Agent Wilhelm's service was distinguished. He was awarded the 2001 Blue Eagle Award for his work on a narcotics investigation—Operation Prospero. Mr. Wilhelm received the award because he went far beyond the call of duty. Indeed, he was the sole recipient of the award in 2001.

Agent Wilhelm's service will not be forgotten. His service will be remembered every day as our law enforcement officers continue his work, carrying on the mission Agent Wilhelm loved so much and did so well.

I would also like to extend my sincere sympathies to the families of Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, Julie Brandau, and Hoyt Teasley, who were killed at the Fulton County Courthouse. Our hearts go out to their families and loved ones as well. Their lives will be remembered in the work we do here in Congress.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, late last year, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress took a very destabilizing action when it voted to submit an ''Anti-Secession Law'' to the full Congress, which convened on March 5. That Anti-Secession Law was subsequently adopted by the full Congress and is now Chinese law.

There can be absolutely no doubt about the intent of this law, which is to create the legal justification for a military attack against Taiwan.

The law spells out a range of activities which, if taken by the Taiwanese people and their democratically elected leaders, would legally constitute secession to the Chinese. Many of these activities, such as Constitutional reform and popular referenda, are the mainstay of any democracy. Yet the Chinese would use them as an excuse for a military attack on the 21 million people on Taiwan.

The United States fully understands Taiwan is in a very difficult bind. It is a flourishing democracy, one of the most vibrant in Asia, with freedoms of speech, the press and assembly and intensely competitive free political parties. Yet it is claimed as a sovereign territory by the People's Republic of China, which is not a democracy and has no freedom of the press, speech or assembly. And this neighbor now threatens to annex Taiwan by force.

Under the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act, which is the legal bedrock of our policy, the United States insists that the future of Taiwan must be determined by peaceful means. And we have stated that no actions should be taken by either Taiwan or the People's Republic of China, that endanger the peace and stability that now exists across the Taiwan Strait.

Mr. Speaker, during the past year, the Bush Administration cautioned Taiwan about actions which might appear to challenge this status quo. Now the PRC, through this provocative legislation, is challenging the status quo in a very big way. The State Department said this legislation is highly unhelpful. I strongly agree with this position and register my strong opposition to the enactment of the Anti-Secession Law.

IN HONOR OF JENNIFER CROUSE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jennifer Crouse upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Crouse is the founder of Fun Packs. Fun Packs are for use by children patients at area hospitals to help young children through difficult times in their lives. In 200I, the program was expanded to include Care Packs, which were distributed to service people who were deployed through the Dover Air Force base. Ms. Crouse has volunteered within the community for more than 10 years, and has logged more than 3,200 volunteer hours.

Ms. Crouse's volunteer efforts have touched the lives of many in our community. Ms. Crouse is a deserving candidate for the Jefferson Award.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Crouse upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Ms. Crouse is truly worthy of this honor.

A TRIBUTE TO BEATRICE JACKSON-WALLS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Beatrice Jackson-Walls in recognition of her commitment to her church and her community.

Beatrice is a vivacious, effervescent Virginia Belle. A member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn for 57 years, she has dedicated her teenage and young adult life to serving in the Youth Fellowship, Young People's Choir and as a teacher in the Baptist Training Union, Junior Department.

Professionally, Beatrice serves Cornerstone Baptist Church as a skillful efficient Administrative Assistant and has had the honor and pleasure of working with three spiritual giants: the late Pastor Emeritus, Reverend Dr. Sandy F. Ray; the Reverend Dr. Harry S. Wright; and her present Pastor, the Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III.

Artistically, Beatrice is a gifted soprano soloist in the Senior Choir and has performed in concerts throughout the New York Metropolitan area, including Carnegie Recital Hall and the prestigious St. Peters Church in Manhattan. A past Sunday School Teacher, she continues to utilize her educational and volunteer leadership skills as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Cornerstone Day Care Center, Inc., Chair of Special Projects of the Capital Fund Raising Committee, President of the Senior Choir, Corresponding Secretary of the Brooklyn Ecumenical Choir of Bedford Stuyvesant, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Food Pantry. She also served on the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association of Brooklyn.

A product of the school systems in Virginia and Delaware, she pursued her education at New York Community College (now New York Technical College) in Brooklyn. She is the recipient of numerous religious, community and business awards and honors. Her hobbies include stained glass designing, traveling, serving, gardening, poetry and people.

God blessed her with 39 years of marriage to the late Deacon Joseph M. Walls. She is mother of two sons, Joseph Demetrius and Darryl Christopher and the grandmother of three of the most precious and special children, Jasmyne Marie, D. Christopher II, and Amara Aurellia.

Mr. Speaker, Beatrice Jackson-Walls has strengthened her community through her numerous volunteer efforts with her church. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONER SUSIE CARTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Hays County Commissioner Susie Carter.

Susie Carter is a proud lifelong citizen of Hays County. She and her husband, John, live on the same farm where Susie grew up. She earned degrees from Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas at Austin, and returned to rural Hays County to serve her neighbors.

Susie has served Hays County in a variety of capacities: as a health professional, college instructor, character education consultant, and public servant. She was elected President of the Concerned Taxpayers of Hays County, and remains an advocate for taxpayer rights and fiscal responsibility.

As county commissioner, Susie has consistently worked to make Hays County a better place to live. She led the reconstruction of some of the county's worst roads, installed traffic signals to make intersections safer, passed resolutions to protect the local environment and water supply, and fought against illegal dumping. She has been an advocate for low taxes and budget discipline, and a watchdog for the rights of taxpaying citizens and local government. Susie Carter has been a farsighted and effective advocate for her county.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Hays County Commissioner Susie Carter.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL PATRICK HINCHEY ON BEING NAMED MAN OF THE YEAR BY THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the

House of Representatives to pay tribute to Michael Patrick Hinchey, who will receive the Man of the Year Award from the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2005.

Mr. Hinchey, a native of Kingston, is the son of the late John H. Hinchey Jr. and Margaret Jennings Hinchey. He has three brothers: John III, Frank and Edward.

Michael had a distinguished professional career as vice president of the Matheson Transfer Company. He is also co-owner and vice president of the Matheson Warehouse Company, where he still serves in his official capacity along with his three brothers.

Michael is a member of St. Ignatius Church in Kingston, as well as the Church's Holy Name Society. He was a past president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in 1984 and was dinner chairman in 1983. Michael is a founding Legacy Member of the Forty Fort Lions Club, an organization in which he served as president, vice president and secretary. He is a board member, golf chairman and building chairman of the Fox Hill Country Club and an active member of the Westmoreland Club as development chairman, historical committee chairman and golf club co-chairman. He is also a committee member of the Pennsylvania Movers Storage Association.

Michael is active in many service organizations, including the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts, Keystone College, King's College, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, United Way, YMCA and Wilkes University.

Michael has been married to the former Sharon Cravatta for 28 years. He is the proud father of two beautiful daughters, Westyn Layne and Collyn Michael.

Michael was raised by two wonderful parents who instilled in him a love of family and devotion to community. Michael attributes his pride in his Irish heritage to his grandfather, who was a first generation immigrant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Michael Patrick Hinchey upon being named Man of the Year by the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

CONSTRUCTIVE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN TURKEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we spend a great deal of time in this chamber speaking about democracy and how to ensure its continuance at home and how to instill it abroad. Encouragingly, one of our most important friends and allies, Turkey, has worked very hard over the past few years to deepen, strengthen and ensure democracy in that country.

Over the past several years Turkey has debated, in the fullness of an open legislature, measures covering human rights, foreign investment, governance, protection of minority interests, freedom of speech and association. A majority of the duly elected members of that body have voted in the affirmative to amend old laws and pass new ones. Many of these changes have been enshrined as permanent parts of Turkish law through amendments to its national constitution.

There are literally hundreds of changes but among the most important are abolition of the death penalty, ability to broadcast in minority languages, ability to be educated in minority languages and cementing civilian control over the military. While we still look forward to more improvements to their democratic infrastructure, Turkey's future looks promising.

Many of these reforms were driven by the demands of the European Union. But to be fair, and to give Turkey its due, irrespective of the reasons why there was a consideration of the need for reform, no reforms would have occurred without the political will of that nation's people and government to squarely face these issues, debate them and overturn, in some cases, policies that have been in existence since the 1923 founding of the Turkish Republic.

Last December 17th, the European Union extended the formal invitation to our friend and ally to begin discussions that will lead to eventual Turkish membership in the EU—the first predominantly Muslim nation to be so considered.

Muslim nations wrestling with the movement toward democracy. I hope all of my colleagues welcome and applaud Turkey's actions.

RECOGNIZING SANDY ALLMON ANDERSON AND HER INDUCTION INTO WOMEN IN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL PIONEER HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Sandy Allmon Anderson, from Lewisville, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for her contributions of women in the aviation field.

I congratulate Sandy Anderson for this outstanding achievement. Anderson helped pave the way for women in aviation. She was the first female pilot to check-out in the left seat and the captain's seat, of both the Boeing 727 and 747, first Northwest Airlines Boeing 727 female instructor and check airman, first female Fleet Check Captain among the major U.S. airlines, and the first and only female chief pilot that Northwest Airlines has ever had. Ms. Anderson is the senior female on every flight she takes and one of five females on the Boeing 747–400. She was the second female hired to Northwest Airlines some twenty-two years ago. As a fellow pilot, I recognize the dedication and continual commitment to education that flying demands.

Ms. Anderson was inducted into the Lewisville High School Hall of Fame in 2001 and honored as a Distinguished Alumni at Texas Woman's University in 1996. Sandy Anderson established and managed the first endowment fund as a founding board member representing the airline aviation industry for international organization. In the first seven years of the fund's existence, it has distributed more than $3 million in aviation scholarships.

Today, Anderson speaks at conferences and schools to spread the message of reaching for your dreams. She has an especially close connection with the young girls who have dreams of being in traditionally male occupations. Anderson believes that these girls need support along the way if they too are to accomplish their dreams.

I am proud of representing such a heroine. Sandy Anderson is an astonishing example of a determined person who would not settle and made her dreams a reality against the odds. She is a role model not only to women but also for everyone who has obstacles to overcome in reaching their goals.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION CONDEMNING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND INTOLERANCE IN INDIA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mr. PITTS and myself to introduce this Resolution to condemn the alleged statements and actions of complacency by the government authorities in Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Narendra Modi, in the face of the religious persecution of the Gujarati people.

In February of 2002, India experienced its greatest human rights crisis in a decade: orchestrated violence against Muslims in the state of Gujarat that claimed at least 2,000 lives in a matter of days. Three years after that horrific incident, Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has been indicted by various Indian and International human rights organizations for lending his hand to the violence.

Mr. Modi himself has not been shy about proudly professing his anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, and anti-tribal stances. He has repeatedly dehumanized the Muslim population of his state by accusing them of treachery; he has actively sought to interfere in the practice of the Christian faith in Gujarat, and he has caused wide-scale displacement of indigenous populations in the State in the face of stiff popular resistance. I find Mr. Modi's actions to be of the most reprehensible sort.

In an article in the Hindu Times on March 2, 2005, former Indian President K.R. Narayanan stated that "there was a 'conspiracy' between the BJP governments at the Centre and the state behind the 2002 Gujarat riots . . .". Further, a number of Indian human rights organizations, international human rights organizations, and a former Supreme Court Justice all recognize Chief Minister Modi's complicity in the violence.

He has attacked Muslims and Christians with vile venom, and according to both India's highest court and many international human rights groups, has condoned terrible, violent religious hate crimes, all the while, shielding those said to have committed them. In fact, in a scathing indictment of Mr. Modi, the Supreme Court of India referred to the Chief Minister and his government as "the modern day Neros". Moreover, in a recent unprecedented order, the Supreme Court of India ordered the reopening of all the criminal cases that Mr. Modi has closed, regarding over 2000 police cases in which the non-Hindu victims filed reports of rapes, killings, and destruction of their property.

Such actions by high ranking government officials of any religion are unacceptable and must not be tolerated.