example for millions of Americans of every color, encouraging others to pursue careers in air and space technology. It is time this Nation give this distinguished group of aviators the credit and honor they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing these fine men and their achievements.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS AUTHORITY SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Boy Scouts of America and their right to congregate in facilities such as military bases. It has been a long tradition within the organization that the Scouts work hand in hand with local communities which includes cooperation with agencies such as the Armed Forces. The Boy Scouts of America have been promoting courage, self-reliance, and family virtues throughout this country for almost a century.

The Boy Scouts have always held a special place in my heart because in 1951, my father started Boy Scout Troup 108—the first Boy Scout organization in Westminster, SC. As a matter of fact, one of the first service projects of this troop was to raise the American Flag over the Westminster Post Office. We see Boy Scout troops perform similar patriotic acts throughout the country yet they are denied the right to come together on our military bases. That just doesn't make sense.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in showing support for an organization that has done countless good deeds in each of our communities and pass H. Con. Res. 6.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. DELOIS JACKSON WILKINSON

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, as we observe Black History month, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life of Mrs. DeLois Jackson Wilkinson of Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Wilkinson was a physical therapist, school board member and local community activist. Often referred to as "Miss Civil Rights," she was among the many brave leaders who participated in the civil rights movement to make this country a better place not only for black Americans, but for all citizens. When she passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2004 at the age of 80, our country lost a dedicated advocate and a dear friend.

Mrs. Wilkinson's energy, passion, and perseverance endeared her to all. Born in Fayette County, Tennessee in 1924, Mrs. Wilkinson was one of eight children. She attended Lemoyne College in Memphis and graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where she became a physical therapist at Meharry Medical College. She and her husband, Fred Wilkinson, had five children whom they raised during the tumultuous civil rights era and whom they struggled to protect from the harsh realities of life in the South.

Frustrated by the inequalities of segregation, Mrs. Wilkinson worked hard to ensure that she, her children and other black Americans would some day experience the joys of true freedom. She often told a story about going to a downtown department store in Nashville with her young son and passing a restaurant with a play area set up for children. Her son desperately wanted to go in, but to shield him from the harsh truth that he was not allowed, she simply told him that they were in too much of a rush. Mrs. Wilkinson recalled years later that she hated having to lie to her son. Fueled by her desire for equal rights, she helped organize sit-in demonstrations at downtown Nashville lunch counters, and in 1963 and 1983, she participated in the historic civil rights marches on Washington, DC.

As a member of the Board of Education in Nashville, Mrs. Wilkinson advocated for quality education for all children. When asked to serve as a board member, she said that the question of "why Johnny can't read needs to be answered." Because "Johnny does not teach himself," she stressed the responsibility of the school board, administration and teachers to ensure that "Johnny" and others had access to a proper education.

A tireless advocate, Mrs. Wilkinson devoted a lifetime to improving the lives of others. As we celebrate Black History Month, who better to recognize than Mrs. Wilkinson—an extraordinary Nashvillian who provided energy and a sense of purpose to her community, compassion and hope to the poor and sick, and promise for a better future to the repressed.

On behalf of the fifth district of Tennessee, I send my deepest condolences to Mrs. Wilkinson's family and loved ones. May we all take to heart the philosophy she lived by—that "every person should contribute positively during their lifetime to the betterment and spiritual life on earth. "

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LEONE ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE PUBLIC POWER COUNCIL

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure it comes as no surprise to my colleagues that I have a special appreciation for those that are unafraid to speak their mind, expose absurd policies for what they are, and bluntly and forcefully announce when the emperor has no clothes.

It is with mixed feelings, therefore, that I speak to my colleagues today on the upcoming retirement of Jerry Leone from the helm of the Public Power Council—the regional organization representing the interests of the customers of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Jerry is one of those rare individuals willing to provide unvarnished opinions. But she has more than the ability to distill complex issues into clear and unvarnished analysis and critique. Jerry provides clear insights, bold ideas and an uncanny ability to herd the often disparate interests within public power.

Jerry has been at the helm of PPC for more than a decade, guiding the region's public power systems through numerous challenges, including treatment of the region's aluminum plants, skyrocketing electricity rates, the West Coast energy crisis, formation of a Regional Transmission Organization, ESA listings and a review of the future of Bonneville. Public power, the region and the Northwest delegation are fortunate to have had the benefit of Jerry's insights and efforts throughout this effort.

Jerry is not merely a public power icon. She's a lawyer, a wannabe lineman, a retired member of the Coast Guard Reserves, an accordion player, and a journalistic wit.

I wish her the best in her retirement and thank her for her advocacy and tenacity expressed through numerous wry comments, witty insights and cogent observations.

VETERANS SELF-EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Veterans Self-Employment Act," legislation to establish a five-year pilot program that allows our Nation's servicemembers, veterans, national guardsman, reservists, and qualified others to use part of their VA educational assistance programs to defray legitimate training costs associated with obtaining a business franchise.

Mr. Speaker, franchising is an enormous component of the United States economy. According to a study conducted by International Franchise Association Educational Foundation, nearly 760,000 franchised businesses generate jobs for more than 18 million Americans annually, comprising nearly 14 percent of the Nation's private-sector employment and accounting for $1.53 trillion in economic output. Over 75 industries utilize the franchise model