

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
TREASURER JIM ROKAKIS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Treasurer Mr. Jim Rokakis, as he is recognized by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party for his service to our community.

A life-long Cleveland, Mr. Rokakis continues to focus on the well-being of Clevelanders, and beyond. After graduating from the Cleveland-Marshall School of Law, Mr. Rokakis set out to promote positive change within our community. In 1978, he was elected to serve as the Ward 15 representative to the Cleveland City Council. For nearly twenty years, he served the residents of the Old Brooklyn neighborhood with integrity and dedication. For the last seven years of his tenure as Councilperson, Mr. Rokakis served as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

In March of 1997, Mr. Rokakis was elected to the office of Treasurer of Cuyahoga County. In this capacity, Mr. Rokakis has consistently demonstrated a vision and focus on improving the tax collection process. His complete renovation of the system has resulted in greater efficiency regarding the County's tax collection and disbursement processes. Under his leadership, the office of the Treasurer has been awarded with many honors, especially regarding his inner-city housing initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Jim Rokakis. His dedicated service, focused on the well-being of the residents of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, has served to strengthen our entire community.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO BONILLA

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Antonio Bonilla who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Businessman of The Year."

Antonio is a successful businessman who was born in Isabela, Puerto Rico. He came to New York in 1953 and has worked in various jobs, including carpentry, cooking, and marketing.

One of his first employers was Emerson Radio Corporation, where he worked for over 10 years. Then in the 1960's his wife, Leonor, exposed him to Mexico's culture, including its people, food, and music. By 1971, his dream to open a Mexican restaurant had become a reality. Together with his family, they found and renovated the space on the corner of Second Ave and 26th Street in Manhattan and named it Mexico Lindo Restaurant.

Today the restaurant has become a popular nightspot for the entertainment and political communities. Antonio is a distinguished businessman whose cooperation with many religious and political organizations has established him as a philanthropist. He is very proud of the fact that he has always held a job, and that all his accomplishments have been the product of hard work.

Antonio and Leonor have three daughters Adriana, Claudia and Lara. Together as a family, they have strived to stay one step ahead of the competition. This award should serve to inspire and encourage him in continuing the important work he has already begun.

Mr. Speaker, Antonio Bonilla has been a leader in his community and has been a wonderful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Businessman of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE 2005 GLADNEY CUP  
GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE  
CONGRESSIONAL COUNTRY CLUB  
IN BETHESDA, MD

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding event that is conducted for the benefit of one of the best organizations in my district, the Gladney Center for Adoption.

On Monday, May 2, 2005, the Gladney Cup Golf Tournament will occur at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD, to benefit the Gladney Center for Adoption. The Gladney Adoption Center was founded more than 100 years ago in Fort Worth, TX, to find "loving homes for orphaned children" and today is one of this Nation's leading adoption services, which specializes in international and domestic adoptions. The center has placed more than 26,000 children in loving homes and has assisted more than 36,000 women experiencing crisis pregnancies. The Gladney Cup Golf Tournament is a premier event which raises much needed funds for the center's international and domestic adoption programs. The first Gladney Cup Golf Tournament was held at the famed Colonial Country Club, which is located in my district. The caliber of the inaugural tournament attracted more than 200 players and raised more than \$1 million for the Gladney Center. The 2005 Gladney Cup Golf Tournament is the third event and the reputation of the tournament, coupled with the beautiful and prestigious greens of the Congressional Country Club, again is attracting players and corporations from around the country who not only derive satisfaction from playing on a challenging golf course, but also who are committed to helping the Gladney Adoption Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Gladney Cup Golf Tournament, the organizations and individuals who are participating in the event so that more children may have happy homes in which to live and so that women who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy have a loving and supportive place to which to turn to for help.

NORTH RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
BAND WINNER OF JOHN PHILIP  
SOUSA FOUNDATION "SUDLER  
SILVER CUP"

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the North Ridge Middle School Band of North Richland Hills, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, on winning the 2004 "Sudler Silver Cup."

This award was given by the John Philip Sousa Foundation to only two middle school bands in Canada and the United States in order to promote better international understanding. The John Philip Sousa Foundation is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the promotion of international understanding through the medium of band music. Through the administration of band related projects, the foundation seeks to uphold the standards and ideals of that icon of the American spirit, John Philip Sousa.

The North Ridge Middle School Band won this prestigious honor for demonstrating excellence at the international level under the leadership of director Cynthia Lansford. Not only do bands competing for this award have to show superiority in their musical skills but they must also do so under the same director for a period of several years.

I am proud of this fine band from North Richland Hills Middle School, and I applaud the students, band director and parents who made this achievement possible. I am honored to represent you in Congress.

HONORING CATHERINE SANTEE,  
WINNER OF THE 2005 LEGRAND  
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I am proud to salute Catherine Roselyn Santee, winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

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

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

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Catherine is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Catherine is an exceptional student at Addison High School. Aside from being one of the highest in her class academically, Catherine possesses an outstanding record of achievement. She has been very active in the National Honor Society, Choir, Drama, Yearbook, and her church, serving as youth group president and church secretary. She has also devoted a great deal of her time volunteering to help others.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in offering our highest praise and congratulations to Catherine Santee for her selection as winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but also is a testament to her parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, steadfast support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
TOM BRAZAITIS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom Brazaitis, dedicated husband, father, author, and friend, whose brilliant legacy as a journalist and humanitarian has served to elevate the lives of all who knew him well, including my own.

For more than thirty-two years, Mr. Brazaitis' poignant commentary and piercing assessment of our nation's political and social scene graced the pages of Ohio's largest newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer. His compassion, deep intellect and consistent ability to glean the heart of a story and have it ready under deadline amazed his colleagues. He was known for his quick wit, compassionate heart, progressive mindset and his seemingly effortless ability to stay calm and cool amidst the fiery pressure of the busy newsroom. Mr. Brazaitis' compelling editorials consistently garnered strong responses from his readers, both pro and con. Yet his integrity was unwavering and he never compromised his personal convictions or viewpoints, regardless of popular opinion. Mr. Brazaitis was highly trusted, respected and admired by his colleagues and those of us in the political arena. Whether interviewing a small town council member or having dinner with a powerful publisher, Mr. Brazaitis treated everyone with the same respect, dignity and kindness. He built strong bonds with the public, strengthened by integrity and trust, and gave Greater Clevelanders an insightful and balanced perspective into the local and national political scene.

Mr. Brazaitis' courage and grace was reflected throughout his battle with cancer, a battle that he openly shared with his readers. From his initial diagnosis, through every standard and experimental treatment, Mr. Brazaitis' straightforward descriptions of his cancer ex-

perience deeply connected with his readers, offering us a sense of peace, clarity and even humor throughout his heroic struggle.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom Brazaitis, whose life and legacy served to bring critical issues into the rational light of day, and whose deep sense of humanity served to elevate our own humanity. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Eleanor; his daughter, Sarah; son, Mark; stepsons, Edward, Woodbury and Robert; and his five grandchildren. Tom Brazaitis lived his life with energy and joy, and the memories of his affable nature and kind heart will forever light the hearts of all who knew and loved him well.

A TRIBUTE TO EARL L. WILLIAMS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Earl L. Williams who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Civic Humanitarian of the Year."

Earl, who was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama, has been a community activist and civic leader for more than 40 years. Currently, he is the New York State Democratic Committeeman (District Leader) for the 40th Assembly District; Chairman of Community Planning Board #5, in East New York, Director of Spring Creek Towers Community Center, and a Certified Meeting Planner.

Earl graduated from San Mateo College in California with a BA degree, specializing in public affairs. A graduate of the National Housing Center Institute in Washington DC, he also attended NYU Real Estate Institute. He is a member of the Starrett City Spring Creek Lions Club, Brooklyn Borough President's Board, East Brooklyn Empire Zone, Black Meeting Planners of America, and East New York Hispanic Coalition. He has also chaired many Lions' activities within the district, region, New York State, and internationally. Earl has received many citations and awards from Lions Clubs International including a Presidential Medal; three Presidential Leadership Medals; nine International Extension awards; a Melvin Jones Fellow; Leadership Citations from New York City Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins, and Community Service Awards from New York City Council, New York State Senate and Assembly.

Earl Williams and his wife Ruth, who have been married for more than 40 years, are the parents of two children, Jacqueline Denise, an attorney, and Mark (deceased) and the grandparents of Marissa. Earl is a communicant of St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church and serves in the ministry of hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Williams has been a leader in his community and has taken on numerous roles and responsibilities to serve others. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Civic Humanitarian of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SPC.  
CLINTON GERTSON

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On February 19, 2005, the Department of Defense declared that Specialist Clinton Gertson (United States Army, 24th Infantry Division) was killed in the line of duty after being hit by a sniper in Mosul, Iraq. Gertson's unit was scanning a Mosul neighborhood when he was shot around 2 p.m. Gertson was deployed to Iraq last October along with 4,000 other soldiers in the Fort-Stryker Brigade. His unit had been assigned to be one of the leaders in the fight against insurgents in Mosul.

Gertson, or "Big Country," was described by fellow soldiers as well-respected, someone who would always come to the aid of a fellow soldier and who remained even-keeled, even in the face of extreme danger.

Gertson demonstrated these qualities when 60 insurgents attacked his unit on November 11. Despite being injured himself, Gertson helped other soldiers who were more seriously injured to safety. Gertson again demonstrated this same heroism when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Forward Operating Base Marez mess hall in December. After the explosion went off, Gertson rushed to the aid of his wounded Company Commander, taking him to a nearby field hospital. Gertson's courage and leadership were qualities his fellow soldiers drew strength from and admired.

Gertson told his father he hoped everyone knew the sacrifices that he and the other soldiers were making and asked his father to remind people that freedom is not free.

The American people know the sacrifices Gertson, like many other soldiers, made to his country and his memory will not be in vain. I am proud to honor Specialist Gertson's service to the state of Texas where he entered the service, and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

KELLER HIGH SCHOOL WINS  
STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, It is my great honor to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Keller High School Academic Decathlon team from Keller, Texas located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

Keller High School won the state level Academic Decathlon competition out of a field of 40 teams. The Keller High School HS team brought home 22 team medals and 28 individual event medals from the large school division. In addition, Keller senior Xiaochu "Chu" Song earned the highest overall score at the competition.

Having won the Texas State Academic Decathlon, team members Alex Dang-Tran, Tyler Gibson, Van Hoang, Jeff Marthers, Spencer Scherer, Brandon Simmons, Chu Song, Jennifer Swegler and Joey Wilkinson will represent the State of Texas at the National Academic Decathlon in Chicago.

The team has been strongly competitive for the past 10 years, but this is the first time in its 20 years of existence that the Keller High School Academic Decathlon team has advanced to the national arena. These bright young students are coached by Vicki Whitaker and Kaye Blevins.

I wish them the best of luck at they compete April 14–16 at the national level. I am proud to represent such gifted students and dedicated teachers.

STATEMENT HONORING HEATHER MEYER, WINNER OF THE 2005 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I am proud to salute Heather Meyer, winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Catherine is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Heather is an exceptional student at Addison High School. Aside from being one of the highest in her class academically, Catherine possesses an outstanding record of achievement. She has been very active in the National Honors Society, Girls State, FFA and 4-H, as well as other community and school activities. She has also devoted a great deal of her time volunteering to help others.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in offering our highest praise and congratulations to Heather Meyer for her selection as winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but also is a testament to her parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, steadfast support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. ELIZABETH K. BALRAJ

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Coroner, Dr. Elizabeth K. Balraj, as she is recognized by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party for her outstanding service to our community.

In 1966, following her studies to become a physician and surgeon, Dr. Balraj left her homeland of India to immigrate to the United States. She practiced medicine at Akron Gen-

eral Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland. Dr. Balraj began her work in the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office as Deputy Coroner and Pathologist. In 1987, following the retirement of Coroner Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, she was appointed Coroner of Cuyahoga County. Dr. Balraj was elected Coroner in November of 1988, and has been re-elected ever since.

Dr. Balraj's unwavering focus and energy is reflected every day throughout this office. Beyond supervising a multi-million dollar budget and a workforce of 87, she often leads cross-agency teams in uncovering answers for law enforcement officials, and most significantly, for families who grieve the death of their loved one. Dr. Balraj's integrity, combined with her sense of calm and precision, has elevated the work and mission throughout the Coroner's Office. She broke the glass ceiling for women by successfully carving a path into an area of science and medicine where women were virtually non-existent before.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Elizabeth K. Balraj. Her intellect, wisdom, leadership, quiet determination, and above all, her compassion and heart, all serve to offer answers to members of law enforcement, and most importantly, closure, solace and peace within the minds and hearts of families and individuals within Cuyahoga County.

A TRIBUTE TO CARLOS CASTILLO

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Carlos Castillo who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Lion of the Year."

Carlos Castillo, an outstanding Lion member, was born in Myaguez, Puerto Rico. Upon graduating high school in 1959, he originally came to New York for just two weeks. However, those two weeks ended lasting a lifetime. He got into the supermarket business and continued that venture for 40 years.

Through his work, he has become a highly recognized and distinguished individual in his industry. In 1989, his efforts were recognized with the Businessman of the Year Award. Also, in 1991 he received the Outstanding Puerto Rican Professionals Award from the Office of the New York City Council President, the Honorable Andrew Stein.

In addition to his accomplishments as a businessman, he is also a noted humanitarian. Carlos joined the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club in 1984 and has always had an eye on helping those in need. Throughout his tenure with the Lions, he has received the Lion of the Year Award, the 100% President Award, the Melvin Jones Award, and the prestigious Uplinger Award.

He is also a devoted father and an all around exceptional family man. He has been married to his wife Astrid, for 40 years, and together they have raised three successful children: Charles Jr., Sandra, and Nelson. He is the proud grandfather of Michael, Taylor, Ivan, and Carlos Luis.

Mr. Speaker, Carlos Castillo has been a leader in his community and has been a won-

derful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Lion of the Year Award. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SGT.  
DANIEL TORRES

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On February 4, 2005, the Department of Defense declared that Sergeant Daniel Torres (United States Army, 3rd Infantry Division) was killed in the line of duty when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle 140 miles north of Baghdad. Torres enlisted in the army following 9–11 and was planning to save up for college. He wanted to study marketing and international business and also had dreams of becoming a police officer.

His friends describe Torres as spiritual, someone who encouraged his friends to stay strong when they were down, and who was a role model to his peers.

He was also devoted to his family. He played catch with his younger sister Christina to help her improve her softball skills, which she says played a part in her recently receiving an athletic scholarship to a community college in Louisiana. He also had just found out that he was about to become a father and was ecstatic at the prospect.

Torres had been deployed to Iraq at the beginning of the war and remained there for seven months before his unit was sent back home. Torres' unit was deployed again to Iraq this January for another tour. Torres' father said his son had a gut instinct that he might not return home this time and told his family at Christmas that if he didn't return home, he would die doing what he was called to do. He told his parents that he was fighting for the children or Iraq, so that they and other Iraqis his age could have a better life and a better future. He also told them to be strong and have faith in God.

It is qualities of incredible courage, strength and pride in serving his country that we see in young heroes like Daniel Torres that makes us appreciate the freedoms we have here at home. I am proud to honor Sergeant Torres' service to the state of Texas where he entered the service, and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREAS TAX CREDIT ACT

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would resolve an issue of tax compliance between the United States Department of the Treasury and the governments of Guam and the United States Virgin Islands. This legislation addresses concerns regarding the coordination of the payment of the Earned Income Credit, EIC, and

Child Tax Credit, CTC, to qualifying taxpayers within these jurisdictions.

The tax codes of Guam and the Virgin Islands mirror that of the Internal Revenue Code, IRC, and taxpayers in these jurisdictions file their annual returns with their respective local departments of revenue and taxation in lieu of filing with the Internal Revenue Service. The revenue and taxation departments of Guam and the Virgin Islands must incorporate all provisions of the IRC related to individual and business taxes for their respective taxpayers, including provisions authorizing tax credits such as the EIC and the CTC. Revenues are retained by local treasuries, which they may use to cover the costs of operating local government agencies and providing for public services.

The coordination of the EIC and CTC is problematic because it requires the treasuries of Guam and the Virgin Islands to pay "refundable" portions of these credits, or those amounts that exceed an individual taxpayer's total tax liability. While I support the EIC and CTC and believe that low-income taxpayers in my district should be able to receive this form of tax relief, requiring the treasuries of Guam and the Virgin Islands to cover all "refundable" portions of these credits constitutes an unfunded federal mandate. In theory, the amount of such credit that exceeds an individual taxpayer's total tax liability is meant to offset the impact of FICA taxes on low-income individuals. While residents of Guam and Virgin Islands pay their FICA taxes to the U.S. Treasury, the territorial treasuries are tasked with covering the cost of the "refundable" portion of this credit out of local revenues. Our cashstrapped treasuries are simply incapable of covering the amount of claimed credit, which constitutes between 6 to 8 percent of all tax revenues in Guam.

Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN and I have been working on a fair resolution to this matter over the past 2 years. We have worked with the Department of the Treasury and the chairmen and ranking members of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. The legislation I am introducing today is similar to a bill I introduced last year, H.R. 2186, but with several revisions aimed at facilitating implementation. This legislation proposes a fair federal-territorial cost sharing arrangement which will allow low income citizens in the territories who pay FICA taxes to realize the same tax benefits as their counterparts in the 50 States and the District of Columbia without bankrupting the local treasuries of Guam and the Virgin Islands.

I look forward to working with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman THOMAS and Ranking Member RANGEL on this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THEODORE  
REKLINSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Theodore "Ted" Reklinski, upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated service with the Social Security Administration, where he worked diligently on behalf of the citizens of our community.

Mr. Reklinski began working as a Claims Representative for the SSA in 1973. He quickly ascended through the ranks, and by 1980, he was promoted to the position of Operations Supervisor at the Painseville office. In 1987, he returned to the Cleveland office as Operations Supervisor, and moved to the west side office in 1994. Mr. Reklinski's expertise, diligence and keen understanding of the complexities of our Social Security system, enabled him to provide solutions for countless individuals, children and families in critical need of assistance.

Beyond his outstanding service to his constituents, Mr. Reklinski forged solid bonds with community leaders and agencies. He served as an invaluable contact for my Congressional Staff, and his work reflected diligence and heart, enabling my Congressional Staff to assist our constituents and their families when needed.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Mr. Ted Reklinski, for his exceptional work and advocacy on behalf of the citizens of our Cleveland community. His integrity and expertise, and more importantly, his sincere concern for others has uplifted the lives of countless citizens throughout our District.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization, the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. It is an honor to represent The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such a selfless organization.

Mr. Speaker, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg was founded in 1966 to help families in need in South Williamsburg. Over the course of its Thirty-Nine years of service to the Brooklyn community The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has thrived marvelously where today it represents more than 50,000 community residents and 148 not-for-profits, religious, educational, charitable organizations and civic associations in the Jewish community of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Under the tutelage of their President, Rabbi David Niederman, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has established itself as a direct provider of social and housing services and is the address for urban planning, public health and community development services for the Jewish community of Greater Williamsburg.

The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, has been a leader in providing low-income housing to the Williamsburg community. Their most recent project includes the development of a waterfront property at the site of the former Schaeffer Brewery, which has 149 housing units reserved for low-income people. Additionally, they are the central address for the New York State and New York City Departments of Health and the Center for Disease Control in researching and conducting

pilot projects on Cancer and Shigellosis in the culturally rich Hasidic Jewish community. They also have been instrumental in providing treatment to those suffering from the adverse effects of tobacco as well as being involved in collaborative efforts with other not-for-profits to providing for the overall betterment of the Williamsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. After the destruction and decimation of many Hasidic dynasties in Europe during the Holocaust, it is truly an inspiration to see the Hasidic sects of Satmar, Pupa, Vishnitz, Vien, Tzelem, Skver, Klausenberg and Spinka join together under the umbrella of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and call Brooklyn their home.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and community groups similar to them.

HONORING THE 2005 ALICE PAUL  
EQUALITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2005 Alice Paul Equality Award: Vivian Sanks King, Esquire; Jennifer S. Macleod, Ph.D.; Ruth B. Mandel, Ph.D.; and the Honorable Sylvia B. Pressler. These remarkable individuals have helped to build a more just reality for women in New Jersey and beyond.

For 20 years, the Alice Paul Institute has worked to empower women and girls to become leaders in their communities, careers, and daily lives. Born in Mt. Laurel, NJ, Alice Paul was a lifelong advocate for equal rights for women, and led the final campaign for women's right to vote. She authored and lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment, a much needed piece of legislation that would guarantee the equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of gender.

The recipients of the 2005 Alice Paul Equality Award have all demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing women's equality throughout their lives. Vivian Sanks King, Esquire, currently serving as Vice President of Legal Management and General Counsel of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, is a community leader in the health law field, and is one of the first African-American attorneys appointed to head the legal department of a major academic medical center and university. Dr. Jennifer Macleod is an outspoken advocate for women's equality: she is a leader in the fight for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and was a co-founder and first president of the first NOW chapter in New Jersey. Dr. Ruth Mandel, currently the Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, teaches and writes about U.S. women's political leadership, and has received numerous distinctions for her extraordinary public service. The Honorable Sylvia Pressler, recently retired, served as the presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. She was the first female appellate law clerk and the second woman ever to

serve on the appellate court. These four remarkable women deserve our thanks for their outstanding work on behalf of women in New Jersey and everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, there remains today an equality gap between women and men that contradicts the basic principles of our great Nation. With the tireless efforts of the Alice Paul Institute and the 2005 Alice Paul Equality Award honorees, this gap is being closed. I thank all those who have sought a more just America through the advancement of equality for women, and encourage my colleagues to support this cause in the U.S. Congress. Together we can continue to create better opportunities for all women.

IN HONOR OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SISTER MARY HELEN JACZKOWSKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sister Mary Helen Jaczowski, upon the joyous occasion of her 50th Jubilee Year. As she has for half a century, Sister Mary Helen continues to serve in dedicated and holy ministry, a ministry of faith that focuses on the children, seniors and families of our community. She teaches by example, and her words and deeds, reflecting kindness, compassion and love, radiate strength and hope within the hearts of many, including my own.

Inspired by a true calling of spiritual and humanitarian duty, Sister Mary Helen began her ministry with a strong foundation in education. She started her life-long career in education by teaching third, fourth and fifth grade students at St. John Cantius School. Sister Mary Helen taught at various parochial schools throughout Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio, and also held leadership roles as assistant principal and principal. To fortify her knowledge and educational expertise, Sister Mary Helen earned a Master's degree in Education along the way. Today, she continues her educational ministry and leadership as assistant principal at Immaculate Conception School in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood.

As a long-time social activist, Sister Mary Helens' unwavering dedication, focused on improving the lives of those around her, is clearly reflected throughout our Cleveland neighborhoods, from Tremont to Slavic Village and beyond. In Slavic Village, Sister Mary Helen led the restoration effort to transform the long-since abandoned Harvard School into an affordable, warm and secure place to call home for senior citizens, now known as the Harvard Village Senior Apartments.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Sister Mary Helen Jaczowski. Her commitment, kindness and caring for the people of our community, from our children to our elderly, has served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, and continues to radiate faith, hope and light throughout our entire community.

HONORING THE BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Berkeley Police Department of Berkeley, California on the occasion of its 100th year of service.

At the time of its founding over a century ago, the Berkeley Police Department was a pioneering institution. Led by August Vollmer, who was elected Town Marshall in 1905 and appointed as Berkeley's first Chief of Police in 1909, the Berkeley Police Department became known for its innovative management and law enforcement methods, and its practices were adopted by other departments nationwide.

Chief Vollmer is considered by many to be the father of modern law enforcement. He was one of the first officials to institute the use of a basic records system, scientific investigation, and motorcycle patrols as law enforcement methods. He sought police officers with good educations, worked with U.C. Berkeley to establish a police school, and also established the department's Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, which prohibited officers from receiving gratuities and from smoking on duty, and also required them to use as little force as possible in making arrests.

In addition to these innovations, Chief Vollmer was also one of the most progressive figures in law enforcement during his time. He recruited the first female and African American officers to the force in Berkeley, and also became a prominent opponent of the death penalty.

In the years since its remarkable founding, the Berkeley Police Department has continued to serve the public with courage and compassion, working to protect the residents of Berkeley and also to become involved in the community. In addition to its establishment of the charitable Christmas in April program in 1991 and other community service projects, the Department has also made a sustained effort to establish an effective model for community-involved policing.

Furthermore, the Berkeley Police Department has devoted considerable resources to the development of other programs of dire importance, such as the Domestic Violence Unit, Youth-Police Workshops with Beat Officers, the Citizens' Academy and Toys 4 Tots with Marines. In recent years, the department has received grants from the Department of Justice, the Office of Traffic Safety and others to institute innovative public safety reforms, and in 2003 reported the city's lowest violent crime rates since 1974.

On April 7, 2005, the Berkeley Police Department will be holding its centennial celebration. I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank those who have given of themselves to serve the public through their work with the police force. I congratulate the Berkeley Police Department for 100 years of invaluable service, and salute its officers for their tireless efforts to make our community a safer, better place.

A TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESBYTERIAN HOMES

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern California Presbyterian Homes for 50 years of providing outstanding housing and health care services to older adults throughout Southern California.

Southern California Presbyterian Homes, a nonprofit corporation, was founded in 1955, as a mission outreach of the Presbyterian Church, to provide quality housing, health, and support services for senior citizens regardless of faith, race, income, or ethnicity. The organization is dedicated to serving the needs of seniors that enrich the physical, social, and spiritual dimensions of their lives.

Southern California Presbyterian Homes has grown from its humble beginnings of one continuing care retirement community in La Jolla in 1955 to 38 facilities in 2005 and serving over 3,300 senior citizens. There are continuing care retirement communities, like Royal Oaks Manor in Bradbury and Windsor Manor in Glendale, that provide multi-level care from independent living through skilled nursing. Kirkwood of Glendale is an assisted living facility that provides a residential alternative to older adults who currently reside in a nursing home or their own homes, and need assistance with activities of daily living and specialized dementia care. Affordable housing facilities such as Rosewood Court in Pasadena, Casa de la Paloma, The Gardens, Otto Gruber House, Palmer House, and Park Paseo in Glendale provide excellent living opportunities and support services for senior with limited incomes. Southern California Presbyterian Homes also provides home and community-based services through its adult day health care center and through Southern California Presbyterian Homes Home Care.

I am proud to recognize Southern California Presbyterian Homes for its 50 years of compassionate care to senior citizens in Southern California and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Southern California Presbyterian Homes for their remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SEAN GRIMES

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I join the people of the 9th Congressional District and the State of Michigan in honoring the passing of an American hero and patriot, Captain Sean Grimes, who lost his life in the line of duty in Iraq on March 4th. Captain Grimes was assigned to the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team where he served with distinction as a Combat Medic. At the time of his passing, Sean Grimes was 31.

A Bloomfield Hills native, Captain Grimes graduated from Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills in 1991. Shortly after graduating

from high school Sean enlisted in the Army Reserve serving as an enlisted man for four years. His love of the Army prompted him to enroll in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) while pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Michigan State University. In 1997 he graduated from MSU and was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate. His efforts and desire to provide the best medical care to soldiers led him to the Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston in Texas in 2003, whereupon he graduated from the Army's Physician Assistant Course.

Until the day of his death, Captain Grimes displayed a sense of service not only to his fellow soldiers, but to his fellow man, helping civilian Iraqis in need of medical care. We may never really know the full impact his selfless acts may have had on the lives of his fellow soldiers and civilians he came into contact with. But the manner and character in which he fulfilled his duties tells us that he indeed made a difference in the lives of others and that that difference was for the better. These efforts have been recognized by the Army through a variety of medals Captain Grimes received during his career, culminating in being awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart posthumously.

Captain Sean Grimes exemplified what is best about the American soldier, devotion to duty above self, tireless dedication to his fellow soldiers and most importantly a driving desire to protect the freedoms we cherish so dearly. While he will certainly be missed most by his family, his sacrifice will not be forgotten. Captain Grimes paid the ultimate price both to protect the freedoms we exercise daily and to, bring those same freedoms to people who have never experienced true liberty. Today we honor his memory and may we never forget his sacrifice.

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND  
DETECTIVE MAURICE HAMILTON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Detective Maurice Hamilton, Badge # 758, in celebration of his recent retirement from the Cleveland Police Department, after twenty-five years of dedicated and honorable service to the force and to the citizens of Cleveland.

Prior to joining the Cleveland Police Department in 1980, Detective Hamilton worked for the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department. He began basic patrol in Cleveland's Sixth District on May 29, 1980. In 1986, Detective Hamilton was needed on basic patrol in the First District. By 1989, he was promoted to Detective, working within the First District Strike Force, then the First District Detective Bureau in 1992.

Throughout his committed public service as protector and guardian of the residents of our community, Detective Hamilton maintained the highest level of integrity, grace and skill. He developed strong and trusted bonds with colleagues, neighborhood leaders, members of Cleveland's court system and members of the FBI. His expertise, unwavering focus, and compassion for others reflected in his out-

standing work in solving cases and helping individuals and families who needed assistance. Over the years, Detective Hamilton has been duly recognized with numerous awards and commendations for his exceptional police work, yet these honors held little personal significance to him. His family, friends, fellow officers and the people of our community have always been, and continue to be, his motivating force. A true believer in giving back to the community, Detective Hamilton continues to volunteer his time as a member of the Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association and as an elder with his church, Grace Lutheran in Lakewood, where he is actively involved in community children's programs.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Cleveland Police Detective Maurice Hamilton, as we reflect upon twenty-five years of his significant service to the citizens of Cleveland. Detective Hamilton's compassion for others, integrity, expertise, and focus on protecting his constituents in Cleveland have all served to elevate the lives of countless families and individuals within our community. We wish Detective Hamilton, his wife, Joyce Hamilton, and their entire family many blessings of peace, health and happiness as they journey from this day onward.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIAN  
PACIFIC STATE EMPLOYEES AS-  
SOCIATION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to an organization with a great record of service to the Sacramento Region. For the past three decades, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has worked tirelessly to protect and advance the interests of Asian American state employees. As the Asian Pacific State Employees Association hosts its 30th Anniversary celebration on April 28, 2005, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, one of the Asian Pacific Islander community's most important service organizations.

The Asian Pacific State Employees Association, formerly known as the Asian State Employees Association, was founded in 1975 for the purpose of working toward achieving equal opportunity within the state work force through professional development and community empowerment. The Association's vision is one of Asian Pacific state employees serving, enhancing, and leading state government and their community.

Objectives adopted by the Association include advocating for Asian Pacific Islander state employee interests; providing an Asian Pacific network for its members and employers; advancing personal and professional development of its membership; consulting with members facing adverse action or other employment problems; working with the community to promote career opportunities, professionalism, cultural pride, self-esteem, and citizenship; and providing services and interchange with community, academic, and business groups.

Benefits and services offered by the Association include employee development, networking, scholarship opportunities, communications, and celebration of Asian Pacific contributions. At the present time, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has over 1,000 members statewide, which includes the Southern, Central Valley, and Bay Area chapters, and officers frequently serve on legislative fact-finding committees, and provide testimony before the legislative committees regarding advocacy and affirmative action policies.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the evening's special honoree, Assemblywoman Judy Chu. Judy's distinguished career and her commitment to advocate for the interests of Asian American state employees make her a most deserving recipient of special praise and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has evolved into a leading organization within the state, a dynamic force striving to improve the quality of life of its members and the general community. I am confident that the Asian Pacific State Employees Association will continue to do great work and yield tremendous benefits to the Asian Pacific Islander state workers of California. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Asian Pacific State Employees Association continued success in the future.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL  
RAY SMITH'S MEDAL OF HONOR

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to honor one of our nation's bravest servicemembers, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith. Tragically, Sgt. Smith lost his life two years ago while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his valor, Sgt. Smith on Monday was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor is this nation's highest military honor and is awarded in the name of Congress by the President of the United States. Before Sgt. Smith, only 3,459 men and women, who have distinguished themselves, at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, have received the Medal of Honor since its inception in 1861.

Sgt. Paul Smith is the first recipient of the Medal of Honor for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also is the first to receive this great distinction since it was awarded posthumously in 1993 to two soldiers who died fighting in Somalia.

Mr. Speaker, on July 12, 2004, this body approved legislation, signed by the President, to name a post office in Holiday, Florida, the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office." On that date, I first spoke about Sgt. Smith's heroic actions. On April 4, 2003, outside of Saddam International Airport in Baghdad, Sgt. Smith's unit, the Bravo Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion of the 3rd Infantry, was tasked with securing a prison for Iraqi prisoners of war at the Baghdad airport.

While Sgt. Smith and his men were working in the POW prison, they spotted members of the Republican Guard nearby. Sgt. Smith

called for a Bradley fighting vehicle, which was at a nearby roadblock, and he prepared his men for engagement. Sgt. Smith took charge and led the effort while they waited for the Bradley, which would bring an intimidating fire force.

Even though Sgt. Smith and his men were outnumbered by more than two to one, they continued to fight back. Without concern for his own life, Sgt. Smith jumped on an Army vehicle and began firing a .50 caliber machine gun. He fired and reloaded and continued to fire, killing 50 enemy soldiers until he was shot and killed.

Sgt. Smith's efforts saved the lives of all of his men and the more than a hundred American soldiers in the surrounding area. For Sgt. Smith, this was his job. In a letter he wrote to his family, which he never mailed, he said, "It doesn't matter how I come home, because I am prepared to give all that I am, to ensure that all my boys make it home."

Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Honor will never bring Sgt. Smith back to his family. He will not be able to play baseball with his son David. He will not be able to walk his daughter Jessica down the aisle when she gets married. He will no longer be able to kiss his wife Birgit goodnight. But because of his unyielding courage, his "boys" will have that chance with their families.

Since Sgt. Smith's death, Iraq has been liberated from a brutal dictator, had democratic elections, and is now a beacon for freedom and hope for all Middle East countries. The United States is safer today than we were before the fall of Saddam. I know that without the actions of Sgt. Smith and others like him, this goal could not have been achieved so promptly. Sgt. Smith's life was not lost in vain.

We are truly honored to have had a man such as Sgt. First Class Paul Ray Smith serve in our nation's military. He has become an inspiration to all men and women of the Armed Forces. His story will forever resonate in the history of this great nation and his name and legacy will never be forgotten. May God bless the Smith family and continue to watch over the country Sgt. Smith so loved.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
YOLANDA CRACIUN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Yolanda Craciun, loving mother, grandmother, community activist, and dear friend and mentor to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland's west side neighborhood, whom she supported, promoted and faithfully served.

Mrs. Craciun's family, including her late husband, John Craciun, were central to her life. The great care and love that she showered on them extended throughout Cleveland's west side neighborhood, where Mrs. Craciun led many efforts to uplift her neighborhood. The well-being of her community, anchored by her parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, was her lifelong focus. Her advice and support was continually sought by neighbors and neighborhood leaders. Greatly loved, respected and

admired by all, Mrs. Craciun was godmother to twenty-eight children.

Equipped with a compassionate heart, sharp mind and even sharper focus on the neighborhood she loved, Mrs. Craciun's efforts fostered hope and possibility throughout the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood, where she lived her whole life. She was a founding member and trustee of the Detroit-Shoreway Community Development Coalition, leading the charge to restore the neighborhood with housing, economic and social initiatives. Her efforts to help others spanned every barrier, and touched the lives of countless people and family. Mrs. Craciun raised over \$100,000 for the Snowflake Program, used to decorate the neighborhood during holidays. She volunteered her time as a literacy tutor, was president of the PTA at St. Edward's High School, and served on many boards, including St. Augustine Manor and the Westside Substance Abuse Task Force Project.

Her humble nature precluded her from reveling in awards and accolades. However, her outstanding service was recognized by others. She was the recipient of many awards that highlighted her humanitarian efforts, including the 2004 Father Marino Frascati Neighborhood Champion Award, and the Giuseppe T. Fiocca Award, presented to her in 1998.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Yolanda Craciun. She lived her life with joy, energy and in unwavering service to others. I extend my deepest condolences to her many friends and family members, especially her children: Jean, Mary, John, Joseph and James; and her grandchildren and sister. Her eternal faith in humanity and in the notion that together, we can make a positive difference, will continue to serve as an unending force of light, hope and possibility, throughout the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood and beyond.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005.

For too long our Native American brothers and sisters have been treated like second-class citizens.

I believe I speak for everyone when I say that Native Americans deserve decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities.

The Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005 is a step towards putting Native Americans on a fair playing field.

This bill makes changes to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) which will make better use of resources and provide housing for Native Americans through more efficient means. By allowing tribal governments to exercise their preference for housing programs through the Indian Civil Rights Act, tribes can better direct these funds to expedite tribal housing.

This bill will also direct the Department of Housing and Urban Development to allow

tribes unlimited access to new housing funds even if they are still using funds from previous years.

Importantly, this bill also amends the National Affordable Housing Act to provide tribes eligibility for Youthbuild grants, which they were unfairly denied when NAHASDA was created in 1996.

This legislation conveys the intent of Congress that all Americans, including our first Americans, are entitled to the American dream.

I am proud to speak in strong support of this important initiative to help more Native Americans achieve the American dream.

TRIBUTE TO DORIT AND SHAWN  
EVENHAIM

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dorit and Shawn Evenhaim for their dedicated efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. Throughout their lives Dorit and Shawn have contributed countless hours of community service by supporting various organizations and effectively leading several groups. Their ongoing service to the San Fernando Valley is truly immeasurable.

Dorit and Shawn's strong desire to serve the community dates back to their native Israel. They both grew up in Southern Israel in working class neighborhoods. Although they came from modest backgrounds, the principles and obligations of the Tzedakah were instilled at an early age. This is the Jewish ideal of aiding those who are less fortunate. This common bond that Dorit and Shawn shared growing up together eventually flourished into a romance as they served their military responsibilities in Israel.

Shortly following their military service they ventured to the United States with hopes of new opportunities. Shawn quickly immersed himself in his brother's painting business. Although he had only been in the United States for a short time, by 1992 Shawn became president of a large in-fill development company in the San Fernando Valley. Soon after, Dorit encouraged Shawn to open his own development firm called California Homes in 1994. California Homes has become one of the largest in-fill home builders in the Los Angeles basin.

One of the most important construction projects that Dorit and Shawn have undertaken was the creation of a new home for the Kadima Hebrew Academy in the San Fernando Valley. A member of Kadima's Board of Directors, Dorit was instrumental in convincing Shawn to take on this project. Dorit and Shawn quickly began searching for new investors who had the resources and desire to establish a new campus. Not finding the support needed, Dorit and Shawn took the search into their own hands. Shawn became aware of a private land auction in West Hills. Shawn, despite going up against several real estate investors, was the successful bidder, securing the facility and the surrounding land.

Dorit and Shawn's efforts not only encompassed the purchase and acquisition of land. They were also deeply involved in all aspects

of the project, using their contacts to acquire all necessary permits to expedite the process. As a result of Dorit and Shawn's efforts, San Fernando Valley residents can now take part in a unique educational experience at the newly developed campus.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dorit and Shawn Evenhaim, amazing individuals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the San Fernando Valley.

IN HONOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
ENGINEER ROBERT KLAIBER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Engineer Robert Klaiber, as he is recognized by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party for his service to our community.

In 1999, Mr. Klaiber was appointed to the office of County Engineer. In 2000, he was elected to the office. Mr. Klaiber began his career in engineering as a land surveyor and engineer consultant. Prior to his acceptance of the office of County Engineer, he worked as the City Engineer for the City of Strongsville. Mr. Klaiber's work, focused on improving our community's roadways and bridges, has served to enhance all aspects of our county's system of transportation.

Mr. Klaiber has been instrumental in assisting my office with infrastructure improvements, especially with the railway merger, a project that affected the entire southwest region of the 10th Congressional District. He has consistently demonstrated a high level of energy, focus and willingness to assist us in improving transportation safety and access for all residents within our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Robert Klaiber, Cuyahoga County Engineer. His dedicated service and expertise, focused on the well-being of the residents of Cuyahoga County, has served to uplift our entire community.

HONORING LINDA WOOD FOR EX-  
EMPLARY SERVICE AS ALAMEDA  
COUNTY LIBRARIAN

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Wood, upon her retirement as Alameda County, California's top librarian. After 14 years at the helm of the county library system, with 10 branches and an annual budget of \$21 million, Ms. Wood is stepping down from an extraordinary career.

She has been working in the library field for almost 40 years and states, "I'm proud of my accomplishments, but I'm ready to move on to the next phase of my life."

Ms. Wood began her library career reshelving books. After earning her degree in library science from the University of Washington, she graduated to reference librarian and went up the ladder from there. She has

taken on many duties, from serving as branch manager to administrator in libraries from Oregon State to the cities of Riverside and Los Angeles.

Ms. Wood leaves the Alameda County library system a lot bigger than she found it. Since being hired as county librarian in 1991, she has helped open two new branch libraries—in Albany, California in 1994 and Dublin, California in 2003 and has obtained seed funding and a patch of land for a new branch in Castro Valley, California.

The county library system, with over 200 full-time employees, also includes branches in Fremont, Newark, Union City and unincorporated San Lorenzo, a bookmobile and services for jail and juvenile facility inmates and literacy and senior outreach programs.

Ms. Wood has overseen a full-scale modernization of library services and fought to maintain services through ups and downs in funding. She fought for library services not only in Alameda County but also throughout the State of California.

Today's collections have expanded from books and periodicals to include movies, CDs, DVDs and books on tape. Old card catalogues have given way to databases and now vast Internet services where patrons can research library holdings day and night.

Throughout her illustrious career, Ms. Wood has demonstrated her longtime advocacy for libraries. Her advocacy has made a positive difference in strengthening many library systems for the public's education and enjoyment.

I join Linda Wood's colleagues, friends and admirers in expressing good wishes as she retires and thank her for her contributions to our communities through libraries.

IN HONOR OF CHUCK WEPNER

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck Wepner for his outstanding boxing career.

A Bayonne native, Mr. Wepner received no formal training, practicing at the gym part-time while working as a salesman during the day. In his prime, he was ranked in the top ten among some of the greatest names in boxing, including George Foreman, Joe Frazier, and Muhammad Ali.

Mr. Wepner boasts a feat that few have matched: 30 years ago he boxed with Muhammad Ali and was able to knock him to the mat. Though 36 years old and ranked seventh at the time, he went a full 15 rounds with "the Greatest." While Ali eventually won the March 24, 1975 fight, Mr. Wepner is one of only three men to have ever knocked him down. Adding to his achievement is the fact that Sylvester Stallone used Mr. Wepner's personal story of an underdog taking on a prize fighter as the basis for his "Rocky" movies. Mr. Stallone acknowledges he used many aspects of Mr. Wepner's life in the boxing films.

Though retired from the ring, Mr. Wepner remains in contact with legends such as Joe Frazier, Mike Tyson, and even Sylvester Stallone. Thirty years after his formidable fight, he is busy working as a motivational speaker at schools and various organizations across

the country. Additionally, he is developing a movie project and considering writing a book.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chuck Wepner for his career achievements as a boxer. He has proven to be a strong, inspirational force both in and out of the ring, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX  
FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2005

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important decisions for the founder of a business is "choice-of-entity," or the decision to operate as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company (LLC), or other form of business.

The law regarding choice-of-entity has changed enormously in the last 15 years, particularly with the widespread adoption of laws authorizing the creation of the LLC. As a result, many small business owners have more "choice of entity" flexibility than ever before.

First authorized in Wyoming in 1977, LLCs are organized under State law, and are now recognized in all 50 states. In essence, LLCs are allowed corporate treatment for local law purposes and partnership treatment for Federal income tax purpose. LLCs also provide for more than one class of ownership, allowing for increased flexibility to allocate income or losses to different investors. The flexibility and protections of the LLC has led to a rapid expansion in the number of small businesses electing to operate in this manner.

In 1995, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) adopted the position that general partnerships could be converted into LLCs with little or no tax effects. Unfortunately, as incorporated entities, this does not hold true for small businesses operated as subchapter S corporations (S Corps).

Created in 1958, the S Corp structure allows for no more than 75 shareholders, can issue only one class of stock, and cannot have partnerships or corporations as shareholders. Yet, until the rise of the LLC, the S Corp structure provided, for all practical purposes, the only way that a small business could enjoy the corporate protections of limited liability without being burdened with corporate taxation. Taxed much the same way as partnerships, many older, family-owned, small businesses operate as S corps.

Clearly, the original intent for creating the S Corp structure was the same reasoning that led to the creation of LLCs—to provide a simple and flexible tax category for small and family-owned businesses. However, despite the similarities to LLCs, S Corps are not granted the same conversion flexibility as other partnership-like entities and are instead grouped with larger companies under a cumbersome corporate structure. My bill would modernize the tax treatment of S Corps, allowing them the same choice-of-entity flexibility offered to other small businesses operating as LLCs. This is a common sense change that is overdue.

**CETS: A NEW TOOL TO COMBAT  
CHILD EXPLOITATION**

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, the exploitation of children online is a grave and growing threat, both here in the United States and worldwide. By 2005, more than 77 million of our children and teenagers will use the Internet, entering chat rooms and other public online areas, at times instant messaging with strangers ready to prey on our Nation's young people.

Simply put, millions of children and teens are now at risk of abduction or worse. Here's more startling data:

55 percent of children have given their personal information (name, sex, age, etc) over the Internet.

One in ten children has met someone face to face they previously met online.

37 percent of children say their parents would disapprove if they knew what they did, where they went, or with whom they chatted on the Internet.

40 percent of children do not discuss Internet safety with their parents.

In short, the borderless nature of the Internet has allowed sexual predators to stalk innocent children and traffic in child pornography with near impunity.

Fortunately, new technology may provide powerful new weapons in law enforcement's arsenal to combat child exploitation: The Child Exploitation Tracking System, also known as "CETS." CETS is a computer application developed by Microsoft in partnership with Canadian and international law enforcement agencies to help law enforcement tackle the growing problem of online exploitation of children. This application, which will be provided free of charge to law enforcement agencies, can help efforts to collaboratively investigate these crimes and bring criminals to justice.

CETS has been deployed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada and can be used by all major law enforcement agencies in Canada involved in child exploitation policing. Discussions between Canadian law enforcement and US law enforcement agencies have already taken place, with the hope of deploying CETS in the United States. This new technology is also supported by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

This technology, combined with our efforts to educate children about risks online, can help reduce the incidence of online child exploitation.

**OAKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the administrators, faculty, staff and students of Oakland Community College as they celebrate OCC's 40th anniversary this month.

The Oakland Community College District was established by the electorate of Oakland

County, Michigan, on June 8, 1964. The college opened in September 1965, with a record community college initial enrollment of 3,860 students on two campuses—Highland Lakes, a renovated hospital in Union Lake, and Auburn Hills, a former Army Nike missile site in Auburn Heights. In September 1967, the award-winning Orchard Ridge Campus opened.

Mr. Speaker, during its 40 years, OCC has grown in stature and importance, and has earned its pre-eminent position in the vanguard of training and educating Americans. For example, Oakland Community College's fire academy has opened the only facility in the Midwest which provides emergency services personnel with training in a unique simulated city, complete with roads and buildings. The Combined Regional Emergency Services Training Center (CREST) is comparable to the FBI's "Hogan's Alley" in Quantico, VA. Police and fire departments throughout the region send personnel to the center for extensive training. OCC is also proud to have among its many successful graduates, Drew Feustel, a NASA astronaut who began his college studies at the Auburn Hills Campus, and eventually received his Ph.D. in geologic sciences before being chosen by NASA as a mission specialist.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in congratulating Oakland Community College on 40 years of success in educating students and helping them become an important part of our society and our country, and in wishing OCC 40 more years of outstanding achievement.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ULYSSES  
BRADSHAW KINSEY**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ulysses Bradshaw Kinsey, who died on April 2, 2005. Mr. Kinsey, known as U.B. to all who loved and respected him, was born on June 27, 1918 in Fort White, Florida, one of ten children of Henry and Cora Kinsey. The family moved to Palm Beach County when Mr. Kinsey was just eight years old. Throughout his life, he was proud of the fact that, although he grew up in segregated times, he never drank from "Colored" water fountains.

Barred by law from attending the University of Florida, he could not pursue his dream of becoming an attorney. Instead, he attended Florida A&M and became a teacher. After graduation, he returned to Palm Beach County and was hired by his alma mater, Industrial High School, where he taught nearly every subject. At that time, starting white teachers were paid \$50 more per month than their black counterparts. One month after starting, U.B. Kinsey and others challenged the school board over this policy. Future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall argued their case, and they won.

After their own victory, Mr. Kinsey and his fellow teachers began battling for the rights of black students. During World War II, black children were schooled only seven months a year, so they could provide cheap labor the rest of the time harvesting crops for local

farmers. U.B. Kinsey and his colleagues won that battle, too, and black children were returned to a nine-month schedule. He went on to become assistant principal at Industrial High and, later, the first principal of Palmview Elementary. Along the way, Mr. Kinsey established a scholarship fund that annually provides three promising students from low-income families \$1,000 each to attend college.

Over the next half-century, about 30,000 children passed through the doors of Palmview Elementary. The school was later re-named U.B. Kinsey/Palmview in his honor. At one point in his career, U.B. Kinsey was offered the opportunity to become an assistant superintendent of schools in charge of busing. He turned down the offer because he refused to take part in the busing of black children to white schools far from their neighborhoods. In the 1980s, as drug dealing became a problem near his school, Mr. Kinsey confronted many of the dealers and, out of respect for their former teacher, they stayed away from U.B. Kinsey Elementary.

After retiring in 1989, he co-founded a non-profit development company that secured funding to build a low-income housing development near his school. These are just a few of the remarkable accomplishments of Ulysses Bradshaw Kinsey. Generations of African-American children have benefited from the battles he fought and won to ensure that they got a proper education. His efforts are directly responsible for the graduation and ascension to higher education of countless black young people. His many victories that advanced the cause of civil rights in general earned him the gratitude of African-American citizens throughout Palm Beach County.

U.B. Kinsey was a beloved friend of mine. His stature in the education of Palm Beach County's children may be matched, but it will never be exceeded. This very fine gentleman, a truly great American, will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**HONORING THE BEDFORD GIRLS  
VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WIN-  
NING THE MICHIGAN CLASS A  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bedford High School girls' volleyball team in honor of its 2005 Class A State Championship.

This remarkable group of Kicking Mules culminated a year of fantastic play by toppling top-ranked Grand Rapids Forrest Hills Northern in the first ever five-game final to capture the championship. These young ladies have persevered beyond injury and daunting adversaries to become the best in the State of Michigan. This is Bedford's third title in eight years, and it continues their amazing streak of 16 straight trips to the state's Final Four.

Coach Jodi Manore, a graduate of Bedford High School, has been at the helm of Bedford's girls' volleyball team for 21 years. Her sage leadership has built one of the most rigorous and successful programs in the state. The success of the Bedford volleyball program is a true credit to her vision and ability as a coach.

The intangible synergy necessary to win the State Championship cannot easily be replicated. These young ladies have reached the pinnacle of their sport through outstanding athleticism and teamwork. Team members Kali Kuhl, Petra Whitcraft, Veronica Rood, Emily Fahrre, Tara Breske, Lexi Leonhard, Amy Zuccarelli, Kelsey Cousino, Stephanie Champine, Jamie Swick, Michelle Obert, Hanna O'Connor, Jackie Blaida and Courtney Riehle all deserve recognition for their phenomenal achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending the Bedford High School girls' volleyball team on its exceptional season and 2005 Class A State Championship.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
JOHN YATES

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the members of the greatest generation our nation has known. The Honorable John Yates, a member of the Georgia House of Representatives exemplifies a life of service to causes greater than himself, and his example should be known and followed across this nation.

During his youth in rural Spalding County, Georgia, Representative Yates grew up on a family farm, working in the cotton fields to help pay for his family's food.

Representative Yates served in the military during one of the greatest struggles for human freedom our nation has known—World War II. He flew his plane, providing air cover for vulnerable ground troops, and destroying German targets. He was involved in key aspects of the Battle of the Bulge, and participated as a military observer during the liberation of the Dachau death camp.

After his service to our country, Representative Yates went on to work for the Ford Motor Company for many years, while raising his family. In that same Spalding County where he grew up, Representative Yates continued his service to the community.

In 1958, the citizens of his home county recognized his past service and committed to him yet another great trust—a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. When he took his position there, the Democratic Party was still the majority, and Republicans were very few. But Representative Yates did not give up. He stuck with it, and is today a member of the majority party, as Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in Georgia during the 2004 election cycle.

As a result of his commitment and dedication through the years, the new House leadership gave Representative Yates even more responsibility—the chairmanship of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Georgia House. Representative Yates has continued his valiant service to his nation and state in that capacity during the course of this 2005 regular legislative session.

But there is more to Representative Yates, and this is revealed by his deep personal commitment to his wife, Annie. Although she has been afflicted with some health problems,

Representative Yates has continued his valiant service by serving and caring for his wife, demonstrating his deep affection and the character that is the foundation of every area of his life.

Representative Yates has spent his life in service to his nation, his state, and his family, and is an example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I lay before you the life and work of Representative John Yates—a man that deserves the highest praise of our nation, a dear friend of mine, and a man that embodies the values that make America great. I am grateful to call Representative Yates my friend, and am grateful for this opportunity to bring the valiant service of John Yates to his country, his state, and his family to the attention of the American people.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and join the millions of my fellow Americans in commemorating Greek Independence Day which, on March 25th celebrated the 184th anniversary of the rebellion and the struggle of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire.

What makes Greek Independence Day so special here in America is that it reminds us of the strong principles and bonds that the U.S. and Greece share. In looking into the struggles of our two nations, we realize how much our struggles have in common, and how much each country has been influenced by the other.

Greece and the United States are bound by an absolute commitment to the democratic ideals of justice and freedom and continue to be strong allies. By commemorating Greek Independence Day, we also celebrate the strength and the resolve of the human spirit that has been the inspiration of us all.

I am very pleased to place into the RECORD a statement made on this 184th anniversary of Greek independence written by one of my constituents, Constantinos Nicolaou:

STATEMENT OF MR. CONSTANTINOS NICOLAOU  
OF MARYLAND

The greatness of the human spirit, regardless of any efforts to suppress it, will always rise against tyranny and oppression and will start revolutions where heroism will pay any price, even the ultimate sacrifice of life, in order to gain freedom and independence.

Every time we commemorate heroism such as the one exhibited by the Greeks on March 25, 1821 and during the ensuing struggle for their freedom, we cannot help but think of our great Founding Fathers, who were so much influenced by the ancient Greeks in their struggles for freedom and the creation of what had become the freest, most democratic country in history, the United States of America.

Thomas Jefferson looked to the ancient Greek philosophers and their teachings as an inspiration in trying to create a fair, strong, democratic state. And it was not accidental that many of the Greek leaders of the 1821 revolution, turned to America for inspiration as they were embarking in their struggle for freedom.

Both nations were faced with seemingly insurmountable struggles, rising against empires to claim their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Both nations became triumphant at the end, because of their love of freedom. The great American Patriot, Patrick Henry, proclaimed, "Give me liberty or give me death." The Greek patriots went to battle proclaiming, "Eleftheria I Thanatos"—liberty or death.

As with the American Revolution, the Greek revolution is filled with stories of heroism and sacrifice. News of such heroism and sacrifice met with strong feelings of support by the American public and by their politicians, including President James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, who expressed their support for the Greek revolution through their annual messages to Congress. Henry Clay, our secretary of state in 1825, was very vocal in his support of Greece's fight for independence. Daniel Webster, more often than not, influenced his colleagues in looking into the Greek struggle with sympathetic interests.

It is, of course, no surprise that our Founding Fathers and other prominent Americans were supportive of the Greek struggle for independence. As mentioned, they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks. Thomas Jefferson, of all the Founding Fathers, had a particular affinity for Greece, not only because of its classical republican philosophy but also because of his studies of the origins of languages. He expressed that affinity many times, as in a letter to John Brazier on August 24, 1819. In that letter, Thomas Jefferson addresses "Mr. Pickering's Memoir of the Modern Greek," and the Memoirs review by Brazier. He tells Brazier, "I had been much pleased with the memoir, and was much also with your review of it. I have little hope indeed of recovery of the ancient pronunciation of the finest of human languages, but still I rejoice to the attention the subject seems to excite with you, because it is evidence that our country begins to have a taste for something more than merely as much Greek as will pass a candidate for clerical ordination. . . . Among the values of classical learning, I estimate the luxury of learning the Greek and Roman authors in all the beauties of their originals. And why should not this innocent and elegant luxury take its preeminent stand ahead of all those addressed merely to the senses? I think myself more indebted to my father for this than for all other luxuries his cares and affections have placed within my reach."

Jefferson expressed his empathies with Greece revolting against its Ottoman rulers. In an 1823 letter to Adamantios Coray, the Greek patriot and scholar that he had met in Paris years earlier, he stated:

" . . . You have certainly began at the right end towards preparing them [the Greek people] for the great object they are now contending for, by improving their minds and qualifying them for self-government. For this they will owe you lasting honors. Nothing is more likely to forward this object than a study of the fine models of science left by their ancestors; to whom we also are all indebted for the lights which originally led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

No people sympathize more feelingly than ours with the suffering of your countrymen; none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success. And nothing indeed but the fundamental principle of our government never to entangle us with the broils of Europe could restrain our generous youth from taking some part in this holy cause. Possessing ourselves the combined blessing of liberty and order, we wish the same to other countries, and to none more than yours, which she first of civilized nations presented examples of what man should be.

The ties that bind America and Greece go, of course, far beyond their parallel and noble struggles for freedom. The philosophical and cultural connections, although little known to the public at large, could not be stronger or better assimilated. Such connections were born almost at the same time with the birth of our nation, if not before. In his excellent study of "Lincoln at Gettysburg," Gary Wills tells us:

"America as a second Athens was an idea whose moment had come in the nineteenth century. . . . In the early 19th century, an era that became known as America's Greek Revival was taking shape. Archaeological discoveries in Greece at the time brought the ancient democracy to mind just as modern Greece began its struggle for freedom from the Turks.

"Edward Everett, President of Harvard, founder of Mount Auburn, congressman, Massachusetts's governor, minister to the Court of St. James's in London, senator, secretary of state and principal speaker at Gettysburg years later, was the leader of the Greek Revival. Harvard established its new chair of ancient Greek studies for him. While studying in Germany, Everett went to Greece, 'to walk over the battlefields where the first democracy of the West won its freedom.' He returned to America convinced that a new Athens was rising here. His appearances, 'prompted rallies for Greek independence'—a favorite cause of Everett.

"Everett's prestige influenced others, including historian George Bancroft, whose 'main interest was Greek history.' . . . Bancroft was ahead of the wave of histories that would glorify Periclean Athens in Victorian England. Direct democracy, a flawed system in republican theory, was rehabilitated, for its usefulness in the parliamentary reform movement, by British historians like George Grote. In America, a similar motion toward government by the people, not just for the republic, was signaled by an enthusiasm for Greek symbols. Bancroft became a Jacksonian Democrat when he began to apply historical skills formed on the Attic democracy to America's development. Walter Savage Landor recognized what was happening in America when he dedicated the second volume of his *Pericles and Aspasia* to President Andrew Jackson."

Greece and the United States, bound by their absolute commitment to freedom and justice, have always been the strongest of the allies. Greece stood by us and fought with us in every single war or conflict since we both gained our freedom. And we always stood by Greece, and although at times we appeared to have forgotten how loyal and valuable the Greeks had been to us, our ultimate commitment to their freedom and well-being never wavered.

And as we commemorate and fight to free all people, let us remember that some other friends of ours are still agonizing and asking for our help in fighting forces of evil still occupying their land and their homes. The people of the Republic of Cyprus, Greeks and Turks and all others, should be given more active support by our great nation in their efforts to reunite the island and get rid of the occupying forces. U.S. leadership is essential, and now it is the time that we should remember that the Cypriot people are where we had been, and they are striving for what we have earned long time ago, that is, their right to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is essential that American leadership urges Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders towards peace. These are the two sides that hold in their hands, to the largest extent, the peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem. A solution that undoubtedly will benefit all the people of Cyprus, but it will also benefit

the nations of Greece and Turkey, will stabilize the region, and will strengthen the bonds and relationships between the United States and the countries involved in the conflict.

As we commemorate Greek Independence Day, we are celebrating the strength and the resolve of the human spirit as well as man's unbending will in the pursuit of freedom. The people of ancient Greece gave us values and ethics and showed us how to fight for freedom and democracy. Our country, more than any other country, shares those values and ethics, and in days such as this we reaffirm our common democratic heritage with the Greek people. The commemoration and celebration remind us also that we should stay forever vigilant in fighting for and protecting our freedom and our democracy, least we lose the right to determine our lives and our future.

Dionisios Solomos was the great poet who transformed in his poetry the unparalleled struggle and the sacrifices of Hellenism in the pursuit of Freedom. The Revolution so much influenced his poetry that he is considered the national poet of Greece. One of his most inspired poems, *Hymn to Liberty*, has almost become synonymous to that Revolution and it became Greece's National Anthem. The poem was published in 1825, along with translations in Italian, French and English.

The Revolution would have never been the same without Solomos. The enthusiasm of the fighters, as well as the international sympathy among the Philhellenes would have definitely been smaller without the *Hymn to Liberty*.

Probably nowhere was Solomos's vision of Liberty depicted better than here, in the United States. Here, in the Rotunda of our own Capitol Hill, we see a most wonderful painting of Liberty, with the sword in hand chasing her enemies, exactly the way Solomos envisioned her in his *Hymn to Liberty*. This figure was painted by another son of Greece, one who really grasped Solomos's vision of Liberty, Constantino Brumidi.

And as a tribute to the United States, Solomos envisions our country rejoicing in seeing Greece fighting for Freedom. He describes the American feelings this way:

Most heartily was gladdened  
George Washington's brave land:  
For the iron bonds remembered,  
Her old slavery's cruel brand.

We live today in a great, free country. Our country became great, and will always be so, because the spirit and the morals that we share with Greece, as so eloquently expressed by Solomos, will always be with us.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHARLOTTE MAYOR MARK T. WILSON

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mark T. Wilson, Mayor of Charlotte, Texas, for his dedicated service to his community.

Mayor Wilson is one of Charlotte's proudest native sons. Born and raised in Charlotte, he graduated from Charlotte High School and attended TSTI in Waco, TX. While in school, he studied farming and ranching in preparation for a career as a rancher.

Mr. Wilson's family has been in the ranching business for many years, and he has estab-

lished himself in the business community as well, owning and operating heavy equipment and providing road construction and land clearing for local ranchers. In addition, he has given back to the community through his work as a public servant for the City of Charlotte. He began his service as an Alderman, and rose through the rank of Mayor Pro-Tem to become Mayor, a post he has held with distinction for the past 8 and 1/2 years.

He has left his mark on the community in other ways, as well. He and his wife, Jenci, are the parents of four children of their own, and have selflessly given their time to the foster parents' program. Mayor Wilson continues to give his time to his local church, the 4-H, and the Future Farmers of America.

Mayor Mark Wilson is a tremendous asset for the City of Charlotte, Texas. His work as a public servant, a successful businessman, and a dedicated father serve as an example to the rest of us. I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him here for all he has done.

#### HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE OLIVIA HERMAN TRACK AND FIELD COMPLEX

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Olivia Herman, whose life will be commemorated in Lehigh, Pennsylvania, as the school district dedicates its new athletic complex as the Olivia Herman Track and Field Complex.

Olivia served on the Lehigh Area School Board for 13 years, from 1991 through 2003. She succumbed to cancer in March 2004 after a short battle with the disease.

Olivia was elected as president of the school board from 2001 through 2003. When she attended her very last school board meeting in December 2003, the board voted to dedicate to her the new athletic complex that was being built. Olivia had worked diligently to obtain funding for the new facilities, and the school district wanted to show its appreciation.

For eight years—from 1996 through 2003—Olivia served on the board of directors for the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit. Prior to that, she was the Director of Literacy for Carbon County, and was a volunteer reading teacher. Olivia Herman was a tremendous asset to the field of education. She was a lifelong advocate of reading and always stressed the importance of literacy.

Olivia received her college degree later in life after working professionally as a social worker for many years. She went to the University of Delaware, graduating in 1971. Olivia's husband, William, was sick at the time and the two stayed in Delaware for a few years before returning to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Olivia, herself a 1942 graduate of Lehigh Area High School, was by many accounts one of the most gifted athletes to ever graduate from the school. She was especially active in gymnastics, but she also participated in basketball, cheerleading, and track. She remained active in the school district throughout her life, organizing reunions for her former classmates every few years. When she retired, she decided she still had more to give of herself.

Olivia ran for school board and soon made that her full-time job.

Olivia and her husband had four children: Judy Herman Hunsicker, twins Darryl and Derryl, and Rudy, who passed away at the age of 40.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of an extraordinary woman who helped so many children and adults throughout her life as the Olivia Herman Track and Field Complex is dedicated in Lehighon.

#### RED LAKE SCHOOL TRAGEDY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the Red Lake Nation of northern Minnesota for the profound tragedy that took place on March 21, 2005. On that day a young man killed nine people on the Red Lake Reservation and then he killed himself. This extreme violence shatters our own sense of security because we all know it can happen anywhere at any time. All Americans and all Minnesotans extend our prayers, condolences, and support for the families of the Red Lake Nation as they heal and rebuild their community.

Violence, untreated mental illness, the epidemic of alcohol and drug abuse, and the ubiquitous availability to guns are all scourges. They are potentially contributing factors to an environment throughout our nation in which rational problem solving is all too often replaced with irrational destruction and death. We will never know why this young man was driven to enter his own school and embark on a campaign of murder. We only know the outcome; the painful consequences and the bewildering agony of families and a community torn apart.

As adults we have a responsibility to our children. We must listen to them, talk to them, and look for the warning signs. We must work together as a community to ensure their basic needs are met because even parents who are doing all they can still need assistance. In this country, violence surrounds our children, our families, and our communities. Violence is a plague which is promoted, glorified, and condoned in popular culture through movies, music, video games, and the endless television news cycle. It is a disease that is killing our children in our streets and in our schools and it must be stopped.

The shooting at Red Lake is another tragic episode that is no longer rare or abnormal. It is now all too commonplace and we are not nearly as shocked by such tragedy as we once were. Sadly, Red Lake is another example of this very tragic trend. And as Red Lake knows all too well, our nation's children are at risk and America needs to be hearing their voices, investing in their future, and supporting their very real needs.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS, POPE  
JOHN PAUL II

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. With his passing on April 2nd, the world lost one of the most influential and inspirational leaders of our time. He was a great leader, a man of peace, and a source of hope to millions across the globe.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Josef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920. He made history by becoming the first Slavic Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years. He traveled more than any other Pope in history, visiting over 130 countries and 900 Heads of State.

The Pope's strong will and vision were instrumental in delivering hope and inspiration to people around the world. As a young man in an oppressed country, he courageously protected all people from oppression and tyranny. Under his reign, Pope John Paul II served as an important symbol that helped bring about the fall of communism throughout Europe.

Particularly important for Poland, he was an outspoken advocate for human rights. His peaceful message of human rights and religious freedom resonated among Polish Catholics, ushering in Poland's peaceful revolution in their fight against communist rule.

Pope John Paul II ministered to all people through his personal example of sacrifice and collaboration. He worked tirelessly to spread the message of compassion, courage, and sacrifice that inspired millions. Pope John Paul II brought together and forged dialogue between people of different faiths, promoting cooperation and peace. He was the first Pope to visit synagogues and mosques as well as areas of conflict, including the Holy Land.

When the world most needed his eloquent voice, he inspired us. When the world needed his prayers, he prayed for us. When the world needed his guidance, he showed us the way. Mr. Speaker, he will forever be remembered as a tireless promoter of peace for all people and regions of the world.

#### SALUTING SNOWSHOE RESORT

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Snowshoe Resort and its adaptive skiing program's extensive commitment to enabling disabled persons to enjoy the recreation of alpine sports.

The Snowshoe Resort adaptive skiing program, under the direction of Dave Begg, has been very active in providing opportunities for a wide range of disabled persons and has seen continued growth over the past decade. The program uses certified Professional Ski Instructors of America, trained in adaptive skiing, to teach many disabled persons to ski, including those with spinal cord injuries, amputations, cerebral palsy, sight and hearing impairments, traumatic brain injury, and development disorders.

Snowshoe has worked in cooperation with the Challenged Athletes of West Virginia organization to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities through outdoor sports and recreation. This organization has sponsored training events at Snowshoe for the adaptive skiing program and is actively involved in creating other outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled persons for not only their enjoyment, but also as part of a rehabilitation process.

The program also works extensively with veterans of past wars and those returning from our current conflicts abroad, for which this program should be commended for providing our soldiers with ample opportunity to continue a healthy lifestyle through outdoor recreation.

Each student who enters into the program is worked with on a one-on-one basis by a professional instructor as well as with help from one of the many volunteers who come to assist the program. There is a multitude of equipment for the adaptive skiers to choose from when they hit the slopes, so that they may find what they feel is the most comfortable to use while skiing.

The adaptive skiing program at Snowshoe has continually provided a venue for disabled persons to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, and I wish to honor them for this. I implore my fellow members to join me in honoring Snowshoe Mountain Resort and also to encourage all ski resorts to follow the example of Snowshoe Mountain in promoting the equal opportunity for all disabled persons to participate in sports.

#### MATH AND SCIENCE INCENTIVE ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 1547)

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005, which today was introduced by Rep. WOLF. I thank him and his staff for their work on this important legislation. I am very pleased to join him as the lead cosponsor, and pledge that I will work with Rep. WOLF to move this legislation through the House.

A number of developments in recent years have fueled concerns that world technology leadership could shift from the United States to other countries. In today's global economy, American manufacturers and other businesses rely on innovation to stay competitive. For the United States to remain a prosperous country, we must maintain our technological leadership in the world.

Our knowledge-based economy is driven by constant innovation. The foundation of innovation lies in a dynamic, motivated, and well-educated workforce equipped with math and science skills. An understanding of scientific and mathematical principles, a working knowledge of computer hardware and software, and the problem-solving skills developed by courses in science, technology, engineering and math are now basic requirements for many entry-level positions or for admission to college. In fact, I fully expect that all of the jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of the concepts and principles of math and science.

Unfortunately, we are continuing to see disturbing trends in American student performance on basic math and science tests. The recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Trends in International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) highlight the shortcomings of current K–12 science and math students in the United States when compared to other developed countries.

We have also seen that fewer students are pursuing degrees in math and science. This should be of particular concern when we consider the large educational and workforce development investments made by emerging economies with huge populations, such as China, India and Russia.

We must encourage girls in grades K–12 to become interested in math and science and urge young women to pursue degrees in math and science. While the percentages of women holding baccalaureate degrees in biological and physical sciences closely mirrors that of their male counterparts, recent statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics show that women are underrepresented in engineering and computer science baccalaureate degrees.

The Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005 is a direct response to the needs I have outlined. The bill will help recruit and retain direly needed science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers and workforce professionals. It allows the Secretary of Education to pay up to \$10,000 in interest on undergraduate loans for those who qualify and agree to enter into a five-year service agreement with the Secretary.

Clearly, we must recommit ourselves to leadership in science, technology, mathematics and engineering. This legislation puts us on the path toward ensuring that we will have STEM teachers and workforce professionals in place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS.  
BELVA TEAFORD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituent Mrs. Belva Teaford. Belva is a testament to the innate goodness of human nature and the overwhelming positive effect one individual may have on the community.

As a wife, mother, and tireless volunteer in Ohio's Eighth Congressional District Mrs. Teaford has quietly given much more than she has taken. Her work, throughout Darke County over so many decades is a constant source of pride and unconditional praise. As a volunteer for the Darke County Republican Party Belva's friendship and reassuring demeanor have helped guide countless candidates, myself included, to success. Yet, Belva's efforts stretch far beyond politics. She is, in the truest sense of the word, a humanitarian whose unyielding belief in the goodness of her neighbors has helped make Darke County a truly remarkable community.

Belva's attitude, fierce determination, and community spirit are a constant source of energy for all those around her. So much of Belva's work is done quietly and without re-

ward and it is my honor to take this moment and say thank you and it is with a great deal of personal joy that I congratulate Belva and wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JUDGE DANNY VALDEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of Judge Danny Valdez of Laredo, TX.

In May 1982, Danny Valdez was elected as Justice of the Peace, and is currently serving his sixth four-year term.

Judge Valdez has also received numerous awards. Some include: the 2000 Martin High School Tiger Legend, the Liberty Bell Award from the Laredo Bar Association, and the Community Service Award from Lulac Council #12.

Aside from presiding over one of the state's busiest courts, he makes time for many community activities. He has worked with at-risk students for the past 23 years, addressing issues such as truancy, gang violence, drug abuse, teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency. He has been working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Education Program to bring male and female inmates to our local middle and high schools to tell their life stories in an effort to educate, warn, and inform students about the dangers and consequences involved in making the wrong choices.

Judge Valdez has worked with the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Boy Scout Camp Huisahche and was also instrumental in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Inner City Recreation Center.

Judge Valdez chairs the Annual Toys for Tejanitos Drive and the Angel Wish Program that benefits needy families in our community. He also chairs the Annual Fishing Derby for physically challenged students. This event has received Texas state wide recognition. He has also awarded over \$60,000.00 in scholarships to deserving students from L.I.S.D. in Laredo, TX.

Judge Valdez is married to Isabel Valdez and has a son, Danny, Jr. and daughter, Maribel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Danny Valdez.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN  
FLAHERTY ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
WILKES-BARRE VETERANS AF-  
FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martin Flaherty on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-

Barre, Pennsylvania after more than 30 years of dedicated service. Martin, or "Marty," as he is known by friends, co-workers, veterans, and volunteers at the VA, will be greatly missed and I wish him luck in the next phase of his life.

Martin's service to the government began on April 4, 1966 when he joined the Army. He spent two years on a tour of duty in Germany and was honorably discharged on March 17, 1968 at the rank of Spec 5. After the Army, Marty worked for the Domestic Intelligence Division in Washington, D.C., and in September of 1970 he joined the Metropolitan Police Force in Washington.

In the evenings, he attended Georgetown University. Marty was off to a promising start in life. His career in Washington was cut short when he left in 1973 to move back home to the Wyoming Valley to care of his father, who had taken ill.

In that same year, Marty started to work for the VA Medical Center as a housekeeping aide. Marty worked his way up through the ranks with hard work and landed a job in the warehouse. From there, Marty's career took off.

Now Marty is the supervisor of the Inventory Management Department, where he oversees the warehouse, inventory personnel, and SPD. He possesses great motivational skills to rally staff to accomplish tasks where others would say: "it can't be done." And at the start of each day, you'll hear Marty coming down the hallway, thanking his employees for coming to work that day. In return, he receives a "thank you" back.

Marty has received superior performance awards over his career at the VA and possesses the respect of managers above him. G. Michael Miller, the VISN 4 Chief Logistics Officer, states that: "Marty is one of the people that makes the VA Wilkes-Barre a special place to work." Jackie Malhoyt, the former Facilities Management Director, stated that: "Marty looks at change as a challenge and opportunity, never as a threat or bother. He is an example of the heart of this medical center."

But this is not the whole story of Marty. Walk around the VA and you will hear other stories of Marty's selflessness and dedication, whether it's assisting patients to their next appointment or being a sounding board for a co-worker in need. You may find him purchasing the balance of chances for a drawing from veteran volunteers in order to help them meet their goal. Still, what you will probably hear most about Marty is how people were moved by his singing voice.

You see, Marty has been blessed with a beautiful voice and has been singing since he was nine years old, when he received his first lessons from Mrs. Helen Schivell of Wilkes-Barre. Over and over again, Marty is asked to share his singing voice at various hospital events, whether it's a Veterans Day ceremony or an employee awards program. You may also find him belting out songs in patient rooms or in the VA's nursing home on other occasions.

George Bath, the VA's Network Contracting Manager and Marty's former supervisor, notes one instance where there was an unusually large turnout at an employees' recognition program. George recalls: "I walked into Liberty Hall and nearly every seat was taken. I turned and there at the head of the room, with a mike

in hand, was Marty, getting ready to open the program. Then I heard someone whisper, 'I hope he sings Wind Beneath My Wings.' Folks were there to hear Marty!"

Beyond the walls of the VAMC, you will hear Marty's voice as a soloist at his church, at local nursing homes, or at other community-based activities. And he takes nothing in return except the cheer of the crowd.

In addition to singing, you will find Marty creating floral arrangements that he donates to his church to help raise money. Roland E. Moore, the Wilkes-Barre VA's Medical Center Director, sums it up: "Marty's work ethic and dedication to serving veterans and VA staff is second-to-none. Whether it's being ranked as a well-respected supervisor in our medical center/network or boosting the spirits of veterans with a song, he has truly served this institution with professionalism and gusto."

Marty will be missed for his dedication and compassion to the veterans he has served over the years and also by the employees who have had the opportunity to work alongside him. I am pleased to join my friends at the VA in congratulating Marty on this milestone. I wish him a fruitful and enjoyable retirement and, Marty, thank you for coming to work for the Wilkes-Barre VA.

#### RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and remember the life of Pope John Paul II.

The world mourns the passing of Pope John Paul II and the great void he leaves behind as a force for good in the world. Pope John Paul inspired peoples of all faiths in every corner of the globe by his living example of faith, justice, peace and love. His twenty-six years as the Holy Father transformed the Roman Catholic Church and revitalized the more than one billion Roman Catholics around the world.

Pope John Paul worked tirelessly to advance human dignity, social justice and peace. His powerful presence helped to defeat communism in his home country of Poland and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union. The Pope urged his fellow Catholics in Poland to support Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement in a peaceful and non-violent campaign that eventually led to Solidarity's successful victory in Poland's first post-communist election.

Pope John Paul was a great champion and advocate for the poor, the sick and the forgotten, particularly in the developing world. He loved children, and often appeared to take great joy from speaking to and meeting with young people. Pope John Paul traveled the globe inviting and mobilizing young people to a life of faith and to stand in support of the rights of those less fortunate than themselves.

The life of Pope John Paul II has been a blessing for Catholics and people of all faiths. His moral and spiritual leadership of the Roman Catholic Church and for all mankind make his life an example for all of us. Let us honor the life of John Paul and express our

humble gratitude for the service, sacrifice and prayers he shared with all of us until the hour of his death.

#### HONORING PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today on behalf of the more than 4,000 of my constituents of Ukrainian descent in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois on Chicago's northwest side. I am also pleased to join with my colleagues in the House to receive the recently inaugurated President of the Republic of Ukraine, His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko during his first official visit to the United States, in a joint session of Congress.

I applaud President Yushchenko for his courage and vision and for his leadership in the "Orange Revolution" that peacefully brought freedom and democratic reforms to Ukraine late last year. The people of the Ukraine, and indeed all across the globe, were relieved when the President survived an assassination attempt that nearly claimed his life and subsequently persevered among tremendous resistance to the dramatic reforms he championed.

My hometown of Chicago is home to more than 100,000 Ukrainian Americans who have been instrumental in helping advance the increasingly important alliance between our nations. The Ukraine's prosperity, independence and openness to the West are of vital economic, cultural and strategic importance to the global community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues and all Americans in congratulating President Yushchenko for his triumph. I wish him and the Ukraine continued prosperity and success in advancing the ideals of democracy and freedom in that nation.

#### HONORING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rotary International for reaching its' 100th Anniversary, and for the monumental amount of achievements it has accomplished within its' time.

Rotary Club was first founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney, in Chicago Illinois with the interest of organizing a booster club, which then expanded to Rotary International in 1922, and has grown to include over 1.2 million members in more than 31,000 clubs that span the globe in 166 countries. The Rotary District in my own Congressional District has 32 clubs within it that include some 1509 members.

In my home district, Anthony K. Blankenship, the District Governor Elect of District 7550, has set a superb example for all business leaders in the area by serving on his local chamber of commerce and as the Ohio

Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association's vice chair. He has also served in many capacities for the Matewan Rotary Club, including President.

Each year the local Rotary District sponsors a Group Study Exchange to foster peace and understanding between nations that sends four Non-Rotarian business people and one Rotarian to a paired foreign nation to experience a different culture and way of life. This past year the 7550 District sent a member and four business professionals to Great Britain and has plans to send another entourage to Australia this year.

Rotary International has encouraged and fostered the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and thus adopted the 4-Way Test, formulated by its' own Herbert Taylor, who developed a standard code of ethics for businesses.

The Rotary Foundation has been instrumental in funding many worthwhile service projects that have improved the lives of people across the globe by promoting world understanding and peace through humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. The Rotary clubs in my district, led by the Beckley Rotary club, recently secured a \$300,000 grant to build a clinic in India.

Rotary International has enacted the Polio-Plus program that has collected over \$500 million, contributed tens of thousands of volunteer man-hours, inoculated over 2 billion children since 1985 with the polio vaccine, and is slated to eradicate polio globally by December, 2005.

Rotary has been actively involved in creating a peaceful world by fostering peace initiatives that have created Rotary Centers for International Studies at world-renowned universities in an effort to educate and train Rotary World Peace Scholars in conflict resolution, peace studies, and international relations. In fact, a West Virginia native of St. Albans was one of the first graduates of this program.

Many students have excelled and benefited under the Rotary Youth Exchange, which funded by the Ambassadorial Scholarships, has become the international community's largest privately funded international scholarships program. The Matewan Rotary Club ensures each year that two local high school students will receive a scholarship to further their higher education goals.

I wish to honor today and hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Rotary International for continually striving to promote the ideal of service as an integral part of enterprise, and a sustained effort to maintain high ethical standards while promoting peaceful initiatives around the globe.

#### HONORING DR. EDWARD L. KELLY

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edward L. Kelly for his exceptional work and service to the Prince William County School system.

Since July of 1987 Dr. Kelly has been the Superintendent of Schools for Prince William County, Virginia. During his tenure he has been responsible for the supervision of over 66,000 students at 80 different schools.

Dr. Kelly graduated from Northeast Missouri State University in 1964 with a B.S. in Zoology and Chemistry. He received an M.A. in Secondary School Administration from the same institution in 1968. During this time he interacted with adolescents on a daily basis as a Science Teacher and Coach in Missouri. Dr. Kelly then served as an assistant principal, vice principal and principal in both Missouri and Illinois. After having worked for a number of years, Dr. Kelly returned to school and received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University in 1973.

Dr. Kelly served as Superintendent of schools in Rockford, Illinois and Little Rock, Arkansas, prior to moving to Prince William County in 1987. As a school administrator, Dr. Kelly strived to bring out the best in his students, employees and community. His oversight on educational practices allowed him to implement nationally recognized School-Based Management Programs, design alternative programs for students with special circumstances, and supervise curriculum restructuring and benchmark examinations. Dr. Kelly's positive actions and open door policy stabilized relations within the school system, and established trust among parents, teachers, the School Board and the community at large.

Dr. Kelly's dedication to his work has been recognized through numerous awards and commendations. In 1987 he was named by a panel of educators to The Executive Educator 100, a selection of 100 outstanding educational leaders. Dr. Kelly also received the Virginia Elementary School Principals "Educator of the Year" Award and was elected Chairman of the Washington Area School Study Council.

In addition to his educational pursuits, Dr. Kelly stays involved in many charitable and community activities. He is a member of the board for the United Way, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, as well as the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Dr. Edward L. Kelly on his retirement as the Prince William County Superintendent. Through his long and distinguished career Dr. Kelly has touched the lives of countless students. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Kelly, and I wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING RABBI JEHIEL  
ORENSTEIN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein. Rabbi Orenstein is a beloved figure not only among the 575 families at Congregation Beth El, but throughout the community at-large.

In 1961, Jehiel Orenstein received his master's degree in Judaica and was ordained as a Rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. While he was a student there, he received the Lawrence Prager Award for outstanding scholarship in medieval Hebrew Lit-

erature. In 1986, Rabbi Orenstein received his PhD from New York University in linguistics. In that same year, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Rabbi Orenstein served as Chaplain of the United States Air Force on Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. After three years on Lackland Air Force Base, Rabbi Orenstein moved to Lynbrook, New York, where he was Rabbi of Congregation Beth David. After his stay at Temple Beth David he became Rabbi at Temple Israel in Great Neck, New York. For the past 35 years, Rabbi Orenstein has served as the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El in South Orange, New Jersey. During his distinguished tenure at Beth El, Rabbi Orenstein has overseen a vibrant and growing Conservative Jewish congregation.

He has written several publications, including a book about Hebrew Literature. Some of his other works include articles published in Conservative Judaism, the New York Times, and Ba'nanu, a working publication for American Conservative Rabbis.

Rabbi Orenstein is the past president of the Maplewood-South Orange Clergy Association, Chaplain of the State Police of New Jersey, and Chaplain of the Maplewood Police and Fire Departments. He is also the past president of the Rabbinical Assembly of New Jersey. I know that he is particularly proud of founding the South Orange-Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Service, a 27-year tradition.

Rabbi Orenstein is married to Sylvia Mowshowitz Orenstein, a very accomplished attorney in her own right. They are the parents of three very successful children, and are the proud grandparents of five.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein a hearty "Mazel Tov!" on giving the opening prayer today on the Senate floor.

Rabbi Orenstein built a strong synagogue during his 35 years at Beth El, and has been a pillar for the South Orange-Maplewood region. I would also like to thank him for his years of service dedicated not only to his congregants, but our community and the State of New Jersey. May he enjoy a very well-deserved retirement

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE MAYOR PRO-TEM JAMES  
D. ROBERTS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Pro-Tem James D. Roberts for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

A patriotic and dedicated American, Mr. Roberts is no stranger to service and sacrifice for his town and country. A veteran of Vietnam, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1968 through 1972.

James Roberts is a dedicated public servant, and a lifelong patron of the State of Texas. He has served the City of Charlotte for eleven years, having worked previously as Alderman for 9½ years.

Working closely with numerous community organizations, Mr. Roberts is active in the

Atascosa Finance Committee, the Charlotte FFA, the 4-H Club, and the San Antonio Livestock Show Auction Committee. He also serves his community as a volunteer for the fire department, often working as the acting Fire Marshal.

Having lived in the community for over 28 years, James Roberts and his wife Marilyn are the owners of a local feed store. They live in Charlotte, Texas with their three children Cody, Jerrold, and Cheryln.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize the Mayor Pro-Tem of Charlotte, James D. Roberts, for his dedicated public service.

CONGRATULATING GERALD T.  
LANGAN UPON 35 YEARS OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Gerald T. Langan for 35 years of community service and 25 years as president and CEO of Goodwill Industries as he is honored Friday night at a celebration at The Radisson Hotel in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Langan is a 1966 graduate of Central High School in Scranton. After high school, he went on to Lackawanna Junior College and Bethel College.

In 1970, he took a job as the education coordinator for Head Start. Mr. Langan then became the project director for Head Start in 1973. Since 1985, he has been president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Langan has twice served as president of the Pennsylvania Goodwill Director's Association. He was appointed to the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Board by Governor Robert Casey. Mr. Langan is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation, the zoning board for the City of Scranton, and the housing board of Lackawanna County. He was awarded "Health Care Professional of the Year" by the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Langan was a past member of the Lackawanna College Board of Directors, and served as board chairman for two years.

Mr. Langan and his lovely wife Fran have one daughter, Kristen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gerald Langan as he is honored for his selfless devotion to the community and dedication to making the world a better place.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-  
PROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE-  
FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON  
TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF,  
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, all Americans stand united in support of our troops. However, President Bush has no strategy for success in Iraq. Therefore, I rise in opposition to the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriation (H.R. 1268) and my vote today is a vote of no confidence in this Administration's ad hoc Iraq policy.

Tragically, more than 1,500 American troops have been killed in Iraq and there is no end in sight to this war. The President's "coalition of the willing" is dissolving as Italy and the Netherlands become the most recent countries deciding to withdraw their troops from Iraq. The U.S. continues to bear the enormous burden of this conflict militarily and financially. With this \$75 billion, as well as the \$25 billion approved earlier this year, we have now spent \$250 billion in Iraq.

Most outrageous is the fact that not \$1 of the more than \$200 billion spent on this war has been paid for. Congress has now borrowed over \$250 billion from foreign countries like Saudi Arabia, China and Japan. Every dollar plus interest will be paid for by the men and women who are fighting as well as their children.

There are some real emergencies funded in this bill. I support U.S. assistance for tsunami relief and recovery as well as for peace-keeping operations, emergency funds and food aid to the Darfur region of Sudan. The generous assistance of the American people in these two serious crises is saving lives and having a tremendous impact.

This administration's failures of leadership in Iraq demands extensive Congressional oversight and accountability, not another blank check. The current policy is unsustainable. If Americans are to continue to bear the burden of securing and rebuilding Iraq, rather than approving a blank check, we deserve a plan for success and an exit strategy for America's troops.

#### HONORING THRESHOLDS PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION CENTERS

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thresholds Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centers on the occasion of their 20th Annual Golf and Tennis Benefit. I am proud to represent this distinguished organization and I hope that the Congress will join me in recognizing their outstanding contributions to the field of mental health rehabilitation.

As one of the nation's largest non-profit providers of mental health and recovery services, Thresholds provides a critical service to members of the community that struggle with mental illness, as well as their families. Over 5,000 Chicago residents benefit yearly from the services provided by this impressive organization.

Thresholds provides a comprehensive program of therapeutic support, case management, education, job training and placement, and housing. With 30 service locations and

more than 75 housing developments in the Chicagoland area, Thresholds helps restore independence, dignity and respect to people with mental illness.

Offering outreach programs, residential services, youth and adult education, and services for homeless, deaf and jailed patients, this valuable organization has established itself as one of the nation's most successful and respected psychiatric recovery centers.

I am also pleased to recognize Thresholds as an innovator and model in the field of mental health. Experts from Thresholds carry out research and regularly publish valuable research papers, and several mental health centers around the world have replicated Thresholds' success.

Thresholds and its extraordinary doctors and staff are regular recipients of awards in the mental health field. The 2004 Celebration Recovery Award was bestowed upon CEO Dr. Anthony Zippel's, and Dr. Jerry Dincin was awarded Honorable Mention for Lifetime Achievement by Eli Lilly's 2004 Reintegration Awards. These represent only a tiny fraction of the awards presented to Thresholds.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Thresholds Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centers in the Fifth District. I wish them the best at their 20th Annual Golf and Tennis Benefit, and I hope they continue their 45-year history of serving mentally ill patients and their families in the Chicago area for decades to come.

#### COMMENDING BOB ANADELL AND TIMOTHY SANDERS

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Mr. Bob Anadell and Mr. Timothy Sanders. On Saturday, April 23, 2005, they will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to the community. Their praiseworthy efforts will be recognized at the TradeWinds Gala 2005 banquet at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana.

Bob Anadell has had many positive accomplishments throughout his career. He actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs aimed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. He has been a powerful member of the Northwest Indiana Building Trades, Secretary Treasurer of the IBEW State Conference, Vice-President of the Indiana State AFL-CIO, Trustee of the Lake Area United Way, Board of Directors of TradeWinds, Member of the Lake County Integrated Services Delivery Board, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Investment Committee, and Executive Committee of the Legacy Foundation, as well as Co-Chairman of the Heroes Committee of the American Red Cross.

Tim Sanders enjoyed serving the public for several years as Director of Senator RICHARD G. LUGAR's regional office. In addition to serving Senator LUGAR, Tim has also worked with Senators Dan Quayle and Dan Coats. Through skillful networking within the state and federal legislative agencies, he established solid relationships benefiting Northwest

Indiana's businesses and constituents. Tim implemented public relations initiatives through television, radio, and print to provide information, gather support, and raise visibility on key issues. He has also extended his commitment to the community by serving on a number of Boards and Associations such as the St. Jude House, Lake Area United Way, American Heart Association, and the TradeWinds Rehabilitation Center. Although Tim has dedicated his time serving the community, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family. Tim and his wife, Tania, have two children and three grandchildren.

Both of these men have spent years as dedicated members of the TradeWinds Board of Directors; each adding their individual business acumen and combined strength that has enabled TradeWinds to continue providing quality services for children and adults with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bob Anadell and Timothy Sanders. Without their enduring love and compassion for the community and children of all ages and abilities, TradeWinds would not be what it is today.

#### ANTONIO COSTA WAS AN OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, people in Southeastern Massachusetts, and Portuguese-Americans in particular, received very sad news on Sunday of this week of the death of Antonio A. Costa. As the New Bedford Standard Times noted in its obituary of this outstanding man, "Mr. Costa was an esteemed leader, establishing many firsts within the New Bedford, Mass., Portuguese community." Mr. Costa was a leader in establishing Portuguese language media, and he went on to be the Broadcasting Director for Voice of America in the Portuguese language section. He then returned to our area and again provided significant cultural, intellectual and economic leadership to the Portuguese-American community in particular, and the broader community in general. After retirement, he continued his leadership role and produced the only radio program in Portuguese in South Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Costa was exactly the kind of community leader that contributes to the strength of America and I ask that his extraordinary life and his contributions to others be noted here. Mr. Costa's life reminds us of the great benefit America derives from immigrants such as himself and the attached editorial from the New Bedford Standard Times makes that clear.

#### ANTONIO A. COSTA, LEADER IN PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY

POMPANO BEACH, FLA.—Antonio Alberto Costa, formerly of Southeastern Massachusetts, died Sunday, April 10, 2005, unexpectedly at Imperial Point Medical Center. He was the husband of Guida (Goncalves) Costa.

Born in Lisbon, Portugal, he was the son of the late Jose M. and Maria A. (Correia) Costa. He immigrated to America as a young man.

Mr. Costa was an esteemed leader, establishing many firsts within the New Bedford, Mass., Portuguese community. He was a founder and past president of the Luso-American Soccer Association as well as the Portuguese American Athletic Club in New Bedford.

An entrepreneur, he began by purchasing Phillips Press and continued with the founding of Costa Imports. He founded the first Portuguese-language radio station in the United States, WGCY, now broadcasting as WJFD-FM in New Bedford, and produced the first Portuguese variety television program, "Passport to Portugal" on WTEV-TV. He initiated a daily TV cable program "Panorama of Portugal," currently known as The Portuguese Channel, and purchased and published what is known as "The Portuguese Times" newspaper, also in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Mr. Costa relocated to Washington, D.C., to represent Portugal as the Portuguese language broadcasting director for "Voice of America." He returned to New England as co-owner and director of Radio Club Portugal, "WRCP."

In recognition of his services to the Portuguese community, the government of Portugal conferred upon him the rank of *comendador da ordem do infante dom henrique*. Various civic organizations recognized his achievements as well. The Seven Castles Club named him Man of the Year, as he received the Merit Award from the United Way as well as the Portuguese-American Federation.

He received official citations from the Massachusetts and Rhode Island houses of representatives, the Medal of Prestige from the Portuguese Continental Union and the Annual Achievement Award from the Prince Henry Club.

In retirement, he produced the only Portuguese-language radio program in South Florida on WHSR-AM, where the transmission continues via his Web site, [radioportugal.net](http://radioportugal.net). He also wrote periodic chronicles published in *O Journal* entitled "Desabafos."

Survivors include his widow; two sons, Carlos Alberto Costa and his wife, Susan, of Westport, Mass., and Luis Manuel Costa and his wife, Nancy, of New Bedford; a daughter, Ana Maria Costa of New Bedford; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a nephew.

His funeral will be at 9 a.m., Friday from the Dartmouth Funeral Home, 230 Russells Mills Road, Dartmouth, Mass., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 in Immaculate Conception Church, New Bedford. Interment will be private.

Arrangements are by Porter Funeral Service, Westport.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. RUBEN OLIVAREZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Superintendent of the San Antonio Independent School District, Dr. Ruben Olivarez, for his contributions to the local community.

Dr. Ruben Olivarez has dedicated his career to educating our youth. In 1970, Dr. Olivarez started his career in education. Having taught at J.T. Brackenridge Elementary School, he is

no stranger to the educational needs of our community. He has held a number of important educational posts over the years, including a professorship at the University of Texas at Austin, the title of Principal in the Fort Worth Independent School District, the post of Deputy Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, and many others.

On January 11, 2000, Dr. Ruben Olivarez was named Superintendent of the San Antonio Independent School District, which has a student population of approximately 57,000. He is currently responsible for the "Vision 2005 and Beyond" plan for educational improvement. Dr. Olivarez has helped to provide the guidance our schools need, keeping the needs of our students an important priority.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Superintendent of the San Antonio Independent School District, Dr. Ruben Olivarez, for his dedicated service to our local schools.

#### CONGRATULATING PATTY LAWLER ON BEING NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

##### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patty Lawler as the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women names her Woman of the Year.

Patty is the daughter of James and Dolores Lawler. She was born and raised in the MidValley area, and currently lives in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

Patty is a graduate of St. Patrick's High School in Olyphant. She graduated from Marywood University with a bachelor of arts degree in education and theater. Patty was active in many clubs and organizations on campus and was president of the class of 1971. She was a member of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Marywood Players. She held leading roles in many productions on campus and chaired several committees including Sophomore Parents' Weekend and the Junior Prom. Patty is listed in the 1971 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*.

Patty completed her graduate work at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in theater and directing. She participated in Shakespearean productions and represented the university at a meeting with Ed McMahon in New York City.

Patty currently works as a second grade teacher in the Lakeland School District, where she is in her 27th year in the education field. She has served as director of the Lakeland Curtain Club and also teaches theater courses for Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit. She has also worked at a summer camp for the Association for Retarded Citizens of Wyoming County where she trained campers in the basics of acting for a performance on the last day of camp.

Patty is a past president of the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women. She ran as a delegate for John Kerry to the 2004 Democratic National Convention and received the highest number of votes in each of the

counties in her district. She attended the convention in Boston in July 2004 not only as a delegate, but also as a member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association Caucus.

Patty is currently a member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the Lakeland Education Association, the Laurel Garden Club, and the Rock and Mineral Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She is a very active member of the Lackawanna County Humane Society, of which she is a former board member. She can still be seen walking dogs in the St. Patrick's Day parade or serving refreshments at fund raising events. Patty is a member of the Marywood Alumni Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania and belongs to Holy Rosary Parish in Scranton, where she is a member of the choir. Patty was recently appointed to the Saint Joseph's Auxiliary Board and is working diligently on this year's summer festival.

Patty received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Association for Retarded Citizens of Wyoming County for organizing the adoption of a ward program at Clarks Summit State Hospital.

Quality education and honest politics are Patty's passions. She was exposed to politics at a very early age when she and her sister accompanied her parents to political functions. The family attended functions such as the National Association of Postmasters Convention at the Waldorf Astoria. Patty's father was the postmaster of Olyphant and first cousin to County Commissioner Mike Lawler and Assistant Postmaster General Jo Jo Lawler. The families were very close, and Patty recalls that, as little girls, she and her sister would accompany their dad to the corner in Jessup where the men met to talk about politics.

Patty Lawler has a devotion to the community and expresses that through her willingness to volunteer her talents helping others. The Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women is awarding this honor to her this year because she works so hard to make a difference in Lackawanna County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Lawler on the prestigious honor of being named Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

##### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H. Con. Res. 95, the Republican Budget Resolution, and in support of the Democratic Substitute offered by Mr. SPRATT.

The Republican budget does not reflect the priorities of our Nation or my Minnesota constituents and will almost certainly have a negative impact on America's families. This legislation reduces support for law enforcement, fire fighters and local units of government. It fails to meet our commitment to our veterans—at a time when we are asking more and more of our military and their families. Even the Republicans' most creative use of accounting gimmicks and phony projections still yields a record federal budget deficit, makes no allowance for the President's plan for Social Security, and fails to include the Iraq war in the budget—which is currently costing taxpayers \$5 billion a month.

This budget eliminates opportunities for our children to be successful, including vocational education programs, safe and drug free schools, and Even Start. Republicans continue to underfund No Child Left Behind and college loan programs that provide access to higher education for millions of Americans. The budget proposes to make deep cuts in Medicaid—a proposal that will hurt low-income families, the elderly and disabled, health care workers and our hospitals. These health care cuts will also create severe budget difficulties for our states and have been strongly opposed by a bipartisan group of governors. The Republican budget slashes funding for clean water programs, farm conservation measures and funding for brownfields development.

In fact, the proposal put forward by the Majority inflicts so much burden on average families that it has been called 'unjust' by a broad religious coalition and was opposed by the major veterans organizations. If the federal budget is a document that reflects the values of President Bush and the Republicans in Congress then this budget is not only 'unjust' but void of mainstream American values.

I want fiscally responsibility, not larger deficits. My constituents demand a common sense budget that returns our nation to sound fiscal decision making and balances the budget within seven years using common sense, pay-as-you-go budgeting like every family does. We need to put family priorities first by maintaining strong national security, strengthening education, protecting veterans' health care and ensuring families are economically secure. For these reasons I strongly support the Democratic budget, a common sense alternative to the dangerous and irresponsible Republican plan.

This Congress must make a real effort, as proposed by the Democrats, to reduce the deficit rather than allow it to grow and remain a burden for the next generation. We need to be honest about the cost of the war in Iraq, rather than continue to pass so-called "emergency" supplemental appropriations as we did earlier this week. And we need to put families first. The President and House Republicans choose tax breaks for corporations over students and veterans' as their top priority.

The Democratic substitute restores fiscal discipline and reduces the deficit while protecting the services our families depend upon, keeping our communities and economy strong. I am proud to support the Democratic substitute and I will continue to fight to ensure our families priorities are the priorities of Congress.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUCCESSFUL SALK POLIO VACCINE TRIALS

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark a historic day in the history of public health. Fifty years ago today, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr. announced from the University of Michigan's Rackham Auditorium words that people around the globe were waiting to hear: the Salk polio vaccine works. With those simple words, eradication efforts began in earnest to rid the world of this terrible disease.

For generations in the United States, the polio disease struck fear in the hearts of millions of American parents and children. Late every summer, hot weather brought with it a rash of new cases of paralytic polio. No one knew how to prevent polio, nor was there a cure. Epidemics of polio could devastate whole communities. For example, an epidemic struck the state of New York in 1916 killing 9,000 people and leaving 27,000 disabled. In the 1940s and 50s, the number of cases reported in the United States ranged from 40,000 to 60,000 each year. This was the state of our nation affected by polio pre-1955.

Mr. Speaker, all that began to change in the early 1950s. At that time, Dr. Jonas Salk, a postdoctoral student of Dr. Francis's at the University of Michigan, developed a promising vaccine against poliomyelitis in his laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. In what has been called the largest cooperative effort undertaken in peacetime, the Salk vaccine was tested in the most comprehensive field trials ever conducted. Overseeing those trials was Dr. Francis, Director of the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center and founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Mr. Speaker, the polio field trials were unprecedented in scope and magnitude. Dr. Francis and his team of more than 100 statisticians and epidemiologists tabulated data received from hundreds of public health officials and doctors who participated in the study. The trials involved 1,830,000 children in 217 areas of the United States, Canada and Finland. No field trial of this scale has been conducted since.

This historic event is a source of pride for the University of Michigan and the state of Michigan as a whole. Since that day fifty years ago, polio has been nearly eradicated. In August 2002, there were no confirmed cases reported in the United States, and only 483 confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis reported to authorities worldwide. These successes all began with the announcement from Rackham Auditorium fifty years ago today.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 2nd, 2005 the world lost a great leader, a champion of peace and a beacon of hope to so many.

The life of Pope John Paul II exemplified the virtues and duties of the faith he so devoutly taught. As a young man, he fought oppression by defying the Nazi regime to secretly study the teachings of his faith. As a priest, he fought for freedom by defying the Communist regime of Poland to teach the cherished values of Catholicism. As the Holy Father, he worked to end tyranny throughout the world.

After surviving an attempt on his life, John Paul II—with unparalleled compassion and mercy—beseeched humanity to "Pray for the brother who shot me, whom I have sincerely forgiven." Yet, just as his willingness to forgive was unmatched, so were his efforts to unite the global community.

As the world's leading arbiter of peace, John Paul II rejected efforts to use religion as a barrier or as a reason for war, instead using it as a bridge to bring people of different faiths together.

He traveled the world more than any other Pope, preaching non-violence and mediating conflicts.

He reached out to the most vulnerable—the sick, impoverished and abandoned children—never letting religion determine who to care for and help.

He unambiguously rejected anti-Semitism, asking for forgiveness for past Christian intolerances to Jews and courageously recognizing the state of Israel.

The world will forever be grateful for the conviction with which John Paul II served and led. And, he will be missed by the people of all faiths and of all regions. Through his love and service to God he served billions of Catholics, but through his love and service of humanity he served us all.

## HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE MARCIA S. WEINER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and initiatives of Judge Marcia S. Weiner, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 of San Antonio, TX.

Judge Marcia Weiner first became a resident of San Antonio in 1956 when her husband, Dr. Bernard K. Weiner, was transferred to Lackland Air Force Base. Since then, Judge Weiner has become an attorney, teacher, active community leader, mother of three daughters, and a grandmother.

Judge Weiner earned a BA degree and lifetime teacher's certificate with honors in 1965,

followed by a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1970 from St. Mary's University. In 1971, Judge Weiner began her legal career with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Judge Weiner continued to work for HUD for over 26 years and retired as Chief Counsel. While a Chief Counsel, Judge Weiner was responsible for all HUD program legal issues throughout a 57 county jurisdiction and was named the most outstanding HUD Chief Counsel in the country.

In January of 2001, Judge Weiner became a Justice of Peace for Precinct 2 of San Antonio, TX. As Justice of Peace, she has continued to improve the Precinct 2, which oversees evictions, small claims, juvenile disorderly conduct cases, misdemeanors and truancy. Judge Weiner strongly believes that juveniles can be redirected through early intervention with the right kind of counseling.

As an active volunteer and leader in the community, Judge Weiner continues to make significant contributions to the advancement of equal opportunity, the elevation of federal women's careers, and to the legal awareness of aging seniors and retired federal employees. Among her many honors and awards, Judge Weiner was recognized as "Texas Women to Watch" from 2002 to 2004 by the Business and Professional Women Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Judge Marcia Weiner for her dedication, commitment, and service to the betterment of society.

CONGRATULATING THE LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, ST. JOHN NEUMANN DIVISION 1, ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHARTER

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. John Neumann Division 1, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their charter that occurred in January of 1980.

The primary purpose of the LAOH, which was first organized as the "Daughters of Erin" in 1894 in Omaha, Nebraska, was to protect young immigrant Irish girls coming to the United States. The LAOH offered support and encouragement and assisted the young women to secure employment. The LAOH also assisted the AOH in its efforts to aid the sick and needy and to defend priests, church and country.

In keeping with the original spirit of the LAOH, St. John Neumann Division 1 continues to assist young women of Irish descent by providing an annual scholarship to Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre. They assist the sick and needy by adopting a family each year and contributing time and resources to the local soup kitchens and nursing homes. They also volunteer their time and resources to assist the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the American Diabetes Association and other worthy community programs.

The group continues to promote Catholic Irish heritage and culture through support of seminarians, their annual St. Brigid Mass, annual St. Patrick Mass, participation in Irish cultural history and dance programs, the Irish teachers program and parades in honor of St. Patrick.

St. John Neumann Division 1 produced two past LAOH state presidents, Claire McNelis Karpowich and Kate Brennan Angerson, and is currently represented on the State board of directors by Maureen Lavelle, who serves as State historian.

Mary Ann Amesbury is the current president of St. John Neumann Division 1. Division officers include: Kellie Knesis, vice president; Maureen Lavelle, recording secretary; Suzanne Cosgrove, treasurer; Margaret Tudgay, financial secretary; Mary Ellen Dooley, historian; Ann Marie O'Hara, missions and charities; Eileen Potsko, Catholic action; Donna Mangan, sentinel and Mary Kathleen Williams, mistress at arms.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. John Neumann Division 1, on this notable occasion. The Wilkes-Barre area community is fortunate to have the benefit of the selfless community service that members of the LAOH provide.

#### BANKRUPTCY REFORM

**HON. TOM DeLAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, every year, loopholes in America's bankruptcy laws are abused, to the tune of tens of billions of dollars—costs that get passed on to consumers in higher prices and higher interest rates.

Our bankruptcy protections, which have always been available to debtors as a last resort, have become just another part of financial planning for too many Americans.

Over the last 15 years, bankruptcy filings have increased 150 percent.

In that time, our economy has grown, tens of millions of jobs have been created, and inflation has been held in check.

There are always families and businesses in need of bankruptcy protection, but not 1.7 million of them a year, Mr. Speaker.

Nor should drug traffickers and violent criminals be eligible for protection. Nor should debtors be able to use bankruptcy laws to avoid paying spousal and child support, which should—as this bill ensures—be the highest priority debts. Nor should small businesses, family farmers, and fishermen be thrown to the wolves every time their market takes a temporary downturn.

That is why the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 has been a critical item on the Republican economic agenda for so long.

And that is why the House this week will finally pass a finished bill—already passed by the Senate—and send it on to the President for his signature.

These loopholes need closing, and at the same time, honest American debtors will always need protection.

That is why the bill we will take up—the product of years of development and negotia-

tion—will include debtor protections such as credit counseling, financial management courses, and greater clarity in credit card billing statements.

It isn't enough to punish the abusers and protect the victims; we must develop a credit system that helps consumers manage their debt before they get in too deep.

The bankruptcy bill is another example of the far-sighted and fair-minded reform agenda the House has been passing for a decade.

It has been a long time coming, Mr. Speaker, but this week we will get the job done.

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM, SBC COMMUNICATIONS, THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend SBC Communications, Inc.; its Michigan president Gail Torrealano; the Governor of my home State of Michigan, Jennifer Granholm; and representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Communications Workers of America.

Earlier this month they came together to unveil a ten-year economic development project, which will keep 930 metropolitan jobs in Detroit and invest over \$3.6 million to upgrade seven network facilities in Southfield and Detroit. This incredible news comes only four months after SBC had initially announced plans to layoff workers.

Over the past five years, Michigan has lost nearly 300,000 jobs, and has had little prospect for significant job growth in sight. My State's unemployment rate was nearly two percent above the nation's average. That number increasingly looked gloomier with news last week that General Motors expects to lose money in this year's first quarter. As a result, their stock dropped 14 percent. My distinguished colleagues, there is no question about it—jobs in Michigan are in jeopardy.

But now, the future appears brighter with SBC Communications and others leading by example in recognizing that corporations play an integral role in their communities, and corporate decisions have consequences that reach much further than their own bottom line.

Such an agreement could not have been reached without strong leadership and a shared vision for the future from all parties involved. This agreement to keep SBC Communications' business in Michigan not only exhibits the great benefits that partnerships between the private and public sectors can reap for our nation's metropolitan communities, but more specifically, it demonstrates the success of Michigan's economic development programs and their capability of serving as a prime example for the rest of America's cities and states.

In agreeing not to move nearly 1,000 jobs out of Michigan, SBC Communications will receive a single business tax credit worth approximately \$18 million from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, in addition to an Economic Development Job Training grant of up to \$930,000. The proposed

cuts had been part of a planned company-wide reduction of 10,000 workers by the end of this year. And other companies are also staying, too, rather than moving to neighboring states as they had once considered. Assay Designs, Inc. will be adding 86 new jobs and investing an additional \$18 million to a new site in Washtenaw County's Pittsfield Township. Faurecia, a Michigan auto supplier, will be creating nearly 450 more jobs in Sterling Heights as part of a \$40 million expansion. Emerald Graphics Corp. will be producing an additional 347 new jobs near Grand Rapids, rather than in Texas. And with these Michigan fixtures staying, who knows what the future holds for our great State.

The significance of this private-public partnership cannot be overstated. In addition to the immediate consequence of job retention, the University of Michigan projects that the State's agreement with these companies will create an additional 1,210 jobs and generate over \$97 million in revenue for Michigan over the next ten years, with another 1,000 jobs indirectly generated at other area companies. Rather than facing the prospect of helplessly watching hundreds of families potentially flee the metropolitan area—or even the state—in search of new jobs, Michigan's economic future looks brighter with a commitment that these hard workers will remain at home and continue to contribute to the State's economy. Instead of disrupting their children's lives with moves to new schools, SBC employees will continue to root themselves in their respective local communities.

I see no reason why other States cannot create similar incentive programs to keep private sector jobs within their borders as well. The tax credits that Michigan has extended to SBC Communications, Assay Designs, Faurecia, and Emerald Graphics Corp. are just the start. My home state recognizes that corporations naturally desire to expand. And it also recognizes that the State has too many brownfields that require developing. These two are not mutually exclusive. So Michigan has decided to invest in its own future. And what will be the reward? An anticipated \$558 million in private investment! Michigan has proven that it is committed to working with labor and management. Our State has shown that it truly has an open door policy, and will meet and work with all those interested in doing business within its borders, whether your company resides there already and is looking to expand, or is looking to relocate to a local economy that suddenly has a more optimistic forecast.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to take a close look at what Governor Granholm, SBC Communications, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Communications Workers of America have accomplished. I see no reason why such a success story cannot be replicated in other States as well. In closing, I commend all those parties involved; am grateful for their willingness to work together for our State's future; and hope that this is just the beginning of many success stories to come out of Michigan and America's other 49 States.

## HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRECINCT 1 JUDGE SAUL ACEVEDO

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Saul Acevedo, of my Congressional District.

Saul Acevedo was born and raised in San Antonio and has been actively involved in the community. He is a product of San Antonio Independent School District and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1981. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Political Science in 1986 from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He then enrolled at Texas Southern University, and in 1989 earned his Law Degree.

Judge Acevedo was elected as Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace in 1998; he works constantly to ensure that the people of his community receive the services they need from local government. He is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource for his county.

During his time in office he has dedicated himself to the youth of the community. He is extremely active in District 19 little league baseball, and is a past league president. There is one role that Judge Saul Acevedo plays in the community that trumps everything; he is married to Marietta and has two beautiful children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Judge Saul Acevedo for his dedication and contributions to the community.

## INTRODUCTION OF ESTATE TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would repeal the estate tax for 99.7% of all estates in our country.

During my time in Congress, I have strongly supported estate tax relief for American families, farmers, and small businesses, and continue to support the ability of one generation to transfer a business and assets to the next generation. During my first term in Congress I voted to override then-President Clinton's veto of a measure that repealed the estate tax, and later voted for President Bush's 2001 tax cut package, which included a phase-out and temporary repeal of the estate tax.

Unfortunately, however, our country's fiscal situation has changed dramatically over the last several years, and while I continue to support estate tax relief, I also continue to support fiscally responsible policies that will not transfer trillions of dollars in debt to future generations. On February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. One year later, our national debt is \$7.8 trillion. In the past year alone, our country has added \$800 billion to our national debt. The "debt tax" that we are imposing on our children and grandchildren cannot be repealed, and can only be

reduced if we take responsible steps now to improve our fiscal situation.

This week the House is scheduled to consider a full repeal of the estate tax. Repeal of the estate tax will cost approximately \$290 billion over just the next ten years, and although I support full repeal in theory, the sad truth is that our country cannot afford the luxury of an estate tax repeal at this time.

My legislation would provide immediate relief by raising the amount of an estate exempt from any estate tax liability from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million. Additionally, the exemption for married couples would rise to \$7 million under my bill. I believe this measure strikes an appropriate balance between the enormous cost of full repeal and the unacceptable cost of doing nothing. 99.7 percent of the estates in our country would face no estate tax liability at all under this legislation.

Further, H.R. 8, the estate tax repeal bill that the House will consider in the near future, would preserve the reinstitution of carryover basis rules that are contained in the 2001 tax law. Replacing the step-up in basis that currently exists with the carryover basis rules that used to exist in our tax code, and will temporarily reappear in 2010, would impose a very real, very significant compliance burden, and capital gains tax increase, on approximately 71,000 estates every year. By repealing the step-up in cost basis, which allows heirs to value an inherited asset at the market value of that asset on the date of a benefactor's death, H.R. 8 would force individuals and families to determine the price of a transferred asset at the date at which the asset was originally purchased. This means that a piece of property originally purchased several decades ago for \$25,000 and sold for \$325,000 today would be subject to a taxable capital gain of \$300,000. Taxable gains on transferred property are particularly burdensome in light of the unprecedented real estate boom our country has experienced over the last several years. My legislation would preserve the step-up in basis and thereby provide substantial capital gains tax relief to thousands of American families.

Full repeal of the estate tax may still be an option for future Congresses to consider, but until we are able to improve the fiscal situation of our country, Congress should attempt to strike a balance between total repeal and the status quo, which will significantly increase the estate tax burden in 2011. We need to ensure that the federal government is preparing adequately for the unprecedented demographic shift that will strain Social Security and Medicare in the decades to come. Spending nearly \$300 billion over the next ten years on full repeal of the estate tax poses a genuine threat to Social Security and Medicare and will impose an unnecessary burden on our children and grandchildren, who will be forced to pay back with interest the debt we are accumulating today.

## BACK OUR VETERANS' HEALTH ACT

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, since the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, the Nation's

doctors of chiropractic have been kept outside and all but prevented from providing proven, cost-effective and much-needed care to veterans, including those among the most vulnerable and in need of the range of the health care services that doctors of chiropractic are licensed to provide. In 2002, 4.5 million patients received care in VA health facilities, including 75 percent of all disabled and low-income veterans. Although the VA health care budget was roughly \$26 billion in 2002, less than \$370,000 went toward chiropractic services for veterans. This, in a country with more than 25 million chiropractic patients and more than 60,000 Doctors of Chiropractic.

I am proud to introduce legislation—H.R. 917, The Better Access to Chiropractors to Keep Our Veterans Healthy Act (BACK Our Veterans Health Act)—that is designed to provide veterans with direct access to a Doctor of Chiropractic, if that is their choice, through the veterans health care system. In developing this bill, I have worked closely with chiropractic patients, particularly our veterans, who know the benefits of chiropractic care and bear witness to the positive outcomes and preventative health benefits of chiropractic care.

Specifically, my bill seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to permit eligible veterans to have direct access to chiropractic care at VA hospitals and clinics. Section 3 of the measure states that "The Secretary [of Veterans Affairs] shall permit eligible veterans to receive needed [health care] services, rehabilitative services, and preventative health services from a licensed doctor of chiropractic on a direct access basis at the election of the eligible veteran, if such services are within the State scope of practice of such doctor of chiropractic." The measure goes on to directly prohibit discrimination among licensed health care providers by the VA when determining which services a patient needs.

Over the years, Mr. Speaker, representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs have come before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, a panel on which I serve, and have insisted that chiropractic benefits are available to veterans and that no bias exists within the VA against the chiropractic profession. But the facts I cited above speak otherwise. For all practical purposes, access to chiropractic care has been non-existent within the VA system. Chiropractic care has so seldom been offered to veterans that it can be fairly said to be a phantom benefit—and for years, Mr. Speaker, the VA has done nothing to correct this deficiency. There is simply no evidence that the VA has ever acted proactively in any meaningful and substantive way to ensure that chiropractic care is made available to veterans—and because of that track record of neglect, the U.S. Congress felt compelled to take action.

As a result, Congress in recent years has enacted three separate statutes seeking to ensure veterans access to chiropractic care (Public Law 106–117, Public Law 107–135 and Public Law 108–170). The last of those statutes gives explicit authority to the VA to hire doctors of chiropractic as full time employees. I'm proud to have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help advance those initiatives—and I am hopeful that a reluctant VA has finally seen the light.

I understand that, last year, former VA Secretary Principi released new policy directives regarding chiropractic care and that we may

be on our way to seeing the true and full integration of chiropractic care into the VA. But Mr. Speaker, if the past is any guide to the future, then I must remain concerned until I see these new policies firmly in place and working well in all VA treatment facilities. To help ensure that, in the future, barriers to veterans who want and need chiropractic care are fully removed, I am pleased to introduce legislation that would require the VA to make chiropractic care available on a direct access basis to our veterans.

Perhaps my legislation will prove not to be necessary—because referrals to doctors of chiropractic will actually take place with the encouragement and support of the leadership of the VA. But as insurance, the enactment of the legislation I propose would guarantee the right of a veteran to obtain this important service without the cost and stumbling blocks of going through potentially hostile gatekeepers.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting unimpeded access to chiropractic care throughout the veterans health care system and help enact this measure, H.R. 917.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PASTOR TERRENCE K. HAYES

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Terrence K. Hayes of St. Paul United Methodist Church for his exceptional career in public service.

Terrence K. Hayes has served our community for over thirty years. He has provided spiritual guidance and community leadership for those who need it the most.

Pastor Hayes has served as the senior pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church since 1996. He is a man who believes in the importance of reaching out and helping those in need. An active and passionate advocate of the people, he has held a number of leadership and community service positions.

Pastor Hayes is the recipient of numerous awards including the Outstanding Young Men of America, the National Fellowship Fund, the Earl L. Harrison Fellowship, the Henry C. Maynard Award of Outstanding Pastoral Potential, and the Who's Who in America College Students from Hampton Institute. He has written numerous publications including Collaborating in Ministry, Fundraising Resources of the United Methodist Church, and a number of short stories and newspaper articles.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the hard work and important community achievements of Pastor Terrence K. Hayes.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on roll-call 87, the Spratt Amendment to H. Con. Res.

95. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### ESSEX MARINA 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on April 2005, a milestone was reached by one of eastern Connecticut's finest waterfront establishments when Essex Island Marina celebrated its 50th anniversary.

A half century ago Louis Schieferdecker, the son of a German immigrant, made a small investment that would end up becoming an eastern Connecticut institution. Mr. Schieferdecker bought Essex Island in 1955 and created a tradition of service and a successful business that his family owns and operates today. Essex Island Marina began as a boat yard with several slips; today it is one of southeastern Connecticut's most picturesque places. Lou Schieferdecker had a dream and he pursued it with a positive attitude and a determination to make it work.

During the first 10 years of operation the marina added to its services and amenities and also increased the number of docks. The family installed a swimming pool, built the deck and added game rooms, a snack bar and a convenience store.

But for the Schieferdecker family the most important part of the marina is not the dock or any of the amenities or services they provide; it's the people who come and enjoy the experience. In the words of the family, "Today we see it when the grown children of past guests bring their children to share the experience. In the last 49 years a 13 acre island has been transformed from a place to 'dock your boat' to a place where memories are made."

Boaters have responded to the beautiful facility. In 2004 the readers of "Offshore Magazine" named Essex Island Marina the second "Most Welcoming Destination" in the entire northeast and voted it number one in the northeast in the "Favorite Marina For A Weekend" category.

Building a successful business and generating the kind of loyalty and appreciation expressed by the readers of "Offshore Magazine" are not the result of being lucky. It's the result of working long hours to achieve a dream and always maintaining a commitment to do nothing less than your best. For 50 years the Schieferdecker family has been devoted to the boating public and the boating public has returned that dedication to the Schieferdeckers and Essex Island Marina. I congratulate this hard working family and Essex Island Marina for the first 50 years and I am delighted that they are part of our eastern Connecticut family.

#### HONORING PASTOR JERRY DAILEY

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jerry Dailey for his dedication and

service as a Pastor and community leader in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Dailey was born in Anderson, Indiana. He attended the public schools of Duval County Florida, and later graduated from Andrew Jackson Senior High School. After high school, Dr. Dailey received a basketball scholarship to study at Bethune-Cookman College. In college, Dr. Dailey was elected Senior Class President and was also a recipient of the Crown Zellerbach Foundation Scholarship to study one year at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1975, he graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Psychology. Dr. Dailey went on to obtain a Masters of Divinity degree in 1979 from Philadelphia's Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Theology degree in 1991 from San Antonio's Guadalupe College. Dr. Dailey also holds many other honorary degrees for his work in divinity.

For the past 28 years, Dr. Dailey has served many communities as a pastor and community leader. Since 1985, Dr. Dailey has been the Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas. He continues to lead the church today and has led many initiatives in Macedonia's major expansion and renovation efforts. Other community projects of Dr. Dailey's have been establishing the Good Samaritan Food Ministry and Youth Scholarship Fund.

Among his many accolades, Dr. Dailey received the 2000 MLK Distinguished Achievement Award Nomination from the City of San Antonio MLK Commission and was the first African American appointed to the Administrative Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT). He is now the newly elected President of the African American Fellowship of the BGCT. His many awards and recognitions attest to the breadth of his service through the years.

Dr. Dailey is married to the former Janice M. Pullen and they are the parents of three daughters named Joy Marie, Jasmine Noelle, and Jeri Nicole. He constantly serves as a role model and inspiration for his congregation and the local community. It honors me today to have the chance to recognize and thank Dr. Dailey for his many years of service and contribution.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT OF 2005

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representatives ANNA ESHOO, LEE TERRY, DAVID WU, XAVIER BECERRA, and JO BONNER in introducing the bipartisan Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2005. Under current law, Medicare provides coverage for medical nutrition therapy services provided by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals to Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases. Recognizing that many other beneficiaries with diseases and conditions such as cardiovascular disease and obesity could benefit from medical nutrition therapy services, the legislation we are introducing

today gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the authority to use the National Coverage Determination Process to expand coverage for other disease and conditions for which these services would be both beneficial and cost-effective.

Providing Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy services is sound health care policy. It can prevent unnecessary pain and suffering and save millions of dollars in health care costs by lessening the risk of chronic disease, slowing disease progression, and reducing symptoms. In response to a request in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences studied the value of adding medical nutrition therapy coverage to the Medicare program and concluded that this coverage would "improve the quality of care and is likely to be a valuable and efficient use of Medicare resources, because of the comparatively low treatment costs and ancillary benefits associated with nutrition therapy."

I urge my colleagues who have not yet cosponsored this legislation to join us in this effort.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR FEDERAL COMPENSATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the entire bipartisan regional House delegation of the national capital region introduces today the Fair Federal Compensation Act of 2005 to address the District of Columbia's structural imbalance. The original co-sponsors are: Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, Appropriations Subcommittee Chair FRANK WOLF, Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, Former Congressional Black Caucus Chair ELIJAH CUMMINGS and Representatives JIM MORAN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and ALBERT WYNN. Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan has authorized me to say that he supports this bill as well.

D.C. residents and businesses are proud of eight straight years of balanced budgets that pay for the operations of our government. Yet, residents and Congress probably know little about the city's structural imbalance, which according to the GAO, is entirely from federal sources. However, D.C. taxpayers and Congress are paying for this imbalance in millions of dollars in taxes and interest. Residents and businesses pay to cover a structural imbalance caused by federal mandates and requirements with higher local taxes and the highest debt load in the nation. Our bill will help the Congress and city residents understand what the structural imbalance is and how it affects taxpayers and the D.C. government.

The goal of the bipartisan bill we introduce today is to prevent another fiscal crisis for our city and to relieve some of the unsustainable load on the D.C. government and on residents and businesses. The structural imbalance is the difference between the cost of D.C. gov-

ernment services and operations and the add-on cost to local taxpayers that otherwise would be carried by the federal government or commuters. According to the GAO, (confirming two other major studies; McKinsey, March 2002 and Brookings, October 2002) the resulting imbalance is exclusively federal and has three sources: federal use of the city's most valuable land; the city's continuing responsibility for many costly state functions; and the commuter tax ban, despite services the District must provide to 200,000 federal employees. The GAO concluded that the only options to relieve the structural imbalance are: to "change Federal procedures and expand the District's tax base or provide additional financial support and a greater role by the Federal government to help the District maintain fiscal balance." The Fair Federal Compensation Act of 2005 we introduce today responds specifically to these GAO findings.

Our bill offsets part, though not all, of the annual structural imbalance—found by the GAO to be between \$470 million and up to more than \$1.1 billion—by providing for an annual federal contribution of \$800 million. Unlike the old federal payment, which remained constant and therefore lost much of its value through inflation, the federal contribution would increase annually. The federal contribution funds would go to a dedicated D.C. infrastructure support fund. The District does not have an operating deficit or imbalance and these federal funds could not be used for operating expenses. The bill provides specific uses only for the non-operating and urgent capital needs that are delayed each year in favor of keeping the D.C. government operating. The federal contribution would be available only for stated infrastructure purposes, such as roads and school construction and repairs, and for reducing the District's debt—the highest in the country. High debt and the interest that results, of course, produce excessive taxes. The bill also would improve the District's investment bond rating and thus reduce our present high interest payments, all charged to taxpayers.

In 1995 Congress came to grips with the reality that this city's responsibilities assume it is a state, although it lacks a broad state tax base and that the District could no longer be expected to shoulder the full set of state costs. Congress relieved the District of the costs of some but not all state functions and left the unique federal structural impediments described in the GAO report. Nevertheless, the District has made remarkable progress, maintaining balanced budgets and surpluses every year despite adverse national economic conditions and improving city services. The CFO has ominously warned, however, that looking to the out years, the structural imbalance endangers the city's financial future and cannot continue to be carried by the District alone. It would be tragic for Congress to allow the progress that has been made to be retracted because of dangerous and escalating uncompensated federal burdens. The Fair Federal Compensation Act of 2005 would allow the District to avoid great risks, to continue to build fiscal strength, and to relieve D.C. taxpayers of this federal structural financial burden.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL-  
MAN BILL TAYLOR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of San Marcos City Council member Bill Taylor.

In 1971, Bill Taylor earned his Bachelor's Degree in Government, graduating with honors from San Marcos Baptist Academy. He served for 6 years in the Texas Army National Guard, and has been a member of the National Society of Certified Insurance Counselors. Currently, he is a Commercial Marketing Manager for Bill Taylor & Associates, Inc.

Mr. Taylor was elected to the San Marcos City Council in 2002. He has had a tremendously productive career in public service, working on the City's Airport Commission and on the Small Business Development Council. Bill has spent his spare time volunteering for the San Marcos CISD Bond Committee, the Chilympiad Board of Directors, and has been honored with the title of El Jefe.

Bill Taylor has lived a life of enormous service to his community. Since arriving in San Marcos 39 years ago, he has been at the center of volunteer project after volunteer project. Along with his many accomplishments for the people of San Marcos, Bill has 6 children with his wife Debbie.

Mr. Speaker, City Council member Bill Taylor is an exemplary public servant. His work has made San Marcos safer, healthier, more efficient and more prosperous. I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER  
ABUSE PREVENTION ACT: CON-  
GRESS SHOULD NOT ALLOW  
BOUNTY HUNTERS TO ABUSE  
TAXPAYERS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that today I introduced the Taxpayer Abuse Prevention Act of 2005. If enacted into law, this bill would repeal the provision tacked onto the FY2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill that hands over the tax returns of millions of American taxpayers to private contractors to collect delinquent taxes, and to keep 25 percent of their take as a commission for services rendered.

This provision opens the door to taxpayer intimidation and abuse, practices that have been outlawed by Congress. This practice amounts to bounty-hunting—at taxpayer expense—by allowing collection agencies to harass those same American taxpayers, many of whom are guilty of nothing, with the incentive of collecting their commission as their primary motivation. Giving unaccountable outside bounty hunters unfettered access to Americans' personal financial data poses a risk that we just cannot afford, and that is why these

organizations oppose the IRS proposal: Citizens for Tax Justice, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, National Consumer Law Center, National Consumers League.

Late last year, Congress enacted H.R. 4520, the corporate tax bill, which included a provision that will give the IRS the authority to use private collection agencies to collect tax debt. This means that up to 2.6 million tax returns—which until then were only scrutinized by federal government employees—will now be open to private collection agencies and an untold number of private debt collection staff.

What's more worrisome is the IRS' inability to oversee the work of these private debt collectors. A 1996 pilot program for private collection was so unsuccessful that a similar pilot program planned for 1997 was cancelled outright. The contractors used in the pilot programs regularly broke the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, did not protect the security of personal taxpayer information, and even then failed to bring in a net increase in revenue.

The IRS has said that it has learned from the 1996 project and is better equipped to address the problems raised. However, even recent evidence is to the contrary. An eye-opening report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA Audit #200320010) shows how IRS contractors put taxpayers' data at risk. The TIGTA audit found that the "lack of oversight of contractors resulted in serious security vulnerabilities." The report found that "contractors blatantly circumvented IRS policies and procedures even when security personnel identified inappropriate practices." In fact, the report found that contractors made hundreds of calls to taxpayers during times prohibited by the FDCPA, and that calls were even placed as early as 4:19 a.m.

The objective of the review was "to determine whether the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has adequately protected Federal Government equipment and data from misuse by contractors." The review found: "The involvement of non-IRS employees in critical IRS functions increases the risk of misuse or unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer data, and could lead to loss of equipment or sensitive taxpayer data through theft or sabotage."

While IRS employees are explicitly forbidden from being evaluated on the basis of revenue collected, the private collection scheme would actually link contractor pay to the amount of revenue collection. This policy encourages contractors to use aggressive collection techniques to boost their remuneration. Furthermore, the IRS is currently liable for damages to a taxpayer resulting from the misuse of confidential information by an IRS employee, but taxpayers will not be able to recover damages from the federal government where contractors are guilty of malfeasance.

The House had already expressed its will that this provision *not* become law when it approved by voice vote an amendment to the FY2005 Treasury Appropriations bill that prevented the expenditure of any federal funds for private collection of federal taxes. Unfortunately, the Treasury Appropriations bill never became law, and the House-passed amendment was stripped out of the omnibus spending bill by the Republican leadership in the conference—behind closed doors, in the dead of night.

We must repeal this onerous provision. We must protect American taxpayers from intimi-

dation and abuse. We must ensure that personal financial records are protected and remain private. Two decades ago this Congress passed the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act specifically to protect Americans from intimidation and abuse, but last year this Congress perpetrated an injustice by allowing these very abuses to go forward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working with the IRS to find a more effective means of collecting delinquent tax debt collection and avoid this risky scheme altogether. Let's pass the Taxpayer Abuse Prevention Act.

RECOGNIZING SALEM HOUSING  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COR-  
PORATION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Salem Housing Community Development Corporation, located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. On April 14, civic and community leaders will gather to honor Salem Housing at a Celebration and Awards Banquet entitled, "20 Years of Building Community."

Salem Housing was created in 1984 by 5 neighborhood organizations and a church on Flint's north side. These 6 groups were brought together by common concerns about the deteriorating housing stock in their shared neighborhood: vacant and deteriorating houses, a declining homeownership base, and low-quality rental housing with high rents. They also shared concerns for those families who had to live in these deteriorated housing structures due to lack of financial resources, or unavailability of other housing options. As a result, they formed the Salem Housing Task Force, with a mission to "improve family living conditions by providing safe, decent, and affordable housing for families of limited income, and to act as a catalyst to restore the neighborhoods within its service area." This area encompassed a 132-block region, bounded by Pasadena Avenue on the north, Saginaw Street on the east, Wood/Begole on the south, and Dupont on the west.

In 2001, the Salem Housing Task Force officially became the Salem Housing Community Development Corporation. They retained their goals of affordable homeownership, and the results have included the restoration of long vacant and blighted homes, helping homeowners renovate their existing homes, and they continue to work with local neighborhood organizations to improve and beautify their streets. In addition, they have provided training and information for skills including home repair and money management.

Mr. Speaker, for 20 years, the Salem Housing Community Development Corporation has helped many Flint residents gain the satisfaction that comes with owning their own home, and they have helped cultivate civic pride as well. I am appreciative for all they have done to make our community a better place in which to live. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in commending them for their efforts over the past 20 years, and wish them much success in the future.

**CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNT VERNON  
SUPPORTS THE FAMILY OF  
AMADOU DIALLO**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this chamber a resolution adopted March 9, 2005 by the City Council of Mount Vernon, New York, supporting relief for the family of Amadou Diallo. The resolution calls on Congress to grant permanent resident status to the family of the young African immigrant who was shot 41 times by four plainclothes New York policemen.

The full text of the resolution of the Mount Vernon City Council follows:

Whereas, Amadou Diallo, a 24 year old immigrant from Guinea, was tragically gunned down in a hail of 41 bullets on February 4, 1999, by officers of the New York City Police Department as he attempted to enter his residence in the Bronx; and

Whereas, Amadou Diallo, an innocent man, was found to be unarmed at the time of his shooting; and

Whereas, the tragic story of Amadou Diallo garnered international attention, and an unprecedented outcry and weeks of demonstrations by New Yorkers who sympathized with his family;

Whereas, the Diallo family currently resides in the United States under "deferred action status" and are vulnerable to deportation in the upcoming months; and

Whereas, the Diallo family wishes to remain in the United States; and

Whereas, the Honorable United States Congressman Charles Rangel has proposed legislation, namely H.R. 677, which would grant permanent resident status to Amadou Diallo's family members: Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahima Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarela Diallo and Marliatou Bah; and

Whereas, granting permanent resident status to the Diallo family would be a proper and just recognition of the tragedy they have suffered, and it will allow the Diallo family to pursue the opportunities promised by the American Dream; and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon fully supports Congressman Rangel's proposed legislation and commends his efforts to keep the Diallo family in the United States; Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon, New York:

Hereby, fully supports Congressman Rangel's proposed legislation, H.R. 677, which would grant permanent resident status to Amadou Diallo's family members: Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahima Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarela Diallo and Marliatou Bah.

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon, New York, calls upon the United States Congress to support Congressman Charles Rangel's proposed legislation, H.R. 677, which would grant permanent resident status to Amadou Diallo's family members: Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahima Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarela Diallo and Marliatou Bah.

I extend my personal thanks to Mayor Ernest D. Davis, City Council President Karen Watts, City Councilman William R. Randolph,

and the rest of the Mount Vernon City Council for this resolution.

Surely, this Congress can heed the advice of the City Council and truly embrace the Diallo family for the loss of their son and brother.

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL-  
MAN ED MIHALKANIN**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ed Mihalkanin for his nine years of service to the people of San Marcos, Texas.

In addition to serving the City of San Marcos on the Council, Mr. Mihalkanin works at Texas State University as an Associate Professor of Political Science. He has been teaching at Texas State since 1990, and previously taught at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA.

He received a Master's Degree in 1985 and a Ph.D in 1991 from American University in Washington, DC. Mr. Mihalkanin is originally from Hanover Park, Illinois, and he received his undergraduate degree at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Mihalkanin was first elected to the Council in 1996, and currently represents the City Council on the Economic Development Council. He has served as Mayor Pro Tempore in 1999 and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem in 2003-2004.

Mr. Mihalkanin is a member of the Downtown Association, the Greater San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce, and many other organizations that help to better the San Marcos community as a whole.

Mr. Mihalkanin is a model of hard work and dedication to the city and to his students. By working as project director for the "Civitas Project," Mr. Mihalkanin helped to revive civic life in the communities of Lockhart, San Marcos, and Wimberley, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of San Marcos City Councilman Ed Mihalkanin.

**DR. WILLIAM SCHWARTZ HONORED**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Schwartz as the co-founder of the Samaritan House Free Medical Clinic, as well as his dedication to the clinic since its inception in 1992. Dr. Schwartz was awarded the Jefferson Award for his work at the clinic that is located in San Mateo, California, in my district. His friends and colleagues have praised him for his selfless acts and hard work in trying to make our community a better place, and I hope the acknowledgment that comes from this award will inspire others to devote more of their time to helping those in need.

Thirteen years ago, Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Walter Gains started a free clinic for those

who could not afford health care. They treated patients in the conference room at Samaritan House one or two nights a week after spending the day at their own offices. The clinic provided free care through the generous contributions of lab work and x-rays by Mills Peninsula Hospital. Now open 6 days a week in two separate locations in San Mateo and Redwood City, the clinic serves 8,000 patients a year through donations that range from \$25 and \$50.

Mr. Speaker, small contributions and volunteers have kept this free clinic thriving. Ninety percent of the staff members donate their time after they leave their own jobs or after retirement. Dr. Schwartz worked as an internist in San Mateo for the 32 years in private practice and was preparing to retire when he got the idea to start the clinic. Now most of the doctors, nurses and translators running the clinic are retired. They include specialists in dentistry, gynecology, oncology, optometry, psychology, and orthopedics.

Dr. Schwartz has seen many free clinics disappear over time with people turning to more mainstream medical facilities, yet the number of needy people has risen. Most of the patients have extremely low incomes of less than thirty percent of median income. The Jefferson Award is bestowed by the American Institute of Public Service for making a difference in one's community. Dr. Schwartz has done just that. His clinic even has been able to relieve some of the stress on overcrowded emergency rooms that many poor people have come to rely on for many non-emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. William Schwartz for his contributions to my community. He has devoted his time to making a difference, beginning as a clinical professor at the University of California at San Francisco and now giving to the people of San Mateo and Redwood City medical attention. I rise today to congratulate him on winning the "Nobel Prize of Community Service." He and his wife, Florette, deserve a long vacation and the nation's thanks.

**CONGRATULATING THE FALCONS  
ROBOTICS TEAM OF CARL HAY-  
DEN HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS  
ACHIEVEMENTS**

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly draw your attention to the Falcons Robotics Team of Carl Hayden High School in my district. This talented group of students has succeeded in winning numerous robotics competitions, even beating the MIT team last year in a contest sponsored by NASA and the Office of Naval Research.

Teachers Allan Cameron, Fredi Lajvardi and Sam Alexander, with the help of other Carl Hayden faculty, wanted to create a club where students could engage in science, engineering, and math related activities that were educational as well as fun. Through the club, the students also had opportunities to meet professionals from science-oriented fields. The robotics team is small, made up of four students: Cristian Arcega, Lorenzo Santillan,

Oscar Vazquez and Luis Aranda. The Falcons Robotics Team provides these students from low income neighborhoods a positive option for after school activities. One of the team members was failing most of his classes before joining the robotics club and credits the club from keeping him off of West Phoenix streets and avoiding trouble.

The Falcons Robotics Team's first mission was to put together a robot to compete in the Marine Advanced Technology Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition, the underwater robotics contest sponsored by NASA and the Office of Naval Research. They needed a remote-controlled robot that could explore a sunken mock-up of a submarine. Thus, Stinky was born. Constructed of plastic tubing, propellers, lights, cameras, a laser, depth detectors, pumps, and other equipment, Stinky was capable of recording sonar pings and retrieving objects 50 feet under water. Stinky got its unflattering moniker from the foul-smelling glue that kept it together. The team went into the competition feeling intimidated, but they won the grand prize, beating out MIT and other college teams with slicker robots and corporate sponsors.

Since their competition victory last year, the team has gone on to compete in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition, where it won the highest award, the Chairman's Award, at the Arizona Regionals in March. Dean Kamen, inventor and founder of FIRST, a multinational non-profit organization that aspires to make science, math, engineering, and technology cool for kids, presented the award. As Mr. Kamen explained, the FIRST Robotics Competition is about much more than the mechanics of building a robot or winning a competitive event. The FIRST mission is to change the way America's young people regard science and technology and to inspire an appreciation for the real-life rewards and career opportunities in these fields.

In his remarks, Mr. Kamen echoed the sentiments of many in Arizona who are following the progress of this team of innovators. The impact from the team's victory is priceless. Participation in the Falcons Robotics Team, and its competition successes, has changed the students' appreciation of engineering and science, and their attitude towards education. These students are now hoping to pursue higher education and are inspiring other students to strive for similar goals. The team's accomplishments are countering stereotypes of innercity students from Hispanic neighbor-

hoods, and demonstrating that innercity "tough kids" can be just as talented and capable as the best from MIT. The Falcons team has become the subject of articles in *Wired Magazine* and the *Washington Post*, primetime stories on shows such as NPR's *Here and Now* and ABC's *Nightline*, and Warner Brothers is even planning a movie.

As the team now prepares to compete in the FIRST Championship I Tom April 21 to 23 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, I wish to honor the Falcons Robotics Team and the students, teachers, and community of Carl Hayden High School. The successes of Cristian, Lorenzo, Oscar and Luis demonstrate the accomplishments students can achieve, given a little inspiration from devoted teachers. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Falcons Robotics Team, and wishing the students and teachers at Carl Hayden High School much continued success in their future endeavors.

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#### PRESERVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE DRUGS ACT

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing a revised version of the Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs (PAAD) Act. Unfortunately, the misguided Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 threatens to reduce or eliminate the prescription drug benefits that millions of seniors across the country already have. And if the law isn't bad enough as is, the Administration has ignored the recommendations of the President's State Pharmaceutical Assistance Transition Commission and denied New Jersey's request to automatically enroll those Medicare beneficiaries currently enrolled in New Jersey's PAAD and Medicaid programs into a preferred Medicare prescription drug plan.

This ruling effectively blocks New Jersey's efforts to preserve the generous prescription drug coverage the state currently provides to the 190,000 seniors enrolled in New Jersey's PAAD program and the 140,000 seniors and disabled enrolled in the state's Medicaid program when the new Medicare prescription drug benefit goes into effect on January 1, 2006.

In an effort to right this wrong, the bill I'm introducing today will ensure that our seniors have a seamless transition to the new Medicare Part D drug benefit, without a reduction or disruption in their coverage.

The PAAD Act will allow states to automatically enroll PAAD and dually eligible Medicaid beneficiaries in one or more preferred prescription drug plans to ensure that these beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicare drug plan that maximizes both their federal and state prescription drug coverage. This will ensure that New Jersey seniors who currently receive prescription drug benefits under PAAD or through the state's Medicaid program are not made worse off by the new Medicare law.

In addition, the PAAD Act will allow New Jersey to provide supplemental Medicaid prescription drug benefits to low-income seniors and disabled who currently receive generous prescription drug benefits under the Medicaid program and who will now receive their prescription drug benefits through Medicare.

With approximately six million seniors nationwide, including 140,000 in New Jersey, who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, it is absolutely critical that they do not lose access to their Medicaid prescription drug benefits, which are more generous than the new Medicare benefit will be. Not to mention, hundreds of thousands of seniors across the country, and 200,000 seniors in New Jersey, currently are enrolled in state pharmacy assistance programs, and will be forced into a private Medicare drug plan. We need to make sure the new Medicare Modernization Act transition happens with the least amount of confusion and loss of coverage possible. With this bill, we will solve these outstanding problems.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on March 21st, 2005, I was traveling overseas with Minority Leader PELOSI on officially authorized travel. Had I been present during roll call vote 90, a motion to suspend the rules and pass Senate bill 686, for the relief of the parents of Mrs. Theresa Marie Schiavo, I would have voted "aye" in favor of passage.