The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God eternal, we are but transient creatures longing for permanence in the midst of mortality. Yet You made yourself known to us in countless ways. Give us faith to see beyond this life and embrace the hope of immortality.

Make each of us instruments of Your great providence as we strive to bring peace to those in conflict. So move that the work done by our Nation’s lawmakers brings the breaking of arrows, the scattering of spears, and the cessation of conflict. God of the ages, slow our hectic lives so we may hear Your still small voice.

And now Lord, as we prepare to honor Presidents Washington and Lincoln this coming weekend, we give You thanks for blessing this Nation with such faithful leaders. President Washington’s sacrificial service in a time of great need and President Lincoln’s courage in facing tragic obstacles reflect the wisdom that comes from an unwavering faith in Your sovereign grace. God bless this land. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WASHINGTON’S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BERR, is designated to read Washington’s Farewell Address.

Mr. BERR. Mr. President, I am honored today to take part in the Senate’s annual tradition of reading George Washington’s farewell address to the Nation. I am truly humbled to add my name to the list of Senators who have been privileged to read the address.

The address, delivered by Washington in the form of an open letter to his fellow countrymen, appeared in newspapers across our young Nation over 200 years ago. Then, as now, we struggle sometimes with Washington’s words. We debate meaning and we debate intent, but perhaps our discourse is what Washington himself intended. Our independence and our freedom is, in fact, the source of our strength.

I believe that the address is President Washington’s call for Americans to look beyond divisions and to gain strength in our unity of purpose.

Washington’s Farewell Address to the people of the United States of America:

To the people of the United States:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect.
for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a signal of divine approbation to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at that time disposed to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of that trust, I will not judge that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience, in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and, every day, the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as any circumstance of our country finds the most suitable at home, your peace abroad, of independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your prosperity, of your affections. The name of American, which not unfrequently, want of success and successes.

The acceptance of, and continuance for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at that time disposed to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

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strength or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in the preservation of the general credit, and the general credit cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their union by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value: they must derive from union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise, they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main support of your liberty; and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind; and exhibit the constitution of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for the suspicion of a real difference of interest. You cannot shield yourselves which, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction; and whatever may be its extent under whatever plausible character; and whether inconspicuous or vexatious,associate members of one geographic community; and, according to the alternating triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of the concurrent and sagacious plans digested by common councils, and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely to be the means of producing things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is required not only that the disinterested and benevolent spirit which has demonstrated its indispensability; that it will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that in the human mind are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments as of other human institutions, that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country, that facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypotheses and opinion exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypotheses and opinion; and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable; liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human heart; and in an equal degree aiding combinations and associations of the most opposite kinds; in the rising, collegiate, and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternating triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of the concurrent and sagacious plans digested by common councils, and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely to be the means of producing things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.
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The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dis- sension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which re- sult gradually incline the minds of men to security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and, sooner or later, the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this dis- position to the purpose of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an ex- tremity of this kind, (which never- theless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are suffi- cient to make it in the interest and duty of every wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the pub- lic councils, and enfeeble the public ad- ministration. It agitates the commun- ity with its fondled jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, forges occa- sional riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and cor- ruption, which finds a facilitated ac- cess to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of lib- erty. This within certain limits is prob- ably true—and in governments of a monarchical cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tend- ency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant dan- ger of excess, the effort ought to be made by public opinion to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to pre- vent it bursting into a flame, lest it de- stroy the foundations of government.

It is important likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those en- trusted with its administration to con- fine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one depart- ment to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to con- solidate the powers of all the depart- ments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotic power, which is essential to its existence. To cure this evil, it is necessary to distribute the power and to render it incapable of being握ed.
the animosity of the nation’s subservient to projects of hostility, instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty of nations, has been the victim. So gratuitous, an attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists and instilling into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducements or justifications. It leads also to concessions, to the favorite nation, of privilege denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions, by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal indulgence is withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country, without odium, sometime with facility, by combining with the appearances of virtues sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or patriotism.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or aye the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation, dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove, that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive for one foreign nation, excessive dislike for another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence, she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to imitate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation, when we may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

Why forgo the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to embrace another, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it, for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. (I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy)—I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion, it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand: neither seeking nor granting exclusive privileges; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course, the rules of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them, conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another—that is must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character—that by such acceptance, it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalent mutual benefit of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must correct, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affec tionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish—that they will control the usual current of the passions or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But if I may even flatter myself that they may appear the fruit of some occasional good, that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impurities of pretended patriotism—this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles which have directed the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is, that I have, at least, believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793 is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in Congress and confirmed by that of an old and affectionate friend, that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take, and was bound in duty and interest to take—a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverance and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being hallowed by self of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.
The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress, without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the influence of the laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the more than 8,000 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide. These schools, which serve over 2.6 million students, are a vibrant force in our country’s educational and spiritual life.

During the month of February every year, communities throughout Nevada and the Nation celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. Sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, this annual national celebration provides an opportunity to acknowledge the important work of these schools in helping educate our Nation’s children.

One day during this week, National Appreciation Day for Catholic School Teachers, specifically recognizes the hard work and dedication of the more than 163,000 educators who work in Catholic schools. The work of our Nation’s educators is too often overlooked, but it could not be more important. I know I would not be where I am today without one of my high school teachers, Mike O’Callaghan. I am glad that National Catholic Schools Week provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of those individuals who serve as the foundation of our schools.

Nevada has contributed significantly to the education of my State’s students for several decades. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a few of the schools that will be celebrating special anniversaries this year.

The oldest Catholic high school in Nevada, Bishop Gorman High School, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. The oldest Catholic school in Nevada, however, is St. Joseph School, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. St. Christopher, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Viator Elementary Schools also will all mark their 40th anniversary this year. These and the other Catholic schools in the State have long served Nevada well, and I am sure they will continue to for many years to come.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

GLOBAL WARMING

Ms. SNOWE. I rise today as lead co-sponsor of S.J. Res. 5, the Feinstein-Snowe joint resolution that authorizes the Secretary of State to engage in efforts with other Federal agencies to lead international negotiations to mitigate the impacts of global warming. One recommendation is for the United States to take actions to reduce manmade greenhouse gas emissions believed by the majority of internationally renowned scientists to being climate changes around the globe.

I support this resolution because ongoing scientific peer-reviewed research demonstrates that climate change is one of the most significant environmental and economical issues of the 21st century. Yet, I have grave concerns that our government, to borrow from the image of Nero, is fiddling as the planet warms.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol on climate change officially entered into force, with 141 States and regional economic integration organizations depositing instruments of ratifications, accessions, approvals or acceptances with the United Nations. The treaty, which will require mandatory cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by industrialized countries starting in 2008, represents a watershed moment for international action on climate change.

The Protocol was agreed to by governments at a 1997 U.N. conference in Kyoto, Japan, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by developed countries by 5.2 percent of 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. Even with the Kyoto Protocol going into effect, it is obvious that new and longer term ideas for securing international cooperation are necessary as we cannot get to the heart of this global problem without the world’s major economies at the table. The United States and Australia have not ratified the Protocol, and developing countries, while signatories to Kyoto, are not required to make cuts. This includes large, rapidly industrializing economies such as China, India, and Brazil.

The Kyoto Protocol only required the largest, first group of emissions sectors to meet emissions goals. Developing and emerging economies that failed to meet the Kyoto goals have not been held accountable for their historical greenhouse gas emissions. To prevent the impacts of global warming, we must move beyond the Kyoto Protocol to a comprehensive framework that is both inclusive and fair. The report also calls for the establishment of a long-term objective of preventing global average temperature rise from rising more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit—(2 degrees Centigrade)—above the pre-industrial level by the end of the century, and this same provision is contained in the Feinstein-Snowe Resolution.

Mr. President, the taskforce arrived at the 2 degrees Centigrade—or 3.6 degree Fahrenheit—temperature increase...
our industries. Again, the ICCT re-

Our report goes on to say that, “Cli-

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The Feinstein-Snowe resolution in-

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Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I con-

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Computer-aided translation would not be sufficient to create the natural representation of this document.
The Niagara Movement was the forerunner to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was founded in 1905 by a group of black intellectuals, led by W.E.B. DuBois, John Hope, and William Monroe Trotter, who called for civil liberties, an end to racial discrimination and recognition of human brotherhood.

In my home State of California, you will find many African American leaders who have contributed to the legacy set forth by the Niagara Movement. They are true humanitarians and epitomize the ideals of the civil rights movement.

I would first like to recognize Roy Willis, a resident of my hometown of San Francisco, for his 35 years of history-making contributions to California and over 45 years of service to our nation as a civil rights pioneer.

In 1958, Roy Willis ended racial segregation at the University of Virginia by becoming its first African American student.

In 1967, he went on to Harvard Business School to earn his MBA. While at Harvard he organized and co-founded the Harvard Business School African American Student Union over strenuous objection of the school’s administration. Despite their objections, the AASU was able to convince the administration that it needed to do more to recruit African American students.

Thanks to the pioneering efforts of Mr. Willis, the Harvard Business School AASU has helped to graduate thousands of African American MBAs over the past 36 years. It has produced many of today’s brightest leaders, and continues to create the leaders of tomorrow.

Roy moved to northern California after earning his MBA in 1969. In the early 1970s he became one of the founding members of BAPAC, the Black Americans Political Action Committee. He has served on the board of directors of BAPAC and the Black Economic Development Fund, which provides loans to black entrepreneurs, since 1981.

In 1981, Mr. Willis purchased The Spokesman, an African American newspaper in the Bay Area. As publisher and editor of the newspaper for 25 years, Mr. Willis has pursued the publishing of the paper as an instrument of the civil rights movement.

Bishop Brookins is a local hero in the Los Angeles area. He was appointed the First AME Church, the oldest black church in Los Angeles. In 1967, Reverend Murray was assigned to First AME Church, the oldest black church in Los Angeles. His new church had 500 active members when he arrived. Under his leadership the congregation has multiplied to over 17,000 members.

Reverend Murray has helped First AME Church to develop a program called “Beyond the Walls,” which consists of close to 40 task forces that help deal with issues affecting the congregation and community as a whole. Each member joins a task force to help take the effort to every corner of the community.

Dr. Murray has exhorted his congregation to go beyond Bible studies and reach out to build 2,000 units of low-income housing, provide thousands of jobs, expand neighborhood food programs and educate young people through college scholarships and its own elementary schools.

Though Reverend Murray retired last year, ending his illustrious 27-year tenure as leader of First AME Church, he has left an indelible mark on the community.

Each of these leaders has made a profound impact which reaches far beyond their local communities. They are just a few of the many who have given their blood, sweat, and tears to make America a better place for themselves and for their children.

They have had many successes, but the struggle is not over. We can always do better, and these heroes fight every day for the civil rights movement and to make America a more perfect union.

Mr. President, I am pleased to take the time today during Black History Month to honor these individuals and the many tremendous contributions that African Americans make every day to our society.

AgJOBS ACT OF 2005

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, on February 10, I introduced S. 359, the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act of 2005—AgJOBS. I ask that materials I am submitting in support of that bill be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

The Need for AgJOBS Legislation—Now, February 2005

Americans need and expect a stable, predictable, legal workforce in American agriculture. Willing American workers deserve a system that puts them first in line for available jobs with fair, market wages. All workers deserve decent treatment and protection of basic rights under the law. Consumers deserve a safe, stable, domestic food supply. American citizens and taxpayers deserve secure, more than half is made up of workers not legally authorized to work here—according to a conservative estimate by the Department of Labor, based, astounding, on self-disclosure in worker surveys, Reasonable private sector estimates run to 75 percent or more.

With stepped-up documentation enforcement by the Social Security Administration and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (the successor to the old INS), persons working here without legal documentation are not leaving, but just being scattered. The work force is being constantly and increasingly disrupted. Ag
employers want a legal work force and must have a stable work force to survive—but Federal law actually punishes “too much diligence” in checking worker documentation. Some employers are going out of business, lacking workers to work their crops at critical times.

Undocumented workers are among the most vulnerable workers in our country. They know they must live in hiding, not attract attention at work, and move furtively. They cannot claim the most basic legal rights and protections that American citizens have. Workers to work their crops at critical times.

The employer must provide housing at no cost to the workers. All workers in job opportunities covered by the H-2A program, including guest workers, who do not participate in the program must be provided with housing at no cost to the employers. During the period of temporary residence, workers who do not participate in the program must be provided with housing at no cost to the employers.

This section modifies the existing H-2A temporary and seasonal foreign agricultural worker program. Employers seeking to employ H-2A foreign workers in seasonal jobs (10 months or less) will file an application and a job offer with the Secretary of Labor. The application and job offer must meet the requirements of the program and there are no obvious deficiencies the Secretary must apply for adjustment to permanent resident status. Unauthorized workers who do not meet all eligibility requirements for adjustment to permanent resident status may be employed temporarily. When in temporary resident status, workers may select their employers and may switch employers during the period of temporary resident status.

The employer must provide housing at no cost to the workers. All workers in job opportunities covered by the H-2A program, including guest workers, who do not participate in the program must be provided with housing at no cost to the employers. During the period of temporary residence, workers who do not participate in the program must be provided with housing at no cost to the employers.
the Governor of a State has determined that there is sufficient migrant housing available, to workers whose place of residence is beyond normal commuting distance. The employers must meet specific motor vehicle safety standards.

H-2A foreign workers are admitted for the duration of the initial job, not to exceed 10 months, and may extend their stay if rehired for seasonal or other work. A maximum continuous stay of 3 years, after which the H-2A foreign worker must depart the United States. H-2A foreign workers are authorized to travel more than 100 miles to come to work and transportation costs to workers who travel more than 100 miles to come to work that are beyond normal commuting distance. The employer must also provide the worker with a counterfeit resistant travel document.

H-2A foreign workers are eligible to extend their stay if retained by the same employer for employment requirements and who travel more than 100 miles to come to work from their place of residence. H-2A foreign workers are provided with a counterfeit resistant travel document.

The Governor of a State has determined that there is no advantage over other, legal immigrants, with regard to the timing and eligibility of means-tested public benefits.

Technical clarifications have been made to carry out the authors’ original intent to allow appropriate appropriations, not create or imply mandatory spending, to administer the Act.

CARDINAL THEODORE McCARRICK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, at the end of last year, Marcelle and I attended an event at Georgetown University where Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was awarded a honorary degree.

Everyone present at this ceremonial occasion was captured by the remarks that the archbishop gave in accepting the degree. He artfully wove us through three stories to demonstrate the importance of a Catholic university in the Jesuit tradition.

So this year, my colleagues have an opportunity to review the remarks of Cardinal McCarrick, and because of the admiration I have for him, I ask that his acceptance speech at the award of his honorary degree from Georgetown University be printed in the Record.

The material follows:

REMARKS BY THEODORE CARDINAL McCARRICK, D.D., PH.D., ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEIVING AN HONORARY DEGREE, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER 1, 2004

As Father Brian (McDermott) was reading those wonderful words and as the president repeated them, I thought of the wonderful Jesuit who taught me to look to God’s ears.” I just hope the Lord doesn’t get mad that you said all those nice things about me. Dr. President, Dr. Villani, Chair of the Board, members of the board, Your Excellency, The Apostolic Nuncio [Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo] and my brother bishops, my—I guess I should say my colleague and my own family— and I say that with great joy.

I want to begin by telling you sincerely how honored I am in receiving this degree from Georgetown. I’ve long regarded this institution as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. During my four years in Washington, I’ve always felt part of the Georgetown community. To receive its degree now is a very special joy for me, and I want you all to know how much I do appreciate it.

I have tremendous respect for your president, Dr. DeGioia. I was privileged to be present at his inauguration, and to prophesy at that time that he would lead this institution to a continuing growth in the realization of its mission as a Catholic university in the Jesuit tradition. My prophecy is coming true every day.

My respect for the Society of Jesus goes back to my early years of high school when I first realized that I found myself going to two of their high schools, not at the same time, but one after the other until I finally got it transferred to my own. My own education in high school and college has been much enhanced by the excellence of the ratio studiorum and by its theology. It has been a value for which I am so very grateful, and through which I have been so very blessed. As a matter of fact, since the rector of Georgetown is my model of a Jesuit, I am thank- ing from the Society and appreciating that wisdom and insight so very much.

My relationship to Georgetown, as I began to attempt a moment of the life of a visitor in a Catholic institution. The local bishop is always part of any enterprise which is related to the Church. A university such as ours is clearly one of the great boons and glories of our Catholic community here in Washington. I have been here many times during the last four years. I’ve enjoyed that privilege. I’ve been here for academic celebra-

sions, for lectures, for interfaith mo-

tion to greater heights of excellence and to a larger.

I respect the Jesuits, according to the rule of
to society’s understanding of what Georgetown is all about. I pray that they are not only the Catholic institution. A university such as Georgetown, in its stated mis-

tion, sees itself truly and essentially as a

Catholic mission in the Jesuit tradition.

That fact opens its life to many wonderful challenges and many opportunities. It is a place where Catholic scholars may freely exercise a faithful witness to what the Church teaches. It is a place where non-

Catholic scholars and professors, who add so much to the life of this institution, can pursue their own fields of study with the assurance that truth is the master here, and that its pursuit is always welcome. Their understand-

standing of the mission of this institution adds so much to society’s understanding of what Georgetown is all about. I pray that they are not only the Catholic institution. A university such as Georgetown, in its stated mission, sees itself truly and essentially as a Catholic mission in the Jesuit tradition.

This has always been one of the great roles of the Society of Jesus, and I pray it will continue always to honor so beauty the play roles of leadership in our country, has an equal importance because it enables the leaders of tomorrow to learn about us, about the Church, and to understand our own Catholic mission in this complex society.

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The preparation of Catholic leaders for the future of our nation is a noble role. The preparation of those who are not Catholic in the sense of own our own bureaucratic role play roles of leadership in our country, has an equal importance because it enables the leaders of tomorrow to learn about us, about the Church, and to understand our own Catholic mission in this complex society.

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in a special way to find graduates of George-town hearing the Lord's call to service in priestly and religious ministry. This, too, is a measure of our Catholic life and of our deep Jesuit tradition. I want to speak briefly tonight about the global importance or the international aspect of every great university is caring. The mark of every great Catholic university is wonder. The first, the one which we can call the humanistic, takes place in Africa, which have made a difference in my life. The second, the role of a Catholic university demands a sense of wonder, that sense of caring. A great university such as Georgetown is, to every great Catholic university is caring. The mark of every great university is global importance or the international aspect of who we are as God's one human family. The second which takes place in Asia, and which is the only one that I relate second hand, is a story that reminds us of the need for wonder in every Catholic life. And finally, the story of an extraordinary Catholic educator, who is a Jesuit, a story from Eastern Europe, will bring us out of the box. Let me tell you these three stories.

Two years ago when I was a young bishop, I was sent on a mission to the Sudan for Catholic Relief Services. I tell this story because I think it is a big moment in my own life and has many layers. I think that what I have seen and heard will affect the university and its life. I was fascinated by the Sudan. I had never been in that part of Africa. I met priests, I met bishops. I met Muslim leaders. I met poor. One day, one of the priests said, "If you have half a week, we'll go across the Nile and go beyond Umdar." (Undamar, if you used to know the world, it is where Kindar- en had that great battle and Lord Gordon was killed.) So I said, "Sure." We went across the Nile, which itself is a great experience, we got off the boat, I was the only one that I relate second hand, is a story that reminds us of the need for wonder in every Catholic life. And finally, the story of an extraordinary Catholic educator, who is a Jesuit, a story from Eastern Europe, will bring us out of the box. Let me tell you these three stories.

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sure of him, so the lamp in his one-room bed-
room apartment was wired. They listened to all of his conversations.
He has wonderful stories to tell about playing the piano to see that the neighbors com-
plained, but at least he could have conversations then. Gradually, he began to do things that he had been able to do before, and although the iron curtain fell, he was acknowledged as a bishop. He went down to see the Holy Fa-
ther. The Holy Father told him that he was to be ordained in the diocese of Nitra, which is the diocese of St. Methodius, of the great Sts. Cyril and Methodius, one of those great wonderful sees.
About two years after that I was in Slo-
vakia and I was talking to one of the vice-
presidents of the Slovak parliament who was a Catholic. I was talking about those tough days of the communist regime. And I said, “How did you ever get your edu-
cation?” He said, “I went to the university. I said, ‘Which one?’” He said, “I went to Korec University.” I said, “What do you mean?” He said, “Every Saturday when we had off—because they had to work on Sun-
day. Every Saturday which was the day we’d pack some salami and some beer and go up into the hills and Father Korec would have classes. All day long, I would sit, and he would use the University Church of the Catholic Social Thought, about philosophy, about theology.” And this man said to me, “I know the things that I learned there are more important than was asked or expected of him. He was a loving husband and proud father who devoted himself to his family and their well-being. He was also a brave soldier with a devotion to his country, who died a hero while protecting his fellow soldiers.
As the youngest of three children, Specialist Rymer was born and spent his early childhood in Fort Smith, AR. He was a shy kid but had a gift for making others laugh and was always quick to make friends. In many ways, he was a typical teenager, who enjoyed hanging out with his friends, with whom he shared a love for fishing and hunting. The young student who went to high school in Ro-
land, OK, a small town just 5 miles west of Fort Smith. Although he studied small engines at a vocational tech school half a day during his junior and senior years, he remained focused on getting his high school diploma on time, with his friends and with his class. In 1999, he did just that.
Following high school, Specialist Rymer worked construction and later joined the National Guard. His grandfather had retired from the Air Force, and he began con-
 sidering enrolling in airborne school or making a career out of the Army. He was proud to serve his country but, more importantly, he wanted to make a better life for him and his family; his wife LaTisha and son Sean.
March of last year brought a wel-
come addition to the Rymer’s: a baby daughter Jasmine. What should have been a Joyous time for the family was proved to be bittersweet. Just as Jas-
mine was born into the world, her fa-
ther was on a plane heading for Kuwait and service in Operation Iraqi Free-
dom.

Specialist Rymer was assigned to the National Guard’s 239th Engineering Company under the 39th Infantry Bri-
gade, based out of Boonesville. Al-
though he was a world away, he was proud to serve in Iraq with the 39th, a Brigade made up of 4,200 soldiers, in-
cluding over 3,000 Arkansans. He also found comfort in the regular conversa-
tions he had with his family, usually on the weekends, when he could check on their welfare and let them know about the experience he was having.

In November, Specialist Rymer earned for his service will serve as a reminder of the courageous and selfless way in which he lived his life. To LaTisha, memories of the time spent with her soldier, who was so proud of the family they built together will remind her of so much more. Al-
though Sean and Jasmine may not be able to fully comprehend the meaning of their father’s sacrifice or realize the impact he had on so many others, their thoughts and prayers will be forever grateful for his service and for the sac-
rifice he made on behalf of us all.
TRIBUTE TO BRIAN HOPPER

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life of a courageous young man from the State of Arkansas, and to pay tribute to the sacrifice he made on behalf of our way of life. Brian Hopper lived his life with an energy, sense of adventure, and spirit that we can only admire. These were the qualities he displayed throughout his childhood, playing and hunting in the woods around his home in northeast Arkansas. They were also the qualities that ultimately drew him to a military service, bravely defending freedom in a land he had never known.

Lance Corporal Hopper grew up just outside of the small Arkansas town of Wynne. Like other boys his age, he enjoyed growing up in the countryside; spending his time in the woods and trails near his home. Much of this time was spent with his hunting buddy, his father Rob, who taught him how to shoot when he was six. Together, they could often be found fishing or looking for deer, squirrels, and rabbits.

At Wynne High School, Lance Corporal Hopper was a member of the drama club and the school’s broadcast journalism program where he helped produce the daily news program. He graduated in the Spring of 2002, and it was clear to friends and family that his next step would be enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps. Although he was turned down by Marine Corps recruiters in Arkansas because of recent reconstructive knee surgery, this resilient young man would not be detoured. Instead, he made the trip to neighboring Mississippi and met with a new set of recruiters. He never mentioned his knee surgery and was allowed to enlist in September of 2002. He would go on to attend the School of Infantry in January of 2003, where he trained to become a riflemen.

Lance Corporal Hopper made a brief trip home during Christmas of 2003, following the completion of boot camp. It was quickly apparent to his family that he not only matured physically, but he also spoke and acted differently. The young man they had watched grow up over the years was now truly a marine, and his father couldn’t have been more proud.

As a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lance Corporal Hopper was deployed to the war zone last summer and quickly earned the reputation of a tough, loyal soldier who repeatedly rose above the call of duty. During military operations in Fallujah, he earned his first Purple Heart after taking on incoming fire. The flak jacket he was wearing saved him from serious injury, and possibly death. Soon after, he earned yet another Purple Heart from much more severe wounds. After razing an Iraqi home and shooting an armored insurgent, he was struck by an exploding grenade that left shrapnel in his knee, leg, arm, and face. Although his wounds were severe enough to have him airlifted to Germany, he chose to stay in Iraq with his unit. His personal safety was an afterthought to the loyalty he had for his comrades and the mission before them. Although he still carried pieces of shrapnel in him, he would carry on the fight. It was a testament to the courage and determination of our troops.

On January 26, he boarded a CH-53E helicopter on a routine mission to help guard the Syrian border for the Iraqi elections. Tragically, the helicopter crashed amid severe weather conditions in western Iraq. All 31 soldiers aboard were killed, and it was destined to become the deadliest day of the war thus far for American forces.

Lance Corporal Hopper’s brother, Patrick, who was also serving in Iraq as a marine lance corporal, would accompany his brother’s body on that final flight home from Dover Air Force Base to Memphis. Emergency vehicles would shut down every intersection between Memphis and Wynne and allow the two brothers to return home to their family.

On the day of Lance Corporal Hopper’s funeral, the State flag was flown at half-mast over the State Capitol in Little Rock. Along the 12-mile procession from the memorial service to the Ris Chapel Cemetery, friends, neighbors and mourners lined the streets to show their respect and to honor this fallen Arkansas hero. Many held American flags high, many saluted, and others held their right hands over their heart.

At his final resting place, Lance Corporal Hopper was buried with full military honors. It was just a short walk from the home and the woods where he had spent his childhood, and it served as a reminder of how very far he had come in his life. The courageous and honorable way in which he lived his 21 years is a testament to the kind of person he was. When we think of Brian Hopper, we will think of this legacy, and will be reminded of how we are forever grateful to this brave young man for the sacrifice he made on behalf of freedom, and on behalf of us all. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and to all those who knew and loved him.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)
Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2004 Annual report on Programmatic and Financial Performances; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1059. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1060. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adoption and Promotion of State Implementation Plans; Texas; Revision to the Rate of Progress plan for the Houston/Galveston (HGA) Ozone Nonattainment Area” (FRL7687-1) received on February 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1061. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the status of the Commission’s licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1062. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the status of the issuance of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (FRL No. 1069-1) received on February 15, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1063. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Protection of the Savannah River Site’s Waste Landfill Program” (FRL7682-1) received on February 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1064. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans: Texas; Revision to Control Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Consumer Related Sources” (FRL7681-7) received on February 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1065. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans: West Virginia; Revised Format of 40 CFR Part 52 for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference” (FRL No. 7861-3) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1066. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan Maricopa County Environmental Services Department” (FRL7860-8) received on February 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1067. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “South Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision” (FRL7670-2) received on February 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1068. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Ambassadors Consulates” (RIN1000-1A94; 1400-AB85) to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1069. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an international agreement other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1070. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “United States Standards for Wheat” (RIN0580-1A86) received on February 16, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1071. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Brucellosis in Swine; Add Arkansas, Louisiana, and Michigan to List of Validated Brucellosis Free States” (Doc. No. 94-103-2) received on February 16, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1072. A communication from the Director, Child Nutrition Division, Special Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Child and Adult Care Food Program; Increasing the Duration of Tiering Determinations for DC’s "Home’s Program"; amendment to the November 2, 2003, rule” (RIN0580-1A86) received on February 16, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. FRINGOLD):

S. 457. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance for, and provide oversight of, the management of micropurchases made with Governmentwide commercial purchase cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 458. A bill to amend part A title IV of the Social Security Act to give States the option to create a program that allows individuals receiving temporary assistance to needy families to obtain post-secondary or longer duration vocational education; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 459. A bill to require a study and report regarding the designation of a new interstate route from Savannah, Georgia to Knoxville, Tennessee; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 460. A bill to expand and enhance benefits for members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 461. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require that a member of the uniformed services who is wounded or otherwise injured while serving in a combat zone continue to be paid monthly military pay and allowances, while the member is recovering from the wound or injury, at least equal to the monthly military pay and allowances the
member received immediately before receiving the wound or injury, to continue the combat zone tax exclusion for the member during the recovery period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:
S. 462. A bill to deauthorize the project for navigation, Tonawanda Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SNOWE:
S. 463. A bill to deauthorize the project for navigation, Northeast Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:
S. 464. A bill to modify the project for navigation, Union River, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:
S. 465. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out a project for the mitigation of shore damage attributable to the project for navigation, Saco River, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:
S. 466. A bill to deauthorize a certain portion of the project for navigation, Rockland Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. REED, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. DORE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):
S. 467. A bill to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

**ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS**

At the request of Mr. ENZIE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 8, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 147
At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 147, a bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.

S. 454
At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to release to the State of Arkansas a reversionary interest in Camp Joseph T. Robinson.

S. RES. 63
At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 63, a resolution calling for an investigation into the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and urging steps to pressure the Government of Syria to withdraw from Lebanon.

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 63, supra.

**STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD):
S. 457. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance for, and provide oversight of, disposal actions for government-wide micropurchases made with Government-wide commercial purchase cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator Russ FEINGOLD, to introduce the “Purchase Card Waste Elimination Act of 2005,” to help eliminate wasteful spending that can occur when the Government neglects to pay attention to where it makes its purchases.

Last year, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, now the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, explored the Government’s use of purchase cards and we learned about ways to save an estimated $300 million annually through better management of purchase cards. Purchase cards are credit cards that agencies give to its employees for the purpose of obtaining goods and services for the Federal Government. In fact, under Federal acquisition law, purchase cards are the Government’s preferred method for making small purchases. What are known as “micropurchases” — that is, items costing $2,500 or less. Although Government employees spend billions of dollars with purchase cards each year, Federal agencies do very little to analyze the items obtained with purchase cards in an attempt to get a better price for the Government.

The American people have the right to expect the Federal Government to spend their tax dollars carefully and wisely. While this is true at all times, it is even more so when the Government is running large budget deficits. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has a special role to play in reducing wasteful spending, and I have made this role a priority at the Committee. This legislation is one aspect of our committee’s efforts to reduce waste, fraud and abuse in Government spending.

Purchase cards came into Federal Government-wide use in 1989. They allow Government employees to easily and efficiently purchase routine items such as office supplies, computers and copying machines. While they are generally used for small purchases, they were accounted for more than $16 billion in Federal spending in 2003. In 1994, they accounted for only $1 billion. This increase in use is good news because it means that more Government spending is being executed in an expeditious manner that reduces red tape and saves on administrative costs. At the same time, the use of purchase cards should enable us to conduct comprehensive analysis of how this $16 billion is spent and where. This information could be analyzed and used to further reduce the Federal Government’s costs. At present, however, this is not being done.

Last year, Senator FEINGOLD, Representative SCHAKOWSKY and I released a report by the Government Accountability Office identifying missed opportunities for savings. According to that report the missed savings were due to both a lack of training and a lack of management attention and oversight. According to GAO, too many purchase cardholders failed to take advantage of the discounted prices and their managers were completely unaware of those lost...
opportunities to save. One example of a repeated lost opportunity to save was the Department of the Interior’s purchases of printer toner cartridges. One GSA schedule vendor offered the toner for only $24.99. Yet, of the Department’s 791 toner cartridge purchases, only two were below that price. Some cartridges were purchased for $34.99, which is about 40 percent higher than the GSA schedule price.

In addition to failing to use available schedule prices, GAO found that agencies negotiate lower prices with vendors with whom they frequently used purchase cards. In the private sector, most companies that use the same vendor for a lot of purchases would negotiate some sort of volume discount. But before they would attempt to negotiate savings the company would first need to understand its spending patterns. Because Federal agencies lack a comprehensive understanding of where its employees are using government purchase cards, Federal agencies are unable to replicate this practice.

At my request, GAO analyzed purchase card use at the six Federal agencies that account for 85 percent of Government purchase card usage. As a result of that analysis, GAO estimated that $300 million per year could be saved if agencies improved their purchase card buying practices.

Under our legislation, the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, would direct agencies to better train their cardholders and more effectively analyze their spending data. It would also direct the GSA to increase its efforts to improve its efforts to secure discounts with vendors and provide agencies with more guidance to reduce wasteful spending.

The American people have the right to expect the Federal Government to spend their tax dollars wisely. I urge our colleagues to cosponsor and support this legislation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER).

S. 458. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to give States the option to create a program that allows individuals receiving temporary assistance to needy families to obtain post-secondary or longer duration vocational education; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce “The Pathways to Self-Sufficiency Act of 2003.” I am pleased to join my colleagues in introducing this important legislation by my colleagues Senators BAUCUS, BINGAMAN, JEFFORDS and ROCKEFELLER.

This legislation is based upon the highly esteemed Maine program called “Parents as Scholars”. This program, which is the State’s Mainstream Maintenance of Effort, MOE, dollars to pay TANF-like benefits to those participating in post-secondary education, is a proven success in my State and is a wonderful foundation for a national effort.

We all agree that the 1996 welfare reform effort changed the face of this Nation’s welfare system to focus it on work. To that end, I believe that this legislation is the basis of “work first”. Like many of my colleagues, I agree that the shift in the focus from welfare to work was the right decision, and that work should be the top priority. However, for those TANF recipients who cannot find a good job that will put them on the road toward financial independence, education might well be the key to a successful future of self-sufficiency.

As we have seen in Maine, education has played a significant role in breaking the cycle of welfare and has given parents the skills necessary to find better paying jobs. And we all know that higher wages are the light at the end of the tunnel of public assistance.

“The Pathways to Self-Sufficiency Act of 2005” provides States with the option to allow individuals receiving Federal TANF assistance to obtain post-secondary or vocational education. This legislation would give States the ability to use Federal TANF dollars for those participating in post-secondary or vocational education the same assistance as they would receive if they were working.

We all know that supports like income supplements, child care subsidies, and transportation among others, are essential to a TANF recipient’s ability to make a successful transition to work. The same is true for those engaged in longer term educational endeavors. This assistance is especially necessary for those who are undertaking the challenge and the financial responsibility of post-secondary education, in the hope of increasing their earning potential and employability. The goal of this program is for participants to receive the tools necessary to succeed into the future so that they can become, and remain, self-sufficient.

Choosing to go to college requires motivation, and graduating from college requires a great deal of commitment and work—even for someone who isn’t raising children and sustaining a family. These are significant challenges, and that’s even before taking into consideration the cost associated with obtaining a college degree. This legislation would provide those TANF recipients who have the ability and the will to go to college the assistance they need to sustain their families while they get a degree.

The value of promoting access to education in this manner to get people off public assistance is proven by the success of Maine’s “Parents as Scholars”, PaS, program. Maine’s PaS graduates earn a median wage of $11.71 per hour after graduation up from a median of $8.00 per hour prior to entering college. When compared to the $7.50 median hourly wage of welfare leavers in Maine who have not received a post-secondary degree, PaS graduates are earning, on average, $300 more per week. That translates into more than $8,000 per year—a significant difference.

Furthermore, the median grade point average for PaS participants in college was 3.4 percent and a full 90 percent of PaS participants’ GPA was over 3.0. These parents are giving their all to pull their families out of the cycle of welfare.

Realizing that work is a priority under TANF, and building upon the successful Maine model, the “Pathways to Self-Sufficiency Act” requires that participants in post-secondary and vocational education also participate in work. During the first 2 years of their participation in these education programs, students must participate in a combination of study time, employment or work experience for at least 24 hours per week—the same hourly requirement that the President proposes in his Welfare Reform proposal.

During the second 2 years—for those enrolled in a four year program—the participant must work at least 15 hours in addition to class and study time, or engage in a combination activities, including some form of employment experience, and training, for an average of 30 hours per week. And all the while, participants must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by their academic institution.

If we believe that, as we expect parents to move from welfare to work and stay in the work force, we must give them the tools to find good jobs. For some people that means job training, for others that could mean dealing with a barrier like substance abuse or domestic violence, and for others, that might mean access to education that will secure them a good job and that will get them off and, importantly, keep them off of welfare.

The experience of several “Parents as Scholar” graduates were captured in a publication published by the Maine Equal Justice Partners, and their experiences are testament to the fact that this program is a critically important step in moving towards self-sufficiency. In this report one graduate said of her experience, “If it weren’t for ‘Parents as Scholars’ I would never have been able to attend college, afford child care, or put food on the table. Today, I would most likely be stuck in a welfare job, barely getting by . . . I can now give my children the future they deserve.”

Another said, “By earning my Bachelor’s degree, I have become self-sufficient. I was a waitress previously and would never have been able to support my daughter. I would encourage anyone to better their education if possible.”

These are but a few comments from those who have been successful in bridging the gap to post-secondary education. Giving States the option use Federal dollars to support these participants will make a tremendous difference in their ability.
to sustain these programs which have proven results. In Maine, nearly 90 percent of working graduates have left TANF permanently and isn’t that our ultimate goal?

I look forward to working with my colleagues to include this legislation in the upcoming welfare reauthorization. It is a critical piece of the effort to move people from welfare to work permanently and it has been missing from the federal program for too long.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 459. A bill to require a study and report regarding the designations and construction of a new interstate route from Savannah, Georgia to Knoxville, Tennessee; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today we are introducing legislation, two bills that I hope will pave the way to correct a half a century of transportation inequity in the Southern United States.

First, I am introducing a bill, supported by Senators ISAKSON, LOTT, and COCHRAN: Interstate 414 or “I-14,” linking Augusta, Macon and Columbus, GA connecting through Montgomery, AL and going all the way to Natchez, MS.

Second, my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON and I are proposing the creation of Interstate 3 or “I-3,” linking Savannah and Augusta, GA to Knoxville, TN.

In the 108th Congress, Senator Miller and I introduced these bills. If passed, they would require the Secretary of Transportation to study and report to the appropriate committees of Congress, before December 31, 2005, the steps and estimated funding necessary to designate and construct these new interstate highways.

These proposals are multi-purpose plans. They would naturally improve the interconnectivity and highway safety for those in the Deep South. Also, they would help provide the badly needed economic development to areas of the South ignored by our current interstate grid, and improve the national defense highway linkage for which our interstate system was originally designed. In addition, they could help the environment with improvements for the entire Sunbelt region by reducing the air pollution and traffic congestion in some of our major gridlocked southern cities.

The honorary name of the “I-14” plan helps to provide symbolic recognition to the promise of economic parity to freed slaves which was implied with the passage of the 14th Amendment in 1868. As the South struggled to overcome four years of devastating war and find a way to integrate the newly emancipated slaves into the full benefits of citizenship, Congress passed this amendment, guaranteeing equal rights for all Americans.

I am convinced that this area remains largely isolated from the economic expansion that transformed much of the rest of the South starting in the 60s. Many in this region still suffer from the lack of economic parity with America. Eighty percent of jobs in this area are in businesses within 10 miles of an interstate. In this case, there are regions where there is no interstate. It is my hope that the addition of I-14 will help bring and provide the promising economic development and much needed jobs to this region.

The 3rd Infantry Division Highway Initiative Act is named for the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart—division that served as the “Tip of the Spear” in the War on Terror in Iraq and whose soldiers conquered Najaf, seized Saddam International Airport and Saddam Hussein’s palaces, and led the fighting on the day of Baghdad’s historic liberation. The proposed Interstate I-3 would provide a highway link between strategic defense interests in our region including Fort Gordon, Eisenhower Regional Medical Center, the Augusta Veterans Administration Hospitals, Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and the Port of Savannah among others. In the process, we will provide long-needed North-South interstate access for Augusta, which happens to be Georgia’s second largest city. It will also provide a direct interstate link between Fort Gordon in Augusta and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, which would serve both facilities well in warding off base closures now and in the future.

It may take a decade to bring these projects to full completion. They are not a quick or easy fix, however they are the necessary, equitable and common sense solution.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 460. A bill to expand and enhance benefits for members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I recently returned from Iraq where I am proud to report that the men and women of the American military continue to perform magnificently. They are the best of America, and we owe them and their families a special debt of honor and gratitude.

Today, I am introducing legislation to strengthen our military and enact a “Military Family Bill of Rights.” My hope is that Congress will act quickly to build the military ready to meet the challenges of this century. That requires a larger Army, a larger Marine Corps, and better policies for Americans in uniform and their families.

We must begin by building a military sized and shaped for the challenges of the future. The military today, in particular the Army and the Marine Corps, is facing a number of situations it faces. The evidence is everywhere. In the past, the Army gave units 2 years to reset, re-train, and prepare between combat deployments. Instead the 3rd Infantry Division is headed back to Iraq after only one year. The 101st Airborne and the 4th Infantry Divisions are headed back later this year after less than 2 years. The First Marine Expeditionary Force is already in the middle of its second deployment to Iraq.

Even with this timetable, we have made ends meet only through large contributions from the National Guard and Reserve. But in planning the next rotation of U.S. forces, we are running out of Guard and Reserve units to call on because they’ve already been deployed. Fourteen of the National Guard’s 15 most combat-ready units are either in Iraq now, recently demobilized, or on alert for duty in the coming year. Of the 205,000 Army Reservists, only about 37,000 remain available for deployment for the types of missions needed in Iraq. Last year the Army dipped into the Individual Ready Reserve. Recently, the Army has even begun to call back military retirees, ranging in age from their mid-40s to their late 60s.

The situation is so grave that Lt. General James Helmsy, chief of the Army Reserve, recently warned that the reserves are “rapidly degenerating into a broken force”—and cautioned that at this rate we will not be able to meet the needs of “future missions.”

The war on terror—which we know requires a comprehensive approach—will have a military component. Surprises happen and our armed forces must be ready to meet these challenges, wherever and whenever they occur.

Since the end of the Cold War, every major commitment of American military power, including the “Air War” in Kosovo, has required a sizeable commitment of American ground forces, at the very least to provide joint-force stand and stability and a technological substitute for boots on the ground, and we must always plan for the worst, so we never expose our troops to the unintended consequences of wishful thinking.

The CIA’s internal think-tank, the National Intelligence Council, recently drew an important conclusion about conflict over the next 15 years: “Weak governments, lagging economies, religious extremism, and youth bulges will align to create a perfect storm for internal conflict in certain regions.” That’s a warning about the danger of failed states—and this should be a wake-up call for American strategy.

Failed states can become havens for terrorists. It was a failed state in Afghanistan that provided a training ground for al-Qaida. It was a failed state where al-Qaida made its plans, grew its forces, and emerged to threaten our national security.

We need a comprehensive foreign policy strategy to deal with failed states, but we must also have a military ready to act if necessary. For the foreseeable future, the United States will need a
larger ground force. Failure to build one now will only diminish our national security in the future.

The war in Iraq proved that a lightning-fast, high-tech force can smash an opposing Army and drive to Baghdad in three weeks. But there is no substitute for a well-trained and equipped infantry to win the peace or secure a failed state. Those missions require an investment in the men and women of the American military—to expand their numbers above the backbones of forces that specialize in certain skills.

To meet these needs, this legislation will expand the Active Duty Army by 30,000 and the Marines by 10,000 personnel.

The men and women of the American military are sustained by the bonds they share within their unit, and by the love and strength they draw from home—from their families, their spouses, their children, their parents. Military families are unsung heroes who receive neither medals nor parades—giving everything they can to the men and women they love, men and women who have been called to war. They answered the call. And so must we—with a new commitment to smarter, better policies that I outlined earlier, and better care for military families.

So the legislation I offer today also includes a Military Family Bill of Rights, a set of policies enshrined in law, to provide assistance to the families of the American military.

Investing in military families isn’t just an act of compassion—it’s a smart investment in America’s military. Good commanders know that while you may recruit an individual soldier or Marine, you “retain” a family. Nearly 50 percent of America’s service members are married today. If we want to retain our most experienced service members, especially the non-commissioned officers that are the backbone of the Army and Marine Corps, we have to keep faith with their families. If we don’t, and those experienced, enlisted leaders begin to leave, America will have a broken, “hollow” military.

We can begin by increasing the financial support military families receive. We can help them meet the increased expenses every military family faces when a loved-one is deployed. Thousands of reservists, for example, take a cut in pay to help soldiers and marines meet the demands of the Army and Marine Corps, and we have to keep faith with those employers. Some employers make up the difference in lost wages. We should reward those patriotic business leaders. And so in the legislation I propose today, we will extend beyond service in uniform—with programs across government to help with jobs, VA benefits, healthcare, and education.

Veterans possess great leadership and technical skills, but they often lack the financial resources to turn that potential into a viable enterprise. A recent report by the Small Business Administration stated that 22 percent of veterans plan to start or are starting a business when they leave the military. For service-disabled veterans, this number rises to 28 percent. So the legislation I introduce today will create a new program, administered by the Small Business Administration, to provide very low interest loans, up to $100,000, to help veterans start new small businesses.

But in this time of war, we have another obligation to meet the needs of those suffering with the experience of war.

The Pentagon believes that as many as 25 percent of the new combat veterans across the country will need some level of mental health care. The New England Journal of Medicine has reported as many as 1 in 6 soldiers returning from Iraq show symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Fewer than 40 percent of those sought help. Military officials and mental health providers predict that up to 30 percent of returning soldiers will require psychiatric services associated with their experience in war. Through July of last year, 31,000 veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom had applied for disability benefits for injuries—and 20 percent of those claims were for psychological conditions. These are levels not seen since the Vietnam War.

Our VA medical facilities are not ready for increased demands for the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In fact only 86 of 163 VA Medical Centers have PTSD treatment centers. We must do better. The wounds of war are not always visible, and we cannot afford to wait for people to ask for help. We have to be proactive.

Soldiers and Marines returning from war want to go home. They don’t want to do anything that could jeopardize...
A soldier's pay may be cut in half just as they are sent to the hospital. This adds to their stress and worries. It also can mean that family, including wives and children, cannot afford travel to the hospital to be nearby and support in the recovery period.

Congressman MARKEY introduced this bill during the last Congress, and he has introduced it this year. This legislation will maintain the full pay that the soldier received immediately prior to their injury, until they are discharged or regain active duty status.

Over 5,700 soldiers have been seriously wounded in Iraq, and there have been others in combat areas around the globe, and sadly we must acknowledge that there will be more. Recovering soldiers and their families deserve our admiration and respect, and our full support. As they cope with the loss of a limb, or vision or mobility, they should not have to cope with bill collector or financial hardship.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF TIME LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION OF COMBAT ZONE COMPENSATION PAY FOR WOUNDED OR INJURED MEMBERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) of section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking "but this paragraph shall not apply for any month beginning more than 2 years after the date of the termination of combatant activities in such zone".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) of section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this section, shall apply to compensation received for months ending after September 11, 2001, for members of the uniformed services described in such subsections who were wounded or otherwise injured on or after that date.
The first bill, S. 462, pertains to Tenants Harbor, St. George, Maine. Deauthorizing the Federal Navigation Channel, FNC, would be of great help to the town in appropriately managing the Harbor to maximize mooring areas. Over the past 30 years, the Town has had to confront prohibitive problems with the Army Corps of Engineers’ mooring permit process as people seeking permits for moorings that have existed for 30 years continue to be notified that the mooring locations are prohibited because they fall within the federal navigational channel.

My second bill, S. 463, concerns Northeast Harbor in Mt. Desert, Maine. The language will not only allow for more recreational moorages and commercial activities, it will also be an economic boost to Northeast Harbor, which is surrounded by Acadia National Park, one of the nation’s most visited parks—both by land and by water. The removal of the harbor from the FNC would allow the town to adapt to the high demand for moorings and will allow residents to obtain moorings in a more timely manner. The Harbor has now reached capacity for both moorings and shoreside facilities and has a waiting list of over sixty people, along with commercial operators who have been waiting for years to obtain a mooring for their commercial vessels.

My third bill, S. 464, addresses the Union River in Ellsworth, Maine. The bill supports the City of Ellsworth’s efforts to revitalize the Union River navigation channel, harbor, and shoreline. The modification called for in my legislation will redesignate a portion of the Union River as an anchorage area. This redesignation will allow for a greater number of moorings in the harbor without interfering with navigation and will further improve the City’s revitalization efforts for the harbor area.

My fourth bill, S. 465, will carry out a project for the mitigation of shore damage at Camp Ellis, Maine, attributable to the Saco River navigation project. The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Army to carry out the project, under the River and Harbor Act of 1968, to mitigate shore damage attributable to the Saco River project, waiving the funding cap requirement for congressional authorization set forth in that Act. The legislation is needed so the project will cost more than authorized under current law, and is the preferred project by non-Federal interests.

My fifth bill, S. 466, will make the mooring of an historic windjammer fleet in Rockland Harbor a reality. Originally a strong fishing port, Rockland retains its rich marine heritage, and it is one of the fastest growing cities in the Midcoast area. Like many of the port cities on the eastern seaboard, Rockland has been forced to confront an assault of coastal and environmental changes, but happily, the city has been able to respond to these challenges in positive and productive ways.

The City of Rockland has hosted the Windjammer fleet since 1955, earning a well deserved reputation as the Windjammer Capital of the World. Rockland’s Windjammers are now National Historic Landmarks, and as such, are vitally important to both the City and the State of Maine. The Victory Chimes, one of five vessels slated to be berthed at the new wharf and a vessel whose historical designation I supported, graces the Maine quarter. This beautiful fleet of windjammers symbolizes the grandeur of Maine as well as the sense of adventure that we have come to associate so closely with the American experience. Lermont Cove is perfectly situated in the Rockland Harbor to be the new and permanent home for these cherished vessels.

The proposed Windjammer Wharf will also provide a safe harbor from storms, as it is tucked nicely near the Maine State Ferry and Department of Marine Resources piers.

The State of Maine capitalizes on the visual impact of the Windjammers to promote tourism, working waterfronts and the natural beauty that distinguishes our landscape. Over $300,000 is spent yearly by the Maine Windjammer Association to advertise and promote these businesses. Deauthorizing that part of the federal navigational channel will clearly trigger significant and unrealized economic benefits for the region, providing many beneficial dollars to the local area and the State of Maine. According to the Longwood study, which uses a multiplier of 1.5, the economic impact of this spending is $3.8 million a year. Conservatively, the Windjammers spend over $2.5 million a year in the state.

I want to thank the New England Corps of Engineers for their help in drafting the language and working with the Maine Department of Transportation, which runs the ferry line, and also the Rockland city officials, the Rockland Port District, and the Captains of the Windjammer vessels—Majmers and businesspeople with the vision and commitment we need to complete Windjammer Wharf and create a permanent home for this historic fleet of windjammers in Rockland Harbor.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. REED, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 466 makes no change to the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill regarding terrorism Risk Insurance be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005.”

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM.


(b) Continuing Authority of the Secretary.—Section 108(b) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7001 note, 116 Stat. 2336) is amended by striking “arising out of” and all that follows through “this title”.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Definitions.—

(1) Program Years.—Section 102(11) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7001 note, 116 Stat. 2326) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) PROGRAM YEAR 4.—The term ‘Program Year 4’ means the period beginning on January 1, 2006 and ending on December 31, 2006.

(F) PROGRAM YEAR 5.—The term ‘Program Year 5’ means the period beginning on January 1, 2007 and ending on December 31, 2007.

(g) Other Program Years.—Except when used as provided in subparagraphs (B) through (F), the term ‘Program Year’ means, as the context requires, any of Program Year 1, Program Year 2, Program Year 3, Program Year 4, or Program Year 5.

(b) Insured Losses.—Section 102(9) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7001 note, 116 Stat. 2324) is amended—

(1) by deleting “ ‘or’ ” and “after December 31, 2007, as required by this title,” before “if such loss”;

(2) by striking “(A)” occurs within” and inserting the following:

“(A) occurs on or before the earlier of the expiration date of the insurance policy or December 31, 2006; and

“(B) occurs after December 31, 2006; and

“(C) occurs (i) within; and

“(D) by striking “occurs to an air carrier” and inserting the following:

“(D) to an air carrier.”


(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii)(I), by striking “(5)(B)” and inserting “(5)(B)(i)”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting “subparagraphs (B)”.

(b) Applicable Insurer Deductibles.—Section 102(2) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7001 note, 116 Stat. 2325) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “and each Program Year thereafter” before “the value”; and

(B) by striking “preceding Program Year 3 and inserting “preceding that Program Year.”

and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “for the Transition” and all that follows through “Program Year 3 and inserting the following: “for the Transition Period or any Program Year.”

(c) Continuation of Mandatory Availability.—Section 103(c)(1) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7001 note, 116 Stat. 2327) is amended—

(1) by striking “last day of Program Year 2 and inserting “termination date established under section 103(c)(2)” and

(2) by striking paragraph heading and inserting “In general.—”
(d) DURATION OF POLICIES.—Section 103(c) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note, 116 Stat. 2327) is amended—

(1) by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

‘‘(2) MANDATORY DURATION.—Coverage for insured losses required by paragraph (1) under a policy issued at any time during Program Year 5 shall remain in effect for not less than 1 year following the date of issuance of the policy, except that no loss occurring after the earlier of the expiration date of the subject insurance policy or December 31, 2006, shall be considered to be an insured loss for purposes of this title.’’.

(e) INSURED LOSS SHARED COMPENSATION.—Section 103(e) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note, 116 Stat. 2328) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ‘‘ending on’’ and all that follows through ‘‘termination date established under section 108(a)’’; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ‘‘ending on’’ and all that follows through ‘‘termination date established under section 108(a)’’.


(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(D) for Program Year 4, the lesser of—

‘‘(i) $17,500,000,000; and

‘‘(ii) the aggregate amount, for all insurers, of insured losses during such Program Year; and

‘‘(E) for Program Year 5, the lesser of—

‘‘(i) $30,000,000,000; and

‘‘(ii) the aggregate amount, for all insurers, of insured losses during such Program Year.’’.

SEC. 4. COVERAGE OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

Section 103 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note, 116 Stat. 2327) is amended by striking subsection (h) and inserting in lieu thereof:

‘‘(h) APPLICABILITY TO GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by rule, apply the provisions of this title to providers of group life insurance, in the manner determined appropriate by the Secretary, consistent with the purposes of this title.

‘‘(2) CONSISTENT APPLICATION.—The rules of the Secretary under this subsection shall, to the extent practicable, apply the provisions of this title to providers of group life insurance in a similar manner as those provisions apply to an insurer otherwise under this title.

‘‘(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the applicability of this title to providers of group life insurance, and the manner of such application, the Secretary shall consider the overall group life insurance market size, and shall consider the establishment of separate retention amounts for such providers.

‘‘(4) RULEMAKING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2006, the Secretary shall issue final regulations to carry out this subsection.

‘‘(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to affect or otherwise alter the applicability of this title to any insurer, as defined in section 102.

‘‘(6) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the term ‘group life insurance’ means an insurance contract that provides term life insurance coverage, accidental death coverage, or a combination thereof, for a number of persons under a single contract, on the basis of a group selection of risks.’’.

SEC. 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS.

Section 108 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note, 116 Stat. 2328) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(e) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS.—The Presidential Working Group on Financial Markets shall, in consultation with the NAIC, representatives of the insurance industry, and representatives of policyholders, not later than June 30, 2006, submit a report to Congress containing recommendations for legislation to address the long-term availability and affordability of insurance for terrorism risk.’’.
The parents of a 27-year-old U.S. citizen who was murdered by her husband were barred from attending her funeral, which had to be conducted via video conference because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were unable to travel to the Philippines to attend the funeral due to visa restrictions imposed by the U.S. government.

The parents were denied visas because they were not deemed to have sufficient ties to their own country. They had to go through an arduous process of obtaining new visas, which included interviews with consular officers and submission of extensive documentation. Despite their efforts, they were still denied visas and were unable to travel to the Philippines to attend their daughter's funeral.

The U.S. government's decision to deny visas to the parents was based on a presumption that they were at risk of not returning to the U.S. after their visit to the Philippines. However, the parents had maintained close ties with their family in the U.S. and had no intention of staying in the Philippines. They were denied visas even though they had submitted documentation proving that they had returned to the U.S. numerous times in the past.

The case of the parents highlights the importance of family unity and the need for greater flexibility in immigration policy. The U.S. government should consider the circumstances of each case on a case-by-case basis and take into account the strong ties that family members have to their country of origin.

The bill introduced by Representative Casar would require the U.S. government to prove that the family members have a demonstrated intent to return to the U.S. and would provide greater flexibility in the issuance of temporary visas for family emergencies.

The parents of the murdered U.S. citizen have been denied visas repeatedly and are unable to attend their daughter's funeral. They are calling for greater flexibility in immigration policy to allow family members to attend important events in their countries of origin.
have to show a reason to compel your return home.’”

Francisco Guerrero, 59, does not understand why Glenn’s intent to save his father’s life isn’t enough to support the younger man’s visa application.

“Sometimes they should try to be more understanding of the situation,” the former congressman said. “I think these people don’t care. They should think of the purpose of the person who is coming here.”

**KEY ISSUES FOR FILIPINOS**

There are 389 other patients in Hawai‘i who are waiting for a kidney—a wait that can last up to seven years. More than 100 of those patients were born in the Philippines. U.S. officials say Filipinos are treated in the same way as any other foreign nationals who wish to come to the United States on a temporary visa. But with few systems in place to take a close look at the problem, officials are so backlogged in reviewing visas that only now are they considering applications dating back to 1999.

There are already an estimated 85,000 Filipinos who live illegally in the United States. Officials say it is likely that most of them simply lack the funds to get a permanent visa. Hawai‘i lawmakers have asked the State Department to look into the organ donor cases in St. Francis.

Rep. Ed Case, D-Hawai‘i, said he plans to reintroduce a bill to remove any presumption that an applicant intends to stay in the United States if his or her family is coming here for family emergencies. Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawai‘i, co-sponsored the bill when it was first introduced in late 2003.

Hawai‘i’s two senators have written letters to the State Department asking officials there to take a close look at the problem.

“I’m willing to take the chance of loosing the standard because he or she has demonstrated his or her mother is going to die on the island of Maui,” Case said. “It is the right thing to do.”

Case said he supports keeping the borders safe. But the current law “puts a disproportional burden on the Filipino community and the U.S. Consulate,” he said. The U.S. Consulate, Case said, “is not entitled to deny an American his or her life.”

**EXPENSES, LONG WAITS**

Since 9/11, the total number of all types of visas approved in the United States has declined because there have been fewer applicants. Vaughn, the former consul official, stresses that each application is evaluated one at a time.

“It’s not discrimination,” he said. “It may be that more people qualify from Japan than in the Philippines. The conditions in that country—economic, social or political conditions—are factored into the consul officer’s decision.”

Although the Philippine government has taken an interest in the transplant patients at St. Francis and their families, one official conceded there isn’t much it can do.

“We cannot intervene,” said Eva Ditita, Philippine deputy consul general. “We can fill out on the Philippine side and facilitate their papers, but the ball is on the (U.S.) State Department side. This is a humanitarian undertaking.”

Complicating matters is the lengthy—and expensive—organ donation process. Cathy Bailey, transplant evaluation coordinator at St. Francis, said it takes about a year to compile all the medical information required for a kidney donor in another country, compared with about three months for a donor in the United States.

The U.S. government also requires a long list of documents, from income-tax returns and bank statements, to prove the kidney recipient can support the organ donor for the six months they are required to stay in the United States.

“Tissue and blood tests for each potential donor cost about $3,500, and the results are good for only a few months before they must be performed again, Bailey said. The donor also must pay medical bills for an interview with U.S. Consulate officials and pay for hotel expenses while there as well as for medical tests and doctors’ fees.

She said most kidney patients rely on Medicare to pay for the surgery, which costs about $200,000, and for about $30,000 worth of drugs annually to ensure the body does not reject the donated organ. Patients don’t travel to the Philippines for the surgery because Medicare would not cover drug costs upon their return.

“They almost always come to me crying,” Bailey said. “It’s not like I can do anything. It is very costly for these people.”

**LAHAINA WOMAN’S FLIGHT**

Hilaria Taborada, a 51-year-old Lahaina cashier, has spent a lot of money on medical tests and visa fees and untold hours worrying about her future ever since she was diagnosed with kidney failure in 1999.

One nephew was determined to be a good match and doctors put her on the surgical list. But then he was rejected in December because it was deemed that he had no compelling reason to return home.

Taborada undergoes dialysis at home, but still must travel to the hospital for frequent tests.

“How many times I’m going back and forth to the hospital,” she sighed. “I always have infections.”

Taborada’s brother is transferring his own property to the nephew in the hope that the U.S. government will recognize the property as a reason for the nephew to return to the Philippines.

Vaughn said that when she worked for the U.S. Consulate in Trinidad, the refusal rate for nonimmigrant visas for people from that West Indies nation (Trinidad and Tobago) was 50 percent.

She said most of the people she dealt with had similar backgrounds as those Filipinos seeking temporary visas.

“Officers do the best they can, based on the information and time they have available,” she said. But “it’s a very imperfect science.”
and Industry have participated in various community activities, from honoring 4-H Club members and welcoming home World War II veterans in the 1940s to food drives and telethons today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their substantial and increasing influence on the economic growth and development of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois. The Chamber’s first 60 years have seen great advancement. Let us congratulate them on their part of that achievement and look forward to the next 60 years.

COMMEMORATING PEACE CORPS 44TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MATEO VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Peace Corps’ 44th anniversary. Since 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers in countries have counseled teenagers and adults in HIV/AIDS education and prevention, guided entrepreneurs in the basic skills of small business development, worked with women to expand their access to credit, conducted curriculum development training for teachers, helped to bridge the divide between those who can afford access to technology and those who cannot, and effectively completed many other notable development projects.

Among this legion of volunteers are twenty residents of my congressional district in San Mateo County, California. They are Corrine Basanez, James Choy, Emily Doan, Michael Henley, Brian Jungwiwattanapo, Andrew Kerfoot, Adam Ko, Joshua Kroot, Cynthia Lai, Anna Lee, Matthew Lewis, Andrew Lind, Theresa Nagao, Joshua Nagler, Aida Navarro, Michael Donnell, Michelle Pena, Doreen Peterson, Dino Saldajeno, and Victoria Wilson. I commend all of them for their dedication, commitment, and service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, this body in the 108th Congress passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2003 and the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004. Unfortunately, our colleagues in the other body were not as successful in considering companion legislation. Notwithstanding this fact, the needs of Peace Corps Volunteers and the Peace Corps as an agency remain pressing. Consequently, I look forward to working with my friend and colleague Chairman HYDE as well as other Members to reintroduce authorizing legislation that will strengthen Peace Corps and teachers. I hope Congress will reauthorize the Peace Corps Act as it received its congressionally mandated mission of conducting diplomacy through development. I am also committed to ensuring that Peace Corps Volunteers, as our best ambassadors in remote villages throughout the globe and particularly in countries with significant Muslim populations, reflect the diversity of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I again salute the many thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers who have dedicated on average two years of their lives to proudly continuing the arduous yet vastly rewarding work of the nearly 180,000 volunteers that have come before them. I am proud to represent twenty of these extraordinary individuals who are currently separated from their families, friends, and neighbors in the pursuit of service to country and others.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO JAMES GALES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. James Gales of Jefferson County, Mississippi, born May 18, 1922. Mr. Gales attended the Jefferson County Training School until sixth grade.

In 1940, Mr. Gales began public work as a construction worker for the Time Construction Company and helped build the Natchez Trace. Following his work at Shepp Time Construction, he went on to work for the WPA and construct many of the streets in Jefferson County. In addition, he assisted in erecting the Jefferson County Jail in 1942. He later went on to work for the Illinois Central Railroad.

In February 1944 he volunteered for the United States Army and started his service at Camp Shelby and later to Fort Benning, Georgia. After basic training he worked in the battalion headquarters breaking down rations, supplies, for four companies in the Services. In 1946, Mr. Gales attended Alcorn A & M College and later worked for the International Paper Company, working there until 1984.

Mr. Gales was very active in the civil rights movement and joined the NAACP in 1954. Through his commitment and activism in the civil rights movement, he played significant role in electing Jefferson County’s first black mayor since Reconstruction, Charles Evers, as well as five city aldermen.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BEND ROTARY AND THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanity displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generously a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanity, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our nation’s capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs. The Bend Rotary, found in the heart of Oregon, is one such club. Founded in 1947, Bend Rotary is the longest running club in Bend and its members have helped establish the three other Rotary clubs that currently exist in the city—High Desert, Bend-Mt. Bachelor, and Greater Bend.

Rotary International has the motto “Service Above Self” and they adhere to “The Four Way Test” of business ethics, a philosophy that encourages truth, fairness, goodwill and mutual benefit in all professional actions. These traits are evident in the projects Bend Rotary has supported over the years: the Alice Hatch Pre-School Playground, the Drake Park Pavilion, the Juniper Park Skating Rink and Pat’s Park in Juniper Park, the Central Oregon Welcome Center Sign, the “Tree of Joy,” and the Barrance Honda Mexico Water Project. In the past, Bend Rotary has donated over 280 wheel chairs to a small town in Lithuania and has also raised over $100,000 to help refurbish a school kitchen in the same country.

Currently, Bend Rotary is working in conjunction with the other Bend area clubs on the completion of Rotary Centennial Playground to be located adjacent to Bend Senior Center in Bend. In the true Rotary spirit of service for all, this park has been designed with access and amenities suitable for kids and parents with special physical needs and is compliant with ADA standards. The 350 members of the...
PRAISING FOREIGN MINISTER OF ARMENIA, VARTAN OSKANIAN’S STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR. OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues last month in commemo-
rationating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz. On that solemn occasion, Con-
gress remembered the heroic forces that helped bring an end to this crime against hu-
mankind, and we reminded ourselves and oth-
ers to never forget the lessons of the past.

At the request of the United States, Canada, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia, the United Nations, for the first time, also observed the liberation of Ausch-
Witz. Armenia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, eva-
hable, addressed a select group of foreign ministers who addressed the United Nations 28th Special Session in New York. As a people victimized by genocide under the cover of WWII, all Armenians have a spe-
cial empathy for the victims, survivors and de-
sendants of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit the Minister’s full remarks as delivered to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. By remembering all instances of man’s inhumanity to man, we renew our commitment always to prevent this crime’s recurrence, and therefore negate the dictum that history is condemned to repeat itself.

STATEMENT OF H. E. VARTAN OSKANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF AR-
MENIA AT THE 28TH SPECIAL SESSION ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE NZZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS—NEW YORK, JANUARY 24, 2005

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Dear Friends: On behalf of the people and govern-
ment of Armenia, I feel compelled to be here today, to join other survivors and de-
sendants, of both victims and perpetrators, to take part in this commemoration. I am also duty-bound to urge us all to confront more effectively the threat of genocide any-
where, at any time, regardless of cost and political discomfort.

The liberation of Auschwitz is, indeed, cause for commemorative celebration. How-
ever, and in this connection, with each ut-
ering of the name Auschwitz, we are forced to reflect: to look back, look around, look deep, look at the other, but also look inward, at ourselves.

After 9/11 and reacting to the unusually high number of victims of a singular event, an editorialist proclaimed “We are all Amer-
icans”, implicating anxiety, and indignation bound us together. How much more intense our feelings about Auschwitz and the singularity of its horror, its syno-
ymy with the technology of death-making, its eerily ordinary commitment to effi-
ciency, to pragmatic, effective, result-orien-
ted administration.

Mr. Chairman: The Spanish-American phi-
losopher George Santayana, who has been

TRIBUTE TO BABBETTE WISE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Babette Wise, on her dedica-
tion to substance abuse treatment and preven-
tion of the Washington region transform their lives by

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Bend Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct our-

As a licensed therapist and director of Georgetown University Hospital’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, Wise has worked with indi-

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Alcoholism and Related Issues, I am pleased to submit the Minister’s full remarks as delivered to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. By remembering all instances of man’s inhumanity to man, we renew our commitment always to prevent this crime’s recurrence, and therefore negate the dictum that history is condemned to repeat itself.

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Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a court system, an independent foreign policy, and a commitment to educating its citizens. I will continue to join with my colleagues in supporting assistance to Nagorno Karabakh, which has a vital role in achieving a peaceful and stable future for the South Caucasus region. On this anniversary, I reiterate my unwavering support to Nagorno Karabakh's freedom, democracy, and economic development.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation to assist low-income taxpayers in preparing and filing their tax returns and to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous refund anticipation loan providers.

In particular, the provisions of this legislation will benefit taxpayers eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) who must fill out dauntingly complex forms—the EITC instructions run 53 pages alone—and, because of the dearth of free tax preparation services to help navigate the process, are heavy users of commercial tax preparers.

The problems addressed by the Low-Income Taxpayer Protection Act of 2005 have been ignored for too long. The National Taxpayer Advocate’s FY2002 Annual Report to Congress notes that in 2000, only 1 percent of filers with incomes below the EITC income limit received free tax preparation assistance from either the IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers or volunteer sites affiliated with the IRS. The remaining low-income filers who had their forms filed for them used a commercial preparer. While many commercial preparers provide a very valuable, necessary service, the work of these men and women is too often overshadowed by those who exploit financial hardships or the lack of knowledge or necessity that drives the EITC recipients to rely on commercial preparers as a means of getting their tax refunds.

The remaining low-income filers who had their forms filed for them used a commercial preparer. While many commercial preparers provide a very valuable, necessary service, the work of these men and women is too often overshadowed by those who exploit financial hardships or the lack of knowledge or necessity that drives the EITC recipients to rely on commercial preparers as a means of getting their tax refunds.

The VITA program can be a great resource for low-income taxpayers, providing assistance that will help them avoid unscrupulous commercial tax-preparers that profit unduly from RALs, VITA is available to taxpayers earning less than $36,000 a year. In 2004, only 1.8 million returns were filed using VITA assistance, although 21 million taxpayers claimed the EITC at year. VITA can better help taxpayers get the full refund from EITC they have earned.

The IRS tells us that 12 million taxpayers got RALs in 2003. These loans took an estimated $1.4 billion out of the refunds earned by American workers. Nearly 80 percent of taxpayers taking out RALs are earning less than $35,000 a year. More than half of those who get RALs receive the EITC. EITC recipients are disproportionately represented in the ranks of those who get RALs, since these taxpayers make up just 17 percent of the taxpaying population.

A new Children’s Defense Fund survey of eight states and the District of Columbia found that almost $960 million were siphoned away from EITC recipients because of the cost of these loans and commercial tax-preparers who offer them. California taxpayers of modest-incomes paid nearly $237 million to these businesses.

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The Consumer Federation of America and the National Consumer Law Center found that refund anticipation loan fees cost consumers about $1.14 billion in 2002, up almost $200 million from the year before. Additional fees for electronic filing, “document preparation,” and “applications” added another $406 million to the total. Our constituents who can afford it least are suffering a $1.5 billion drain on their tax refunds.

It is alarming to find out RALs are often told that the loan is the only way they can get assistance with filling their tax returns. The fees for preparation services are taken out of the loan proceeds first. Then the interest rates are applied to the loans, and low-income taxpayers are often unaware of the impact this has on the total amount of their refund.

Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to break down these estimates from the cumulative to the individual using an analysis found in the consumer groups’ report. Based upon the prices for RALs in 2004, a consumer might pay the following in order to get a $2,100 RAL—the average refund—from a commercial tax preparation chain this year: (1) A loan fee of $99.95, which includes a $24.95 fee supposedly for the “dummy” bank account used to receive the consumer’s tax refund from the IRS and repay the RAL; and (2) a system administration fee that averages $32 per loan. Combine that with tax preparation fees, which average about $120, and the total is about $250. The effective annual percent rate (APR) on this RAL would be 182 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the funds unnecessarily paid into usurious refund anticipation loans is hard-earned money taken out of the pockets of hard-working Americans who are already just barely getting by; it is food taken from their tables, it is school supplies taken from their children.

The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate acknowledges that there are several factors that drive low-income taxpayers to pay for tax preparation, including: (1) Inconvenient location or hours of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites for low-income taxpayers; (2) lack of bank accounts for quicker direct deposit refunds; (3) need or desire for immediate cash; and (4) inability to pay one’s own taxes due to limited language, literacy, or computer skills.

The VITA program can be a great resource to low-income taxpayers, providing assistance that will help them avoid unscrupulous commercial tax-preparers that profit unduly from RALs, VITA is available to taxpayers earning less than $36,000 a year. In 2004, only 1.8 million returns were filed using VITA assistance, although 21 million taxpayers claimed the EITC at year. VITA can better help taxpayers get the full refund from EITC they have earned. In the city of Los Angeles alone, EITC returned over $585 million in 2003. Mr. Speaker, VITA is vital to the economic health of our hardest-working communities and should be promoted as a means of avoiding the use of RALs by low-income taxpayers.

This bill takes a two-pronged approach aimed at curtailing the drain on our low-income taxpayers by first regulating income tax preparers and refund anticipation loan providers and, secondly, creating IRS-administered grant programs to provide free tax preparation and low-income tax-preparers such as those provided by VITA clinics and to help individuals establish a bank account for the first time.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.
Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005, which will help Haitians overcome the many social, economic, and physical challenges currently facing the country. Today in Haiti less than 45 percent of Haitians have access to safe water and access to sanitation. Seventy-six percent of Haiti’s children under the age of five are underweight, and suffer from stunted growth and 63 percent of Haitians are undernourished. Eighty percent of the population lives in abject poverty and the unemployment rate is estimated to be nearly 90 percent.

My long standing interest in ending the AIDS pandemic has brought focus on Haiti, with 90 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the Caribbean. As we combat global HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, maternal and child mortality, and many other life threatening diseases, we must address the long-term effect of dilapidated physical and health infrastructures and abject poverty throughout the world, including Haiti.

My bill, the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005 offers a comprehensive plan for future engagement between the U.S. and Haitian Government. This legislation partners Haitians and Americans together to execute an environmental impact studies for infrastructures in Haiti. Its major provisions are aimed at developing basic sanitation, water, and other health infrastructures in Haiti.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act would bring the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to train and educate Haitians on how to rebuild, pave, and maintain roads to provide access to rural and urban areas to health clinics. It will commission environmental impact studies for these projects, focusing on long term, environmentally sound solutions—not short term remedies.

Haiti needs assistance in addressing its long-term health infrastructure development. The most basic of these needed development challenges is water. How can Haiti begin to combat its enormous health problems without basic clean and safe water?

Haiti’s water quality is life-threatening. In a study released in May of 2003, Haiti ranked last in the world for water quality. The New Partnership for Haiti Act will provide funds and expertise through USAID to partner with Haiti on rebuilding of sanitation, water purification projects, and education for Haitians on how to maintain these systems themselves in the future. This bill will help Haitians build and maintain safer, quality sewage systems and safe water delivery for both urban and rural communities.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will start a pilot program for American Health Professionals and also Engineers who are interested in going to Haiti and helping with the development process.

It is my hope that a transfer of knowledge from U.S. professionals in the fields of health and engineering to Haitians will ensure long term development and guarantee the success of the programs similar to the success of the Global Fund and other international initiatives. By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti’s future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003. It is my hope that we can continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB. I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Today I submit this legislation, and thank all of my original cosponsors. I look forward to the support of my colleagues and the Administration.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO MARY ELIZABETH PIPPINS GATES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked. I would like to recognize Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Pippins Gates, of Leake County, Mississippi. Mrs. Gates is a graduate of Baldwyn High School and received her high school diploma at the age of 15. Ms. Gates continued her education and entered Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, MS where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Mrs. Gates later received Master’s degrees in Library Science from Delta State University, Cleveland, MS and in School Administration from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS. In addition, she has done additional study at Mississippi State University and at the University of Southern University.

Mrs. Gates began her teaching career at Thomastown Attendance Center in Thomastown, MS and in 1951, joined the teaching mission of the Mississippi Association of Educators. She served as a member of the Thomastown Attendance Center Improvement Committee.

Mrs. Gates has received numerous awards for distinguished service to public education and civil rights which have included Outstanding Achievement in Education presented by the Leake County Branch NAACP, Outstanding Achievement in Human Relations from the Mississippi Association of Educators, Exemplary Service in the Promotion of Literacy from the International Reading Association and Exemplified Service as President of the Mississippi Association of Educators.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, INTRODUCTION OF THE WARTIME PARITY AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. As we know, on February 19, 1942, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent. With the stroke of a pen, innocent men, women, and children became prisoners and were branded disloyal to the nation they called home. Lives were disrupted and homes were broken as these Americans were uprooted from their communities and locked behind barbed wire fences.

The force of wartime hysteria darkened the light of justice and reasonable people suddenly embarked on an unreasonable course. Indeed, America was engaged in a monumental struggle as our soldiers engaged the enemy in the European and Pacific theatres. Here in the United States, many citizens had faces that looked like that of the enemy. Without any evidence, fear was mounting, and the patriotism of these Japanese Americans was questioned. Some worried that they were intent on doing harm against the very flag they saluted. Decades later, history vindicated these loyal Americans as not even a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during that time.

What our nation found through the disinfectant of time was what those who endured internment knew all along. Surrounded by armed guards behind a prison fence, mothers...
thought of their sons who fought for the freedom of the nation that denied them of their own liberty. Indeed today the annals of military history show that the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd and combat regiment fought honorably and bravely for ideals they knew not yet afforded to their own families back home. Still, they were worth fighting for. And this regiment would become the most decorated group of soldiers in American history as they proved their devotion to our nation fighting in both the European and Pacific theatres. It took more than 50 years, but finally in 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded 22 of these heroes with the Medal of Honor.

In 1983, a Presidential Commission concluded that the internment was the result of both racism and wartime hysteria. Five years later, then President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law that provided an official apology and redress to most of those confined in U.S. internment camps during World War II. This was the culmination of half a century of struggle to bring justice to those to whom it was denied. I am proud that our nation did the right thing. But seventeen years after the passage of the CLA, we still have unfinished work to do to rectify and close this regrettable chapter in our nation’s history.

That is why I am reintroducing legislation to finish the remaining work of redress. While most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government’s activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Recorded thoroughly in government files, the U.S. government involved itself in the expulsion and internment of an estimated 2,000 people of Japanese descent who lived in various Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forced into the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not even directly involved in World War II. These individuals are still waiting for equitable redress, and justice cries out for them to receive it. That is why today I will introduce the Wartime Parity and Justice Act.

Mr. Speaker, let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community as we dedicate ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past. Doing so will help us to guard it more closely in the future. As we commemorate the Day of Rememberance, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2005.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN
OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianship displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, Japan, in an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianship, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, DC, keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon, club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our nation’s capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

Rotary International has the motto “Service Above Self” and they adhere to “The Four Way Test” of business ethics, a philosophy that encourages truth, fairness, goodwill and mutual benefit in all professional actions. These traits are evident in the projects that Rotary clubs through Oregon’s Second District, the United States and the world have supported over the years: eradication of polio, tsunami and hurricane relief, aid to famine victims in Zimbabwe, international youth exchange, training for teachers of students with disabilities, humanitarian and educational grants, vocational service and local community projects such as building playgrounds and developing parks. These are just a few examples of the depth in service given by Rotarians around the world.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of “Service Before Self.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE “PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING OF TSUNAMI ORPHANS ACT”

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representatives CHARLES RANGEL, CHARLES GONZALEZ, JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, and ROBERT WEXLER, introduce legislation, the “Prevention of Trafficking of Tsunami Orphans Act,” which would authorize critical assistance to the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development to support programs that are being carried out by nongovernmental organizations to protect children who are homeless or orphaned as a result of the Indian Ocean tsunamis in December 2004.

According to the June 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the Department of State, approximately 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence and disease. The legislation will help to prevent the children left orphaned or homeless by the Indian Ocean tsunamis from suffering a similar fate.
Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation calling on the Administration to expose and explain their involvement in Haiti’s 33rd coup d’état.

My legislation will create a TRUTH Commission, the TRUTH stands for The Responsibility for Uncovering the TRUTH about Haiti. This independent commission will be bipartisan and work to uncover the Bush Administration’s role in Haiti prior to President Aristide’s exile.

I believe the Bush Administration undercuts the potential for a diplomatic solution for peaceful democratic elections, any potential for a cease-fire and an end to violence. It bears primary responsibility; therefore, for Aristide’s unwilling departure as well as for the sacrifice of the democratic process in Haiti.

As Members of Congress find out more about the events leading up to President Aristide’s departure, the twilight activities of his alleged resignation, the current unconstitutional government, and the ongoing turmoil, fear, and misinformation that is still flowing out of Haiti.

We want answers, Mr. Speaker and an independent commission is one of many tools that we intend on exercising.

I have several pressing questions that I hope this commission will find the answers for.

1. Did the U.S. Government impede democracy and contribute to the overthrow of the Aristide government?

2. Under what circumstances did President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign and what was the role of the United States Government in bringing about his departure?

3. To what extent did the U.S. impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, to prevent the overthrow of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti?

4. What was the role of the United States in influencing decisions regarding Haiti at the United Nations Security Council and in discussions between Haiti and other countries that were willing to assist in the preservation of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti by sending security forces to Haiti?

5. Was U.S. assistance provided or were U.S. personnel involved in supporting, directly or indirectly, the forces and opposed to the government of President Aristide? Was United States bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly associated with political groups actively involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the government of President Aristide?

6. Was any U.S. bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the Aristide government?

And there are more questions about the long-term origins of Haiti’s current crisis and the long-term impact on the region as a result of the Bush Administration’s policies. This was regime change by other means.

We do not teach people to violently overthrow our U.S. government, and we must not teach other people in the international community, particularly Haiti, to participate in activities that taint the hope for democracy by use of violence.

I stand here today because the Haitian community stands for democracy and not for political maneuvering by the Bush Administration.

This is an issue of democracy.

The United States must stand firm in its support of Democracy and not allow a nascent democracy like Haiti, fall victim to regime change and an international “racist” foreign policy.

I commend all of my colleagues to join in support of this commission and ask for its timely passage.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Edwin E. Searcy, M.D. Family Practitioner of Bolivar County. Dr. Searcy is a member of the hospital staff at Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Dr. Searcy is a native of Cleveland, MS and received his undergraduate degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his medical degree from The University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, MS. Dr. Searcy completed a residency in Family Practice at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. He is the son of the late Dr. Rupert T. Searcy and Mrs. E.W. Searcy and has served as a physician for the past twenty-eight years.

Dr. Searcy is a member of the Mississippi State Medical Association Board. He was also selected by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to serve as a member on The State Board of Physical Therapy.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

INTRODUCTION OF “THE TORTURE OUTSOURCING PREVENTION ACT”

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation that would prohibit the outsourcing of torture by the United States Government.

The practice of extraordinary rendition, the extra-judicial transfer of people in U.S. custody either in this country or abroad to nations known to practice torture, has until recently received little attention due to the secrecy surrounding such transfers. Attention was first drawn to the practice after the case of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen, first came to light. Mr. Arar was seized in 2002 while in transit to Canada through JFK airport in New York, and was sent to Jordan and later Syria by the U.S. Government. While in Syria, Arar reportedly was tortured and held in a dark, 3-by-6-foot cell for nearly a year. He was ultimately released and detailed his story to the media upon his return to Canada. Since that time, other press reports have identified renditions elsewhere around the world, such as the transfer of an Australian citizen, Mamdouh Harb, from Pakistan to Egypt, where he was reportedly tortured.

Extraordinary rendition is wrong because it violates international treaties that the United States has signed and ratified, including most notably Article 3 of the Convention Against Torture. It also denies the victim’s right to block the proposed transfer based on the belief that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture. It undermines the moral integrity of America in the eyes of the world. Ensures that American captives are likely to be tortured by others out of reciprocity, regardless of the urgency of the pleas of our government or the victim’s family.

Although the total numbers of those “rendered” by the Bush Administration are unknown, then-CIA director George Tenet testified to the 9/11 Commission in October 2002 that over 70 people had been subjected to renditions prior September 11. Human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU have detailed numerous other cases that may also involve rendition to countries that practice torture.

Last year, the Canadian government launched an investigation into Arar’s case, but the U.S. State Department has refused to cooperate with the Canadian investigation. The bill I am introducing today directs the State Department to compile a list of countries that commonly practice torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during detention and interrogation, and prohibit rendition to any nation on this list. The bill explicitly permits legal, treaty-based extradition, in which suspects have the right to appeal in a U.S. court to block the proposed transfer based on the likelihood that they would be subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment.

Torture is morally repugnant whether we do it, whether we ask another country to do it for us. It is morally wrong whether it is captured on film or whether it goes on behind closed doors unannounced to the American people. President Bush has asserted that “the
values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being." I agree. The legislation I am introducing today is designed to ensure that we not only outlaw torture conducted directly by U.S. government personnel, but that we also stop any practice which involves outsourcing or contracting out torture.

I urge Members to join in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF
HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, offered by Representative RASKIN of West Virginia, condemning the terrorist attack of February 14, 2005, that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and to honor the life and legacy of the former Prime Minister.

Born in Sidon, Lebanon, in 1944, Rafik Hariri, along with his father and two brothers, was not born into wealth, but into a farming family. In 1965, seeking a better life, he moved to Saudi Arabia where he worked as a schoolteacher and accountant before starting his own business. Through hard work and particular skill in the construction industry, former Prime Minister Hariri accumulated a personal fortune which many have estimated to be a fortune in excess of $2 billion.

Mr. Hariri began his involvement in the political and economic life of Lebanon long before he became prime minister. As a Lebanese businessman living in Saudi Arabia, he played a behind-the-scenes role as a mediator, advisor and promoter of cease-fires and agreements to end the civil war that ravaged Lebanon from 1975 to 1990. He invested his time and extensive contacts throughout the world to bring peace to his war-torn country. In 1984, Mr. Hariri participated in the Geneva and Lausanne conferences to bring about political reconciliation in Lebanon and helped broker initiatives to put an end to the civil war.

In 1989, Mr. Hariri was the power behind the Taif Agreement, which succeeded in ending the war and the drafting of a new constitution for Lebanon. This agreement was the political contract that laid down the principles of national reconciliation that ended a dark chapter in Lebanon's history.

In 1992, he returned to his home country to assume office as prime minister after 28 years of living and working in Saudi Arabia. He formed his first government on October 22, 1992.

He immediately began an ambitious rebuilding program whose crown jewel was the rebuilding of Beirut's war torn central district. Today, the district is a vibrant and beautiful center of commerce and culture that rivals that of the world's other great cities.

Rafik Hariri was a man of peace and a man of diplomacy. He was the kind of man who builds bridges and democracy throughout the Middle East.

I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Hariri on a number of occasions. He was a kind and humble man and the extent of his generosity towards the people of Lebanon, and those throughout the world, may never be fully known. He used his own personal wealth to give thousands of students the opportunity to gain a college education that they would have otherwise been unable to afford.

Mr. Speaker, I had the expectation that a thorough and internationally validated investigation will uncover many facts about the assassination of Lebanon's former Prime Minister who remained a sitting member of parliament. Rafik Hariri was the leader of a political faction that many thought would take back control of Lebanon's government in parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in May. I know, from my personal meetings with Prime Minister Hariri, that he held deep reservations and misgivings about the continued presence of Syrian troops and Syrian secret police in Lebanon. Most often, it was not what he said, but what he indicated he could not talk about that most starkly expressed the reservations he had about Syria's role in Lebanon.

Following this national tragedy, Lebanon must now work with the international community to bring to an end the Syrian presence in Lebanon. It is my fear that the assassination of Mr. Hariri, and the many other past assassinations that have too often gone without significant investigation in Lebanon, will have a chilling effect on freedom of speech and thought that would vocally criticize the continued Syrian presence.

To say it plainly, it is time for Syrian troops and all the Syrian secret police to leave Lebanon. The security that Syria once provided is no longer needed and having security only for those who ally themselves with the continued Syrian presence is incompatible with democracy in Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, I support UN Resolution 1559 that demands a, "strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanon," and for all, "foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon."

Rafik Hariri fought for a democratic and prosperous Lebanon. The United States, even after his death, should continue to press for a vibrant Lebanon. The United States, even after his death, should continue to press for a better Middle East.

BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in cautious support of the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005. While I believe the public should be able to trust the content of programming during peak viewing times is age-appropriate for children, I am concerned that strict regulations, if improperly applied, can result in infringements on our right to free speech.

Parents ought to be able to watch or listen to public broadcasting without fear that obtrusive material is foisted on their children. The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) role in encouraging and enforcing decency regulations provides parents with a level of security that their family can watch television together or listen to the radio on the way to school without concern about the appropriateness of the information for their children.

As our society's values have changed with different trends, the FCC has provided a model to guide broadcasters and encourage them to take into account the diversity of their audience when making programming decisions. This bill will retain these standards and dramatically increase the amount a broadcaster can be fined for each violation. While I support keeping broadcasters accountable to the public, I believe the penalties, which include a Slippery slope toward violation of first amendment rights and public access to a diverse discussion of ideas, I am, therefore, supporting this legislation but with a deep concern that Congress may well have to re-examine the nature of these fines in future legislation, particularly if they have the effect of prior restraint on first amendment freedoms.

In light of recent scrutiny of indecent material, many broadcasters, artists, and performers are looking toward unregulated airwaves, such as cable and satellite radio. If these programs and performers move to these arenas, the quality of public airwaves leaves with them. The free flow of ideas is the cornerstone of our society, and opens the minds of Americans to different ideas, cultures and lifestyles. Public television and radio provides a medium for those ideas for those who can afford it, not just those who can afford it.

So it is with some deep hesitation that I vote for this bill, as I hope it will not set a dangerous precedent of excessive fines and regulation on television and radio content and possible infringements on our first amendment rights, but instead ensure that broadcasters are aware and accountable for the content which they air.

I am including an editorial printed in the Rocky Mountain News in March 2004, which I think raises important concerns to consider regarding the increase in fines that this bill will administer.

[Congress Should Retreat in 'Indecency' War. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives stampeded Thursday to pass a bill to appease voters offended by the Superbowl display of Janet Jackson's breast. Unfortunately, all of Colorado's House delegation (with the exception of Mark Udall, who did not vote) displayed a herd mentality. The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act, H.R. 3717, raises the maximum fine for a decency violation to $500,000, an amount that applies both to on-air personalities and to broadcasters. But many broadcasters often own many outlets, and programs often air in multiple markets, the total fine for even a single slip of the tongue (or the wardrobe) can be astronomical. The legislation was introduced in January, before the Super Bowl, so it is probably just coincidence that the fine new amounts to just about one dollar for each of the more than 500,000 complaints about the halftime show that flooded into the offices of the Federal Communications Commission. But the rapid passage is certainly no coincidence.

A Senate measure, S. 2056, has similar provisions for raising fines, but also suspends...
for a year FCC rules about how many media outlets a company can own while the General Accounting Office investigates whether consolidation in the broadcast media is connected with the FCC’s actions on the airwaves. It’s awaiting action by the full Senate.

We’re glad there is still lots of full-throated public reaction against sleaze in the media (public is often fickle about what it considers inappropriate). The FCC is supposed to uphold some standards, which is why it monitors complaints and spells out the rules for what constitutes “exhibitionism,” “obscenity” and “blasphemy.” But the best pressure, we believe, is the voice of thousands of individual consumers making their views known to the companies that market the stuff.

We understand that few politicians, especially with an election nearing, are willing to risk being accused of “defending indecency.” But Congress should tread lightly in such matters. A law broad enough to ensure that no one’s ear or eye is offended will end up silencing speech—indignation at government policies, for example, expressed in strong language—that ought to enjoy full constitutional protection.

“It’s hard to have to address this issue,” declared House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, “but when members of the broadcast industry violate the boundaries of reasonable tolerance, that’s exactly what we’re forced to do.”

Forced? Panicked is more like it, and the spectacle is embarrassing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “CALLING FOR 211 ACT OF 2005”

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I’m very proud to be the lead Democratic sponsor of the Calling for 211 Act of 2005, and I look forward to working with my congressional partner Rep. BLIRAKIS to move this proposal forward.

Every hour of every day, someone in the United States needs essential services for themselves or someone close to them. These services can range from finding an after-school program for a child, to securing care for an aging parent, to finding drug or alcohol counseling. Faced with a myriad of agencies and help lines, many people end up going without services that they need just because they don’t know where to start.

When someone calls 2–1–1, an information and referral specialist assesses the caller’s needs and determines which service provider is best equipped to handle their problems or crises. These specialists are also trained to determine whether a caller may be eligible for other programs. 2–1–1 service providers maintain comprehensive databases of resources, including federal, state and local government agencies, community-based organizations and private nonprofit groups.

In 2000, the FCC designated 2–1–1 for community information and referral purposes. Today, 2–1–1 reaches 107 million Americans—about 37 percent of the U.S. population—with call centers operational in 31 states and the District of Columbia. The goal of the Calling for 211 Act of 2005 is to ensure that all Americans have access to quality community information and referral services through 2–1–1.

The largest barriers for communities seeking to implement 2–1–1 are funding and awareness. In many states, limited resources have slowed the process of connecting communities with this vital service. Current funding where 2–1–1 is operational comes from diverse sources including non-profits, state governments, for-profit businesses, and federal dollars.

The Calling for 211 Act is strongly supported by the United Way and builds on the ongoing efforts to make it easier to connect people with important community services and information through the nationwide implementation of 2–1–1. The legislation provides federal matching grants to enable some state and local governments, nonprofits, and the business community, to ensure that 2–1–1 can finally be a truly national system.

A small investment at the national level would pay immediate dividends in terms of faster, more efficient responses to non-emergency but still critical situations.

In a crisis no one has time to flip through their phonebook. When an urgent medical or safety issue arises, we dial 911 knowing we can get help anywhere and at anytime. We should expect the same when it comes to tracking down important social services as well.

I urge my Colleagues to support this legislation and help to implement this critical safety net for all Americans.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO HATTIE J. HITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

African Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, 2–1–1 history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scalpings are documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mayersville’s unsung hero, Mrs. Hattie J. Hite. Known as Ms. Hattie, Hite is 70 years old and the mother of one deceased daughter, Lillian Hite. She is very instrumental in the community and her church family. Every morning, Mr. & Mrs. Hite prepare and deliver breakfast to elderly citizens of the community.

She prepares meals for all of the church functions. Each May, she hosts a memorial program at church honoring her mother, sister and daughter. She invites family, friends, and community members to come over for breakfast. She is and has been a mother figure to the entire community.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF KOHJALY

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for years a number of distinguished Members of this House have come to the Floor of this Chamber every April to commemorate the so-called Armenian Genocide—the exact details of which are still very much under debate. Almost 90 years after the event, ironically and tragically, none of these Members has ever once mentioned the ethnic cleansing carried out by the Armenians during the Armenian-Azerbaijan war which ended a mere decade ago.

Khojaly was a little known small town in Azerbaijan until February 1992. Today it no longer exists, and for people of Azerbaijan and the region, the word “Khojaly” has become synonymous with pain, sorrow, and cruelty. On February 26, 1992, the world ended for the people of Khojaly when Armenian troops supported by a Russian infantry regiment did not just attack the town but they razed it to the ground. In the process the Armenians brutally murdered 613 people, annihilated whole families, captured 1,275 people, left 1,000 civilians maimed or crippled, and another 150 people unaccounted for in their wake.

Memorial, a Russian human rights group, reported that “scores of the corpses bore traces of perfusion. Doctors on a hospital train in Agdam noted no less than four corpses that had been scalped and one that had been beheaded... and one case of live scalping.”

Various other witnesses reported horrifying details of the massacre. The late Azerbaijani journalist Chingiz Mustafayev, who was the first to film the aftermath of the massacre, wrote an account of what he saw. He said, “Some children were found with severed ears; the skin had been cut from the left side of an elderly woman’s face; and men had been scalped.”

Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at that time “the largest massacre to date in the conflict.”

The New York Times wrote about “truckloads of bodies” and described acts of “scalping.”
This savage cruelty against innocent women, children and the elderly is unfathomable in and of itself but the senseless brutality did not stop with Khojaly. Khojaly was simply the first. In fact, the level of brutality and the unprecedented atrocities committed at Khojaly set a pattern of destruction and ethnecleansing that the perpetrators thought would adhere to for the remainder of the war. On November 29, 1993, Newsweek quoted a senior US Government official as saying “What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their (the Armenians) way. It’s vandalism.”

This year, as they have every year since the massacre, the leaders of Azerbaijan’s Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities issue appeals on the eve of commemoration of the massacre of Khojaly urging the international community to condemn the February 26, 1992 bloodshed, facilitate liberation of the occupied territories and repatriation of the displaced communities.

And every year, those residents of Khojaly, who survived the massacre—many still scattered among one million refugees and displaced persons in camps around Azerbaijan—appeal with pain and hope to the international community to hold Armenia responsible for this crime.

I am pleased to say that on January 25, 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe overwhelmingly adopted a resolution highlighting that “considerable parts of Azerbaijan’s territory are still occupied by the Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.” It also expressed concern that the military action between 1988 and 1994 and the widespread ethnic hostilities which preceded it, “led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing.”

Mr. Speaker, this is not the ringing condemnation that the survivors of Khojaly deserve but it is an important first step by an international community that has too long been silent on this issue. Congress should take the next step and I hope my colleagues will join me in standing with Azerbaijan as they commemorate the tragedy of Khojaly. The world should know and remember.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “VIDEO DESCRIPTION RESTORATION ACT OF 2005”

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the “Video Description Restoration Act of 2005.” Mr. Speaker, we have a long history in telecommunications policy of trying to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all segments of society. Our policies, enacted by Congress and implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has sought to further the three principal goals of telecommunications policy, namely, universal service, diversity, and localism—even as such policy objectives are buffeted by rapid technological change and competition.

For instance, in the late 1980s, the Telecommunications Subcommittee enacted legislation to include a decoder chip in all televisions to ensure that the deaf and hard-of-hearing community had affordable access to closed captioning. While the industry opposed such efforts as being too costly, with exaggerated claims of how much the price of televisions would rise as a result of this mandate, the technology was implemented and now turns out to be about a dollar a set. The FCC’s video description rules were designed to similarly serve a community, in this case the blind community, in a modest effort to ensure that television was available to that community. Video description is the insertion of narration about the visual setting and background when that information is not already included in the audio portion of the program. Because television is a mainstay for information, news, and family-oriented viewing in the home, it is important that steps are taken, in furtherance of longstanding universal service goals, to reach the blind community.

This bill would restore the video programming rules. Recently the DC Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the rules, alleging that the Commission did not have sufficient authority to promulgate such rules. Passage of this legislation would remove any ambiguity. I believe Congress ought to give the Commission clear guidance that such rules should be reinstated in a way that no court could question the intent of Congress and that the Commission should have such authority. Moreover, by approving such legislation, Congress can also establish that such video description rules do not regulate content in violation of any Constitutional protections. Broadcasters are free to air whatever content they wish over the course of a week. The video description rules simply require that a modest portion of such speech be made available to all listeners, including those who cannot see. The regulations would not stipulate which speech is acceptable, favored, or otherwise and broadcasters can choose which speech they wish to make available to the blind community. In fact, rather than infringing upon speech, the rules celebrate it, serving to be able to hear it over their public airwaves.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will move legislation this year to re-instate these important video description rules and look forward to working with all of my colleagues on this issue in the weeks and months ahead.

HONORING FIDEL GONZALEZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Fidel Gonzalez. Fidel Gonzalez practiced law in Cuba and defended many dissidents of the Fidel Castro regime.

Among his various activities in the United States, he has worked as a social worker in the city of New York’s Social Welfare Program. He studied nights and weekends at Fordham University in New York, where he received a Master’s Degree in Social Work and graduated with a high grade point average.

When he retired as a social worker, he began working with a well-known law firm in Union City. In addition, Fidel Gonzalez was an outstanding leader of the Cuban Attorneys Delegation in New York and New Jersey. He has been a member for many years of the Pan-American Culture Circle, where he has participated in their conferences as coordinator of the historic and literature sessions.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE RECOVERY AND ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE PRISONERS OF WAR OR MISSING IN ACTION

SPEECH OF
HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 18. This bill recognizes the historic commitment of the United States to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status.

I would like to personally thank Mr. FRANKS and Mr. HUNTER for bringing this important Resolution to the floor and I am pleased that the House is taking time out to remember the bravery of the soldiers who participated in the rescue of American and Filipino military prisoners of war.

As Chairman of the Philippines Friendship Caucus, I am pleased that this resolution not only honors the commitment of United States Army units but also recognizes the courage of the Filipino guerrillas.

On April 9, 1942, over 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers became prisoners of war during the surrender on the Bataan Peninsula. The soldiers were forced to march without food or water on the infamous 65-mile trek, known as the Bataan Death March. It is believed that 17,000 captives did not survive the march or the ensuing years as prisoners of war. Many historians call the Bataan Death March the worst military atrocity ever suffered by American soldiers in the history of the United States.

General MacArthur committed forces under his command to make every effort to liberate prisoner of war camps and internment camps. United States Army units and Filipino guerrilla forces successfully conducted rescue missions that liberated innocent civilians, prisoners of war and Filipino citizens. General MacArthur’s efforts are an example of the United States’ commitment to the recovery and full accounting of our prisoners of war.

I join my colleagues in recognizing this historic commitment and I urge my colleagues to support this Resolution.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH C. THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would
like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Senator Joseph C. Thomas of Yazoo County. Senator Thomas is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking at the University of Mississippi. He is retired as Vice President from AmSouth National Bank after 30 years of service. He has served as the National Treasurer and Executive Vice President of the Friends Amistad, a national organization in support of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, LA.

Senator Thomas currently serves as board member and chairman of the management committee of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc. He served as Chairman of the Policy Council of the American Public Power Association (APPA), which represents about 2,000 not-for-profits, community-owned electric utilities. He is the past president of the Yazoo City Municipal School Board and has been a member of the Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board. He was selected by the Mississippi Economic Council as one of the outstanding young men under 35 in 1977. Senator Thomas received the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Award (NAFEO) in 1997. Senator Thomas received the American Public Power Association’s Spence Vanderlin Public Official Award in 1997 in Toronto Canada.

Senator Thomas loves history and has served as Chairman of the Oakes African American Cultural Center since it started in 1992. Senator Thomas is considered to be a noted historian on the subject of African-American history in Mississippi. In 2003, he won the position of Senator of District 21 for the State of Mississippi. He is serving on the Finance, Insurance, Banking Economic Development & Tourism, Education and Judiciary B committees. Senator Thomas is married to the former Elizabeth Wilburn of Benton, Mississippi and they are the proud parents of three children, Joseph Jr., Kirk and Whitney.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver’s license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorist abuse of the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expedient construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act of 2005.

As a member of the 9/11 Commission Caucus, I strongly supported passage on December 7, 2004, of S. 2845, the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. That legislation took some much-needed and long-overdue steps toward strengthening the system of intelligence sharing and analysis in the United States. The bill implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Report, a comprehensive collection of analyses and suggestions for improving the Nation’s intelligence system, in order that we might never experience another 9/11.

H.R. 418, if enacted, would repeal some provisions of the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. It would rob States of the ability to issue driver’s licenses and identification cards as they see fit, and further subjects the States to unfunded mandates to conform their driver’s licenses and identification cards to federal standards.

Police forces around the Nation are notably opposed to H.R. 418. They have grave security concerns surrounding the driver’s license provisions of this legislation; the job of law enforcement is made easier when the state Department of Motor Vehicles database contains information on undocumented immigrants. As a former district attorney, I place a high priority on assisting law enforcement however possible.

The asylum provisions included in this legislation are unnecessary, and will not enhance our national security. The provisions needlessly restrict the standards by which motives for persecution would qualify for asylum. I believe such a move could potentially exacerbate and multiply human rights abuses around the world by making it more difficult for victims of such abuses to seek refuge in the United States.

Opposition to H.R. 418 includes a vast array of organizations, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to the American Conservative Union to the National Council of State Legislatures.

I believe strongly in protecting our great Nation from whatever threats exist to it. I do not believe, however, that H.R. 418 is a step in the direction of improving national security.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MCKING ALANIS

HON. RANDY “DUKE” CUNNINGHAM
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005
Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of McKing Alanis. A native of the Philippines, Mr. Alanis rose through adversity to humbly serve in the United States Navy for 29 years and six months, and has devoted the past 14 years to my staff.

Mr. Alanis rose from a raw recruit in the Navy, to the rank of Senior Chief with a lithographers rating. This was particularly difficult because at the time Filipinos were only allowed to serve in the Navy as stewards or in the kitchen. Mac was the outstanding recruit when he graduated from Navy boot camp. He attended the Army Engineer School, Topography-Lithography-Graphs at Ft. Belvoir in Virginia and graduated 2nd in his class of 47. During his tenure in the Navy, McKing was champion of equal rights and equal opportunities. McKing has received numerous awards for his service in the Navy, including 21 letters of commendation.

Prior to joining the Navy, Mac was a disk jockey and radio personality in Naga City, Philippines. In 1965, he used the talent he developed in the Philippines to become a news-caster in his Navy off-time at AFRTS-TV in Kodiak, Alaska.

McKing’s involvement with the Filipino community in San Diego includes service as the President of the Bicol Club of San Diego County in 1979 and Public Relations Officer for the Council of Filipino American Organizations of San Diego County. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Samahan Dance Company from 2000 to 2002, and during that period was also an advisor to the Igorcios of Southern California. Mac is the founder of the Iriga Guys Jesters, a philanthropic organization that raises funds for the poor in Iriga City. In 1997, Mac was called to Washington, D.C. to be recognized by Fil-Am Image Magazine as one of the 20 outstanding Filipinos in the United States and Canada.

For the past 14 years McKing has served as both Community and Military Liaison in the 50th Congressional District of California. One of the original members of my staff, McKing has proved vital in services helping constituents with the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Immigration and Naturalization. McKing estimates that during his 14 years with the district office, he has helped my constituents resolve more than 4,000 cases.

Mac has dedicated his life to what he calls the 3T concept. “Time we cannot keep, talent is not permanent either, and treasure—please share it.” He firmly believes that “the only things we can really keep are those we give away.”

Mr. Alanis is married to the lovely Susie Gonzaga Salcedo. They have three children, and are the proud grandparents of three grandsons. He has been a strong advocate of family values, equality, and has worked relentlessly to help the disadvantaged. He has been a valuable member of my team and will be missed greatly.
TAYWAN STRAIT RELATIONS

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues in expressing my concerns about China’s proposed anti-secession law, which is highly provocative and may cause a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, the proposed law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separation sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, passage of this law can embolden China to legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is obviously, a scenario we would not like to see.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy, and enjoyed highest standard of freedom and human rights. Although some people might argue that any country should have the right to enact a domestic law, but if a country’s freedom and well-being are endangered because the country, who are the defenders of freedom and democracy around the world, shouldn’t stand aside and tolerate the situation to escalate.

I hope Chinese leaders will exercise their wisdom and not adopt this anti-secession law this March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this law. Inaction by the United States and other concerned countries will send a dangerous signal to China and encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric against a democratic country.

We do not need any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or ever. I encourage my colleagues to tell our Chinese friends in Beijing that they should appreciate the contributions that the Taiwanese have made to the Chinese economy. China should also know that Taiwan stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. The Taiwanese people desire a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brethren and have no desire to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is important that the U.S. maintain focus and resolve on this issue, and I encourage China to do away with the proposed anti-secession law so as to not upset the balance of peaceful relations in the region.

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 185th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, I wish to honor her for her courageous efforts in ensuring that all women receive the respect and dignity they truly deserve.

Susan B. Anthony was one of the greatest women advocates in history. She is known not only for her fight to gain women the right to vote, but also for her great courage in fighting for the rights of the unborn.

She was a feminist who fought tirelessly to protect the dignity of motherhood, which she believed to be an inherent right of all women. I am proud to honor Susan B. Anthony for her dedication to preserving the precious gift of life and I hope that my colleagues will join me in promoting a true culture of life.

THE MURDER OF AMERICAN NUN DOROTHY STANG

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the killing of Dorothy Stang. She was caught in the crossfire at a settlement of landless peasants established on a state-run development reserve near the town of Anapu, about 1,300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro.

On Saturday February 12, 2005, Dorothy Stang, a 74-year-old American nun, was murdered in Brazil. She was shot four times at point-blank range.

She had been working and living in the region for more than three decades. Ms. Stang was bringing the word of God to the poor and downtrodden, while championing the environmental and human rights of Brazil’s impoverished and landless peasants. She had spent
decades fighting illegal loggers and ranchers in the jungle.

Tragically, nine days before her death, Dorothy Stang warned Brazil’s Human Rights Minister that she and farmers faced constant death threats and needed protection. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched a federal investigation into the case and called a special cabinet meeting.

Dozens of land activists are killed each year in Brazil as they confront militias armed and paid by landowners. Few cases are solved in rural areas, where local police forces are often allied with the landowners.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the government of Brazil to work toward a permanent end to the violence and to disarm and disband all illicit armed militia. I call upon the government of Brazil to implement judicial and police reforms to stem the rising violence, and take immediate measures to protect human rights defenders and land activists from death threats.

President Lula’s investigation into this case must be transparent and the perpetrators of this murder must be brought to justice.

**CHINA’S PROPOSED “ANTI-SECESSION LAW”**

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was elected to a second term last March, he has attempted to reach out to China on many occasions in hopes that cross-Strait relations could be improved. Unfortunately, China has not responded positively to Chen’s man, goodwill gestures. The massive Chinese military buildup along the coast continues, China’s bellicose rhetoric continues, and China is now planning to enact an “anti-secession (or anti-separation) law” aimed specifically at Taiwan. Understandably, the Taiwanese people have been reacting to this proposed law with alarm. If Chinese leaders persist in passing this law, Taiwan might be forced to enact an anti-an- nexation law of its own as a proper response to China.

This battle of laws is most unfortunate in view of the fact that cross-strait relations have been improving in recent days. On January 15 the 23 million people of Taiwan. China has totally changed the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Taiwanese people should not sit idly by and allow authoritarian Chinese government which cause the annexation of democratic Taiwan; neither should any free-dom-loving people in the world.

By unilaterally changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, China is also challenging America’s will to stand behind the Taiwan Re- lations Act which says unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States “to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan.” The Taiwan Relations Act also affirms one of the objectives of the United States as “the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan.”

Mr. Speaker, it is my view that China’s pro- posed anti-secession law is provocative and dangerous and poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the region. I urge the Chinese government to step back from confrontation and stay on the path to reconciliation and friendship with the free people of Taiwan.

**THE OCCASION OF THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership, and escalated into full mili- tary aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely de- fended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable armed forces and independent foreign policy. I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing free- dom and democracy.

**BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO JESSIE D. BANKS**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

**OF MISSISSIPPI**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Ameri- cans of the 2nd Congressional District of Missis- sippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, when President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed February as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Ameri- cans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked. I would like to recognize Mrs. Jessie D. Banks of Holmes County, Mississippi. A native of Tchula, MS, Mrs. Banks received her Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Edu- cation in 1963 and served as an elementary school teacher in Tchula until 1986. Mrs. Banks not only noted for her contributions to public service and the political arena.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mrs. Jessie D. Banks of Holmes County, Mississippi. A native of Tchula, MS, Mrs. Banks received her Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Educa- tion in 1963 and served as an elementary school teacher in Tchula until 1986. Mrs. Banks not only noted for her contributions to public service and the political arena.

Mrs. Banks was elected as the first African-American Alderwoman for the City of Tchula in 1977. Mrs. Banks served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta in 1988 and in Chicago in 1992. In 1989, she was elected as the first African American woman mayor of the City of Tchula. She was re-elected mayor in 1993. Mrs. Banks returned as a delegate to the DNC in Atlanta in 2000 and the 2004 DNC convention in Boston. Mrs. Banks’ public service and political career spans many other public endeavors including NAACP President for Holmes County, Commissioner of Regional 6 Housing Author- ity, and membership in Habitat for Humanity, The National Council of Negro Women and a life member of the National Alumni Association for Mississippi Valley State University.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

**TRIBUTE TO JAMES EARL MOBLEY, AGRICULTURE ‘STATESMAN’**

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

**OF ALABAMA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. EVERET. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to a personal friend and a long- time resident of Shorterville in Henry County, Alabama in my Congressional district who passed away on February 15. Among the sizeable farming community in Alabama, James Earl Mobley would need no introduction. He was a tall, thin and in character. Indeed, for many years in the Halls of Congress, Mobley was also well- known to more than a few agriculture law- makers.

Mr. Mobley was an admitted ‘statesman’ of agriculture, Mobley’s diplomatic skill, coupled with his vast knowledge of peanut farming, were assets to growers, the industry and Congress. For dec- ades there was probably no stronger, or more
consistent advocate of peanut farming, particularly in the Tri-States region of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, than Mobley. He is credited with helping successfully guide his industry through many farm bills.

A farmer for much of his life, he was an active voice for peanut farmers as the president of the Alabama Peanut Producers Association. His expertise was applied statewide as well when he served as vice president and a member of the board of directors of the Alabama Farmer’s Federation. He was also a board member of the National Peanut Council.

I speak for a great number of present and former lawmakers as well as farmers and friendly colleagues to the family of James Earl Mobley. His gentleman farmer manner and his tireless dedication to agriculture will be sorely missed.

THE U.S. SHOULD EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CHINA’S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my concern about China’s proposed anti-secession law, which is highly provocative and may cause a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, the law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China can legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst scenario that we could possibly see.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, and press reports, this law will also oblige the Chinese military to invade Taiwan immediately if there is a future Taiwanese “declaration of independence.”

There are many potential roads to a resolution of the well-entrenched differences between Beijing and Taipei. China’s choice here could result in regional violence, instability and undermine democracy. This law will likely erode any goodwill that has arisen across the Straits over the years. It is in the interest of the region and the United States to see that the negotiations between China and Taiwan be resolved peacefully.

The Bush Administration has said that its policy is to inspire and encourage the growth of democracy. This law, which may compel military force against Taiwan, should significantly concern by the Administration. China should not seek to impose its communist government upon the 23 million Taiwanese people.

The Taiwan Relations Act states “that the issues between Beijing and Taipei be resolved peacefully and with the assent of the people of Taiwan.” This law signals a change in the status quo and is a roadblock on the path to peace.

HONORING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRELL ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23rd, Rotary International will celebrate its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than $1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club in Terrell, Texas, on the occasion of their 85th anniversary on December 1, 2004. Throughout its 85 year history, the Terrell Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Terrell Rotary Club has raised money to combat Polio, bought wheelchairs for people all over the world, collected food for a food distribution center in Terrell, and provided benches for the city park. In addition, they have assisted with blood drives, helped with the Special Olympics and Relay for Life, and collected books to help support the Head Start program in Terrell. For the past 30 years, they have also issued the Community Service Award for Terrell.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Terrell, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, I am proud and proud to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

“THE BROAD-BASED STOCK OPTION PLAN TRANSPARENCY ACT”

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I’m very pleased to be the lead Democratic sponsor of the Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act of 2005, and I look forward to working with my congressional partner Representative DREIER to move this proposal forward.

As many of my colleagues are aware, I have long been concerned about the impact of proposed accounting rules on broad-based stock option plans and the employees that benefit from this important employee ownership tool. For a number of years the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has threatened to require stock options to be deducted from a company’s earnings. In fact the first bill I introduced as a Member of Congress in 1993 addressed this important issue.

Last Congress, I was the lead Democratic sponsor of similar legislation sponsored by Representative RICHARD BAKER, and cosponsored by Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, Majority Whip ROY BLUNT, and over 130 bipartisan cosponsors. The legislation passed the House by an overwhelming margin of 312-111, but the bill wasn’t taken up in the Senate, and in December, FASB finalized its mandatory stock options expensing standard. Without this legislation, FASB’s rule will take effect in June and companies will be forced to deduct the estimated cost of all employee stock options from their reported earnings.

FASB’s mandatory expensing rule would have a terrible impact on companies that rely on options to recruit and retain the most talented employees. Without stock options many of these companies, including some of the most successful high-tech and biotech firms, would not even exist today. As American companies struggle to stay ahead of our global competitors, it makes no sense to handicap them with these onerous new requirements.

Stock options have become associated with corporate scandals and excessive executive compensation, leading to a call for expensing as the ultimate prescription for these problems. But stock options were not the cause of the corporate accounting scandals, and eliminating them would not even remotely instill corporate responsibility or accountability.

Stock options are already fully disclosed in corporate earnings statements, and the crimes
committed at Enron, Tyco, and other companies would not have been prevented if expensing had been the accounting rule of the day.

If, however, companies are forced to expense stock options, most will drop or severely revise option plans because of the prospect of taking a huge and misleading charge against their bottom line in accounting statements. And if mandatory expensing is implemented, most stock options plans will likely be taken away from rank-and-file employees and reserved exclusively for top executives. This is already occurring in anticipation of the new FASB rule.

It’s ironic that many are calling for the expensing of stock options in order to reign in executive compensation, when expensing stock options would do little to accomplish this. Stock option plans or other forms of lucrative compensation for senior executives will undoubtedly continue to be offered.

Rather, rank-and-file employees would be the ones to lose, because they don’t stock. Stock option plans or other forms of lucrative compensation, when expensing stock options, most will drop or severely revise option plans because of the prospect of taking a huge and misleading charge against their bottom line in accounting statements. And if mandatory expensing is implemented, most stock options plans will likely be taken away from rank-and-file employees and reserved exclusively for top executives. This is already occurring in anticipation of the new FASB rule.

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INTRODUCTION OF EXPEDITED RESCISIONS ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to give the President and Congress new and effective—and, more importantly, constitutional—powers to weed out wasteful Government spending.

Over the last four years, there has been a dramatic change in the federal budget—and it has been a change for the worse. It has gone from annual surpluses to annual deficits, meaning we have gone from debt reduction to increasing the “debt tax” that our children will have to pay.

In part, this was the result of recession. In part, it was caused by the need to increase spending for national defense, homeland security, and fighting terrorism.

And in large part, the result of the excessive and unbalanced tax cuts that Congress passed in those same years. This bill does not directly address those major causes of our budgetary problems. Responding to them will require long-term work on several fronts, including tax policy. But I think this bill is one useful tool that will help in the larger effort.

It deals with the increasing number of individual, earmarked items included in appropriations bills.

Some people are opposed to all earmarks. I am not one of them. I think Members of Congress know the needs of their communities, and that Congress as a whole can and should exercise its judgment on how tax dollars are to be spent. So, I have sought earmarks for various items that have benefited Colorado and I will continue to do so.

At the same time, I know—everyone knows—that sometimes a large appropriations bill includes some earmarked items that might not be approved if they were considered separately, because they would be seen as unnecessary, inappropriate, or excessive.

That’s why presidents have long sought the kind of “line-item veto” that is available to the governors of several states—and why Congress passed a law attempting to give that authority to President Clinton.

The supporters of that legislation argued that making it possible to cut unnecessary individual items out of a spending bill could help make the government more prudent in the way we spend taxpayer money.

But while the diagnosis was right, the proposed remedy of a line-item veto went too far—further than the Constitution permits. That’s why it was struck down in court.

My bill is a better prescription—one that will work and that will pass constitutional muster.

Under this legislation, whenever the President wants to cut a particular spending item in an appropriations bill he would be able to require Congress to reconsider and vote separately on rescinding that item, under tight deadlines and without amendment.

That would be an important change, because while current law authorizes the president to propose rescissions—that is, deletions—from appropriations that Congress has approved, there is no requirement that Congress take any action on those proposals.

My bill would change that by requiring Congress to consider and vote on whether the president’s proposed rescissions should be approved.

So, like the line-item veto act, this bill would let the President throw a bright spotlight onto spending items and have Congress vote on them separately up or down, without changes and in full public view.

The bill is entitled the “Expedited Rescissions Act of 2005.” It is based on one introduced by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs which in turn was patterned after one introduced by Congress.

Unlike the bill that the House passed in 1993, my bill would not let the Appropriations Committee come up with its alternative way to rescind the same amount of money that would be cut by the President’s proposed rescission. Instead, it would require that the actual rescission proposed by the President—that one, without any amendment, and with no alternative to it—be voted on by the Congress.

Unlike the line-item veto, this bill is constitutional. It delegates to the President the basic law-making authority that the Constitution vests solely in the Congress. Constitutionally, the line-item veto act could not be effective—it wasn’t real. This bill would give the President authority that could be used effectively.

The President and the Congress alike need to have an effective, constitutionally valid alternative to the line-item veto that can be used to revoke parts of a spending bill that could not withstand a separate up-or-down vote. This bill will meet that need.

The House Appropriations Committee would be required to report a bill introduced pursuant to the new section of the Budget Act within seven days after introduction. The report could be made with or without recommendation regarding its passage. If the committee did not meet that deadline, it would be discharged and the bill would go to the House floor.

The House would debate and vote on the bill within 10 legislative days after the bill’s introduction. Debate would be limited to no more than four hours and no amendment, motion to reconsider, or motion to reconsider would be allowed. If passed by the House, the bill would go promptly to the Senate, which would have no more than 10 more days to consider and vote on it. Debate in the Senate would be limited to 10 hours and no amendment or motion to reconsider would be allowed.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed two votes on February 15th, 2005. One to recognize the contributions of Jibreel Khazan (Ezzel Blair, Jr.), David Richmond, Joseph McNeil, and Franklin McCain, the “Greensboro Four”, to the civil rights movement and another to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 Montgomery Road in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as the “Arthur Stacey Mastrana Post Office Building.” Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on both rollcall 32 and rollcall 33.
CELEBRATING THE CITY OF TOLEDO’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Toledo’s 100th birthday. For a century this Oregon town has stood on the shores of Yaquina Bay at the foot of Oregon’s Coast Range.

From the beginning Toledo grew and prospered because of the area’s abundant natural resources, and timber has long provided the economic base for the community. In its early days, many small sawmills processed the surrounding lumber while the closely located waterways provided easy transport. World War I brought the U.S. Army Signal Corps to Toledo to build a large sawmill and logging railroads into the woods, providing the small town the infrastructure to harvest the nearby stands of spruce and fir. Today, Georgia-Pacific’s factory in Toledo remains one of the largest employers in Lincoln County, and Plum Creek Timber continues to manage timberlands in the Coast Range to ensure that timber will remain an abundant resource in Toledo’s future.

Toledo has seen a lot in its 100 years. It has faced many changes, yet throughout it all, it is still thriving, ready to face another century. So, Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this 17th day of February, 2005 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Toledo and convey my warmest regards to its residents.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STEPHEN LEITER

HON. PETER T. KING
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the untimely passing of Stephen Leiter who was an outstanding attorney and business leader in the Long Island community. Most importantly, however, Steve Leiter was a close friend to me and countless other Long Island residents.

I had the privilege of knowing Steve Leiter and have known him more than the years. During that time I always marveled how Steve could be so active in so many businesses, community, political and sports endeavors, be a loving husband and father, and still have so much time for his friends.

Steve Leiter was extraordinarily successful in his professional life, but even more so in his personal friendships. He was always there for those who needed him and he always had a ready smile and warm greeting for you.

I express my sincere condolences to Steve’s widow Glenda, his son David, who worked for me several years ago, and his daughter Lindsay. As tragic as Steve’s passing is, I hope that Glenda, David and Lindsay will find consolation in the knowledge that Steve Leiter’s memory will be cherished by so many. May he rest in peace.
physicians and dentists currently practicing in the United States graduated from Meharry Medical College. A significant number of these graduates practice medicine in under-served rural and inner-city communities. Meharry's student population is over 70 percent African American.

In harmony with the goals of HBCU's, Ten-nesssee State University began offering two-year degrees to African American students in 1912. In 1922 it became a four-year teachers college and in 1929-1930 elevated to a fully-fledged land-grant university by the Ten-nesssee State Board of Education. Tennessee State University has been consistently named in the U.S. News & World Reports Guide to America's Best Colleges. The University continues serving a diverse group of students under the motto . . . "enter to learn, go forth to serve." Its African American population is 78 percent.

In addition to these HBCU's, I would also like to recognize the American Baptist College of Nashville, formerly known as the American Baptist Theological Seminary. Along with Fisk University, this seminary was a site of the civil rights movement and graduated our esteemed colleague, Congressman John Lewis, who was one of the original leaders in the civil rights struggle and is now referred to as the conscience of the U.S. Congress.

In honor of Black History Month and on be-half of the Fifth Congressional District of Ten-nesssee, I congratulate Historically Black Colleges and Universities for their continued serv-ice in providing excellence in education not only to African Americans, but all races and ethnic groups that pursue higher learning. I also salute the American Baptist College and the many other institutions of higher education that continue to bring forth the best and bright-est.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE DR. RUSSELL KING HELTSLEY

HON. ED WHITFIELD
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Russell King Heltsley of Hopkinsville, KY, for his contributions to his community, church and family. Dr. Heltsley passed away on December 13, 2004. Dr. Heltsley was a founder of the Hopkinsville, Kentucky Crime Stoppers, a member of the Lions Club and served on the board of directors for one of the nation's key leaders in the civil rights struggle, Dr. Heltsley was born on January 26, 1933. He was the son of the late King and Nola Withers Heltsley.

Dr. Heltsley served Hopkinsville as an op-tometrist for more than 40 years. He success-fully owned and operated Heltsley Eye Care. In addition, Dr. Heltsley served his country in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant. Dr. Russell Heltsley was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was known for his dedication to his family.

I appreciate this opportunity to add his eulogy to the Congressional Record of the 109th Congress.

FOR EVERY REMEMBERANCE OF RUSSELL PHILIPPINES 4:8-9; PHILIPPINES 1:3-5


Fredrick Buechner, preacher and writer, wrote a book back in 1984 entitled, A Room Called Remember. In Chapter 1, last page, he makes an insightful statement. "Remember him who himself remembers us as he promised to remember the thief who died beside him. To him who has been faithful, what memory will you have for him that died? And to wait in hope is to have what we hope for already begin to come true in us through our hope." We are coming up on the 4th Sunday in Ad-vent, 2001. It is the season for remembering and hoping. It is a time of remembering and waiting. It is a season of hope.

In the Epistle to the Philippians just read, the missionary apostle says to his fel-low Christians: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you all, making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel . . ." As members of the community of faith, each of us has our own remembrances of Dr. Russell Heltsley.

Helen, you will remember the time you had Russell over to your parents' home when you were dating. Thinking you had prepared the delicious meal, seeing only your mother in the kitchen upon his arrival, gave him a lot of concern. Later, he admitted to you, "It bothered me a lot.

You will remember Russell coming home from the hospital following your surgery, and eating the food you cooked before entering his room, and telling me he was cooking for you. I thought that something strange and you confirmed later that all Russell was doing was warming up the food you had cooked.

"John and Ruth, you will always remember your dad telling you boys, "Always do what's right, whether or not it is popular." May his true increase richly bless you as you long remember how proud he was of his family. The entire family will remember his greatest disappointment in life was not living to see his grandchildren. You who are members of the Lions Club will remember Helen coming to help clean up because her husband couldn't do his part by helping with the cooking.

Members of the Kentucky Optometry Asso-ciation will remember Russell, who held every position in the Association, as the one who always watched the "purse strings". Why am I not surprised? All of Russell's friends will remember, for whatever reason, he seldom ate out. Conserv-ative! Yes! I will remember Russell as a devoted member of First United Methodist Church where I served twice as one of his pastors. He was not predictable, even in his seating patterns. Confirmed in 1947 by Dr. A. C. Johnson, he remained faithful to his confirmation vows for the rest of his life.

Grandchildren, you will remember him as a controlling grandparent who loved you very much. Russell had a sense of humor.

After fitting me with my first pair of glasses in the late 1970's, he reminded me that First Methodist folk would now think they have "an old preacher". We will remember his love for the fine game of basketball, the support of the Kentucky Wildcats.

In these verses from Philippians 1 and 4, Paul, the Missionary Apostle, is speaking to the Philippian congregation. In the first pass-age, he says to his fellow Christians: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you all, making my prayer with joy, thankful for your sharing in the gospel . . ." Memory is a gracious gift from God Almighty. We don't know when our memory will be taken from us and we will not know. But I will remem-ber those early days of my ministry at Hop-kinsville First Church, and his family members are part of that memory bank.

Today, we each have "fought a good fight, has finished his course, and has kept the faith." In Philippians 4: 8-9, Paul admonishes his friends in the church to a life of piety. These six qualities of a committed life were the qualities of Russell's life:

Whatever is true: Little did I know in 1977, when I became his personal pastor, that I would be entertaining an angel unaware. He taught that young minister, through his dedicated service, how to minister by the standards of truth based on Holy Writ. Russell's convictions were based on what he believed the truth to be. The truth was never negotiable. He lived the lesson of truth! Yes, he did!

Whatever is honorable: Russell was truly a gentleman. A Christian gentleman. An honor-able gentleman. The Bible reminds us that the Greek word literally translated, reads: "worthy of reverence". Very fitting, huh? His code of ethics was based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. He didn't have a copy of either posted on his front lawn. Didn't need to! Whatever is just: Russell lived out the doc-trine of justice. I his daily life, and in all his social contacts, he was a fair and just gen-tleman. He always played by the rules of fairness, compassion and justice.

Whatever is pure: A good translation of these words is this: "Purify yourself of all mean spirits." Russell didn't have a mean bone in his body. Not one! What a wonderful person! You know something? He never, not one time, told me "Howard, I have puri-fied myself of all mean spirits." He just quietly went about the business of living a good life.

Whatever is lovely: Again, the Interpreter's Bible says the original meaning was, "What-ever is worthy of love." (Agape). Russell had a love relationship with all of us, which was directly related to his love for our Savior Jesus Christ. Now 25 years from the time I first met Russell, that memory is just as vivid as ever. He loved the Lord. He loved his brothers and sisters in Christ. He loved family.

Whatever is gracious: The King James Version translates the statement this way: "Whatever thing are of good report." I like that. Don't you? Russell blessed me with his positive and loving spirit. He was truly gra-cious, always a good report. That's Rus-sell. Always spoken well of. Always held in high esteem. I'm sorry! I want to see him. I want to see him. I want to see him. Surely I want to see him. I want to see him. It is the season for remembering. Remember those early days of my ministry at Hopkinsville. Remember the thief who died beside him. Remember the thief who died beside him.

Thank God of every remembrance of this wonderful servant of Christ. J.B.F. Wright wrote the words of an old Gospel song which is part of my yesterdays of faith. Verse one is this:

"Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul:
How they linger, ever near me.
And the sacred past un-fold."

Kipling's beautiful poem says it all:

WHEN EARTH'S LAST PICTURE IS PAINTED
RUDYARD KIPLING (1902)

When earth's last picture is painted and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colours have faded, and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—lie down for an eon or two,
Till the Master of All Workmen shall put us to work anew!

And those that were good shall be happy:
They shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas of brushes or a blade.
They shall find real saints to draw from—
Magdalene, Peter, and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting and never be tired at all!
And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame,
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They Are.

652ND ENGINEER COMPANY FAMILY READINESS AWARD WINNER FOR 2004

HON. RON KIND OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the friends & family of the brave men and women of the 652nd Engineer Company. Their duty and sacrifice are appreciated by all Americans, and it is right that we pay recognition to them today for receiving the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award for 2004. This award is being presented to recognize the top unit from each Reserve component that demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness. This award is a great honor and our nation congratulates you.

New challenges facing our nation demand increased vigilance on the part of our armed services. With these increased demands, the role of the National Guard and reserve forces is critical in providing the total force necessary to ensure our nation’s security. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and reserve members from western Wisconsin who have been called to service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over 2,200 members of the Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard are serving on active duty. The people of western Wisconsin are proud of their service and the service of all the men and women of our armed forces during this important time in our nation’s history.

In the past two years, I have visited Iraq twice and have seen first hand what a fantastic job our soldiers are doing to give the people of Iraq hope for a better future. Although the road ahead will be tough, I know the efforts of the 652nd contributed greatly to our ongoing mission in Iraq.

In addition, over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and Reserve members and families from western Wisconsin who have been called up in support of operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. I had the special privilege of attending one of the 652nd Engineer Company’s family support meetings. I know from first hand experience the quality of this family support group. I would like to especially recognize Cheryl Iverson, the family support coordinator for the 652nd. I know her hard work and sacrifices are greatly appreciated by the families and members of the 652nd.

The American people and the Congress of the United States stand behind our armed service members and their families. As our military operations continue, I, and other members of Congress, will continue to work to ensure that our service men and women have all the resources necessary to do their job safely and effectively.

The efforts of our service people do not come without sacrifice. A member of the 652nd, Private First Class Bert E. Hoyer, 23, of Ellsworth, died on March 10, 2004, in Baqubah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He paid the ultimate price to enhance our security and protect our liberties; he also gave the people of Iraq the greatest gift of all: their freedom. I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends. Young leaders like this exemplify all that is good and decent about America.

Once again I would like to congratulate the families and friends of the 652nd on this prestigious award. America is firmly behind our troops, and we’re all hoping to see them home safe, secure, and soon.

May God bless our troops and their families during these deployments, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute Champaign County, Ohio, in my congressional district, which is celebrating its bicentennial on March 1. Champaign County is an area rich in history and tradition that prides itself as a fine place to work, live and raise a family.

Champaign County takes its name from a French word describing its flat surface. It became the 18th of Ohio’s 88 counties on March 1, 1805. The area was first inhabited by the North American Indian mound builders and became the hunting grounds of the Shawnee tribe. As the State of Ohio grew, Champaign County also grew in business and agriculture. Of particular note was the great success of the railway industry.

During the Civil War, this small county sent 3,235 men to fight for the Union Army. A memorial, the Man on the Monument, stands in the town square of Urbana to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by 578 soldiers from Champaign County.

Champaign County has continued to thrive with successful businesses, industry and agriculture for 200 years. It boasts five school systems and one accredited university in the county seat of Urbana. Urbana University, founded in 1850, has 24 majors for students and houses the largest collection of Johnny Appleseed memorabilia and information known to exist. Today 3,965 people live and work in the county’s city, towns and villages.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Champaign County on this momentous occasion. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the county’s success over the past 200 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE HODDY

HON. MIKE ROGERS OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. George Hody and to pay tribute to his lifetime of achievements and service to the city of Owosso and people of the State of Michigan. On March 7, 2005, Mr. Hody will be celebrating his 100th birthday and deserves recognition for his lifetime of service to his community.

Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1905 and educated at the Ohio State University, George Hody came to Michigan armed with a Masters degree in electrical engineering to work for Charles Kettering. In 1942, after several roles as a research engineer for various electrical companies, George Hody started the Universal Electric Company in Owosso, Michigan. Owosso has been forever touched by the roots Mr. Hody has put down there, his legacy of community involvement will not be forgotten by the people who call it home.

In the last 60 years, Mr. Hody has served on the Board of Directors for over twenty community organizations in the city of Owosso including an eighteen year tenure on the Owosso Public School Board and fifty years of service and support of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Hody has served as the Director of the Michigan United Way, President of the Shiawasee county United Way. Has been a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and Owosso Rotary Club. Mr. Hody has also served as the Chairman of the Board of Regents for Baker College and continues to serve as a Regent today.

Mr. Speaker, George Hody is responsible for enriching the Owosso community and has been instrumental in the industrial and economic development of Owosso, Michigan. He is an inspiration to all those who have the opportunity to meet him. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifetime of achievements of George Hody and to wish him all the very best as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

FREEDOM FOR CLARO SÁNCHEZ ALTARRIBA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Claro Sánchez Altarriba, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sánchez Altarriba is a member of the Movement of Cuban Young People for Democracy. He knows with certainty that Cuba needs to be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Through peaceful activity, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has been a courageous voice against the totalitarian regime and their continued acts of tyranny and terrorism. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has suffered harassment for
the activities, including being detained in the grotesque gulag and fined in October, 2002. Despite the continued threat of brutal retaliation for his peace- ful activities, Mr. Sánchez Alvarita continued to believe in, and advocate for, freedom for the people of Cuba. Unfortu- nately, as part of the tyrant’s heinous, March 2003, Mr. Sánchez Alvarita was arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Sánchez Alvarita is currently languishing in an inhuman gulag because of his belief in democracy. According to a letter writ- ten by fellow prisoner of conscience Léster González Penton and published by M.A.R. por Cuba:

A cement wall is all that separates both jails, but that one has a tougher regime than this one, several guards hunting defenseless people inside the jails using “marabu” sticks. That is the reason why many pris- oners suffer from achers and sicknesses be- hind bars, worsened by lack of medical care, this being the reason for self-inflicted wounds as a way to get care. Thousands of mosquitoes, rats, crawl around as in their own home, with the worst hygiene condi- tions. Eight of us brothers in the cause were removed from the cells. There only remains Claro Sánchez Alvarita, from Santiago de Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that human beings are locked in this barbarously inhuman gulag because they believe that all men and women have a right to freedom and democratic government. While the entire world sits by and ignores the suffering of the Cuban people, brave men and women like Claro Sánchez Alvarita represent the best of mankind. My Colleagues, we must demand free- dom and human rights for all people, espe- cially those who live under the darkness of to- talitarian regimes. We must demand imme- diate and unconditional freedom for Claro Sánchez Alvarita and every prisoner of con- science in totalitarian Cuba.

CHINA’S PROPOSED ANTI- SECESSION LAW

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to join my colleagues in express- ing my strong concern regarding China’s pro- posed Anti-Secession Law. This unilateral initia- tive by the People’s Republic of China, PRC, is a very provocative move that could perma- nently destroy the balance in the Tai- wan Strait.

This proposed law, which will be voted on as early as March in the full Chinese National People’s Congress, is more than just propa- ganda. The law assumes that China and Tai- wan are now unified and that China has the rights to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China can legally pursue unification of Taiwan by military force.

Because this law will challenge the wishes of the 23 million people of Taiwan who have chosen a democratic system of govern- ance, I sincerely urge Chinese leaders to abide by the wishes of the Taiwanese people and not adopt the Anti-Secession Law this March. I also urge the international community to join us in voicing their disapproval of this confrontational law.

THE BIRTH OF MADALYN ELIZABETH PRIEST

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth of Madalyn Elizabeth Priest.

My Legislative Director, Matt Priest, and his wife Lisa welcomed little Madalyn into the world on January 31, 2005. Weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces, Madalyn has already be- come the pride and joy of her happy parents. With each new birth we are reminded of just how precious life is and how amazing a de- sign God has created in us all. We also have an opportunity to reflect on the role this body can play in protecting human life at its most innocent and vulnerable stage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I join my col- leagues in expressing condolences to the famil- ies of Mr. Hariri, the families of others killed in the attack that took Mr. Hariri’s life, and the people of Lebanon.

While I support this legislation expressing sorrow over the murders, I do have some concerns that H. Res. 91 is being waved as a red flag to call for more U.S. intervention in the Middle East. It is unfortunate that tragic occurrences like these are all too often used by those who wish to push a particular foreign policy. We don’t really know who killed Mr. Hariri. Maybe an agent of the Syrian government killed him. Then again any of several other governments or groups in the Middle East or even beyond could be responsible. But already we are hearing from those who want to use this mur- der to justify tightening sanctions against Syria, forcing Syrian troops to leave Lebanon immediately, or even imposing U.S. military interven- tions in the Syria. Just yesterday we heard that the U.S. ambassador to Syria has been withdrawn.

The problem is that these calls for U.S. intervention ignore the complexities of Leb- anon’s tragic recent history, and its slow return from the chaos of the civil war—a revival in which Mr. Hariri played a praiseworthy role. We should remember, however, that it was the Lebanese government itself that requested as- sistance from Syria in 1976, to help keep order in the face of a civil war where Maronite Christians battled against Sunnis and Druze. The civil war dragged on until a peace treaty was agreed to in 1989. The peace was main- tained by the Syrian presence in Lebanon. So, while foreign occupation of any country against that country’s will is to be condemned, it is not entirely clear that this is the case with Syrian involvement in Lebanon. Hariri himself was not a supporter of immediate Syrian with- drawal from Lebanon. What most won’t say here is that Syria has indeed been slowly with- drawing forces from Lebanon. Why do they say that this is not the best approach to avoid a return to civil war? Yet, many are convinced that we must immediately blame Syria for this attack and we must “do something” to avenge something that has nothing whatsoever to do with the United States.

So, while I do wish to express my sympathy over the tragic death of Rafik Hariri, I hope that my colleagues will refrain from using this tragedy to push policies of more U.S. interventionism in the Middle East.

HONORING A.J. YATES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURE AS AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to my friend and fellow Californian, A.J. Yates, who has served as Administrator of the Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the past four years. It has been an honor to work with him on legislative matters involving agriculture, and many of us here on the Hill have come to rely on his expertise.

President Bush appointed A.J. Yates AMS Administrator in September 2001 to oversee more than 50 programs designed to maintain a stable marketing environment for the benefit of America’s farmers, ranchers, and con- sumers. AMS accomplishes this mission through federal marketing orders, research and promotion programs, the federal-state marketing improvement program, and the wholesale marketing development program. Agricultural transportation issues, market regu- latory laws, market news, and federal grading and certification are other tools the agency uses to help ensure a steady supply of high quality food on American tables.

Mr. Yates brought to AMS many years of experience in both the agriculture industry and state government, and USDA and the Amer- ican people have benefited greatly from his expertise. His background is quite impressive. Mr. Yates served as Deputy Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, CDFA, from August 1991 to December 1996 and as Under Secretary until January 1999. During his tenure at CDFA, Mr. Yates helped provide leadership to the CDFA’s seven divi- sions and developed and implemented policy for California’s agricultural industry and con- sumers. After leaving CDFA, Yates was a senior marketing consultant with Panagraph Marketing Solutions in Fresno, CA.

Mr. Yates graduated from California State University at Fresno in 1957 with a bachelor’s degree in agronomy. As a life-long farmer from Kerman, California, he has been actively involved in organizations supporting agri- culture and education, serving as President of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, and as Direc- tor of the California Sugar Beet Growers Asso- ciation, and Director of the Mid-Valley Irriga- tion District.
While at AMS, Mr. Yates has proven to be a tireless advocate for the long-term survival and economic well-being of America’s farms. His leadership has proven crucial in several issue areas important to America’s farmers, including the management of Federal marketing orders and the Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Committee and launching the implementation of the organic program.

AMS employees wish Mr. Yates the best as he returns to California to spend time with his wife Joyce and their three sons. I, too, wish him well and join my colleagues in commending him on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO 1LT ANDREW C. SHIELDS

HON. BOB INGLIS
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Thursday, February 17, 2005]

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am moved to commend to this House a thoughtful eulogy commemorating the life of one of America’s finest: 1LT Andrew C. Shields.

The eulogy was written and delivered by Brandon Steelman at First Lieutenant Shield’s funeral at New Prospect Baptist Church, Cam-pobello, South Carolina, on December 18, 2004.

EULOGY FOR A FALLEN SOLDIER: FIRST LT. ANDREW C. SHIELDS

This past week has been filled with things that quite simply can’t be understood. While there is no way to overcome with fruitful mysteries, one of the smaller mysteries I’ve faced this week is how Andrew would have me give these remarks today. Certainly, he had many friends who knew him just as well, if not better, than I did. And certainly he loved his family above all others. Each of those family members would be better suited to make these remarks today; after all, I didn’t spend my childhood dressing like him as Philip did! But I think I’m here because Andrew would be too uncomfortable watch-ing a below-average member standing and undoubtedly cry in remembrance of him. But he was always OK when I stood up to embar-rass myself. In fact, he encouraged it. So I can’t think of anything better to do than to start with him, crying like a baby, when I first heard the horrible news we’ve all been trying to accept this past week.

One of my first thoughts was to turn to the Episcopalian Book of Common Prayer. In it I quickly found a prayer I’d like to share. Entitled “Hymn of Assurance,” the Armed Forces of our Country, it reads: . . .

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our Armed Forces, at home and abroad.

Defend them, day by day, with your heav-enly grace;

Strengthen them, in their trials and tempta-tions;

Give them courage, to face the perils which beset them;

And grant them a sense of your abiding pres-ence, wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

I read that prayer three times: the first time, I was too overcome with emotion to finish. I was overcome with guilt for not having said that prayer every day Andrew had been away. But when I read it a third time, I realized Andrew didn’t need my prayerful requests on his behalf. This prayer asks for a few important things, but Andrew had each of those, and it didn’t take a friend to remind him to make them real for him.

The prayer asked for strength in his trials, but Andrew was already strong. He had physical strength, sure; he ultimately got bored wrestling me so he turned it into a game of seeing how many times he could spin me in the air before pinning me to the ground. But it wasn’t just physical strength that impressed so many people about Andrew. He had a strength of character. Without that strength, knowing one other to hold a reward-ing career, a promising salary, and the po-tential of finding his dream girl, all to leave the comfort of his newly constructed house for a far away land and a mission? Yes, Andrew had strength.

The prayer asks for the benefits of heav-enly grace, and Andrew’s faith was already based on grace. In a generation where it’s not cool to embrace religion, and not cool to hold yourself to unwavering moral prin-ci-ples, Andrew was a rare example of some-one who not only incorporated religion into their weekly schedule, but who let it guide every aspect of his life. Andrew’s soul was defended by grace long before I read that prayer.

The prayer concludes by asking God to grant a sense of His abiding presence. But those of us have been comforted by Andrew’s faith, courage, and strength. We find comfort knowing that as we say the words, “wherever he may be,” Andrew main-tains a sense of God’s abiding presence, for he is graciously embraced by the spirit of our Heavenly Father. This prayer before his death, even though initially too difficult to read, because it reassures me to know Andrew’s faith guided his life and protects him beyond his death.

With a loss like this, no single prayer will bring us the comfort we seek. In search of that reassurance, I visited a war memorial near my house, Inscribed there, in black marble, is a quote by George Wash-ington. In words too long to recite today, he calls us to honor our nation’s veterans, for it’s our appreciation now that will determine the willingness of future generations to serve in wars to come. That quote reminded me of how inspired Andrew had been by his father’s heroism, and how inspired he was as a page on Capitol Hill, I have no doubt that Edwin has a bright future ahead of him in public service. His strong presence, positive disposition and sharp intellect have made Edwin a role model for Wyandanch students and a respected leader among his fellow pages. Edwin represents the future of American leaders and I look forward to hearing of his continued achievements.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONGRESSIONAL PAGE EDWIN ROBINSON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edwin Robinson, an exemplary young man who recently completed a semester of service to the House of Representatives through the Congressional Page Program.

Mr. Robinson is a junior at Wyandanch Memorial High School, where he has one of the highest grade point averages in his class. Out-side the classroom, Edwin takes part in his school’s Junior Military program where he demonstrates leadership and civic responsi-bility to younger students and his community. He is also an active member of the First Church Ministries where he serves as Vice President, an usher, a member of the Sunbeam Choir and Sunday school teacher.

Edwin is a member of the 2004 Town of Babylon Minority Internship Program, Ujima, a Swahili word that means collective work and responsibility. Ujima seeks to introduce a select group of high school students to the inner workings of local government, provide an environ-ment where they can develop a one-on-one relationship with elected officials, and enable them to develop their professional skills in the workplace.

Through this experience and his semester as a page on Capitol Hill, I have no doubt that Edwin has a bright future ahead of him in public service. His strong presence, positive disposition and sharp intellect have made Edwin a role model for Wyandanch students and a respected leader among his fellow pages. Edwin represents the future of American leaders and I look forward to hearing of his continued achievements.

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

When I toured the tsunami-affected coun-tries in early January, I was struck by how im-pressive the relief effort by American military and civilian personnel was. Their actions went above and beyond the call of duty and they deserve our deepest gratitude.

COMMENDING THE TSUNAMI RESPONSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.
Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the activities of the American Burn Association (ABA) regarding its accomplishments and dedication to the care of burn victims. The ABA works tirelessly in its efforts involving the prevention of burn injuries. February 6th to the 12th is Burn Awareness Week so it is a fitting time to acknowledge the work of an organization devoted to this challenging field of medicine. The American Burn Association has more than 3,500 members in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and, the underpinning of burn research, hospitals with burn centers. The multidisciplinary membership enhances its ability to work toward common goals with other organizations on educational/prevention programs.

Each year, the ABA and other burn treatment entities work on a different burn prevention theme. The theme of Burn Awareness Week this year is the prevention of electrical burn injuries. The number of electrical injuries cared for in hospitals in the US is estimated at as many as 50,000; the cost of these injuries on the US economy is estimated at over one billion dollars per year. Many injuries and deaths can be prevented through an understanding of the dangers of power lines, electrical appliances, extension cords, and lighting. In the past, the ABA has sponsored Burn Awareness weeks focusing on Home Safety, Senior Burn Safety, Prevention of Gasoline Burns, and Scald Prevention, among others. Well over a million people are injured each year from burn related incidents and accidents.

In addition to its traditional responsibilities, in recent years the ABA has worked hard to improve emergency response systems and to incorporate burn care into disaster preparedness systems in the country in light of new threats to the United States. In addition, countless ABA physicians, nurses, and health care workers are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to treat America’s injured soldiers.

The American Burn Association stimulates and supports burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention through a variety of educational programs, fellowships, research, teaching, and publications, including the leading peer-reviewed, scientific journal in the burn field, the Journal of Burn Care & Rehabilitation.

ABA membership is in virtually every state in the union and countless congressional districts. When the ABA holds its annual Legislative Leadership Conference in Washington April 5th through the 7th, I hope you will take the time to meet with your ABA constituents so that they may tell you more about their work in your hometown.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this resolution honoring the great civil rights leader and educator W.E.B. Du Bois, on the anniversary of his birthday. As he once explained “I was born by a golden river and in the shadow of two great hills, five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which began the freeing of American Negro Slaves”. Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on February 23, 1868, Du Bois lived a purposeful life until his death the day before the March on Washington. The site of his Great Barrington home, where Du Bois lived for his entire youth, is now a National Historic Landmark. The majority of his papers are archived and available to the public at the main library of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, also in my district. Western Massachusetts is proud to claim W.E.B. Du Bois as a native son.

“More than any resolution, it is by our actions that we can honor W.E.B. Du Bois and his legacy. We honor his accomplishments as a civil rights leader, educator, and author when we invest in education and when we stand together against injustice and racism.”

HONORING THE LIFE OF SGT. JESSICA HOUSBY

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to honor and remember the life of SGT Jessica Housby of Milan, Illinois. Last week, Sergeant Housby was part of a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device. Her death is tragic and I offer my thoughts and condolences to her family, friends, and unit. I offer all of them my prayers and thoughts, and I pray for the safety of the remaining members of her unit, still serving in Iraq.

CORPORATIONS TO MOTE MARINE LABORATORY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mote Marine Laboratory on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a ground-breaking report that underscored the need to strengthen public awareness regarding the critical importance of the oceans in supporting life on earth.

Based in my hometown of Sarasota, Florida, Mote Marine Laboratory has vigorously and successfully pursued this goal for 50 years. Through its manifold programs emphasizing research and education, Mote Marine Laboratory has advanced the science of the sea while enthralling children and adults alike with the adventure of discovery.

Cape Haze Marine Laboratory was founded in 1955 by the now-famous shark researcher Dr. Eugenie Clark. William and Alfred Vanderbilt financed the project, issuing Dr. Clark the charge to “teach people about the sea.” While the Laboratory initially operated in the humble surroundings of a 12-foot-by-20-foot shed in Placida, Florida, Dr. Clark’s able direction enabled it to develop a strong reputation as a shark research center during its first ten years of existence.

As the Laboratory’s standing grew, so did its facilities. The Laboratory moved to Siesta Key in 1960, where it benefited from the munificence of William R. Motte and his sister, Elizabeth Motte Rose. Accordingly, the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory became Mote Marine Laboratory in 1967. The Laboratory moved to its current location on City Island, Florida, in 1978, thanks to a public-private partnership with the City of Sarasota that continues to thrive today.

Thanks to the expert leadership of William Motte, former directors Dr. Sylvia Earle, Dr. Charles M. Brader, Jr., Dr. Perry W. Gilbert, Dr. William H. Taft, Dr. Robert F. Dunn; and current President Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, the Laboratory has evolved to encompass eight buildings on a 10.5-acre campus, providing nearly 200,000 square feet of research, education, and conference space. The Laboratory...
also performs research in a Sarasota inland aquaculture park and in field stations located on Charlotte Harbor and in the Florida Keys.

Mote Marine Laboratory has become much more than an impressive facility, however. The little lab with a handful of researchers that once focused solely upon sharks has become a powerhouse of near-shore marine research. Through its seven centers, the Laboratory undertakes projects involving all kinds of marine life and ecology—from sharks to red tide to marine mammals and fisheries. 

A diverse array of biologists, chemists, engineers, and education and information experts—as well as many other specialists—performs research under the aegis of Mote Marine Laboratory in more than 50 countries. Moreover, the Laboratory hosts visiting scientists from across America and around the world. Due to the expanse of its reach and the quality of its contributions to scientific understanding, Mote Marine Laboratory has earned international acclaim.

Despite the pervasion of its functions, however, Mote Marine Laboratory has never abandoned William and Alfred Vanderbilt’s directive to “teach people about the sea.” In fact, education remains at the core of its mission. Children and adults alike learn about our world’s fragile marine and estuarine ecosystems through the Laboratory’s educational opportunities, including an annual science lecture series, a speakers’ bureau, and a multitude of adult and family programs. The Laboratory teaches nearly 50,000 children per year, many of whom study through the Laboratory’s own distance learning program entitled “SeaTrek.” This innovative initiative utilizes interactive videoconferencing to reach students in places as far away as Switzerland and Hungary.

Established in 1980, Mote Aquarium provides the keystone of Mote Marine Laboratory’s commitment to education. The Aquarium hosts almost 400,000 visitors from the United States and abroad every year and provides educational materials in five languages. As in the Laboratory’s other pursuits, the Aquarium’s main strength rests in its people. Trained volunteers thrill visitors with tales of science and their own other pursuits, the Aquarium’s worst natural disasters.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great humanitarian support that Pfizer, Inc. has offered to the victims of the Tsunami disaster. The devastation experienced in Thailand called for the nation’s compassion and swift action. Just three days after the incident, Pfizer was one of the first corporations to deliver both funds and medicines quickly and efficiently to those who experienced this tragedy first hand. Pfizer donated $11 million to relief organizations, sent more than $45 million in health care products and contributed an additional $1.5 million in individual employee and company-matching donations.

Realizing the critical need to address the potential long-term psychological impact this disaster will have on people and communities across Asia, Pfizer recently announced that it will partner with Thailand health organizations to help survivors cope with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pfizer has promised to provide financial resources and expertise to train local health professionals, nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers and other community leaders. Further, in order to address the needs of those displaced due to the devastation of businesses in affected areas, Pfizer will support the Thai Labor Department in their programs to identify and train a much needed workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud Pfizer on their Tsunami relief efforts. When the call for assistance was heard around the world, Pfizer answered. Their philanthropic efforts set a standard for other companies around the world to follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending them for the commitment and remarkable generosity they have shown to those who have suffered from one of the world’s worst natural disasters.

A TRIBUTE TO PFIZER, INC. FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great humanitarian support that
Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the countless communities across this Nation that live under a tyranny of fear due to witness intimidation.

For too long, a laudable effort to achieve peace and will democracy breeds peace. The United States will continue to promote the cause of our democratic friends in Nagorno Karabakh, not yielding until the goals set forth on February 20, 1988, have been realized in full.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Nagorno Karabakh who began their National Freedom Movement seventeen years ago.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for reunification with Armenia. This region had been placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921 under the rule of Stalin, even though 96 percent of the population of Nagorno Karabakh was ethnic Armenian.

The response from Azerbaijan and the former Soviet Union on this request was violent. Military attacks against Nagorno Karabakh followed, resulting in a brutal campaign of aggression largely ignored by the outside world. This did not cause the people of Nagorno Karabakh to falter, for they continued to defend their freedom.

Since declaring independence in 1991, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has grown into an active and prosperous democracy. The first plenary sitting of the 10th session of the NKR National Assembly of the 3rd calling took place on February 9, 2005.

The people of Nagorno Karabakh should be commended for their commitment to democracy and achieving sovereignty in the face of strong opposition from neighboring nations. The United States is honored to share such fundamental values with Nagorno Karabakh as democracy, liberty, and a profound respect for human rights.

The people of the United States stand by our friends in Nagorno Karabakh in hoping for a peaceful resolution to their ongoing conflict with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Just as the people of Nagorno Karabakh saw the necessity of a peaceful secession from Azerbaijan seventeen years ago, so too must a peaceful resolution be achieved with this current conflict.

For a people who have suffered so much in pursuit of self-determination, the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh must not abandon hope for a greater future. Through their faultless commitment to democratic values and preservation of human rights, Nagorno Karabakh has made a laudable effort to achieve peace and will soon inspire its Azerbaijani neighbors to return to the peace process.

Like so many who have undergone the pains of oppression, the people of Nagorno Karabakh must rest assured knowing that democracy breeds peace. The United States will continue to work with our democratic friends in Nagorno Karabakh, not yielding until the goals set forth on February 20, 1988, have been realized in full.
While we can never bring back the Dawson family and all those who carried a heavy burden of fear due to witness intimidation, we can honor their sacrifice by taking the necessary steps today to ensure that future tragedies are prevented. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking that critical step by cosponsoring the Witness Security and Protection Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF DR. DOROTHY FEREbee AS THE NATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, few people have embodied the educational values and progressive nature of Massachusetts better than Dr. Dorothy Ferebee. Born Dorothy Celeste Boulding in Norfolk, Virginia on January 15, 1889, she was a distinguished African-American physician, administrator, and activist. The grandchild of slaves, she forged a path, overcoming countless obstacles, to build a career that would inspire many but could be replicated by none.

Though a native of Virginia, Dr. Ferebee spent the early part of her life in Boston. At a young age her family moved north from Norfolk to Boston, Massachusetts where Dorothy and her brother Ruffin grew up in a middle-class neighborhood. The two siblings matured in a nurturing environment surrounded by relatives that served as role models and encouraged scholarship. One of Dorothy’s uncles, George Lewis Ruffin, was the first African-American graduate of Harvard Law School and later became Massachusetts’s first black judge. Despite the legal influence of her extended family, there were eight attorneys among them; Dorothy’s sights were set on nursing, but her dreams led her to a different path.

A true daughter of Boston and its surrounding communities, Dr. Ferebee’s secondary, undergraduate, and professional education came exclusively from institutions in Massachusetts’ Eighth Congressional District. She graduated from Boston English High School with highest honors and went on to attend Simmons College. Upon completion, she applied to medical school and was one of the first black women accepted at Tufts University School of Medicine. Although she excelled, she was among the five in her class, was elected a member of Zeta Phi, an honorary medical society for women, and was named Class Historian, she was denied access to internships at white hospitals. Never one to give up, she moved to Washington, DC, for an internship at Freedmen’s Hospital, the precursor to Howard University and one of the few hospitals that would allow her to continue her education. There, in 1928, she married Claude Thurston Ferebee, a dentist and member of the teaching staff at Howard University.

Dorothy Ferebee had a very long distinguished medical career. After completing her internship in 1925, she began her own medical practice and became a professor at Howard University School of Medicine. One not to sit idly, she was also in charge of student health services at Howard University, directed a health care project for Black sharecroppers in Mississippi, and founded organizations that provided health care for Blacks and day care for children of working mothers.

Dr. Ferebee’s time in Washington, DC, allowed her to grow professionally, but she never forgot her Massachusetts roots. Toward the end of her career, the connection to her home returned. President John F. Kennedy, former Congressman from the eighth district of Massachusetts, appointed her to the Council for Food for Peace. Though she could have concluded her career when she resigned from Howard University at the age of seventy-nine, she returned to her home state and continued to lecture about preventative medicine at Tufts University. Never digesting from her passion of selflessly helping others, she worked late into her life eventually passing away on September 14, 1980 of congestive heart failure.

Mr. Speaker, though Dr. Dorothy Ferebee’s heart stopped working for her at the age of ninety-one, it never failed to work for others. As a physician and activist, Dr. Ferebee fought to break barriers that impeded progress for Blacks and women. The consummate humanitarian, she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the downtrodden. Her efforts carried her to the far corners of the world and her legacy will continue to feel globally, but she will always have her home and beginnings in Massachusetts’ Eighth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle, a fine Tucsonan who has set a remarkable example for us all. This weekend, Mary Belle will receive an award that is much deserved; she will be named the 2004 Woman of the Year by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (2004). Over the years, Mary Belle has made a significant commitment to education in our community. Her hard work has provided us all with benefits of immeasurable worth. In her early years with the Tucson Unified School District, Mary Belle served as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Principal of both Boston Primary Magnet School and Erickson Elementary School and as a classroom and helping teacher. Her next move led her to become the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction in the Sunnyside Unified School District in Tucson, from which she retired in 1993.

Mary Belle then went on to serve on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board for three terms, from 1993 through 2004. She was President of the Board four times and Clerk of the Board twice. In addition to these numerous important jobs, Mary Belle finds the time to mentor administrative interns and teach classes at the University of Phoenix. She has served as an educational consultant for five Arizona school districts, and currently is an Arizona Department of Education Solutions Team Leader. Indeed, Mary Belle has given her talents toward many causes and she has put forth her full effort into each and every one.

A few of Mary Belle’s many accomplishments during her tenure on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board stand out in my mind. In an effort to improve student achievement, Mary Belle led the charge to create an all-day kindergarten program and also to add counselors for elementary schools as she had done while at Sunnyside. Furthermore, she mediated a severe labor dispute which could have resulted in a work action. Among other awards and recognitions Mary Belle has received in the past are the Ray Davies Lifetime Achievement Award from the Educational Enrichment Foundation (2004), the Franco-Citizen Community Action Award by the Southern Arizona Association for Education of Young Children (2003), the LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Presidential Citation (2003), the Friend of the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board for three terms, from 1993 through 2004. She was President of the Board four times and Clerk of the Board twice. In addition to these numerous important jobs, Mary Belle finds the time to mentor administrative interns and teach classes at the University of Phoenix. She has served as an educational consultant for five Arizona school districts, and currently is an Arizona Department of Education Solutions Team Leader. Indeed, Mary Belle has given her talents toward many causes and she has put forth her full effort into each and every one.

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Pan Asian Community designation by the Pan Asian Community Alliance (2001), the Dynamic Duo Award by Compass Health (2002), the All-Arizona School Board Award by the Arizona School Boards Association, the Outstanding Educator Award by the University of Arizona Alumni Council of the College of Education, and a Woman on the Move Award by the YWCA.

Undeniably, Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle has had an extensive and successful career. Moreover, she has achieved her professional goals while raising a loving family, whom she also has taught and coddled and committed to education. She is married to Richard McCorkle, a retired Director of Purchasing for TUSD. They have two daughters: one is principal of Dietz Elementary School in TUSD, and the other is a school psychologist at Desert View High School in Sunnyside Unified School District. Four grandchildren and one great grandchild have or will attend TUSD schools.

HONORING MRS. SUE L. GLIDEWELL

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mrs. Sue L. Glidewell. She embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family, and service to one's community. I would like to recognize this outstanding citizen and public servant and her many accomplishments.

Mrs. Sue Glidewell was born on August 14, 1931 in Marshall County, Alabama. She later moved to Etowah County and graduated from Gadsden High School in 1949. She married the late H. L. Glidewell in 1950 and had four children: Cathy, who passed away in August of 1976, Gina Passmore, Kelly Stephens and H. L. Glidewell, Junior. She has five grandchildren.

As a young woman, she joined the workforce in 1949 when she accepted a position with the Credit Bureau of Gadsden. She first entered public service as an employee of the City of Gadsden Water Department in 1950. This was just the beginning of her many exceptional years in public service. She began her career with Rainbow City in 1967 when she began working as the city clerk. She served in this capacity for thirteen years before being elected Mayor in 1980. In 2004 she stepped down from the office of Mayor after having completed twenty-four years of service to her city.

Mrs. Sue Glidewell is a past President and a past Vice-President of the Alabama League of Municipalities. While Mayor, she served on the League’s Executive Committee as well as the Committee on State and Federal Legislation. She was also a member of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee for the National League of Cities. She is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and is a member of the Coosa River Development Task Force and the Etowah County Baptist Association Foundation Executive Committee. Mrs. Glidewell is a member of the Coosa Valley Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and teaches Sunday School.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mrs. Sue L. Glidewell for her many years of accomplishments and her lasting impact on her community and family. I am proud to have worked with Mayor Glidewell for the past several years and am grateful for her leadership. I know the leaders of Rainbow City and Etowah County will build upon the legacy that she leaves behind. She continues to be an inspiring role model for all of us, and I wish her all the best in the coming years.

HONORING DAN HARRELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am truly happy to rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a gentleman who has selflessly dedicated himself to public service for most of his adult life. On Friday, February 18, friends and family will join civic and community leaders in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, to honor Dan Harrell, as he retires as Coordinator of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners after 17 years.

After graduating from Flint Northwestern High School in 1967, Dan Harrell enrolled in what was then known as Genesee Community College, graduating in 1969. From there, he went on to the University of Michigan-Flint, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and History in 1971. Dan’s love of politics, however, began much earlier—in 1960, where an 11-year-old Dan patrolled the streets of Flint, handing out campaign literature for presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. At six stints as a teacher and a salesman, Dan became Assistant Finance Director of the Michigan Democratic Party. Later, in 1982, he joined the staff of newly elected State Senator Joe Conroy and remained for six years, until he left to become Board Coordinator. As Coordinator for the nine-person Board, Dan has served as a bridge and guiding force, assisting the Commission with fulfilling their task to improve the quality of life for all Genesee County residents. In addition, Dan serves as coordinator for the county’s FOIA requests, and its Emergency Management department. Dan’s peers have described his work and his ability to deal with people from all walks of life as “invaluable.”

Dan’s love of politics has extended outside of the office, where he has been a key part of many campaigns over the years, including one of his own: in 1989, he successfully ran for a seat on the Flint School Board, serving as Treasurer for three of the six years of his term. He has also been a member of the Whaley Children’s Center Public Policy Board and the Urban League Board of Directors. And then there are his greatest accomplishments: his marriage to Evelyn, their two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, once again I am honored to acknowledge the life and career of Dan Harrell. He has made Genesee County a better place to live, and I am proud to call him my colleague, my constituent, and my friend. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating Dan in his unwavering commitment to justice, and wishing him well in his retirement as well as all his future endeavors.
IN MEMORY OF DR. ALLEN BROMLY, PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND FORMER PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISOR

HON. VERNON J. EHlers
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EHlers. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of physicist Allan Bromley to this nation’s science and technology enterprise.

Dr. Allan Bromley, a Yale University professor, nuclear physicist and architect of national science policy during the administration of President George H. W. Bush, passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2005, at the age of 79.

A native of Westmeath, Ontario, Canada, Dr. Bromley earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Queen’s University and a doctorate from the University of Rochester in 1952. He subsequently earned 32 honorary doctorates from universities on four continents.

Bromley was the first scientist to artificially form nuclear molecules through high-speed collisions using a five-million-volt particle accelerator that he pioneered in 1959. He founded the Henry W. Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory at Yale and served as its director from 1963 to 1989. During the same period, his outstanding teaching contributed to his laboratory graduating more Ph.D.s in experimental physics than any other institution in the world. In 1990, the American Physical Society, the nation’s highest scientific award, for his remarkable contributions to the advancement of science and the characterization of atomic nuclei.

Dr. Bromley’s tremendous accomplishments were not limited to the confines of the academic laboratory. As the first person to hold the Cabinet level rank of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Dr. Bromley increased both the staff and budget of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy by factors of more than five. He supported investments. He served me as I have served you. The same country I helped become strong. Think how safe, proud, secure you would feel if I die. Think what life would be like if I die. Never stopping, never slowing down. Never asking for anything in return. I have supplied you with the materials to build Planes, trains, ships, cars, and whatever you found of me. I have helped make you the super power that you are.

I have made you feel proud, safe, secure, and superior to other nations. I have given people their way of life. I have taken away life from people. Do You Know Who I Am? I Am an American Steel Mill. I have helped you when called upon, I have supported you though good times and bad times. And the cri s for help are all across the country. The same country I helped build. The same country I helped become strong. Please don’t let me die. Serve me as I have served you.

HONORING THE WORDS OF JOHN JACKSON

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the words of John Jackson, a steelworker from Warren, Ohio. I am proud to claim him as my constituent.

I Am an American Steel Mill

I was born over 100 years ago.
I am a true American.
I survived the depression.
I have lived through wars.
I sweated.
I poured ton after ton out of you.
When called upon I answered.
At wartime I served my country.
I served it true.
I worked 24 hours a day 7 days a week for you.
Never stopping, never slowing down.
Never asking for anything in return.
I have supplied you with the materials to build Planes, trains, ships, cars, and whatever you found of me.
I have helped make you the super power that you are.
I have made you feel proud, safe, secure, and superior to other nations.
I have given people their way of life.
I have taken away life from people.

Do You Know Who I Am?
I Am an American Steel Mill.
I have helped you when called upon.
I have supported you though good times and bad times.
And the crisis for help are all across the country.
The same country I helped build.
The same country I helped become strong.
Please don’t let me die.
Serve me as I have served you.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

SPEECH OF
HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this month we celebrate Black History Month and the many accomplishments and contributions of African Americans in our community. I rise today to honor the lives and sacrifices of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Prior to 1940, African Americans were denied military leadership roles and skilled training in the U.S. Military because the military institution believed they lacked the qualifications and experience for combat duty. In fact, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military until World War II when the Army Air Corps program initiated a program known “Tuskegee Experiment.”

In July 1941, thirteen young Americans began military flight training at the Tuskegee Army Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Five of those thirteen young men completed training and received their Army Air Corps silver pilot wings, becoming our Nation’s first African American military fighter pilots. They would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Between 1941 and 1946, 992 of the graduates serving during World War II in either the famed 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. Both units, heralded for their bravery and tenacity, received numerous Presidential Unit Citations for exemplary tactical air support and aerial combat. The Tuskegee Airmen also paid a high price, losing 150 pilots while in training or on combat flights.

It has been said that the Tuskegee Airmen fought two wars—one against the enemy overseas and the other against racism and bigotry at home and abroad. Yet, in the face of these challenges, they accepted their country’s call to service and fought heroically in great battles for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the national organization of Tuskegee Airmen, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., estimates there are fewer than 300 of the original Tuskegee Airmen still alive today. Three of these courageous individuals reside in my own district. Mr. O. Oliver Goodall of Alhaden, California; Mr. Andrew John Simon of South Pasadena, California; and Mr. LeRoy Criss of Pasadena, California all received their training as Army Air Force fighter pilots and joined the ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen in 1942 and 1943. They served our country with honor and distinction, and I am grateful for their dedication and service. Today, I honor the contributions of Mr. Goodall, Mr. Simon, and Mr. Criss and all of the other Tuskegee Airmen who served valiantly in the U.S. Military.

I am pleased to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 26, which recognizes these groundbreaking individuals for their bravery and dedication not only to fight for their country, but also to fight for equality back home.

The “Tuskegee Experiment,” as it was known at the time, was not an experiment at all, but a radical disproving of racial stereotypes and a precursor to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. The Tuskegee Airmen shattered many of the entrenched racial biases in American culture, and in many respects, these pioneers were among the first to challenge segregationist policies. The Tuskegee Airmen charted the course for the many other brave individuals who follow them in the continuing quest for racial equality in the United States, and they deserve both our respect and our admiration.

REPEAL 22ND AMENDMENT TO U.S. CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF
HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a joint resolution to repeal outright the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution. The 22nd Amendment requires that no person who has served two terms or has served two years of another President’s term be permitted to serve another term of that President.

The time has come to repeal the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, and not because of partisan politics. While I am not a
supporter of the current President, I feel there are good public policy reasons for a repeal of this amendment. Under the Constitution as altered by the 22nd Amendment, this must be President George W. Bush’s last term even if the American people should want him to continue in office. This is an undemocratic result.

Under the resolution I offer today, President Bush would not be eligible to run for a third term. However, the American people would have restored to themselves and future generations an essential democratic privilege to elect who they choose in the future.

A limitation on the terms that a President could serve was not fully discussed by the Founding Fathers. However, Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist Paper 72, recognized that one important benefit of not having term limits on the President would be:

to enable the people, when they see reason to approve of his conduct, to continue him in the station in order to prolong the utility of his talents, and to secure to the government the advantage of permanency in a wise system of administration.

After President George Washington retired after serving two terms, a custom emerged that was not broken until President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to four terms. The people chose President Roosevelt because they desired trusted and effective leadership.

We do not have to rely on rigid constitutional standards to hold our Presidents accountable. Sufficient power resides in the Congress and the Judiciary to protect our country from tyranny. As the noted attorney and counsel to Presidents, Clark Clifford, said:

I believe we denigrate ourselves as an enlightened people, and our political process as a whole, in imposing on ourselves still further disability to retain tested and trusted leadership. The Congress and the Judiciary are now and will remain free to utilize their own countervailing constitutional power to forestall any executive overreaching.

Furthermore, a “ lame duck” President serving in his second term is less effective dealing with the Congress and the bureaucracy than a President should be. I do not believe that the people want a popularly chosen President who will be weakened in a second term. The removal of the President from politics as prescribed by the 22nd Amendment has the effect of removing the President from the accountability to political forces that come to bear during regular elections every four years.

The 22nd Amendment reflects a fundamental distrust of the judgment of the American people. However, trust of the good sense of the people is one of the cornerstones of democracy.

In 1820, Thomas Jefferson wrote: “I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion.”

I believe the repeal of the 22nd Amendment will restore power to the people themselves and make our Constitution more democratic. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN SANTA FE, NM AFTER JUDGE SANTIAGO CAMPOS

HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize an outstanding jurist, an honorable man, and a leading Hispanic in the field of law by introducing legislation to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Santiago Campos. I am pleased to be introduced in introducing this legislation by my colleagues Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRUVALVA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALES, and Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ.

Judge Santiago Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico after serving from 1978 until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989. Judge Campos’ career of public service only culminated with his service as a United States District Court Judge, as he also served in the United States Navy as a Seaman First Class from 1944 to 1946, as the Assistant Attorney General of New Mexico from 1954 to 1957, and as a District Court Judge from 1971 to 1978 in the First Judicial District in the State of New Mexico. Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and compassion as he entered his courtroom. He was a life long resident of New Mexico and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico.

Judge Campos was very active in his courtroom, often exercising his right to question witnesses in the middle of cross-examinations. Many agree that he became more involved in a case than other judges, but still let a lawyer try his own case. One of his most memorable cases ordered the Gannett Co. to return The New Mexican, Santa Fe’s daily newspaper, to its former owner, Robert McKinney due to a breach of contract.

During his career, Campos was an honorary member of the Order of the Coif. He also received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the State Bar of New Mexico in 1993, and in the same year the University of New Mexico honored him with a Distinguished Achievement Award.

Sadly, Judge Campos passed away on January 20th, 2001. Following his passing, the New Mexico State Legislature passed a joint resolution to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Campos who had his chambers in the courthouse for over 22 years. In addition, the judges of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals who reside in New Mexico and the district judges of the District of New Mexico unanimously requested and supported Congressional action to name the Federal Courthouse after Judge Campos. I am pleased to take up this effort.

During the 107th Congress I introduced this legislation and was unable to get it passed by the House. Unfortunately the Senate did not act on this legislation. During the 108th Congress we were unable to move this bill, but I am hopeful that this year will be the year to get this legislation signed into law to honor this great man with a small token of appreciation for the remarkable life that he lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF
HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and our Nation in honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and to express our condolences to his family and the people of Lebanon.

A true patriot and dedicated public servant, Prime Minister Hariri devoted his life to his country and his people, working to rebuild Lebanon after its civil war and contributing millions to programs to improve the lives of the Lebanese people.

He was well-respected by the international community for his efforts to build a free and independent Lebanon as evidenced by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 affirming the right of the people of Lebanon to choose their leaders free from intimidation, terror and foreign occupation. Sadly he will not see his hope realized.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of the February 14th attack.

RECOGNIZING THOMASVILLE BULLDOGS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, following the New England Patriots’ Super Bowl win, their third in the last four years, all of the talk was about the birth of a National Football League dynasty in the making. Those of us who reside in the Sixth District of North Carolina know all about football dynasties, and we are proud to report that the dynasty known as the Thomasville Bulldogs Football Team is back and champions once more. This year, Thomasville High School captured its fifth state championship in the school’s history and its first since 1995.

The latest championship for Thomasville may have been secured in the most thrilling manner in the school’s glorious history. On December 11, 2004, Thomasville defeated Wallace-Rose Hill 15–14 to capture the Class 1-A State football championship. That score doesn’t begin to hint at the drama that ensued for the Bulldogs. Trailing 14–9, Thomasville was facing a fourth-and-1 situation, but the Bulldogs completed a pass for only eight yards, meaning that the ball went back to Wallace-Rose Hill with only 1:21 left to play. On the next play, however, divine intervention may have occurred. Defensive back Tavarius Henderson ran down Wallace-Rose Hill running back Lerverne Coston, stripped him of the ball, recovered the fumble, and ran 10 yards
The school's last-minute hero, Tavarius Henderson, told the High Point Enterprise that was unneeded as Thomasville hung on for the dogs missed the two-point conversion, but it loose and the ball was right there, laying.

The championship game was thrilling and the entire season validated Thomasville High School as one of North Carolina’s true football dynasties. We congratulate Principal Dirk Gurley, Athletic Director Woody Huneycutt, the students, families, faculty, staff, and fans of the Thomasville Bulldogs on winning North Carolina’s 1-A football championship.

WOMEN’S HEALTH OFFICE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Representative DEBORAH PRYCE, I have introduced a bill that makes women’s health a priority. On September 17, 2002, the House passed the Women’s Health Office Act, legislation that would provide statutory authority to five federal women’s health offices. Unfortunately, the other body did not consider this legislation before the end of the 107th Congress so it was never signed into law.

Currently, only two women’s health offices are federally authorized and protected by law: the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health, and the Office for Women’s Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These offices provide critical health research services to the women of this country.

Statutory authorization is not provided for the federal offices and positions residing in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). I believe it is important to give statutory authority to these offices.

Enactment of the Women’s Health Office Act will ensure that the needs and gaps in research, policy, programs, and education and training in women’s health will continue to receive the attention they require in the 21st century.

IN MEMORY OF R. ARNOLD WAKELIN, JR.

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, recently suffered a great loss with the death of R. Arnold Wakelin, Jr., who was the town’s Executive Director of General Government, and who had served the residents of the town with dedication, distinction and creativity through 47 years.

Local government isn’t glamorous. It is simply necessary. It is to our local governments that we entrust some of the most important responsibilities that affect our lives. Policing, fire fighting, public sanitation, snow removal, street maintenance, recreation, and of course education are carried out along with a number of other activities essential to the quality of our lives. And when you speak of the town’s government level, R. Arnold Wakelin was a gifted individual who, fortunately for the people of the town of Wellesley, chose to employ his considerable talents on behalf of the fellow citizens of the town he loved and served so well.

He began his work for the town in 1957 after leaving the Air Force where he served for 3 years, and his ability and dedication quickly led to a series of promotions which culminated in his being the Chief Executive of the town.

In addition, he served on the town’s retirement board and he was a leader in the Wellesley Kiwanis Club, additional outlets for his desire to serve his fellow citizens. Mr. Speaker, I join with the residents of the town in mourning his passing while celebrating and expressing thanks for his extraordinary service. The example he set of effective concern for the well being of others is an inspiring one and I ask that the recognition by the town of Wellesley of the wonderful career of Arnold Wakelin be noted here.

Whereas, on November 8th 2004, the Town of Wellesley was saddened by the death of our esteemed Executive Director of General Government, R. Arnold Wakelin, Jr., who made numerous and impressive contributions to the Town of Wellesley and its residents throughout his forty-seven years of service. With his passing, Wellesley lost a dedicated leader and faithful friend;

Whereas, in addition to Executive Director, Arnold served as a valued member of the Town’s Retirement Board. He was also an active member of the Kiwanis Club for over forty years, having served as President and most recently Treasurer. Arnold served our community with a deep sense of commitment and devotion. He earned the regard and heartfelt respect of all who were privileged to know him;

Whereas, Arnold gave earnestly of his time to our community and we think of the many citizens who have benefited from his leadership and participation in the Town of Wellesley. His former associates and the citizens of the Town regard his passing as a great loss;

Whereas, the thanks of this meeting and the community are due Arnold Wakelin for the able manner in which he performed his various appointed and volunteer duties. We sincerely regret his passing;

Whereas, in behalf of the Citizens of Wellesley, this Resolution is being presented as an opportunity to express the esteem in which we hold him as a faithful and devoted citizen. Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That this town meeting, on behalf of the residents and municipal employees of the Town of Wellesley, expresses its deep regret at the passing of R. Arnold Wakelin, Jr. and publicly acknowledges its appreciation for his dedicated service and significant contributions to the citizens of our Town, and further, that the Town Clerk be instructed to record this resolution in the minutes of this Meeting, and to transmit copies to Mr. Wakelin’s family.
REGARDING THE SERVICE OF THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

HON. CORRINE BROWN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative LANE EVANS as an original cosponsor, with the Congressional Black Caucus, of this Resolution honoring the Montford Point Marines.

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African Americans, from all States, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African-American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Montford Point—a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Approximately 20,000 African-American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

The initial intent was to discharge these African-American Marines after the war, returning them to civilian life. Attitudes changed as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact that African-American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order #9981 segregating. In September 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated—ending seven years of segregation.

I am joining Congressman EVANS in offering this resolution to recognize their service and sacrifice and to acknowledge today’s United States Marine Corps as an excellent opportunity for advancement of persons of all races due to the service and example of the original Montford Point Marines.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on February 16, 2005 due to the funeral of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rolcall No. 35.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver’s license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to say that I will be voting against H.R. 418. We have made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and I support additional reforms that make real progress in addressing problems plaguing our immigration system. However, H.R. 418 does not go far enough in improving this immigration system in ways that will enhance our national security.

Instead of comprehensively reforming our immigration system, this proposal seeks to overturn key provisions adopted in the Intelligence Reform bill last year requiring strict new standards for driver’s licenses. The Department of Homeland Security is already collaborating with states to devise sensible standards that work. This bill rolls back this approach in favor of Congressionally-mandated rules which did not have the benefit of committee hearings.

Additionally, this bill creates additional, next-to-impossible hurdles for legitimate asylum seekers. Many of these asylum-seekers have been the victims of terrorism themselves and have fled to this country seeking freedom and democracy. About a month ago, I learned the heart-breaking story of an Iraqi informant who saved North Dakota lives and lost his own in advancing the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. Though his family escaped with their lives, the continued risk to these friends of America now prompts our urgent attention.

I fear that passage of this legislation today would mean that we would not be able to allow this family, who sacrificed so much, to enter the United States and remain here while their lives are threatened.

Mr. Chairman, I will vote against H.R. 418, and I encourage my colleagues to seek real reform that addresses the problems in our broken immigration system.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. EARL POMEROY
OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver’s license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

My home state of Minnesota has an ever-increasing population of new Americans. As is true across the country, thousands of my constituents fled religious discrimination, abuse, torture and rape in their homelands. The United States is a beacon of hope for those around the world seeking safety, freedom and equality. It is vital that we remain that way.

The asylum provisions in H.R. 418 impose an undue burden on those immigrants fleeing persecution, torture, and other human rights abuses around the world. The bill would require the asylum seeker to show documentation of their torture. This would reverse years of precedent that allows asylum to be proof of their case. It is outrageous to think that the human rights abusers abroad will provide proof of their crime to ensure an asylum seeker can prove their case to immigration officials in the United States.

This bill will also place an unnecessary, unfunded mandate on states, most of whom are already facing budget challenges due to cuts in federal funding. Driver’s license laws are the responsibility of state governments. Minnesota is on the forefront of developing secure identification for its citizens. Not more than 2 months ago, my state unveiled a new driver’s license that is among the most secure licenses in the country. However, even with Minnesota’s innovation, this bill would require a monumental effort on the part of the state to comply with the law, which is an unfunded mandate that ties the hands of state government.

I will continue to uphold my oath of office to preserve and protect our Constitution and the American Way of Life. The Department of Homeland Security is already collaborating with states to devise sensible standards that work. This bill rolls back this approach in favor of Congressionally-mandated rules which did not have the benefit of committee hearings.

I fear that passage of this legislation today would mean that we would not be able to allow this family, who sacrificed so much, to enter the United States and remain here while their lives are threatened.

Mr. Chairman, I will vote against H.R. 418, and I encourage my colleagues to seek real reform that addresses the problems in our broken immigration system.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF LOU AND GEORGIA Poulos

HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of two dear friends, Lou and Georgia Poulos of Phoenix, Arizona. On Jan. 30, 2005, the couple was joined by 150 friends and family members to toast their half-century milestone of matrimony.

Lou Poulos first met Georgia Hotis in the late 1940’s during a church outing for teenagers at the Gold Spot bowling alley in Phoenix. During the following years, their relationship blossomed and their courtship began when the couple was in their twenties. Although it was initially Georgia’s beauty and Lou’s sense of humor that sparked the mutual attraction, the couple’s shared values as first generation Greek-Americans and members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, paved the way for their lasting connection.

Seven years later, the sweethearts were married in the Greek Orthodox Church on January 30, 1955. The couple held their wedding reception at the Westward Ho Hotel, an historic hotel in Phoenix located across the street from the bowling alley where they first met. In 1960, the newlyweds built a home in Phoenix where they reared their three children, Deanne, Jim, and Alex, and where they still reside today, nearly forty-five years later. The Poulos family has always been the highlight of our neighborhood, the place people come to include Jim’s wife, Tracy, Alex’s wife, Shelli, and Alex and Shell’s five-year-old triplets, Sela, Ari and Alex.
As Lou continued to build his liquor store chain, Georgia managed the household, juggling her children’s dance classes, piano lessons, Little League baseball, and Pop Warner football. As their son Jim fondly recalled, Lou and Georgia made many sacrifices to ensure the best education and opportunities for their children.

Despite their busy family lives, Lou and Georgia have remained active in the community throughout their years together. For 47 years, Lou served as the secretary/treasurer for the Arizona License and Beverage Association, and since his retirement, he continues to serve as an officer for the state licensed beverage lobbying organization. Georgia worked as a director for two nonprofit organizations. Over the years, the couple has also served on their parish council, the Men’s Club, and Women’s Guild at Brophy College Preparatory school, as well as participating in and donating to many charitable fundraisers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and celebrating 50 years of marriage between Lou and Georgia Poulos, a union that has been the bedrock of our community’s values, self-sacrifice, and commitment to community that defined their lives together. As a longtime friend, it is with great joy that I extend my congratulations to Lou and Georgia Poulos and their beloved family, and I wish them many more years of wedded happiness.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, started an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our Nation’s capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs. The Grants Pass Rotary, located in Oregon’s beautiful Rogue Valley, is one such club. Founded in 1928, the Grants Pass Rotary has celebrated more than 80 years of dedication and service to the local community as well as the world abroad. Under the recent leadership of Georgette Brown, and her predecessors before her, the club has done a great deal for the area.

Throughout the years, the Grants Pass Rotary has conducted projects with their dedication, time, energy, and resources. These projects have covered a variety of areas: recognition of students in middle and elementary school excelling in their academic endeavors; the planning and continued support of The Riverside West All Sports Park, a fabulous facility for all Grants Pass citizens and visitors to enjoy; the development of Morrison Centennial Park; the Grants Pass Rotary Invitational Track Meet held at Grants Pass High School, an event for students throughout the state and northern California; and events for foreign exchange students visiting America.

Internationally, the commitment of Rotarians is as strong. With humanitarian and educational programs in 166 parts of the globe, Rotary Clubs have made a difference in everything from disaster relief to the advancement of democracy. A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to meet this year. In 1985 they launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Grants Pass Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of “Service Before Self.”

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the heinous acts in Darfur. To date, almost two and a half million people in Darfur and Chad have been affected by the atrocities and as many as 300,000 individuals have been killed.

I commend the efforts already made to assist the people of Darfur. Millions in aid have been donated worldwide, including $550 million from the United States. Peacekeeping efforts are underway from the African Union, the United Nations, and other organizations. I applaud the Sudanese for their commendable efforts to end the violence by signing the Peace Agreement in January. Unfortunately it is not enough.

Although the humanitarian aid and the peace agreement are steps in the right direction, it has not prevented people from being killed, raped, torn from their homes and left to starve. People are already fighting over water due to drought and a food shortage is imminent.

The international community must take stronger action. I call upon the United Nations Security Council to pass a meaningful resolution in the coming weeks, a resolution that will be consequential in the lives of the people of Darfur. The UN has already described the situation in Darfur as “the worst humanitarian and human rights situation in the world.” It is time they treat the situation as such.
Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS
Senator Burr read Washington’s Farewell Address.

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S1703–S1724
Measures Introduced: Eleven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 457–467.
Washington’s Farewell Address: Senator Burr read Washington’s Farewell Address.
Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:
Jonathan Brian Perlin, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs for a term of four years.
Michael Jackson, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.
Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Measures Referred: Page S1715
Measures Placed on Calendar: Page S1715
Executive Communications: Pages S1715–18
Additional Cosponsors: Page S1718
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1718–24

Additional Statements: Pages S1708–15
Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., and, in accordance with the provisions of H. Con. Res. 66, adjourned at 10:54 a.m., until 2 p.m., on February 28, 2005.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
The House was not in session today. Pursuant to H. Con. Res. 66, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

Committee Meetings
METRORAIL
Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing entitled “The Capital Region’s Critical Link: Ensuring Metrorail’s Future As a Safe, Reliable and Affordable Transportation Option.” Rayburn. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority: Richard A. White, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer; and Dana Kauffman, Chairman of the Board; and public witnesses.