her community she was awarded the 1998 American Red Cross Spectrum Award and she also received the 1999 WNBA Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

Dawn Staley is an outstanding athlete, coach and inspiration. She is a champion in the truest sense of the word.

RECOGNIZING TOM HARPOOL FOR HIS ENDLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Tom Harpool, from Denton, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his dedicated service to the community.

Tom Harpool makes helping his community a high priority in his life. He has spent so much of his time dedicated to assisting others in throughout the community. From education to banking, Tom Harpool has made a difference in our lives.

In 1954, Mr. Harpool began the first of six terms on the Denton Independent School District Board of Trustees serving as its board president from 1969 until 1973. Mr. Harpool has also been a part of the United Way of Denton County, Boy Scouts of America, 4–H Club and Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church for years. In addition, Mr. Harpool has served on the boards of a local bank and savings & loan before becoming a board member of the Upper Trinity River Authority.

In his own, Mr. Harpool has become a ''Master Gardener'' and enjoys sharing this hobby with the community through a gardening organization. He has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club for over 50 years and dutifully served on their board. Mr. Harpool has even dabbled in politics by being an active supporter of many candidates in both local and national races.

I am proud to represent Tom Harpool—a man who has given so much back to his community. Mr. Harpool's advice, council and support to the community, whether directly or indirectly, over the years, are certainly something for which to be thankful. I am grateful that can represent such wonderful citizens like Mr. Harpool.

TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE BETH JACOB ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Beth Jacob as it celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding. As the oldest congregation on the San Francisco Peninsula, Temple Beth Jacob stands as a testament to the long tradition of involvement of the Jewish community in the religious and public life in the Bay Area.

Founded in 1930, Temple Beth Jacob was the first Jewish religious institution created between the cities of San Francisco and San Jose. Its membership today is burgeoning with a vibrant congregation of more than 450 families from throughout the Peninsula to worship, to learn, and to strengthen both the Jewish community and the Bay Area community as a whole.

The congregation is led by Rabbi Nathaniel Ezray, who is now in his tenth year as the head of this congregation. Over the years, he's demonstrated a sincere commitment to translating the lessons of faith into actions that will benefit the community. In a 1995 interview, he said, ''What's compelling for me is the social justice of Judaism. I want our congregation to respond together to domestic violence, AIDS, black-Jewish relations. My passion is teaching, but the pulpit allows me the opportunity to teach in many different ways and to create meaning and relevance.'' He lives with his wife, Mimi, and their daughter, Emily, and son, Ethan, in Redwood City.

In the decades before Rabbi Ezray began at the synagogue, Rabbi H. David Teitelbaum led the congregation at Temple Beth Jacob for 38 years. Under his leadership, the congregation grew from only 100 active families to its present size of nearly four times that number. A longtime advocate for civil rights, Rabbi Teitelbaum traveled to Selma, Alabama in the 1960's to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believing that the history of persecution of the Jewish people creates in them a special obligation to protect the human rights of all. He continues to serve as a beacon for the community and his former congregation in his current role as Executive Director of the Board of Rabbis of Northern California.

Temple Beth Jacob has a long tradition of coordinating with other religious institutions in the Bay Area to provide vital services to the community at large. In addition to providing a school and a pre-school to the community, Temple Beth Jacob's efforts have helped to house the homeless through the Interfaith Homeless Network and feed the hungry through the Urban Ministry's ''Breaking Bread'' program. They are annual cosponsors of the Martin Luther King observance in Redwood City, and have hosted the event over the years. All told, Temple Beth Jacob is a model of dedicated community action.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Temple Beth Jacob as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. After three quarters of a century, Temple Beth Jacob remains a source of pride for the Peninsula, and promises to be a center of our community for decades to come.

UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA ENERGY DIALOG

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, much attention has been paid to the recent conversations President Bush and President Putin have had about democracy. Less attention has been paid to their other discussions regarding market economics, supply and demand, and U.S. energy security.

Although there are varying ideas in American political discourse about the proper role of government, in the post-September 11th world there can be no disagreement that our government's main concern is security of American citizens. National security discussions usually focus on threats to public safety, but I would like to call attention to a less-noticed facet of American security: the importance of our energy security. One of the great strengths of our nation is our access to affordable, reliable energy. Safeguarding that energy security means ensuring that access to energy continues.

In earlier Administrations, energy policies concentrated on lowering the United States' increasing dependence on imported oil. But the oil embargo of 1973 changed America's approach to energy policy. The focus shifted to reducing dependence on other countries to meet our energy needs and to minimizing the economic impact of future oil disruptions. The measures put in place (enhanced energy efficiency, increased industrial fuel switching capabilities, decreased use of oil for power generation, and others) altered America's use of energy by decoupling energy growth from GDP growth and decreasing our average energy intensity, important factors in making the U.S. less vulnerable to oil supply disruptions. Other measures such as developing strategic stocks (building and filling the strategic petroleum reserve, or SPR), developing international institutions to respond collectively to energy disruptions, and diversifying the sources of oil imported into the United States have brought more certainty and stability to the energy market. While energy security policies have not stopped oil disruptions (nor stopped the growth of oil imports which are at 58 percent of to day's consumption) they have enhanced our ability cope with disruptions while limiting economic and market impacts.

Diversifying the sources of energy refers to both fuel and geographic diversity, as well as work to develop other types of energy supplies. Increasingly, America is looking to imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to fill the supply gap with diverse, reliable, long-term supplies as United States demand increases, domestic supplies decrease and imports from Canada stabilize. The Bush Administration has identified liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports as one important way to decrease our over-dependence on a small number of countries.

Russia plays an important role in both gas and oil markets, as the location of the world's largest gas reserves and the world's largest producer and exporter. In the international oil market, Russia is challenging Saudi Arabia as the largest crude oil producer. The Bush Administration recognized Russia's increased importance in energy markets, and launched an energy dialogue in May 2002 to enhance United States investment opportunities in Russia and to enhance Russian opportunities for energy trade with the United States.

Results under the Energy Dialogue have been mixed. American company investment opportunities in Russia have been dampened by recent events. Despite President Putin's attempts to mollify the international investment community by indicating that Russia is open to foreign investment, the Russian investment environment has deteriorated through actions undermining the rule of law and contract sanctity such as renationalizing oil assets and limiting bidding on strategic leases in oil, gas, and mining sectors. U.S.-Russian oil trade, however, has been stymied through lack of Russian infrastructure (a deepwater port that