

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE "CHILDREN'S EXPRESS LANE
TO HEALTH COVERAGE ACT OF
2005"

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the "Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act of 2005."

Far too many children in this Nation are not covered by even the most basic health insurance. In my home State of California, 10 percent of the approximately 10 million children do not have health insurance. Close to 9 million children nationwide are in similar situations.

This does not have to be the case. Of the almost 9 million children who are uninsured, an estimated 6.9 million are eligible for public health insurance coverage. What is keeping them from obtaining coverage?

In many cases, children who are eligible for subsidized health care do not receive it because of the cumbersome and confusing process families must go through to obtain health insurance for their children.

The bill I introduce today, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act, a companion bill to the one introduced by my colleagues in the Senate: Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. COCHRAN, will streamline the process by which children are enrolled in both Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs or SCHIP.

This legislation will allow States to streamline enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP. It would allow a child's enrollment in WIC and similar assistance programs to serve as a gateway to health coverage, thus avoiding a separate lengthy and confusing application process.

The need for health care coverage for these children is urgent. Without health insurance, children do not see doctors with the regularity that is essential for their well-being and the well-being of their peers they come into contact with at school, at daycare and on the playground. Many children without health insurance end up in the emergency room with illnesses that could easily be treated in a doctor's office. Emergency room visits are extremely costly, both for parents and for hospitals. The cost of health care for everyone increases as a result.

For the good of our Nation's children and for the good of our Nation's communities, I ask my colleagues today to join me in support of this vital piece of legislation.

HONORING L.C. GREENE, A SOUTH
CAROLINA LEADER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the tremendous achievements of L.C. Greene, a life-long resident of South Carolina who has demonstrated a tradition of excellence and a commitment exceptional leadership throughout his life. From his distinguished twenty-three year career in the U.S. Air Force to his thirty years of service in municipal and county government, L.C. Greene has exemplified the qualities that are critical for leaders of good government.

After retiring from the military, L.C. Greene brought his leadership skills to the classroom. He later became the Emergency Medical Service Director for Aiken County, South Carolina. Because of his leadership skills and ability to handle crisis situations, L.C. Greene was then promoted to County Administrator, and served a total of eight years. During this time, Mr. Greene was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation, the highest Federal award to a civilian, by the U.S. Department of Defense, for his outstanding leadership and cooperation in the aftermath of a B-52 Bomber crash in Aiken County. He was also recognized by the U.S. Army at Ft. Gordon for the role he played in the recovery operation of this tragic accident.

After serving as a director for Lockheed Aircraft Support Systems for two years, Mr. Greene became the City Manager for the Town of Winnsboro, South Carolina, serving in that capacity for eight years. During his service to the citizens of Winnsboro, Mr. Greene played a critical role in the recruitment of the Mack Truck Assembly Plant, which invested \$168 million and created over 2,000 jobs, and the Rite Aid Southern Distribution Center, which invested \$80 million and created over 325 jobs. Mr. Greene was also recognized by the U.S. Senate for his innovative approach to public-private partnerships and was invited to Washington, DC for a briefing. Mr. Greene's leadership skills in the area of natural disaster were also called upon in Winnsboro as he led the emergency preparedness and clean-up efforts after the town was struck by three different tornadoes.

For the past fourteen years, L.C. Greene has been the Town Administrator for the Town of Lexington, which has become the fastest growing municipality in South Carolina. During this time, he has been instrumental in working with other state and local governments to form regional partnerships and cooperation, especially in the area of water and wastewater infrastructure. Mr. Greene is recognized throughout the state as having expertise in all facets of local government and is often called

upon for assistance and advice from other municipal and county leaders as well as from state officials and past governors. He selflessly shares his wealth of information and wisdom in an effort to bring better government to all communities throughout the state.

Mr. Greene has consistently led with a management style that focuses on people and the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of his community. Whether it is in obtaining grant funding for blighted and impoverished areas, recruiting industries that will build investment and create jobs, responding to the devastating effects that a tornado had on the Lexington community, sharing scarce water supplies with sister cities in need, sending utility personnel to other States devastated by hurricanes or building a special-needs park for handicapped children, Mr. Greene's commitment to finding better procedures and more cost-effective measures to achieve the highest level of services to the citizens at the lowest possible tax cost is an inspiration to all who know him. He exemplifies the true spirit of leadership through the development of friendship, team building, and cooperation for the greater good.

L.C. Greene is also a devoted family man, having been married to his wife Colleen for 48 years. They are the proud parents of five daughters and one son, fifteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Mr. Greene has also served on various boards such as the South Carolina Retirement Advisory Board, the Central Midlands Environmental Protection Agency Committee, the South Carolina Local Government Assurance Group, Lexington County Municipal Association, and the Lexington Economic Development Association Board. Additional awards and recognitions include recognition by: the South Carolina Senate; Low-Country Regional Emergency Medical Services; the Strategic Air Command; and the Midlands Human Sources Development Commission for service to Low-Income Home Energy Program. Mr. Greene was also named as the Jaycees "Boss of the Year" and was named Who's Who in Executives and Professionals in 1996-97.

As L.C. Greene retires as Town Administrator of Lexington, it is only fitting that his selfless, lifelong commitment and service to his community, his State and his country be recognized by awarding the Order of the Palmetto. Truly, cities and counties are vital to the health of our State because they provide essential elements of our civilization. And, in order to have healthy, growing communities, there must be stalwart leaders of good government. L.C. Greene has been such a leader. When Mr. Greene retires on June 30th, he should take pride in knowing that our community and our State is better because of his exemplary service.

● 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.

BROOKLYN REMEMBERS

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on May 17th, I was joined by 9/11 families, elected officials, and community leaders to unveil Brooklyn's official memorial dedicated to the events of September 11, 2001. This memorial pays tribute to the 283 men and women of King's County killed on that horrific day. The air was filled with sadness in the days and months that followed. Because of this, in October of 2001, I along with State Senator Marty Golden, realized that a memorial was the best way to honor the lives of these brave men and women. Within days community leaders organized a committee to raise private funds and started the process to design a memorial and make it a reality. Realizing that this was not only a New York State issue but also a national one, I worked hard to secure \$50,000 to begin the groundwork for the memorial.

The memorial, entitled the "Beacon," soars 25 feet in the air and is shaped like a speaking trumpet to resemble the device once used by the volunteer fire brigades of New York City to transmit warnings to the crowd and give orders to the firefighters. The thoughtfulness and simplicity of the design is second to none. It directly reflects the Bay Ridge community and the residents of King's County New York. The memorial was placed at the 69th Street Pier. This was fitting with its broad vista's of the harbor and downtown Manhattan, as it was the location to which many Brooklynites went to watch the tragic events of September 11, 2001 unfold.

Those whose lives were lost on September 11 will remain in our thoughts and prayers forever. The "Beacon" will help all of us, not only New Yorkers, but those all over our great Nation keep alive the names and memories of those who are no longer with us. It will allow us to remember their sacrifice and honor their lives. The memorial will serve as a reminder to future generations that our freedom must be cherished and never taken for granted because so many gave their lives in its name.

I would like to personally praise the outstanding efforts of the memorial committee. They raised the necessary funding, established a selection process, chose an outstanding artist, and organized the beautiful ceremony. They devoted their time and efforts without any compensation or recompense. Without their continued efforts and determination this memorial would not have been possible.

I would like to enter into the RECORD the names of the Brooklyn Remembers Committee:

Stephen Harrison, Robert Howe, Basil Capetanakis, Richard Conti, William Guarinello, Patrick Condren, Gene Brody, Howard Feuer, Denise Virga, Serge Allegretti, Corrado Manfredi, Craig Eaton, Joseph Caruanna, Anthony Troia.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
EDUCATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, while teenage dating violence often does not get the widespread attention that adult domestic violence receives, it is no less of an insidious epidemic. Currently, girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24 are the most vulnerable to domestic violence, experiencing the highest per capita rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence. One-third of teens report experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships and approximately one in five adolescent girls report being physically or sexually hurt by a dating partner.

Both CNN and ABC News have recently run reports on the tragic consequences of teen dating violence. In one such incident, an Austin, Texas 16-year-old star football player stabbed his 15-year-old girlfriend to death. The perpetrator of this crime had a history of teen dating violence that started when he was in the 8th grade. This horrifying incident may have been preventable had the victim of this crime or his previous girlfriends had full access to information about legal steps they could have taken to ensure they would not be in further danger.

Unfortunately, this act of violence is not an isolated incidence. These situations play themselves out across this nation. Dating violence cuts across ethnic, racial and socio-economic lines.

We can take affirmative steps to ensure that this type of tragedy is not repeated in other forms. Preventative action is necessary.

Today, I introduce legislation that will empower young victims of dating violence with information about their legal rights. The "Teenage Dating Violence Education Act of 2005" mandates that domestic violence educational programs geared towards elementary and high school students include information about the legal rights of teenage victims of dating violence.

It is not enough to tell students that abusive relationships are wrong. We also need to specifically inform them on the various ways they can get out of those relationships. The legal system is one place they can turn. They deserve to know about these recourses. For victims of dating violence, knowledge really is power.

Teenagers who engage in dating violence in this country need to know that there are legal ramifications for their actions. Teenage victims of dating violence need to know that mechanisms in the legal system exist to help them.

Educating teenagers in this area is a matter of safety and a matter of common sense. We can do our part to make sure the cycle of violence is not perpetuated. We must do our part.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in support of this vital piece of legislation.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MISS
SARAH GRACE POTTER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Jim and Karen Potter of Potomac Falls, Virginia, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Sarah Grace Potter was born Wednesday at 12:37 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Sarah has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO NAME THE "JOHN LEWIS
CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE"

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation to honor the senior Member from the state of Georgia and my friend, JOHN LEWIS, for his work as an engineer of the civil rights movement. Along with my colleague in the other body, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS, I proudly put my name as the original sponsor of this bill to name a historic building near the center of the struggle for equality—Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia—as the "John Lewis Civil Rights Institute."

Without question, Congressman LEWIS' work in the civil rights movement was crucial to the success of that struggle. He grew up in Alabama, and was inspired to get involved after hearing reports of the Montgomery bus boycott, orchestrated by the young Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a student at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, Congressman LEWIS began organizing sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. He also participated in the freedom rides, challenging segregated bus stations across the South. For these simple acts of non-violent resistance, JOHN LEWIS was often violently physically attacked. But his resolve did not waver.

Congressman LEWIS served as Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which students of history recall as the central group working to organize and publicize the demonstrations by young people which were occurring across the region. This increasingly high-profile work lead him to be named as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the movement, and brought about his role as a speaker at the March on Washington in August 1963, a political and cultural event that changed the course of the nation.

But Congressman LEWIS' life-threatening commitment to change did not end there. In 1965, Congressman LEWIS led over 600 non-violent protesters in the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Through the gripping media coverage of this disturbing event, the rest of America was finally forced to confront the violence and injustice being perpetrated against African Americans.

And his work for civil rights continues to this day. From his work during the height of the

civil rights movement, to his time as a Presidential appointee during the Carter Administration, to his service as an elected official first on the Atlanta City Council and finally as a Member of Congress, JOHN LEWIS has never wavered.

The victories our country can claim in this fight are in no small part due to the selfless sacrifices of JOHN LEWIS. For his humble service, for his commitment to justice and equality for all people, he deserves to be honored in this small way. I call on my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in working for the swift passage of this legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, CHAPTER OF UNICO NATIONAL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Built from the initiative of Dr. D.J. Maldonado and Attorney John Morano, among others, the Scranton Chapter of UNICO was chartered in June 1955 and immediately began supporting community efforts through scholarships and the then Boys' Club.

Over the years, the Scranton Chapter of UNICO has grown in generosity and prestige, supporting scholarships for college students at six local colleges, supporting the good work of the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen and the now Boys and Girls Club.

Scranton UNICO also contributes to the national effort to find a cure for cancer through the UNICO V Foundation.

Scranton UNICO also supports Italian studies through book donations and language classes.

Scranton UNICO promotes convivial camaraderie among its 330 members, the largest UNICO chapter in the United States of America.

UNICO was founded in 1922 as an Italian American service organization dedicated to performing good works as a means of uplifting the prestige of its members. UNICO stands for unity, neighborliness, integrity, charity and opportunity. The motto of UNICO is "service above self."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Scranton chapter of UNICO as its members celebrate their 50th anniversary. Time and time again, UNICO members distinguish themselves by helping others and making their community a much better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK TING-KUO CHEN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I pay tribute today to the life of

Frank Ting-Kuo Chen, a man whose contributions to family and community cannot be understated. Frank was a man of great compassion and character. He will be deeply missed, but always be fondly remembered.

Frank's life is a true example of the achievement of the American Dream. Mr. Chen was born on January 1, 1941, in Taipei, Taiwan, the seventh child in a family of five sons and three daughters. In 1965 he married his love, Cha Cheng Chen, and they went on to celebrate 40 years of marriage.

Frank began his own company in Taiwan in 1970, where he manufactured and traded products that were distributed across the United States. He went on to hold several positions in public office, including serving as District Representative for the Chung Shan district in Taipei from 1976 to 1977. Frank had a passion for reading and worked for the newspapers China Post and the Stars and Stripes.

In 1977 Frank moved to the United States to give his children a better education. He settled in Moreno Valley, California, where he expanded his business and went on to achieve his lifelong dream of sending his children to college. Even with Frank's successful business career, he always made time for his wife and family. He is survived by Cha Cheng Chen, and his children, Suzanne, Ping and Lee.

Frank tirelessly devoted himself to his community, and in particular to facilitating the cultural exchange of Chinese Americans in the greater Los Angeles area. He was involved with numerous civic organizations in Southern California, and in particular the Chinese Students Association of the University of California at Riverside. He was later appointed as an official delegate of Taiwan's Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission, where he dedicated himself to providing assistance to immigrants and new residents in the Inland Empire. In 1988, he founded and served as President of the Inland Chinese Association, which has since grown to over 1,000 members. In 1989, he spearheaded the establishment of the first Inland Empire Chinese Language School. He later also led the movement to establish the Chinese Pavilion, a major landmark in downtown Riverside, to commemorate the early Chinese immigrants who inhabited the area in the late 19th century.

Although Frank is no longer with us, his legacy will never leave us. He dedicated his life to his family and his community, and in doing so improved the lives of thousands. His life is an example to all of us of how one person can make a difference. We are all truly better for having known Frank Ting-Kuo Chen.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of

State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, today, Congressman WEINER offered an amendment to H.R. 2862, the Science, State, Justice & Commerce Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006. Representative WEINER's amendment, which ultimately failed, would have restored \$126 million to the COPS program to help state and local governments hire police officers. The offset for the amendment came from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and would have returned that agency's funding to Fiscal Year 2004 levels, which actually represents a \$30 million increase over what NSF received for Fiscal Year 2005. I voted for the amendment, because I believe and support the important work the COPS program allows, but I was troubled by the offset, knowing how important science and research are to my community.

I voted for Mr. WEINER's amendment because I have seen firsthand how important COPS programs are to local cities and communities like Cheektowaga, Jamestown and Dunkirk in my district in Western New York. In fact, since 1994, \$25,609,762 in COPS grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in the 27th District of New York. These grants have funded 329 additional police officers and sheriffs' deputies to engage in community policing activities including crime prevention. In my district, 29 local and state law enforcement agencies have directly benefited from funding made available through the COPS Office, \$1,848,680 has been awarded to add 16 school resources officers to improve safety for students, teachers, and administrators in primary and secondary schools and \$3,268,820 has been awarded for crimefighting technologies. This funding has allowed officers to spend more time on the streets preventing crime through timesaving technology, information-sharing systems, and improved communications equipment.

Sadly, our underlying appropriations bill zeroes out funding for the COPS program, leaving local governments to foot the bill. Cutting the COPS program altogether is unacceptable—it is one of our most useful and successful tools in reducing crime.

I also recognize the importance of the NSF, which provides funding and guidance to laboratories, universities and research centers across the country. In New York State in Fiscal Year 2003, the NSF provided over 1,672 awards totaling approximately \$389 million to more than 142 institutions in the State of New York as well as \$1,816,000 in fellowships.

While I regret the offset of the amendment and the need to transfer NSF funding to allow the COPS program to continue, NSF would still have received more in Fiscal Year 2006 than it did in Fiscal Year 2005 to continue its mission. The COPS program, however, without Congressional action on the House floor, will cease to exist. Mr. Speaker, that is why I supported Representative WEINER's amendment.

CORPUS CHRISTI'S CALALLEN
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM,
2005 4A STATE CHAMPS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corpus Christi's Calallen High School Varsity Baseball team on winning the 2005 4A State Championship last weekend, winning the championship game 10-3. This is the second time the Wildcats have dominated Texas high school baseball, the first being in 2000.

The Cats' won their first victory against the Wichita Falls Riders—an impressive 12-2 game, with seven hits and a grand slam by sophomore Ryan Duke. The game was called in the fifth inning, by way of the 10-run "mercy rule." But mercy was the last thing the Wildcats showed their next opponents, the Waco Midway Panthers.

Calallen earned the title through sheer power at the plate, with 13 hits and 10 runs, all scored by the fourth inning. Leading the Cats at bat in the championship game were Seniors Jonathan Vest, Luke McCall, Wes Callihan, Randy Haughton, and Sophomore Ryan Duke.

Wildcat pitchers Seniors Chip Nance and Brandon Key, and Sophomore Ryan Duke provided the other power station for the Cats on the mound. Nance boasted nine strikeouts in six innings and held the Midway Panthers to five hits, earning MVP honors in the championship game.

South Texas is proud of these young men as is their coach, Steve Chapman, to whom the victory came as no surprise. With such talented players and excellent coaching, it seemed only right that this would be the year. Besides receiving an impressive ring to commemorate their victory, these boys have learned the endurance, discipline, self-sacrifice, and determination that it takes to be the champions.

In high school sports, as in life, the way to winning is hard work and a can-do spirit every day, both in practice and on the field. Sports teach young people many things, most importantly how to be gracious in defeat and in victory. That will be as important as how they play the game of life.

I congratulate the Wildcats, for their hard work which paid off handsomely. The following roster of players earned the title of Champions: Chip Nance, Wes Callihan, Jonathan Vest, Tyler Marrou, Cameron Lucky, Ryan Miller, Brandon Key, Corey Schick, Steven Vidaurri, Bucky Bryan, Randy Haughton, Sean Hoelscher, Paul Flores, Ryan Duke, Jared Verret, Daniel Alonzo, Luke McCall, Matt Brynestad, Kyle Plumley, and Jacob Kaup.

The Coaches who led them to victory are: Coach Steve Chapman, Asst. Coach Rudy Salinas, Asst. Coach Jon Irvine, Asst. Coach Micheal Watson, and Asst. Coach Jose Luis Lopez.

HONORING THE NETCONG FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Netcong Fire Department, in the Borough of Netcong, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On June 11, 2005, the good citizens of Netcong celebrated the Fire Company's Centennial Anniversary with special festivities and a parade.

For one hundred years, the Netcong Fire Department has been protecting and serving the residents of their community and surrounding towns. Featuring 48 fire companies mostly from Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties, the firefighters on the parade committee have been planning the event for the past several years. Fritz Grogan, the parade's Grand Marshal, rode in a 1922 Brockway. He has 55 years of experience serving in the department, including a two-year term as chief in the late 1960s. Well over 1,000 people marched in the parade, and the event drew a crowd from all over New Jersey.

The Netcong Fire Department was formally created in 1905. It was badly needed, especially after a fire on Nov. 16, 1903. The blaze was so bad that even some buildings in neighboring Stanhope were set on fire by flying sparks, although none were destroyed. A history compiled by the department says its first piece of equipment was a two-wheeled hose cart pulled by the members. Equipment was housed at the Mansion house stables on Main Street and Maple Avenue, and the first firehouse opened in February 1906.

Currently the fire department, led by Fire Chief Michael Pellek, has about 100 members, half of whom marched in Saturday's parade. Last year the department responded to 113 calls, including one fatal fire, and this year it has already responded to 50.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Netcong Fire Department on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

TRIBUTE TO DISTRICT STAFF
MEMBER, KATHY OLSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very able district staff member, Kathy Olson, who is leaving our employ at the end of the month.

There is not one of us in this esteemed body who fails to appreciate what a key role our staff members play in helping us to serve our constituents. As you know, people often seek our assistance when all else has failed. By the time they reach their Member of Congress, they are frustrated, discouraged, and sometimes angry. It is always heartening when we can intervene to solve those serious and longstanding problems.

Often, it takes a tremendous amount of knowledge and research to find the one key that will enable us to resolve an issue for a constituent. With her high level of knowledge and understanding, Kathy is an unqualified expert on Social Security and Medicare. Through her keen intellect and tireless work ethic, Kathy has garnered a sound grasp of the most complicated of issues. I not only value her for the unselfish assistance that she has provided my constituents, but I also rely heavily on her expertise and counsel in dealing with Social Security and Medicare issues.

Kathy has taken constituent service to a high level of excellence. Although her professionalism and mastery of the issues are indeed outstanding, it is her inherent goodness and concern for others that has made her so effective. Kathy begins every case with a sympathetic ear and a sincere desire to help ease the pain for those who call my office.

There are countless examples that demonstrate her effectiveness, but the one that resonates most with me was when an agency referred a homeless and destitute woman to me who had exhausted all alternatives. In her eighties, this constituent had no Social Security benefits because she had no record of her birth. She didn't know her real name. She didn't know who her mother and father were. She spent a life of being dependent on abusive people who manipulated her. She had lived a life of hopelessness, and her declining years promised only more despair.

After months of frustrating research and chasing down tenuous leads, Kathy found the woman's identity and established a case that qualified her for benefits that would allow her to live the rest of her life in relative comfort and free of fear. Although the woman was deeply grateful for having a life of misery put behind her and a sense of hope restored, she was most appreciative of the photo of her mother that Kathy found during her exhaustive research. The woman had never seen a picture of her mother. Kathy not only assisted in giving her a life of dignity, she was able to give her a sense of self that most of us take for granted.

Kathy's demonstrated ability to work well with others and to get things done led me to ask her to take on an extra load to manage my academy selection process. She already had a very full agenda, but she cheerfully took on the new task and made many valuable improvements in how I select nominees. My selection committee consists of retired military officers with the ranks of major, colonel, captain, and general; men who expect top performance. Each member of the selection committee has shared with me their admiration of Kathy's professionalism and enthusiasm in coordinating a very complicated process.

After almost six years of serving constituents in the Second Congressional District of Oregon, both for my predecessor, Congressman Bob Smith, and for me, Kathy has chosen to leave the office to devote more time to her family. Her husband, Brian, and daughter, Alyssa, have been most understanding as Kathy's demanding job has taken so much of her time. They are rightfully proud of the great work that she has done and very pleased to have her able to spend more time with them in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed sad to see Kathy Olson leave our team. Her unselfish service has helped countless families in the Second

Congressional District over the years, and it is only fitting that she now devote full attention to her own.

As you can tell, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the great and unselfish work Kathy Olson has done on my behalf, but I am most proud to join many, many others in calling her a friend. I know that I reflect the feelings of all of her fellow staff members in wishing her continued success and happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH AND PREVENTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in support of the "Prostate Cancer Research and Prevention Act." This important piece of legislation will reauthorize through 2010 important programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which will help increase awareness and surveillance of prostate cancer, address the serious issues of prostate cancer screening, and help unlock the mysteries of prostate cancer through research.

Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer found in American men. The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be about 232,090 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States in 2005 and that approximately 30,350 men will die of this disease. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in men, behind only lung cancer.

While these statistics remain alarming, the death rate for prostate cancer is actually decreasing in all racial and ethnic groups. While 1 man in 6 will still be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime, only 1 man in 33 will now die of this disease. More men, especially African-American men and others in high risk categories, are being made aware of the risk of prostate cancer and being encouraged to take steps to ensure early detection.

This awareness and action is critically important when dealing with all cancers, but especially cancer of the prostate—which grows slowly and without symptoms and is all too often undetected until in its most advanced and incurable stage. That is why reauthorizing the "Prostate Cancer Research and Prevention Act" is so important.

Reauthorizing the "Prostate Cancer Research and Prevention Act" will allow the CDC to continue to comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness of various screening strategies for prostate cancer and to further expand public information and education programs about the issues regarding the disease. It will also allow the CDC to continue to make grants to States and local health departments to ensure that this information is being thoroughly spread, especially among communities and groups where the risk is highest. The bill also extends the authority of the National Cancer Institute at the NIH to conduct and support basic and clinical research to expand the understanding of the cause of prostate cancer and to ultimately find a cure for the disease. Reauthorizing these important programs will help continue the rising trend towards aware-

ness and action and hopefully result in even fewer untimely deaths.

The American Cancer Society, the Men's Health Network and the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey join me in supporting this reauthorization of the "Prostate Cancer Research and Prevention Act." These organizations know first hand the important roles education, awareness and research play, and I applaud each of them for their dedication to battling this disease.

As National Men's Health Week draws to a close and we prepare to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, I encourage each of you to reflect on the serious health threat that prostate cancer continues to pose for men across the country—including the men closest and most important to each of us, and urge my colleagues in the House to support the "Prostate Cancer Research and Prevention Act."

IN HONOR OF JAMES H. GILLIAM,
SR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. James (Jim) H. Gilliam, Sr., the founder and first chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League.

After a 13-year career with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Maryland, Jim came to Delaware in 1965 to serve as the Director of Neighborhood and Housing Services for the Greater Wilmington Development Council. Jim's determination soon lead him to become the Director of New Castle County's Department of Community Development and Housing, where he would serve with distinction until his retirement in March 1990. Regardless of retirement, he had much left to accomplish.

In 1999, with one million dollars in start-up funds and the assistance of more than 70 community and business leaders, Jim formed the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. In only nine-months, the Wilmington chapter of the National Urban League was formed; the fastest an affiliate has ever been organized. The formation of this wonderful organization was only the beginning of Jim Gilliam's many successes at the Urban League.

The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League envisions a community where African Americans and other people of color from a wide array of income levels, backgrounds and experiences directly benefit from and contribute to a multi-racial alliance that is committed to principled advocacy, action-oriented public policy research and the coordination of public, private, and non-profit resources.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to once again commend Mr. James Gilliam. Under his skilled leadership, the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League has been a tremendously successful community organization, and I have no doubt he will maintain the organization's commitment to excellence.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF TROY L.
LOINING

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Troy L. Loining who will assume the position of "Officer in Charge" at the United States Coast Guard Station in Annapolis, Maryland on June 17, 2005.

Chief Loining enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 1989 and began serving our great Nation aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter Northland out of Portsmouth, Virginia. In 1999, serving as an Executive Petty Officer aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter Adek based out of Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Chief Loining was awarded the George Ban Cleaves Award after he was selected as the "District One Enlisted Person of the Year."

Still serving aboard the Adek, Chief Loining was awarded the "United States Coast Guard 911 Medal," for his service on September 11, 2001 when all personnel in New York Harbor were immediately called upon for assistance and defense. Under new heightened levels of security, Chief Loining continued his defense of the United States while reassigned to the United States Coast Guard Cutter Line. In 2002, he received his official certification as "Officer in Charge."

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the United States Coast Guard has chosen Chief Troy L. Loining to assume the position of "Officer in Charge" in Annapolis, Maryland. Please join me today in honor and recognition of a person who has willingly served and defended his country.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH PARISH ON
CHURCH BUILDING CENTENNIAL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph Parish on their Church Building Centennial. The official celebration will take place at St. Joseph Parish in Joliet, Illinois on October 16, 2005.

St. Joseph Parish, Joliet's fifth Catholic church, was founded in 1891 by Slovenian immigrants. The first pastor, Reverend Francis Sustersic, arrived from Slovenia on May 12, 1891. The original church, which was blessed on October 16, 1891, was born of the love, labor and sacrifice of Slovenians, whose men toiled in the local steel mills. They provided a house of worship for their families and for their descendants who would preserve their Catholic Slovenian heritage.

The parish grew quickly and a second St. Joseph Church was consecrated on October 15, 1905, as an official place of worship under the Archdiocese of Chicago. The second church was built with Indiana Bedford limestone at a cost of \$130,000. It was the first stone and steel structure and the largest and grandest church in Joliet. In 1949, St. Joseph Church became part of the newly established Diocese of Joliet.

Architecture of the church is considered "modern Roman". Three bells from the original church continue to toll in the current bell towers. The bells were named to honor St. Joseph, St. George, and Sancta Maria. The high altar remains the focal point of the church interior. The nineteen stained glass windows, magnificent rose window, Marian Shrine, and the angel bedecked gold-leaf dome serve to inspire the faithful in prayer and adoration.

Today, the Church is a tapestry of diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds while maintaining strong familial ties to their Slovenian founders. 2005 marks the 100th Anniversary and the second year of a \$1.5 million dollar restoration of St. Joseph Church.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other organizations in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

HONORING MRS. RUBY
FITZGERALD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ruby FitzGerald, a resident of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District that I am proud to represent. Mrs. FitzGerald has truly been a pillar of public service, devoting her career and herself to the betterment of our community. There are citizens who by their perseverance alone decide to make a difference, and she is certainly one.

Perhaps Mrs. FitzGerald's most significant influence on the citizens and residents of the City of Alexandria comes from her two decades of volunteer service to public safety. Mrs. FitzGerald first began volunteering at the Alexandria jail, teaching art to inmates there. Later, in 1986, Mrs. FitzGerald volunteered for the Alexandria Police Department, working in the Crime Prevention Unit. Since the Volunteer Program was formalized in 1989, Mrs. FitzGerald has donated more than 7,000 hours of service to the police department.

In her regular assignment, Mrs. FitzGerald has handled hundreds of phone calls from people requesting crime prevention tips, neighborhood safety and information about youth programs. Because of her contribution of time and knowledge, citizens and business people received helpful assistance and crime prevention officers were free to be out in the community, conducting security surveys and increasing police presence.

Mrs. FitzGerald's service was showcased in May of 2002 by United States Attorney General John Ashcroft. When Attorney General Ashcroft appeared in Alexandria to launch the "Volunteers In Police Service" (VIPS) initiative, he specifically recalled Mrs. FitzGerald's service and devotion, recognizing her volunteer work as an example for others to follow.

In addition to her exceptional service to the police department, Mrs. FitzGerald organized an annual holiday party for children in need. For years, as part of the Alexandria Crime Prevention Council, Mrs. FitzGerald collected gifts and coordinated a holiday event for the city's young people. In 2000, Frances Becker of the Carpenter's Shelter, Northern Virginia's

largest homeless shelter, wrote of Mrs. FitzGerald, "You went above and beyond with your generosity and truly made each and every child feel the love and generosity of the Christmas holiday. We are so fortunate to have angels like you." Mrs. FitzGerald has been her neighborhood's lead organizer for National Night Out since it was started. Her local neighborhood street, Summers Drive, is always one of the best organized National Night Out events held in the city. Lastly, Mrs. FitzGerald worked on the Crime Prevention Month display at Landmark Mall when the Crime Prevention Council was working on that event. The council hosted this event for several years, discontinuing it only when the mall attendance was getting low.

As if her work for the police department and children weren't enough, Mrs. FitzGerald has set up annual blood drives at police headquarters for as long as anyone can remember. She worked closely with the Red Cross and recruited dozens of donors every time.

Mrs. FitzGerald is one of those incredibly gracious and modest people who give to others for the truest of reasons, because she really, really cares. Mr. Speaker, the people of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District are losing Mrs. FitzGerald as she returns to her home state of Montana. That state is fortunate to inherit a gem of a person. We wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors, and thank her one last time for blessing our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Nos. 241, 242, 246, 248 and 250. I would have voted "no" on Rollcall Nos. 243, 244, 245, 247, and 249.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL J.
STANTON THOMPSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson, of Higginsville, MO, who will soon be retiring from the United States Navy after an outstanding 35 years of service.

On July 9, 2005, Stanton will be ending an outstanding career as a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy Reserve. Over the years, Stanton has dedicated his life to serving the American people.

Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson serves currently as the Special Assistant for Reserve Matters to the Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is credited with the integration of reserves in homeland defense and military support to civilian authori-

ties. He also serves his country as a principal advisor to the Commander for Maritime Homeland Defense.

Rear Admiral Thompson's awards include: Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star and various other service and campaign awards.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson has honored his country with 35 years of service. Following retirement, Stanton plans to contribute to his country and community by continuing to manage a 160-acre family farm and working at the USDA. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

OSTEOPOROSIS EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my Republican colleague, MELISSA HART, I am introducing the Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act of 2005. This bill will ensure that individuals at high risk for osteoporosis have access to screening tests for the disease. The legislation would require private insurance plans to cover bone mass measurement testing for those at risk for developing the disease.

Osteoporosis is a disease that has no symptoms and usually remains undiagnosed until a fracture occurs. Approximately 44 million Americans suffer from osteoporosis or are at risk of developing it, and 80 percent of those at risk are women. Every year, there are 1.5 million bone fractures caused by osteoporosis.

Since there is no known cure for osteoporosis, the most effective way to reduce the prevalence and cost of the disease is through prevention and early diagnosis. As a result, bone mass measurement tests are crucial to early detection because ordinary x-rays do not detect osteoporosis until the disease is so advanced that 25 to 40 percent of bone mass has been lost.

Bone mass measurement is a non-invasive, painless and reliable way to diagnose osteoporosis before costly fractures occur. By ensuring that high risk individuals have access to screening tests. The Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act will make a huge difference in defending men and women from osteoporosis.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI RICHARD A.
LEVINE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Rabbi Richard A.

Levine and to honor his years of commitment to education and tolerance in our community.

Rabbi Levine has worked hard for the Jewish community over the past 40 years. He was the first New Jersey Rabbi ever to serve as President of the Greater Philadelphia Board of Rabbis. He has served as a member of the board and president for countless Jewish organizations in the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware area.

Locally, Rabbi Levine has been committed to helping children and teenagers in South Jersey. He is a very active participant in many programs of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. In the greater community he has chaired a number of regional councils or committees, such as Operation Head Start, which is dedicated to the education of our youth. Rabbi Levine is a regular speaker at regional high schools, teaching students a myriad of topics including interpersonal relationships and family life. Leading over 30 tours since 1955 to Israel, Rabbi Levine has managed to educate new and old generations alike about the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Rabbi Richard Levine today. He has certainly accomplished much for our community in the past 40 years, and I know Adath Emanu-El will miss him dearly. I thank him for his dedicated community service and wish Rabbi Richard Levine all the best in his future endeavors.

PAY UP: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, NOT HOSPITALS, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMMIGRATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as California's Border Congressman, I am here to deliver some bad news and some good news about the health care providers in my district, the whole border region, and other parts of the country with large immigrant populations. The bad news is: they can't take it anymore!

They can't take the Federal Government's continued failure to assume the responsibility for fixing our broken immigration system.

They can't take the increasing cost of uncompensated emergency care for undocumented immigrants. The growing burden on hospitals, physicians and ambulance providers threatens to cripple the health care services that are available to all the residents of these communities.

In San Diego, UCSD is planning to close down a hospital, partly because of the growing costs of treating undocumented immigrants. The solvency of other hospitals is increasingly endangered. Continued neglect threatens the very existence of many of these hospitals and the health of communities throughout the Nation.

It's hard to blame the hospitals for their growing financial woes. Turning away uninsured, undocumented patients with medical emergencies would not only violate their moral and legal duties; it would endanger everyone's health by sending sick people back out into the community.

Instead, it is the Federal Government who is to blame. The Federal Government is respon-

sible for immigration and therefore must take responsibility for the costs imposed on hospitals by a broken immigration system

As Congress continues to debate the best approach to reforming our immigration system, we must act now to shore up these hospitals and secure the health of communities throughout the country.

So, along with the bad news, I am also here to deliver some good news: I have joined with Congressman KOLBE to introduce bi-partisan legislation, the Pay for All Your Undocumented Procedures (PAY UP!) Act (H.R. 2934), to require the Federal Government to reimburse health care providers for these costs.

This legislation will bolster our hospitals and safeguard the health of both U.S. citizens and immigrants. I urge my colleagues to strongly support the PAY UP! Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, my vote on the Jones of Ohio amendment to the fiscal year 2006 Science, State, Commerce and Justice Appropriations Act (H.R. 2862) was not recorded. I respectfully request the RECORD to show that I intended to vote "aye" on the Jones amendment, Rollcall vote number 256.

CONCERNING THE DEATH OF PUERTO RICAN WRITER ENRIQUE LAGUERRE

HON. LUIS FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, today, Puerto Rico grieves the loss of one of our most famous and talented writers, Enrique Laguerre.

Born in Moca, Puerto Rico, on July 15th, 1905, Laguerre devoted his life to enrich society by creating literature and promoting the development of theatrical studies. His work as a playwright has taken root on the lives of three generations in our Island and the Hispanic community in general, with masterpieces like "La Llamada", "La Resaca" and "El Laberinto".

In 1975, the Puerto Rico Institute of Culture decorated him with the National Literature Award; in 1985, the Puerto Rico Humanities Foundation declared him the Humanist of the Year; and as recent as in 1999, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Enrique Laguerre, novelist, essayist, playwright, professor, poet and critic, is in fact one of the foundations of Puerto Rico's literary history.

At 99 years of age, Laguerre says farewell to all of us, leaving an invaluable legacy to be cherished by future generations.

As I mentioned, Puerto Rico grieves the loss of Laguerre, but we are also very thankful to the Almighty for the opportunity of having among us someone with such sensitivity and devotion towards the arts, humanities and society.

May God have him in his glory . . . rest in peace, Enrique Laguerre.

IN HONOR OF THE NORTHERN OHIO HATE CRIMES WORKING GROUP, 2005 CLEVELAND CON- FERENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Northern Ohio Hate Crimes Working Group (HCWG), as volunteers from participating agencies gather on June 20 and June 21 for the 4th Annual Hate Crimes Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of the HCWG has been constant since its creation in 1998—to provide programs of prevention and education regarding hate crimes; to build avenues of human rights and civil rights through community outreach, education and awareness programs; to create and strengthen bonds of communication, solutions and action between community leaders, elected officials, educators and law enforcement teams.

The HCWG is comprised of more than fifty organizations from Cleveland and Northern Ohio. The all-volunteer leadership and membership of HCWG reflects a rich palette of cultural diversity—a representation as diverse as the cultural fabric of Northern Ohio. The three-day conference serves to underscore the significant work of the individuals in our community who work with unwavering diligence to address and prevent hate crimes in our community—our police officers, teachers, social workers, business owners and leaders, community leaders and neighborhood volunteers.

As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home."

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of the Northern Ohio Hate Crimes Working Group, sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio and the Cleveland Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Their vigilant dedication to stand united against hate crimes serves as a light of possibility for the attainment of peace and civil justice within our homes, schools and along our streets. This conference offers the Cleveland community a critical forum to gauge our collective and ongoing efforts, and presents the promise of unwavering protection of civil and human rights for every one of us.

SENATE APOLOGY: LONG OVERDUE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of several issues of historical and contemporary significance involving racial violence in the State of Mississippi.

On Friday, June 10, 2005, the Washington Post ran an article detailing the story of James

Cameron; the only living survivor of a lynching. Cameron, a 91 year old native of Marion, Indiana, recalled the ordeal in which he was falsely accused of a rape and murder and then attacked by a mob of white citizens after being arrested and jailed. Once the mob had beaten, kicked, and humiliated three innocent men; they were all lynched. At some point during this process, someone cried out to the mob that James Cameron had nothing to do with the murder, and so he was then taken back to jail where he was eventually detained on robbery charges. Today, James Cameron is alive to see the passage of the U.S. Senate Resolution, apologizing for and acknowledging the failure of Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

Though it lacked the signatures of the two Senators representing the State with the most reported incidents of lynching, I commend the United States Senate for their resolution offering a formal apology to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims. In 1900, Congressman George White, an African American, introduced anti-lynching legislation which was fought off tooth and nail. Since then, it has taken more than 100 years for the Congress to offer an apology or acknowledge this failure.

The State of Mississippi has had the most lynching reports in the Nation. Since 1882 there have been 581 reported cases of lynching in the State of Mississippi. That tallies in at a whopping 4.7 reported cases each year. These numbers do not include the unreported cases and those "conspiracy theories" like Raynard Johnson of Kokomo, MS, found in his yard hanging from a tree with a belt wrapped around his neck in 2000.

It has been more than 40 years since the murder of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, who were lynched in Philadelphia, MS, and it has been more than 50 years since the murder of Emmitt Louis Till, who was lynched in Money, MS. Today, the case of the three civil rights workers and the case of Emmitt Louis Till have been re-opened so that the State of Mississippi can finally bring forth resolution in these murders. These cases have one similar thread; they are perpetuated by the fact that there has been no justice rendered.

The issuance of the U.S. Senate's apology, the re-opening of the case of the three civil rights workers and young Mr. Till are long overdue. It has taken our Nation decades to come to grips with these atrocities. The Senate apology and the justice sought in the murders do not mend the perceived racial rift that has transpired, but the actions are definitely a step in the right direction.

IN HONOR OF MR. SHANE MEYERS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman MICHAEL HONDA, to honor Mr. Shane Lee Meyers, who has dedicated the last several years to establishing two websites that provide political information to the public. These websites, including the Election Volunteer Project

(www.electionvolunteer.com) and the Join California site (www.joincalifornia.com), focus on the Santa Clara county area and serve to educate that region's voters in a non-partisan way by providing biographies of candidates for major public office. The Election Volunteer Project intends to eventually expand the websites to include all of northern California and perhaps even the entire state.

Mr. Meyers deserves recognition today for the great interest he has shown in improving the lines of communication between the public and their representatives at both the state and federal levels. A longtime resident of Capitola, he has volunteered a large portion of his time toward the website's public education effort. His efforts toward improving community political awareness are to be commended.

I would also like to add that Mr. Meyers is a recent graduate in electrical engineering from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. He is currently employed by Nokia as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the many accomplishments of Mr. Meyers and wish him continued success in the future.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JOHN YANKEY, PH.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. John Yankey, the Leonard W. Mayo Professor of Family and Child Welfare at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, upon his retirement. His dedication, articulation, and energy toward the education of his students, social and organizational research, and the advancement of social justice touch all who come in contact with him and his work.

Dr. Yankey is a nationally renowned researcher and scholar in multiple areas, including the public human services sector, development of strategic alliances and fundraising among nonprofit organizations, and the related field of strategic planning. During his past 32 years as a professor, he has directed local and national studies in these and other areas. Dr. Yankey was instrumental in founding the Mandel School's Center for Public Sector Leadership, Fundraising Academy, and the Mandel Center for Non-Profit Organizations.

Professor Yankey taught diverse groups of students and consistently received the highest levels of student feedback and appreciation as evidenced by multiple Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards. Though he primarily taught graduate social work students, he also worked with many public officials through the Ohio Executive Institute, an organization he helped to create and direct, as well as the leadership of many non-profit organizations.

Dr. Yankey has held several leadership and advisory positions with organizations such as the American Public Welfare Association and the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. He has authored numerous publications and several popular text books including Skills for Effective Management of Nonprofit Organizations, which has become an important text for social work and nonprofit education programs.

Prior to his service at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Yankey advanced through the West Virginia Department of Welfare from a part-time caseworker to the Assistant Commissioner for West Virginia's Child Welfare program. He has an undergraduate background in both secondary education and in the Baptist faith.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Dr. John Yankey for his immeasurable contribution to the public and private human services sectors, the body of academic research and insight which he formed, and his drive to and success in shaping future leaders and professionals in human service-related fields.

BUFFALO SOLDIER: MOUND BAYOU
RESIDENT, ONE OF AMERICA'S
LAST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Rev. C.L. Woodley. Rev. Woodley currently presides in Mound Bayou, Mississippi and is one of the last Buffalo Soldiers in the Nation. I submit the following article by Robert Smith of the Cleveland News Leader in Cleveland, Mississippi.

The Rev. C.L. Woodley's moral conscience is still powerfully stirred by events he witnessed when he served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

"I pray for America. We're in bad shape and don't know it," the retired African Methodist Episcopal (AME) presiding elder says, reflecting on both past and present.

Woodley, 85, is one of the last of the Buffalo Soldiers—African Americans trained as horse-riding cavalrymen, who served the nation in both peacetime and war from the late 1860s up through the mid 1940s—Native Americans of the Great Plains were the source of the nickname.

A native of Stringtown, Woodley was drafted in 1941 and received his cavalry instruction at Camp Funston, Kansas. He later took part in U.S. military actions in North Africa and Italy.

However, he recalls with a laugh that he had experience as a rider before he trained with horses at Camp Funston. As a youth in the Stringtown area, in southwest Bolivar County, he was a jockey in mule races. Today, he still rides a bicycle in the mornings, he explained.

Turning the pages of his photo album, Woodley commented during an interview at his home about how he and other soldiers had to cross the burning, but not sunken, remains of a bombed ship to get from their vessel to shore when they arrived at Casablanca, Morocco. He became motor-pool sergeant for a contingent of replacement troops, who supported men on the fighting line, and the sound of shells and bombs exploding became a regular feature of their environment. "We got it so bad until you could tell the sound of a German plane from an American plane," he said.

In addition to the dangers of combat, Woodley had disturbing experiences with which he still grapples. Among those experiences was the sight of hungry civilians begging for food—mothers asking U.S. soldiers for bits of their rations to feed to keep the civilians back.

"Our orders were to take that club and beat them back, but I told the commanding

officer I didn't have the heart to do it," he said, adding that he is concerned about how the U.S. treats civilians in present-day conflicts, such as the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I don't know whether we'll ever get out of this war. There are way too many people getting killed," he said, voicing anxiety that America may be losing men and women it will need in the future. He sees a national indifference to the value of life expressed both in our foreign policy and in social practices such as legalized abortion.

"God is not dead," Woodley warns. "I might lie to you but that Bible's going to come true."

When he returned to Mississippi after his Army days, Woodley studied at Campbell College in the Jackson area and became an AME clergyman. He served for more than 40 years as a presiding elder in the church, which means he was responsible for helping the bishop to supervise preachers. He became senior presiding elder of the Eight AME District, comprised of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Woodley settled in Mount Bayou with his wife, Willie Thelma Woodley, who was a native of the historic settlement founded by former slaves of Joe Davis.

Shelton Woodley of Mound Bayou, one of the minister's sons, says his own service in the Vietnam War helped him to appreciate and better understand his father's experiences.

The elder Mr. Woodley, who stays busy keeping up the shrubbery at his home and at the Mound Bayou branch of the Bank of Bolivar County, says he hates to be idle. He recalls how hard work shaped him as a child.

"I picked 200 pounds of cotton in Stringtown, Mississippi, when I was nine years old," he says with a smile.

Most of us are aware of the contributions that men like Rev. C.L. Woodley and the Buffalo Soldiers have made to the preservation of our Nation and our democracy.

In the history of the Buffalo Soldiers there were not only men that served, but women as well. Cathy Williams, the only woman who served in 1866 as a Buffalo Soldier, also deserves recognition by the House; therefore, these are men and women of courage, bravery, and honor.

The remarkable irony of the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and many other African American soldiers like Rev. Woodley is that they fought to preserve the high ideals of liberty, freedom, and democracy; however, they were fighting for principles and privileges that they themselves were being denied on their own soil.

Mr. Speaker and to the Members of Congress, too many times do we celebrate the men and women of our armed services and veterans after they are no longer with us. I ask you to join in saluting Mr. Woodley and the men and women of the Buffalo Soldiers, to ensure him while he is living and well that we are grateful and indebted to him and others like him for his service in the United States Army.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2005, I was absent for several votes for personal

reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: Vote No. 251, Weiner Amendment regarding funding for COPS program, "no"; vote No. 252, Inslee Amendment regarding funding for NOAA, "no"; vote No. 253, Hayworth Amendment regarding contribution to U.N., "no"; vote No. 254, Flake Amendment regarding Cuba "no"; vote No. 255, Hinchey Amendment regarding medical marijuana "no"; vote No. 256, Jones of Ohio Amendment regarding the EEOC "no"; vote No. 257, Hostettler Amendment regarding Southern Dist. of Indiana case "yes"; and vote No. 258, Sanders Amendment regarding Section 215 of PATRIOT Act "no".

IN HONOR OF BISHOP RICHARD R. WILLIAMS AND BISHOP ELAINE WILLIAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Bishop Richard R. Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams, as they are honored by their congregation for founding the Mt. Calvary III Deliverance Outreach Ministries International, Inc., a spiritual haven of assistance, support and services focused on the most vulnerable citizens of our Cleveland community.

Bishop Richard Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams, united in marriage for nearly twenty years, are also unified in their unwavering advocacy and service on behalf of at-risk children, and are united in their outreach work that includes offering educational programs and counseling services to youth and adults who are suffering from HIV and AIDS. Bishop Richard Williams has initiated and supported numerous HIV and AIDS prevention programs throughout our community. He is a certified instructor in the African-American HIV/Aids Program through the American Red Cross, and is state certified in Communicable Disease Management/First Aid.

His remarkable rise from the darkness of his own personal suffering, is an unending source of inspiration and strength for children and adults who are lost in a cycle of pain, struggle and uncertainty. The community outreach and ministry that exists at the heart of Mt. Calvary Ministries begins at home. Over the past eighteen years, Bishop Richard Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams have opened their hearts and homes as foster parents. The Williams' have welcomed the most vulnerable and at-risk children into their lives, from babies, to children, to high-risk teens, offering an abundance of love, guidance, security and hope, where none existed before.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bishop Richard R. Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams, co-founders of the Mt. Calvary III Deliverance Outreach Ministries International, for nearly twenty years of compassionate service as teachers, mentors, foster parents and healers. Their unified commitment, kindness and caring for the children of our community has served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, and will forever reflect faith, hope and light throughout our entire community.

RECOGNIZING MR. THOMAS CONKLIN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous career of Mr. Thomas Conklin, a physician and visionary.

After graduating from Louisiana State Medical School, Dr. Thomas Conklin became board certified in psychiatry and administration and established a private practice in his hometown of Ellington, Connecticut. Dr. Conklin left his practice with twenty years of experience in search of a place where he could administer medicine. In 1992 Dr. Conklin became Director of Health Services at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr. once said upon meeting Dr. Conklin how amazed he was with his dedication, innovation, and willingness. Dr. Conklin saw a lack of attention from the local community towards inmates, especially through proper medical care. Dr. Conklin once called correctional facilities "reservoirs of illness" because these facilities can harbor many diseases like HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis which endanger the local population when released inmates bring these diseases out into the public. Instead of waiting for these diseases to breakout into the public, Dr. Conklin took a proactive approach by beginning a Public Health Model. This revolutionary system established relationships with inmates by using local health physicians and setting up neighborhood health centers.

As a result of Dr. Conklin's persistent efforts, today 100 percent of Hampden County inmates obtain a complete physical exam, and over 90 percent of those inmates being released keep medical appointments in the community. In 1998 the National Commission for Correctional Healthcare selected Hampden County Correctional Center as facility of the year. Dr. Conklin's efforts brought national attention to the growing risks from lack of inmate healthcare within corrections facilities. Dr. Conklin's model now serves as catalyst for other correctional facility health programs nationwide.

Dr. Conklin continues teaching other facilitators about the Public Health Model through producing publications and leading numerous health conferences. As a member of the NCHC-NIJ expert panel on mental illness, he led Hampden County Correction Facility to new groundbreaking achievements. Through his compassion, Dr. Conklin has been able to make his dreams as a visionary become reality for all that helps regardless of their wealth or status. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Conklin's commitment and leadership during his forty years of service as physician and administrator are more than worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 13, I was absent for votes on

rollcall No. 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 241, and "yes" on rollcall No. 242.

THE CASE OF MALACHY
MCALLISTER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my steadfast support of H.R. 2827, a Private Bill for the relief of Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister offered by my friend from New Jersey, Mr. ROTHMAN. I would also like to recognize my colleagues Mr. ENGEL and Mr. KING of New York for their advocacy on behalf of the McAllisters.

Malachy McAllister is an Irish Catholic national who fled to the United States from Belfast in 1988. He left his homeland and moved to New York City with his wife and four children. Since then, Mr. McAllister has been living in the New York metropolitan area, building a new, safe home for his family, abiding by the laws of our land, and contributing to society.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration seems intent on deporting him to a country where his life will be put in danger.

While in Northern Ireland, Mr. McAllister did participate in an Irish National Liberation Army attack on a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and played a role in planning another attack. He was imprisoned from 1981 to 1985, and has paid his debt to society.

When released from prison, he and his family were attacked by British loyalists who fired 26 shots into his home. After fleeing to the United States he applied for political asylum, which was denied to him in 2000 and to his children and deceased wife in 2003. The McAllisters have appealed the decisions to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, but they have no further legal options if the appeal is denied.

The House and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff should act to ensure that Mr. McAllister and his family can stay in America. H.R. 2827 makes Malachy, Nicola and Sean eligible for permanent resident status and halts pending deportation proceedings. If Mr. McAllister is returned to Northern Ireland, he will be in constant and immediate danger of persecution because of his political and religious beliefs and retribution for his past affiliations.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I believe the McAllisters should be granted political asylum. In the wake of September 11, we must make sure to balance security concerns with the historical role of the United States as a place of safe harbor for individuals fleeing political oppression. Mr. McAllister is the first person to express regret for his past actions and sorrow that they have led to his family's current position. He and his children deserve to live free of fear and continue building their American Dream.

IN HONOR OF MARDELLE
RETZLOFF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mrs. Mardelle Retzloff, upon the occasion of her retirement following forty-five years of outstanding service and ministry to others, in and out of the classroom.

Inspired by a true calling of spiritual and humanitarian duty, Mrs. Retzloff initiated her journey as an educator in 1954, when she began working at Jack and Jill Nursery School in her native city of Aurora, IL. In 1960, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Education. That same year, she accepted a position at Milwaukee Lutheran High School, where she taught English and history. She taught there, and within the Milwaukee Public School District, for nearly twenty years before moving to Cleveland.

In 1979, Mrs. Retzloff joined the staff at St. Paul Lutheran School in Westlake. Her devoted service at St. Paul's has enhanced the lives of two generations of children in her kindergarten classroom. Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Retzloff, her husband, Richard, and her children, Barbara and John, have offered their strength and hope to the most vulnerable children of our community. As foster parents to thirty-six children, Mr. and Mrs. Retzloff have given these children a loving, stable home, offering light and hope where none existed before.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mardelle Retzloff, for her years of dedicated service as teacher, mentor, foster parent and friend. Her commitment, kindness and caring for the children of our community has served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, and will forever reflect faith, hope and light throughout our entire community. I wish Mrs. Retzloff and her family an abundance of peace, health and happiness, today, and in all the years to come.

INTRODUCTION ON THE GROSS
OVERCHARGING UNDERMINES
GASOLINE ECONOMICS, OR
GOUGE ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Gross Overcharging Undermines Gasoline Economics, or GOUGE Act.

As the travel season approaches, many children are out of school and families are happily looking forward to vacations. What they won't be happy about is the skyrocketing cost of getting to their destinations. Unfortunately, whether traveling on the road or in the air, this summer's vacationers will be hit hard by the escalating cost of gasoline.

From March to April of 2005, the cost to fill up a tank of gas rose by more than 10 percent. That's more than twice the increase for the same period last year! But the detrimental

effects of high gas prices don't just stop at the pump—they domino throughout every segment of the economy. For a basic item like a loaf of bread, it costs more to fertilize the wheat, more to transport the wheat to the baker, more for the plastic bag to package the bread, and more to get it to the grocery store.

Meanwhile, President Bush has suggested little to lessen the impact of high gas prices. In fact, the President doesn't believe anything can be done. In April 2005, he was quoted as saying, "An energy bill wouldn't change the price at the pump today. I know that and you know that."

With all due respect, Mr. President, plenty can and must be done. The Internet is full of comments from people reporting sudden gasoline price increases. In some cases, consumers have witnessed a 10-cent increase in less than 24 hours. There is no possible reason or explanation for these overnight increases. While states across the country are doing what they can to deal with complaints, they have limited recourse to make lasting, beneficial changes until there are consistent federal guidelines.

The GOUGE Act that I am introducing today addresses federal guidelines against gas gouging in four parts. First, the bill imposes a penalty on gas retailers who raise prices on any given day at a rate that is twice the inflation rate. Prices are compared to a base price index derived from the contract price on the New York Mercantile Exchange and adjusted for regional variances. These variances take into account stringent pollution controls, altitude requirements, and special reformulations across the country. The penalties would be no less than \$5000 for the 1st offense, no less than \$10,000 for the 2nd offense, and no less than \$25,000 for the 3rd offense or thereafter.

A steady supply of oil is critical to cost effective gasoline production as well as national security. The second part of my bill helps to ensure this supply through use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

Following the oil embargo in 1975, the SPR was created to provide a domestic inventory of crude oil, and was intended to be used in emergency situations when the supply of crude oil to the United States is disrupted. The first such use of the SPR was in 1991 during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by then President George H. W. Bush.

The current Administration, however, has a very different policy on the SPR. In November 2001, President George W. Bush ordered the SPR be filled to its current 700 million barrel capacity with oil from the government's share federally leased oil sites. Since then, maintaining this capacity has had a detrimental effect on oil price increases. First, continuing to fill the SPR at the same time it is 98% full takes oil from the open market, decreasing supply and thereby potentially increasing prices. Second, these additional fills to the SPR are being made while crude prices remain high and volatile. My bill suspends these new fills and releases an additional million barrels per day onto the open market for 30 days to significantly ease market concerns that lead to artificially inflated prices. The laws of supply and demand clearly support this idea as a basic tenet of economics.

Third, the GOUGE Act directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to report on anti-trust practices throughout the oil industry and

to make recommendations to protect consumers from price gouging. This report is essential for putting the oil industry on notice and developing sound federal price gouging legislation.

Finally, my legislation establishes a Pricing and Economic Impact Commission to review the effect of oil supply and demand on the U.S. economy and national security. The Commission will be comprised of 23 members. The President will appoint 11 members total (including at least 1 each) from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Office of Science and Technology. There will also be 12 members appointed by the House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, our economy depends on reasonable gasoline prices to produce and transport items we use everyday. Without some kind of protection, we all pay higher prices for everything from food to pharmaceuticals. Now that the bubble on fuel cost has burst, prices will only increase. Without action, the supply demands of this summer will soon give way to increased requirements for the winter heating. My legislation works to protect consumers from arbitrary price increases by gas retailers, make effective use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and monitor price irregularities in the oil industry.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MAJOR STEVEN O'DELL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of Major Steven O'Dell who is retiring after serving our nation's military with distinction for 25 years.

Major O'Dell as born in St. Joseph, Missouri. Major O'Dell received a BS in Criminal Justice from Missouri Western State College and a Masters of Science Degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University. Major O'Dell was commissioned in August 1980. He also attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Major O'Dell has received numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding efforts in the United States Army. These decorations and badges include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Southwest Asian Service Medal. Major O'Dell has not been able to achieve this level of distinction on his own, however, and I would be remiss if I did not recognize the support, love I and encouragement that his family has offered to him throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Major O'Dell for his exceptional commitment to his fellow soldiers, the United States Army, and the safety and security of America. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Major O'Dell, his wife Julia and their daughters Sarah, Amanda, and Katherine all the best.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH VETERANS COMMITTEE OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Polish Veterans Committee of Cleveland, Ohio, as they commemorate the 85th Anniversary of The Battle of the Vistula River.

The people and leaders of Poland, determined to protect their newly reacquired independence, were poised and committed to defend their borders from foreign invaders. The invasion of Poland was a key component in Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin's strategy of forcing the spread of communism throughout central and western Europe. On August 13, 1920, the Soviet Red Army descended just outside the Polish capital of Warsaw. The Battle of Warsaw had begun, and raged on for the next fifteen days. Polish forces, commanded by Jozef Pilsudski, counter-attacked from the south, forcing Russian troops to withdraw east.

This unexpected Polish victory, known as "The Miracle at the Vistula" severely crippled the Soviet army. Both Polish and Soviet forces sustained tens of thousands of casualties, and thousands more were injured or missing. The Polish triumph stunned political leaders around the world, as most expected the Red Army to secure a swift collapse of Warsaw, and a complete communist takeover of Poland.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute of the Polish Veterans Committee, as they honor the sacrifice, courage and heart of Polish veterans who bravely defended their homeland during the Battle of the Vistula River, 85 years ago. The Miracle at the Vistula continues to serve as a striking reminder that humankind's fundamental quest for freedom and justice is far stronger than a formidable army. The Miracle at the Vistula reflects our modern day hope of liberty, peace and justice rising for all veterans and civilians, in Cleveland, Ohio, in Warsaw, Poland, and throughout the world.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS P. DEVORE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the exceptional services which Encinitas Union School District Superintendent Douglas P. DeVore has performed for the students of San Diego City Schools and for our great Nation. Superintendent DeVore's leadership, commitment to excellence and vision for the future has inspired students in San Diego for the past 11 years. For the past 36 years, Dr. DeVore has dedicated his life to public education and I believe it is only fitting that he be recognized by this body.

Superintendent DeVore began his career as a middle school science and math teacher in Santa Barbara, California. Dr. DeVore moved

on to high school and became the Science Department Chair in the Fullerton High School District, where he also served as the football coach. Superintendent DeVore's commitment to education next took him to the Placentia Yorba Linda School District where he entered school administration as an Assistant Principal. It was not long before Dr. DeVore became Principal DeVore in the Centralia School District. In 1993, Superintendent DeVore completed his doctorate and in 1994 he made the move to Encinitas Union School District where he was selected as Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. In 1997, Dr. DeVore became Superintendent.

Under Superintendent DeVore's leadership, the Encinitas Union School District has gained statewide recognition for excellence. With his dedication and inspiration, every school in the District became a California Distinguished School and two became National Blue Ribbon Schools. The ninth school in the District, El Camino Creek, was built under Dr. DeVore's supervision. Over the past 11 years, Superintendent DeVore guided the District in formulating an Asset Management Plan to safeguard District assets and ensure the District's vision for the future as well as the modernization of all schools in the district. He also worked on the development of a District Facilities Master Plan to ensure equity among all schools. Superintendent DeVore served as President of the Association of Low Wealth Schools, Board Member of the Classroom of the Future Foundation and sat on the Board of Governors for the North Coastal Consortium for Special Education.

Superintendent DeVore has continually gone above and beyond the responsibilities of his office. He has served as a teacher, a leader and an inspiration to all who know him. Dr. DeVore has taken the Encinitas Union School District into the 21st Century in terms of technology and student progress and provided a great example for its future leaders. One of his favorite sayings is "all about the relationships." I agree. In fact, that is what I will miss the most . . . the great relationship we shared. Doug's straightforward manner has always been helpful to me and I will never forget that. Dr. DeVore will retire as District Superintendent on July 30, 2005. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best success as he starts a new chapter in his life.

CONGRATULATING JEFFREY REISENAUER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeffrey Reisenauer on his receipt of the Congressional Award Gold Medal. As you know, this distinction is the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions, and Mr. Reisenauer is a well-deserving recipient of this award.

Through hard work and commitment, Jeffrey has become a leader in his community. Mr. Reisenauer, 19 years old, acknowledges the significant effect that the Boy Scouts has had on his life. Jeffrey has stated, "The skills and

values you learn can bring lifelong benefit[s]." Jeffrey has certainly amassed a number of such skills, as a high school varsity athlete, and captain of his high school ice hockey team. He has also passed the benefit of his skills and work ethic along to younger athletes, by coaching youth roller hockey teams, and by assisting with player development clinics.

Mr. Reisenauer has demonstrated his ability to tackle life's challenges by training for, and embarking on a 16-day backpacking trek through the southwestern United States. This experience, at the Boy Scout High Adventure Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, was best summed up by Mr. Reisenauer in his own words. "You learn to go beyond what you think are your physical and mental limits. It was the most challenging and rewarding experience of my life."

By applying the principles of dedication, hard work, and commitment, Jeffrey Reisenauer has become a shining example for others to follow. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jeffrey Reisenauer on his accomplishments and on his receipt of the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARC OF HILO AND LANAKILA

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arc of Hilo and Lanakila for their hard work and dedication in improving the quality of life for people with developmental or other disabilities in Hawaii. I also want to pay tribute to the many achievements and contributions of Michael Gleason, the Arc of Hilo's executive director, and Marian Tsuji, President/CEO of Lanakila. The Arc of Hilo and Lanakila are a Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program (often referred to as JWOD), which provides job skills and training to those who are blind or who have other severe disabilities so they may earn good wages and benefits and gain a greater independence and the quality of life. Overall, the JWOD program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social support programs such as welfare and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The Arc of Hilo's mission is to improve the quality of life for people with developmental and other disabilities in Hawaii through educational, recreational, vocational, and skill training as well as employment and residential opportunities. Lanakila's mission is to offer programs and services for adults with cognitive, physical, social or age-related challenges that build and support higher levels of independence and an improved quality of life. By employing people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, the Arc of Hilo and Lanakila are able to increase independence and self-esteem by helping these individuals enjoy full participation in their communities and market their JWOD skills to other public/private sector employers.

Demonstrating an excellent federal-private sector partnership, NISH, NIB, and local non-

profits such as the Arc of Hilo and Lanakila enhance the opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment. Through the JWOD program, the Arc of Hilo provides employment opportunities and training for 60 people with visual and other severe disabilities enabling them to lead more productive and meaningful lives, support their families, and gain important work experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the important contributions of the Arc of Hilo and Lanakila in the great aloha state of Hawaii. I commend all persons who are committed to and work towards enhancing employment opportunities for people with visual and other severe disabilities.

IN HONOR OF JACK KASHUBECK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Jack Kashubeck, U.S. Veteran, internationally known author, poet, artist and lecturer, whose inspiring work rises beyond the borders of Cleveland, bridging our community with the great poets, writers and artists throughout the world.

His extensive body of work reflects a personal passage of exploration, a journey of experience, as he explores the cultures, history and people of distant lands. Mr. Kashubeck's introspective and poignant observations serve to highlight the human spirit, revealing the common elements of humanity that connect every one of us.

From Egypt, to South America, to Cleveland, Mr. Kashubeck's poetry and prose reflects upon the confining boundaries and soaring possibilities dually inherent within the human condition, offering us an introspective look back, and a hopeful vision rising on the horizon.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Jack Kashubeck, whose evolving life's work reflects the core of our existence—the tragedy and the triumph. The heart and soul of any society is held aloft by the artists who flourish within it, and the poetic works of Jack Kashubeck, words that pierce the darkness and carry critical social issues into the rational light of day, serve to elevate the Cleveland community, and far beyond.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DIANE FURNAS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Diane Furnas' retirement as Chair of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Since her

election in 2003 as the first female Chair of the NAFCU Board, Ms. Furnas has been a leader in the credit union community both nationally and within the great state of Texas.

For the past two years, Ms. Furnas has been balancing her time as NAFCU Chair and President/CEO of Southwest Airlines Federal Credit Union, headquartered in my District. At her credit union, Ms. Furnas has fostered several savings programs targeted to today's youth at her credit union by teaching the importance of saving through targeted programs ranging from kindergarten through college. She has promoted financial education programs and has armed her members with protecting themselves against identity theft.

Throughout her tenure as Chair of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Ms. Furnas worked tirelessly to enhance the federal credit union charter by working with Congress for regulatory relief legislation for credit unions. As Chair, she has also helped maintain NAFCU's status as a leading credit union trade association. She was first elected to the NAFCU Board in 1998, the same year she received NAFCU's prestigious "Professional of the Year" award. Ms. Furnas is also the silver award recipient in the 2005 Society of National Association Publications Excel Awards for a column published in The Federal Credit Union magazine.

I rise today to congratulate Ms. Diane Furnas on all of her fine work throughout her illustrious tenure as Chair of NAFCU. With her more than 30 years' experience in the credit union community, there is no doubt in my mind that our good friends at NAFCU will feel a great void once Ms. Furnas steps down. Ms. Furnas deserves our heartfelt thanks for her years of dedicated service and our best wishes for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, due to attendance at my daughter's school graduation on June 15, 2005, I was regrettably absent during the following votes.

Please add to the official record how I would have voted on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 254—"nay," rollcall No. 255—"yea," rollcall No. 256—"nay," rollcall No. 257—"yea," rollcall No. 258—"nay."

THE LONG TERM CARE SUPPORT AND INCENTIVE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue facing our community: the affordability of long-term care. People today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before.

When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the average life expectancy was 23. In the United States today, life expectancy is 83 years.

While this increased life expectancy is allowing us to live fuller lives, it is also presenting us with serious financial challenges. It is estimated that more than 40 percent of those who turn 65 will spend some time in a nursing home. Long-term care is expensive. On average, a year's nursing home charges can range from \$60,000 to \$70,000.

My own family had to make difficult emotional and financial decisions when my father needed care. My dad was a pediatrician, and always lived a full life. When he needed care, my sisters and I struggled to find the perfect place for him to live.

We wanted to make sure he was happy and received high quality medical care. We searched for months to find the right place for our dad and we learned very quickly how expensive long-term care is.

My experience with my dad renewed my commitment to improve our long-term care system. I took on this mission in Congress and I am pleased today to reintroduce the Long Term Care Support and Incentive Act. This much needed legislation will make a real difference for San Diegans caring for older family members.

First, the bill will give a \$4,000 tax credit for seniors with long-term care needs and their caregivers. We know how many sacrifices families make to take care of their loved ones. They miss work, or in some cases are forced to give up their jobs. They pay for expensive medical supplies and equipment, and bare the burden of enormous medical bills. This tax credit will help ease their financial burden.

The second section of my legislation will establish a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums. As the long-term care needs in our community increase, we must face the reality that many seniors do not have family or friends to take care of them full time.

This is particularly important to women. Women live longer than men. Often times, women are the primary caregivers for their husbands. After their husbands pass away, there is often no one around to take care of them.

Long-Term Care Insurance can help fill this gap, but premiums can be expensive. My legislation will make long-term care insurance more affordable by allowing individuals over 65 to deduct 75 percent of the cost of their premiums and individuals under 65 to deduct 50 percent of the cost of their premiums.

In addition, I have included several important consumer protections in the bill to ensure that people are purchasing responsible insurance plans that will adequately meet their long-term care needs.

The bill requires plans to include: Mandatory Inflation Protection, A Lifetime Deductible Requirement that ensures policy holders must only pay their deductible one time in their lifetime, Mandatory Interchangeability so that individuals can determine where their benefits are spent, A Care Coordination program that ensures seniors receive assistance in planning and securing the services they need.

By encouraging people to plan ahead for the future and purchase Long-Term Care Insurance, we can ensure that seniors live dignified and independent lives. I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to work with me to pass it quickly into law.

BOEING-AIRBUS WTO DISPUTE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today concerning the recent dispute between Airbus and Boeing, which has developed into a clash between the European Union and the United States.

The dispute is long and complicated and both sides are convinced they are right. Nevertheless, one incontrovertible fact remains: the EC/EU have given Airbus massive subsidies over the past three decades, which Airbus used to buy market share and skew competition against U.S. companies, mainly Boeing.

The 1992 US-EC Agreement outlined the maximum amount of governmental support and subsidies a state could provide in aircraft production, while calling for progressively reducing subsidies. Further, Airbus agreed to provide a considerable amount of transparency in their business dealings, a standard they continue to ignore when it is not completely advantageous to them. The 1992 agreement presented Airbus with the best option, but they failed to abide by its terms. As a result, the U.S. terminated the 1992 agreement in October, 2004 and, looked to the WTO as the international body to address this trade matter.

The EU continues to provide Airbus with massive subsidies, which undermine the ability of Boeing to compete on a level field. If the EU continues to write off billions of euros in Airbus debt, how can Boeing fairly compete?

Despite Europe's repeated flaunting of the terms of the 1992 agreement, the US pressed the EU to commit itself to fairer trade policies. As we all know, the EU refused to back down and continued their hard line stance regarding aircraft subsidies.

Reluctantly, the U.S. government filed papers with the WTO so that a panel of judges could hear the complaint, a step our government does not take lightly. We would prefer to arrive at a private understanding with the EU, one that does not resort to this WTO panel. However, the ED's insistence on continuing to provide massive subsidies and refusing to reach a compromise, have forced us to act.

I fully support the US government and Boeing in their dispute with the EU and Airbus. I believe that the EU must cease providing massive subsidies, which undermine competition and unfairly undercut Boeing. American workers can compete with anyone in the world. I'm only asking that this Congress and the Administration do everything possible to make sure that the competition is fair and equal for both sides.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN VETERANS HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2005

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman WALLY HERGER, in-

troduced today, the American Veterans Homeownership Act of 2005, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

As you know, under current law, the States of Alaska, California, Oregon, Texas and my home state of Wisconsin, have the authority to issue tax-exempt bonds, which are called Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMBs). The proceeds of these bonds are used to finance mortgage loans to veterans who served on active duty before 1977 and who applied for the financing before the date of 30 years after the last date of which the veteran left active service.

As a result of the limits under current law, veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia and the 1991 Persian Gulf War are not eligible for these mortgage loans that are financed by QVMBs. In addition, the QVMB program has, in effect, ended or is ending in the five affected States due to the current 3D-year time limitation.

My legislation, the American Veterans Homeownership Act of 2005, would allow all veterans in these five States to be eligible for QVMB-financed mortgage loans by repealing the requirement that veterans receiving loans financed by QVMBs must have served before 1977 and would provide new State limits for these bonds. These veterans deserve the homeownership opportunities this program provides. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting these veterans and cosponsor this important legislation.

THE WOMEN'S OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNECOLOGIST MEDICAL ACCESS NOW ACT (THE WOMAN ACT)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act, the WOMAN Act. This bill will ensure that every woman has direct access to her ob-gyn.

I believe women should not need a permission slip to receive ob-gyn care. Unfortunately, that is the reality faced by many women when they need to see their doctor. Numerous managed care plans require women to visit their primary care physicians before seeking the health care services they need from the providers they want. Denying direct access, or forcing women to jump through numerous bureaucratic hoops to see their ob-gyn is not acceptable treatment.

The WOMAN Act recognizes women have different medical needs than men and the significant role ob-gyns play in women's health. Women who see an ob-gyn on a regular basis are more likely to receive important screening services such as pelvic exams, as well as counseling on critical reproductive health issues. My legislation removes the barriers complicating women's access to their doctors. Women will no longer have to contend with the gatekeeper system that can prevent or delay appropriate care.

It is easy to understand what a difference direct ob-gyn access makes in women's health care. Imagine, for a moment, a woman in San

Diego who works 45 hours a week and has limited sick and vacation time. Now, imagine she has an urgent medical problem requiring an ob-gyn visit. On Monday, she calls from work to make an appointment with her primary care physician. If she is lucky, she gets an appointment for the following morning. She takes time off Tuesday to go see her doctor. Her primary care doctor agrees she should be seen by her ob-gyn and gives her a referral. Tuesday afternoon she returns to work and calls her ob-gyn for an appointment. The doctor is in surgery on Wednesday, but they offer her an appointment on Friday morning. On Friday she takes another morning off from work and finally, after almost a week, gets the care she needs. The unnecessary referral process resulted in her taking an extra morning off work and delayed her proper medical care by 5 days. The patient, employer, primary care physician, and health plan provider would have saved money and time if the patient had been able to go directly to her ob-gyn.

The public overwhelmingly supports direct access to ob-gyn care. A survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University found that 82 percent support direct access legislation and 63 percent would support it even if their health insurance costs increased.

While serving in the California State Assembly, I heard from many women who experienced the same problems I have outlined today. After meeting with women, obstetricians and gynecologists, health plan representatives, and providers in the State of California, I wrote the state law allowing women direct access to their ob-gyn. That law was a good first step; however, it still does not cover women enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. This means that even if a woman lives in a state with direct access protections, like California, she may not be able to see her ob-gyn without a referral if she is covered by a federally regulated ERISA health plan.

I believe the time has come to make direct access to an ob-gyn a national standard.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation into law.

WOMEN OF BURMA DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, June 19 marks the 60th birthday of Burma's Democracy Leader Aung San Suu Kyi. She has been held under house arrest since May 30, 2003—this is the third time since 1988 that the regime has confined Suu Kyi to house arrest for political reasons—after narrowly escaping an assassination attempt by Burma's ruling military regime in May of 2003. June 19 also marks the Women of Burma Day. In recognition of this day I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courageous and honorable efforts made by Suu Kyi and other Burmese women who continue to struggle for democracy, human rights, and an end to brutal dictatorship in Burma.

Today, Burmese women are a driving force in the fight for freedom and democracy in Burma. They inspire us all in their courage to

carry out non-violent activities, challenging the military regime's repressive and violent rule. Burmese women are struggling to save a homeland that continues to deteriorate under military dictatorship.

The military regime's response to non-violent political protestors has been abominable. Since winning the popular election by a landslide in 1988, supporters of democracy in Burma have been killed, arrested, imprisoned, and tortured by the thousands. Fearing certain imprisonment and death, many of these democracy supporters have fled the country.

I would like to honor ten Burmese women who have dedicated their lives to improving the health, welfare, and future of Burma's people. With unwavering commitment, these women have sought to address critical issues affecting the people of Burma. These honorees have been involved in a diverse range of activities in the arena of social welfare and democracy and human rights. Eight of the honorees, Daw Aye Aye Mar, Daw Hla Hla Moe, Ma Mi Suu Pwint, Ma Nilar Thein, Ma Su Su Nway, Ma Than Than Htay, Ma Tin Tin Myint and Ma Zinmar Aung have endeavored to continue the ongoing struggle for freedom, human rights, and democracy in Burma. Two of the honorees, Dr. Myint Myint Khin and Ma Than Myint Aung, are deeply involved in organizing and engaging in social welfare and education programs. Demonstrating a unifying commitment to the people of their country, these extraordinary women have pursued their life's work with courage and perseverance. In the course of their lives, many have served, or continue to serve, lengthy jail sentences dealt by Burma's repressive military regime. I request that we honor and show solidarity with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all of "2005 Profiles in Courage" honorees. We should celebrate their achievements, and honor their personal sacrifice and vision for the future of Burma.

Democracy will come to Burma soon. I believe that one day, the people of Burma will have a chance to openly honor these women and I am very sure that they will do so with great happiness. For the time being, they need our help, and we need to assist them consistently and strongly so that they will attain the goal to which they have been aspiring for so long.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PANCAKES ON THE PLAZA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Pancakes on the Plaza, an annual fundraising event hosted by the United Way of Santa Fe County in my home state of New Mexico. Pancakes on the Plaza not only raises money but brings people together as New Mexicans from all walks of life volunteer side-by-side to make a difference in Santa Fe County.

Each July 4 on the historic Santa Fe Plaza, hundreds of volunteers prepare and serve pancakes to thousands of attendees whose contributions to United Way directly benefit residents of Santa Fe County.

Pancakes on the Plaza has been held in Santa Fe each Fourth of July since 1975,

building on traditional annual festivities that date back to the 1920's. The Santa Fe Plaza is an appropriate location for this event as it has historically been a multi-cultural gathering place highlighting the unique diversity within the Northern New Mexico community. Pancakes on the Plaza is a celebration of the American spirit of generosity, volunteerism and community-building that raises money to help foster independence for underserved individuals and families of Santa Fe County.

To pull off an event of this scale takes an enormous amount of collaboration: Three 15 by 60 foot tents for cooking and serving pancakes; twelve pancake cooks per tent, flipping cakes on 12 stoves per tent; two batter transporters per tent, per shift; two tent captains per tent, per shift; six Army Reservists taking batter from refrigerated trucks to cook tents; twelve batter mixers; two ham and vegetarian sausage cooks per tent, per shift; four fruit, butter and syrup servers per tent, per shift; four beverage servers per tent, per shift to pour milk, juice and coffee; two milk and juice runners per tent, per shift to rush cold beverages from the trucks to the tents; three refrigerated truck workers per shift to relay ham, vegetarian sausage, juice, milk, butter and batter transporters; two ticket takers per tent, per shift; six stage crewmembers; twelve Girl Scouts to keep the Plaza and table neat and clean; eighteen crew members to set up and break down tents and stoves.

And, of course, a massive amount of goods comes together to serve 10,000 breakfasts: 2,500 pounds of pancake batter; 4,000 pints of milk (regular and chocolate); 300 gallons of fresh-squeezed juice; 100 pounds of locally-roasted gourmet coffee; 600 pounds of fruit; 300 pounds of butter; 3,000 pieces of vegetarian sausages; 1,000 pounds of ham; 14,000 place settings; 12,000 cups; 20,000 packets of sugar and artificial sweetener; 20,000 packets of syrup.

The United Way of Santa Fe County fulfills the mission of "creating lasting change in chronic community conditions" with events such as Pancakes on the Plaza which fund specific programs that target health, learning and self-sufficiency. Yet Pancakes on the Plaza is more than just a fundraiser, this event also features the diverse music, art and crafts unique to Northern New Mexico with many activities for children and families. Locals and visitors alike enjoy the annual July 4th United Way of Santa Fe County Pancakes on the Plaza.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I have participated in Pancakes on the Plaza for several years now. This United Way event raises much needed money for social programs while building community, enhancing lives and creating opportunities in Santa Fe County. Northern New Mexico is a place rich in history and steeped in tradition and I am fortunate to be a part of such wonderful programs as Pancakes on the Plaza.

SECOND OPINION COVERAGE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Second Opinion

Coverage Act—legislation that will ensure the accessibility and coverage of medical second opinions.

Imagine that your doctor tells you that you must undergo radical surgery that may threaten the use of a limb or leave you with a serious chronic condition. Understandably, you would request a second opinion from another physician. Most health care groups see the value in such requests and provide patients with a second opinion. Besides giving patients much needed peace of mind, second opinions can benefit health plans by reducing the number of invasive procedures and result in better patient care through increased dialogue about treatment options.

However, when I was a member of the California State Assembly, I heard from a number of patients who experienced a glitch in their health care coverage. They noticed the absence of a clear process for obtaining medical second opinions. These patients, many struggling with challenging health conditions, had difficulties obtaining second opinions through their health plans.

After meeting with patients, physicians and health groups, I authored a law in California that guarantees coverage of second opinions. Patients, meeting any one of several qualifying conditions, are entitled to a timely second opinion by a "qualified health care professional," within 72 hours in cases of serious or imminent health threat. When another expert is not available within the provider group or network, the organization will pay for an appropriately qualified doctor outside of the plan. Patients are responsible for the costs of applicable co-payments.

The law in California was a good first step. Unfortunately, this legislation does not cover the more than 4 million Californians enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. Nationwide, this translates into almost 51 million persons without guaranteed access to second opinions. This means that one in four insured families are not protected by California's own second opinion law! I believe the time has come to make access to second opinions a national standard.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation into law.

ON THE OCCASION OF FATHER'S DAY: A SALUTE TO RALPH R. SALIMPOUR, MD, DCH, FAAP

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, "Blessed indeed is the man who hears gentle voices call him father!" The name Ralph Salimpour has become synonymous with charity and commitment in the greater Los Angeles area. Indeed, Ralph Salimpour is blessed for selflessly giving him energy and his love, and dedicating his life to those most in need.

Dr. Ralph R. Salimpour is the senior attending physician of the highly acclaimed Salimpour Pediatric Medical Group in Los Angeles. Dr. Salimpour is internationally recognized as a global expert in the fields of Tetanus, Malnutrition, and Rickets and has the largest published series on Tetanus and Rickets in the world.

Dr. Salimpour graduated from medical school at the age of 23 and has practiced medicine on 3 continents over the span of nearly 5 decades. He attended the Shiraz School of Medicine in Iran, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of England, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center—UCLA School of Medicine.

In Iran, Dr. Salimpour emerged as the Director of the Research Institute of Child Health where he described, for the first time, Rickets and its etiology in tropical countries. This pioneering research eventually helped to change the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations for Vitamin D Supplementation in breastfed babies, staving off the debilitating disease in America. His research and his leadership in the treatment of Tetanus cut the mortality rate of this horrific disease from a devastating 100 percent to half of that value, directly resulting in countless saved lives. Dr. Salimpour also tackled the issue of malnutrition in Iran, demonstrating that it resulted from poor education rather than poverty. Dr. Salimpour's scientific and clinical research propelled him to the world's medical center stage, gaining international acclaim for his pioneering research.

After the 1979 Iranian revolution, Dr. Salimpour and his family moved to the United States where Dr. Salimpour, a man nearly in the 6th decade of his life, sat for and successfully passed the rigorous series of exams enabling him to once again practice medicine, this time in America. He has been awarded the prestigious Governor's Commendation from the State of California and the Award of Excellence from California's Vaccine for Children Program. Today, Dr. Salimpour serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the UCLA School of Medicine and is a practicing pediatrician in Los Angeles.

Dr. Salimpour is also a founding Board Member of the NexCare Collaborative, which created a state-of-the-art, highly-innovative and successful call center/web site and communications program aimed at families with young children. This program has assisted more than 100,000 families and helped enroll more than 18,000 children into free or low cost health insurance programs.

Married to his wife Farah for 44 years, the 2 have raised 4 children, Pejman, Sherry, Pedram, and Nilou. Dr. and Mrs. Salimpour also have 6 grandchildren, Koby, Alexa, Branden, Gabriella, Allen, and Ariella. Dr. and Mrs. Salimpour have inspired a love of medicine and children amongst their sons. Doctors Pejman and Pedram Salimpour are practicing pediatricians and leaders in their field.

Mother Teresa once said, "I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy." Dr. Salimpour has improved the human condition by way of perseverance and leadership. He has passed on these ideals to his students as a professor of pediatrics, to his tens of thousands of patients, and to his children and grandchildren. As we approach Father's Day, I salute Dr. Salimpour for his blessings as a "father" to many.

IN RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF U.S. MARINE CORPS CAPTAIN KELLY C. HINZ

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mrs. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and honor the life U.S./Marine Corps Capt. Kelly C. Hinz.

Capt. Hinz was a Marine Corps fighter pilot who died May 2, 2005, from injuries received when the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft he was piloting crashed in Iraq while flying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Hinz was a native of Woodbury, Minn., and a 1993 graduate of St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights, Minn., where he was a member of the State championship downhill ski team, and where his family remained active after their sons had graduated. Capt. Hinz was also a graduate of the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minn., in the District I represent.

Capt. Hinz earned his wings as an aviator in March 2002, after which he and his wife Molly were stationed in San Diego. Capt. Hinz and his wife have one daughter, Abby.

Capt. Hinz comes from a military, and flying, family. Donald Hinz was a retired naval and commercial pilot who died in a plane crash in 2004. In his retirement, Donald Hinz had committed himself to restoring a P-51 C Mustang fighter plane in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen. His brother, Ben Hinz, is also a Marine pilot. His brother Kurt has his private pilot's license, and brother Luke will earn his this summer.

Capt. Hinz inherited a strong sense of duty to his country from his father, and reminds us of the human face of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There have been 19 members of the military from Minnesota who have died in Iraq since 2003. I honor Capt. Hinz for his courageous service to this country, and his commitment to protecting our freedom.

CONGRATULATING HORACE L. DICKERSON, JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Horace L. Dickerson, Jr. for his service to the Social Security Administration and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. Mr. Dickerson began his career at SSA in 1971 and held several field office positions before moving to Social Security's headquarters as a Division Director, and later Director of Disability Operations.

After a stint as the Director of Social Security's Central Records Operations, Mr. Dickerson was promoted to Regional Commissioner for the Dallas Region in 1997. In that role he has ably overseen more than 4,000 employees in 151 field offices and has been responsible for SSA Teleservice Centers in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and part of Arizona.

Mr. Dickerson's work at the Social Security Administration has touched countless lives in these States, where one in every six residents is a Social Security beneficiary. Under his stewardship, SSA has distributed \$49 billion in benefits each year and has processed, on average, 740,000 benefit claims annually.

Since becoming Regional Commissioner, Mr. Dickerson has been recognized several times for his outstanding leadership qualities. He is the two-time recipient of the Award as a Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service. Mr. Dickerson has also been named a Distinguished Executive in Senior Executive Service and received the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award in 1999. Most recently, Mr. Dickerson was inducted as a Fellow into the National Academy of Public Administration, an impressive recognition from his peers of Mr. Dickerson's many accomplishments.

For his service to my constituents, the State of Texas and the country, I offer Mr. Dickerson my most sincere congratulations and wish him the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING RICHARD GALLO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Gallo, owner and president of Gallo Office Products in Indiana, Pennsylvania, who has been named a NFIB Small Business Champion Award Winner for 2005. The NFIB Small-Business Champion award program identifies a smallbusiness activist in each of the 50 States who have distinguished themselves through their involvement and participation in NFIB programs and activities.

Within months of starting his own business in 1992, Richard Gallo joined NFIB and has worked ever since to support Main Street small businesses. As an elected official, candidate for State office, civic leader, and NFIB member, Richard has been a tireless advocate for his community and a supporter for the free enterprise system.

As a committed member for over thirteen years, Richard Gallo is currently serving his second term on the NFIB/Pennsylvania Leadership Council as a vice president. Prior to his election as a LC vice president, Richard served as chairman of the Area Action Council—Pennsylvania's first AAC.

On top of his local NFIB leadership, Rich has supported the NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation Scholarship program, which encourages entrepreneurship in young Americans. Rich has testified before both Congress and the Pennsylvania State legislature. In 1999, Rich testified before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business concerning small-business health plans (formerly known as AHPs). In 2000, he testified before the Pennsylvania House Select Committee on Pharmaceuticals, and in 2004 Richard testified before the Pennsylvania House State Government Committee on Contract Bundling. Rich has represented NFIB at several Presidential events and has also worked actively to help the sales team to recruit new NFIB members, including attending drive-a-longs with sales

representatives. In addition to his extensive activities with NFIB, Richard is a long time community activist. Richard recently retired as Indiana Borough Council vice president and has run three times for the state legislature. In 1994, Richard was named Indiana County's Republican Man of the Year, and he also served as the State Board Vice Chairman of the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry. He is a past president of the Indiana Lions Club, a board member of a local YMCA, an Indiana Midday Rotary Club member, and a member of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Gallo's contribution to America's small businesses, NFIB, and his surrounding community is truly invaluable. I am proud of his efforts to strengthen the economy and the engine of our economy, small business.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation, which expands stem cell research and ensures that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines. This bill will provide hope and opportunity for millions of Americans suffering from chronic and life threatening health conditions. This legislation will also ensure that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines over this research.

On August 9, 2001, President Bush announced that for the first time, Federal funds would be used to support research on human embryonic stem cells, but funding was to be limited to "existing stem cell lines where the life and death decision has already been made." Prior to this decision, no Federal funds had been used to support research on stem cells derived from either embryos or fetal tissue. Previous experiments involving stem cells were conducted privately, with no oversight or public input.

I believe that the expansion of funding to stem cell research is an effective way of moving this science forward. Stem cells offer remarkable potential contributions to medical science and improve the lives of millions of people who suffer from incurable diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimers's, Parkinson's, AIDS, and spinal cord injuries. It may also help us to understand abnormal cell growth that occurs in cancer and birth defects and change the way we develop drugs and test them for safety and potential efficacy.

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan and 69 percent of Americans are in favor of the expansion of stem cell research. This effort is supported by over 200 patient groups, universities, and scientific societies, and has been endorsed by more than 75 national and local newspapers and eighty Nobel Laureates.

It is imperative that we support efforts to improve the quality of life. I am pleased that we have the opportunity to move this important bill forward today, and it is my hope that the Senate will do the same. Unfortunately, the President has indicated that he will veto efforts

to expand stem cell research—even H.R. 810 which only proposes to allow stem cell research on discarded embryos with the donor's consent. In this case, the President is clearly choosing radical ideology over American lives.

THANKING MRS. ROSE AVALOS
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE ALDINE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the work and dedication that Mrs. Rose Avalos, Principal of MacArthur High School, has done in the Aldine Independent School District and North Houston community for the last 33 years. She has led MacArthur High School to become a leader in academic achievement regardless of the socio-economic status of its students.

Mrs. Avalos's strong family upbringing enabled her to commit herself to others in educating the children of her own community. She is a role model for all of Aldine ISD as she was one of the first graduates of MacArthur High School in 1968. After graduating from Sam Houston State University, she went on to become a teacher in Aldine ISD and her success as a teacher led to her promotion as Principal of MacArthur High School in 1994.

Through her leadership, student test scores rose consistently and her commitment to educating all students was evident to everyone in the community when the school reached exemplary status in 2001–02. She gained the respect of her teachers, counselors, coaches, and support and administrative staff by setting high goals for the school and achieving them.

Mrs. Avalos will be greatly missed and thanks to her success, the next principal has a steady foundation to build upon. Again, we applaud the efforts of Mrs. Avalos and wish her well in her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. ZABLE ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a leading San Diego citizen who, on this day, is celebrating his 90th birthday. Walter J. Zable, the founder of Cubic Corporation, has served as the chairman, president and CEO of the corporation for five decades.

Walt Zable formed Cubic in 1951 with just one product and plenty of grit and determination. Today, Cubic Corporation is a \$722 million company that employs 1,200 in the San Diego area and nearly 6,000 employees worldwide.

Prior to forming Cubic in 1951, Mr. Zable was project supervisor in charge of electronics for the Atlas and Terrier missiles, and the microwave and antenna development sections at General Dynamics Convair. His background includes engineering and management posts

with Sperry Gyroscope Company, where he directed development of fire control, guidance, communications, and command and control systems. He also held key technical, scientific and administrative positions with Federal Telecommunications Laboratories of ITT, Flight Research Company, and Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Company.

Before launching his engineering career, Mr. Zable was a professional football player for the Richmond Arrows and the New York Giants. He went on to receive numerous sports honors, including the 1962 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Silver Anniversary All-American Team and induction into William and Mary's Hall of Fame in 1969. In 1971, he established the Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame (NFFCHF) to help preserve the genuine sportsmanship and integrity exhibited in high school and college football.

He credits the Boston school system for his success in business, because "if it weren't for athletics during the depression years, it would have been difficult to go to college," said Mr. Zable, who received a full football scholarship from the College of William and Mary. Today, he's still dedicated to helping other young student-athletes realize their dreams and reach their full academic and athletic potential through the NFFCHF local chapter, which is among more than 100 chapters in the country.

Recognized as Cubic's largest and most visible community relations project, the Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter has helped further the careers of the hundreds of honorees, including sports giants such as former San Diego Charger Junior Seau and Mark Malone, a sports broadcaster and former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback. In 1987, the NCAA acknowledged his contribution to athletics by naming Walter Zable a winner of the Teddy Roosevelt Award, its most prestigious honor. Other winners of this award have included President George Bush, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Senator Leverett Saltonstall.

In addition to his work in helping young student-athletes, Walter Zable and his company give generously to charitable causes, most of them benefiting children. He has also set up a \$10 million endowment that will become effective for the College of William and Mary upon the deaths of Walter and his wife, Betty.

Walter Zable is a humble man who eschews the limelight and would rather see the focus be on his company and its hardworking employees. However, I think even he would be willing to make an exception for this special recognition for reaching his 90th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Walter J. Zable on attaining this significant milestone and wish him many more years in the company of his loving wife and family.

H.R. 1279, THE GANG DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my disappointment with H.R. 1279, the Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act.

The Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act will neither deter youth from entering gangs nor add protections to our community. This legislation increases the use of the death penalty, creates new mandatory minimum sentences, and subjects more juveniles to trial as adults. I believe strongly that criminals must be punished and that we need to do more to deter our youth from entering gangs. However, research shows that these measures do not have their intended effect of reducing crime, have been misapplied based on race, are not the assistance requested by law enforcement, and do not address the reasons given by youth for their participation in gangs. In fact, this bill does nothing to address the real problems facing our youth or the needs of local law enforcement working with youth on a daily basis.

This year, in order to make room for tax cuts for the wealthy, the President and House Republicans have chosen to cut the very programs that provide hope and opportunity for youth. In his Fiscal Year 2006 budget, the President proposed eliminating funding for Safe and Drug Free Schools and freezing funding for after school programs. He also proposed eliminating funding for TRIO programs, which offer the opportunity for disadvantaged students to access higher education and for many job training programs currently serving youth in our communities.

Republicans have also chosen to cut funding for local law enforcement by eliminating funding for the COPS program and Byrne grant dollars which are vital to ensuring our peace officers have the training and manpower they need to keep our communities safe. In addition, Republican Leadership has failed to keep promises to fund juvenile justice programs that promote prevention and early intervention.

Investments in our youth and in local law enforcement will reduce crime and improve the safety of our neighborhoods. Law enforcement needs adequate equipment, training, and personnel. In order to succeed, children need recreational opportunities, a quality education, and role models to provide a positive example. Families need to have safe housing, access to health care, and the opportunities for good-paying jobs. Our priority should be investing in families—not prisons. For these reasons, I opposed H.R. 1279.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO MANUEL PULIDO LÓPEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alfredo Manuel Pulido López, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pulido López is a dentist, an independent journalist and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. As a dentist, trained in protecting and nurturing human life, he could not tolerate the tyrant's incessant abuse of Cuban people. He understood the human condition and he knew that freedom is infinitely superior to the ills of tyranny and repression.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Pulido López was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 14 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Pulido López' wife, Rebeca Rodríguez, described the abhorrent treatment of her husband in a phone call with Reporters Without Borders. She said:

My husband has 11 ailments, seven of them chronic. They include high blood pressure, liver problems, malnutrition and migraines aggravated by cervical osteoporosis. He has permanent bronchitis which affects his breathing and gastric problems that are the cause of rectal bleeding. I don't know all of the problems. The prison officials know. But my husband has not been hospitalized since August 2004. He is in a critical condition and that's the price paid by all those who have wanted to defend human rights in Cuba.

Reporters Without Borders also reports that Mr. Pulido López he has been placed in solitary confinement. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004, he has been "held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees and other forms of condemnable abuse.

Mr. Pulido López is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian dungeons are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alfredo Manuel Pulido López and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 16, 2005 during rollcall vote No. 268. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 2862, the FY06 Science, State, Justice, Commerce appropriations bill.

COMMENDING COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 11-08 D1NR AT AIR STATION CAPE COD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-08 D1NR for their distinguished service at Air Station Cape Cod. As a

former member of the Coast Guard Reserve, and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus, I know full well the vital role that Auxiliaries carry out. They are an integral and valued part of the Coast Guard family.

I commend to my colleagues the following article from *The Navigator*, which showcases the dedicated efforts of Auxiliaries like the men at Air Station Cape Cod.

[From the *Navigator*, Spring 2005]

VALUED SERVICE

CAPE COD.—Members of Auxiliary Flotilla 11-08 DiNR just surpassed the one year milestone in their volunteer service to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

A dedicated team of seven Auxiliaries has been providing an extremely valuable service in the Aviation Engineering Department of Air Station Cape Cod since November 2003.

By performing administrative tasks, which require meticulous attention to detail and frequent repetition, they freed up over 300 work hours that would have otherwise been a burden on the over tasked active duty workforce.

Aircraft maintenance technicians, who also serve as flight crewmembers, are frequently task-saturated with flying duties related to search and rescue, law enforcement, and Homeland Security missions.

When they are not flying, the active duty workforce is fully employed with HU-25 and HH-60 maintenance responsibilities. The regular presence of trained volunteers to assume critically important administrative functions has had an extremely positive effect on aircraft and crew readiness postures.

Working together in cohesive teams, Auxiliary volunteers dedicate as much as 15 hours per week to administrative tasks related to aircraft maintenance.

One of the first and most successful projects this team took on was the monthly audit of the aircraft maintenance logbooks for the eight aircraft assigned to Air Station Cape Cod.

Working teams of two, these Auxiliaries compared the computer printed configuration reports of all installed components to the detailed component history reports. Ensuring that the lists of installed components matched the component history reports was an arduous task requiring great attention to detail.

An accurately performed logbook audit required that each component be cross checked for the proper serial number and part number against two computer generated reports for all major airframe and engine installations. With over 240 such components per aircraft, this monthly review normally consumes eight to ten man hours per month.

Another vital maintenance support role that the Auxiliary recently performed was a comprehensive audit of the technical publications library.

Semi-annual audits of the technical publications library are required to ensure that vital technical publications are updated with the latest revisions. Not only did the dedicated Auxiliary team complete the audit, they also performed several page changes to aircraft technical manuals that are used by technicians on a regular basis.

The Auxiliary team drew from their diverse work experience to develop processes that increased the efficiency of each hour dedicated to administrative actions. In the classic case of working smarter to avoid the need to work harder, they created a photographic archive of all tools requiring calibration and cataloged them in an easy to use binder. This made tracking tool locations and calibration intervals much easier.

With aircraft tools and avionics test sets distributed among five different shops and

two separate hangars, the Auxiliary team had a daunting task ahead of them.

Fortunately, their previous work experience lent itself well to the arduous task and they made great progress. One of their first initiatives was to catalog each tool according to its location and function in a binder complete with digital photographs which they took themselves. This greatly eased the burden of sorting through the Precision Measurement Equipment Lab (PMEL) report which lists the items that were due for calibration.

By relieving active duty members of certain administrative functions, the Auxiliary team has significantly enhanced productivity and morale. Auxiliary members committed over 400 hours in direct support of aviation maintenance activities. Representing a significant departure from the traditional uses of Auxiliary members at air stations, the innovative management practices of this Auxiliary team made it possible for active duty members to be relieved of support roles and assigned to maintenance or flight related tasks.

This was only possible because the highly talented Auxiliary team gained the skill and ability to act autonomously within the scope of their responsibilities after receiving initial training and guidance from active duty members.

The Auxiliary members also represent a degree of continuity that, as a result of frequent job rotations within the enlisted workforce, has historically resulted in frequent learning curves. Realizing the impact of their commitment, technicians on the hangar deck accept the Auxiliary members as part of the team that makes Air Station Cape Cod one of the best units in the Coast Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce legislation to provide assistance to Native American entrepreneurs throughout the country. This bill authorizes grants that Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) can apply for to provide assistance with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians.

I introduced this legislation during the 107th and 108th Congresses and it passed the House overwhelmingly both times but it did not pass the Senate. I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today and wish to thank Small Business Committee Chairman MANZULLO, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, as well as Representatives OBERSTAR, CASE, GRIJALVA, ABERCROMBIE, McDERMOTT, REYES, HONDA, HASTINGS, PALLONE, YOUNG, TOWNS, MATHESON, HERSETH, CUBIN, MCCOLLUM, and MORAN for their support.

While economic data shows much uncertainty for our national economy, the effects from our struggling economy are desperate on our Native American lands. The unemployment rate is over 10 times the national average on Native American lands and Native Americans and Native Alaskans have almost

double the poverty rate than the national average.

There is, however, a bright spot. Small business creation has drastically increased on tribal lands, which has led to job growth in these areas. In fact, in recent decades, Native American business growth and gross receipts have dwarfed overall small business growth rates and total gross receipts. You can see why there is a reason to be optimistic. As we all know, small businesses are the fuel for the engine of economic growth. That is why it is so imperative that we take steps to help ensure that small business development reaches the places in this country where economic prosperity has yet to be realized.

My bill ensures that Native Americans, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians seeking to create, develop and expand small businesses, have full access to the counseling and technical assistance available through the SBA's SBDC program. The business development tools offered by the SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

Additionally, this legislation requires a state receiving a small business development center program grant to request the advice of the governing bodies of Indian tribes, corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as appropriate, on how best to provide assistance to such members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance. This ensures assistance from the SBDC that is culturally sensitive and appropriate.

It is clear we can do more to aid Native American entrepreneurs. Not enough has been done to assist Native Americans in building their businesses, which in turn helps benefit their communities. I hope to change that with my proposal.

I look forward to passage of this bill, and to the day it is signed into law.

ON THE PASSING OF MS. BRENDA PILLORS, CHIEF OF STAFF TO REP. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my deepest condolences and prayers to the family, friends and colleagues of my good friend Brenda Pillors, especially to her partner Mr. Marwan Burgan and my good friend and colleague Congressman ED TOWNS from New York.

I first met Brenda at the very beginning of her congressional career over 25 years ago when I was a congressional staffer to my predecessor Representative Ronald V. Dellums and she was a Congressional Black Caucus fellow. Her legacy of service to this institution, the CBC, and the 10th Congressional District of New York is one of the most memorable careers during a truly historic era. Serving as legislative assistant and eventually as legislative director, Brenda was instrumental

when former Representatives Shirley Chisholm and Walter Fauntroy traveled to visit Haitian refugees in detention camps. My recollections of their great work continue to inspire my activism for rights of Haitians.

As one of the last two Chisholm staff still working on the Hill, Brenda played a leadership role, in coordinating the Congressional Black Caucus memorial service that Congressman TOWNS and I organized earlier this year. Brenda and I sat next to each other during Shirley Chisholm's funeral in Florida, and I will always remember those moments, sharing our grief and our memories of Chisholm's legacy. Looking back at that time, I never imagined that we would be mourning another great woman only six months later.

Brenda Pillors was solid as a rock. Humble, caring, wise and considerate, the knowledge, presence and spirit of Brenda will be missed by all. And her respect, her dignity, and her beauty will be remembered by many. My thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved her.

PATIENT NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH, AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVEN- TION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I'd like to begin by commending the distinguished Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I am most grateful for your leadership on and commitment to moving this important legislation forward.

I'd also like to extend a special thanks to my friend and colleague, Mr. BOB MENENDEZ. He has been a great partner over the last few years as we've worked on this initiative together.

We represent different parts of the country and belong to different political parties, but we have put any differences aside and have joined together for a great purpose here today.

We join together because we understand that cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases can affect anyone in any part of the country, of any race, of any income level.

Because even with the tremendous advancements we have made in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, we understand that in far too many communities across this country, navigating the health care system can be a significant barrier to gaining access to quality and affordable health care services.

I also want to highlight the American Cancer Society, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Rural Health Association, and other organizations for their tireless efforts to educate our colleagues about this important issue and advocate for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, today Congress is taking a significant step forward to insure that our friends and neighbors across America have the tools and resources they need to make good decisions about their health and the health of their children.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet two gentlemen who pioneered the con-

cept that this legislation is based on—the “patient navigator” concept.

Dr. Harold Freeman and Dr. Elmer Huerta are two of the most humble, kind gentlemen I have had the good fortune of getting to know. Let me tell you a little about what they do.

First, they recognized from their own work as doctors in underserved communities that navigating the health care system can be an insurmountable barrier for many people, especially when they are poor, under-insured, or uninsured. All we have to do is step out of our homes and into our communities to find families and individuals who struggle to find and access the health care services they need—both preventive services and treatment.

Enter Dr. Freeman and Dr. Huerta's patient navigator concept. Patient navigators are the angels who guide individuals through the health care system. This is truly one of the most creative and innovative ways to address the health care needs of these individuals who may otherwise avoid seeing a doctor when they're healthy and getting the treatment they need when they're sick.

Whether based at hospitals, community health centers, or cancer centers, these programs literally put in place patient navigators to help individuals find their way through the often complex health care system.

These navigators, like Leka Murdock who I met during my visit to the Ralph Lauren Cancer Center in Harlem, assist people who come through their doors with obtaining coverage through Medicaid or other sources, obtain cancer screenings or counseling about disease prevention, or make referrals for treatment or clinical trial options should an abnormality be detected.

For people who may otherwise not know how or be able to access health care services, patient navigator programs offer them the tools and resources they need to make good decisions about their health and the health of their children. They help break through the red tape that often prevents them from even getting the information they need to find a doctor or get treated.

I know that walking into a facility that is even associated with cancer is a daunting challenge in and of itself. To see the words cancer screening or chemotherapy this way is just terrifying. But the fact of the matter is, we still live in a world where people suffer from cancer. And while we are waging the war on cancer, but we have not yet won.

So until that day comes, we must commit to offering our family members, friends, and neighbors, both young and old, insured and un-insured, the best care in the best facilities we can create. Dr. Freeman's Ralph Lauren Cancer Center and a similar program right here in D.C. at the Washington Hospital Center run by Dr. Huerta are model programs that should be commended and emulated.

That's why Congressman MENENDEZ and I partnered together to introduce, garner support for, and move forward this legislation that will create innovative demonstrations projects in communities across the country based on the patient navigator concept.

This bill will link sustained health promotion outreach efforts with patient navigation programs. Specifically, the bill will make funds available to community health centers, cancer centers, rural and frontier serving medical facilities, and other eligible entities to increase and promote chronic disease prevention

screening, outreach and public health education, as well as provide patient navigators to help patients overcome barriers and complexities around the health care system.

It is my hope that this legislation will serve as a springboard for launching many more patient navigator programs, like those of Dr. Freeman and Dr. Huerta. These extraordinary programs are making a real difference in the lives of people who suffer from cancer and other diseases.

People who may not otherwise even know they're sick.

Or if they do, people who may not do what is necessary to get proper treatment and care.

These are the people we need to reach and this bill is a healthy start.

By furthering this collaboration between the private and public sectors, we will maximize our resources and close in on that day when cancer and other chronic diseases no longer threaten the lives of our loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL IMAGEN AWARDS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the efforts of the Imagen Foundation. Today, the Imagen Foundation will host its Twentieth Annual Imagen Awards and will bestow special achievement awards to a distinguished group of Latino talent for their outstanding contributions to the entertainment industry.

For the past twenty years, the Imagen Foundation has raised awareness, increased knowledge and encouraged positive portrayal of Latinos and the Latino culture in the media. Under the strong leadership of its founder and president, Helen Hernandez, the Imagen Foundation has fostered countless career opportunities to inspiring Latino actors, writers, and producers.

It is with great pride that I highlight two distinguished individuals who will be recipients of Imagen's special awards tonight. Nina Tassler will be the recipient of Imagen's 2005 Career Achievement Award. As the first Latino to head a major television network, CBS, Nina Tassler has built a remarkable career. She oversees the network's entertainment programming and uses her heritage as a tool to help her be more proactive in showcasing diverse talent. Jose Rivera, a prominent Latino writer, will receive the Norman Lear Writer's Award. He is the author of the Oscar-nominated screenplay, “The Motorcycle Diaries,” and a two-time Obie Award-winning playwright whose works have been translated into seven languages.

Through groups such as the Imagen Foundation and people like Helen Hernandez, more doors are opening for Latinos in the entertainment industry. Although we have seen significant progress, there is still much to be done and we need to continue to work together. I was proud to join the Imagen Foundation in hosting a workshop in my district to inform talented Latinos about the entertainment industry and how to break into it. With institutions such

as the Imagen Foundation, who are committed to fighting prejudices and committed to bringing diversity and cultural sensitivity to television and society, I look forward to the accomplishments that are yet to come.

The Imagen Foundation has been an amazing force working to develop, showcase and honor the talent in the Latino community. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Imagen Foundation.

FATHER'S DAY 2005

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate one of the proudest institutions of human society—the father. This Sunday, many in our country will turn those individuals who often go underappreciated throughout our lives. As a father myself, I know the joys and wonders of being a father and I applaud those fathers that stand up for and behind their children throughout their lives.

Dads are an important aspect of many of our lives. They, like mothers, dedicate their lives to the rearing of their kids. They sacrifice and suffer for the betterment of the family. They fret and worry constantly over the safety and future of their loved ones. Fathers nevertheless play an important role in the lives of the community, intentionally or not. They are an integral part of the national fabric that weaves and connects us to one another and to our collective futures.

Fathers on Father's Day seldom get to the attention and praise that mothers do on Mother's Day. We get interesting ties, not fresh roses. Greeting cards on Father's Days are rarely as lovely and thoughtful. The importance of fathers, like mothers, however is not reflected in the gifts and praises lauded on us. The importance is seen at birthdays and holidays, graduations and weddings. Our biggest accomplishments are turning our little boys into men and our girls into women. That is where our praise comes from.

Nonetheless, I want to acknowledge the fathers of this country today. I want to thank them for spending time with their families, providing the necessities of life to their children, caring and supporting their wives, and being role models for and leaders of their communities. I want to recognize the hard work and sacrifice that they endure for their loved ones and the advice and wisdom they give to guide the family. I applaud their daily efforts, sympathize with their trials and tribulations, and encourage them to persevere through difficult moments. The rewards far outweigh the sacrifices.

I especially want to thank the fathers that are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan today. Their service to this nation means they will not be able to hold their kids and their wives on this Father's Day. I also want to thank the fathers of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. They too will be unable to hold their kids and their wives because of their service to this country. I have spoken before about my admiration and love for our military forces. The

sacrifices they endure for our freedom and safety must be appreciated and we must continue to recognize and honor these men and women on Father's Day and every day.

HONORING JIGGS MANN, RANCHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, our nation includes many traditions and cultures which have influenced our history and our national character. In my area, none is stronger than ranching.

Cowboy Roundup, USA, is an organization dedicated to preserving the Ranching Heritage of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle. It works to educate the public, "in the spirit of our ranching ancestry and the lifestyle of the great American Cowboy."

Each year at the Ranch Rodeo in Amarillo, Texas, which this organization sponsors, an individual is named as "Rancher of the Year," to recognize a lifetime of accomplishment. This year's recipient is W.C. "Jiggs" Mann, from my home county, Donley County, Texas.

In thinking about ranchers, the stereotype characters from movies, books, songs, and stories will come to mind for many people. But I think that they would be more impressed to meet the real thing. Jiggs Mann is the real thing.

Jiggs began working on the JA ranch as a schoolboy during the summers of World War II. He rode with the chuck wagon all summer as it moved from pasture to pasture on Texas' second largest ranch, sleeping on the ground and eating by campfire. After returning from serving his country in Korea in 1953, Jiggs went to work at the JA again and served as foreman of the ranch from 1959 until 1969. He leased part of the ranch, running his own cattle, and now runs cattle on his own property in Donley County.

More than his decades of experience with land and cattle, Jiggs Mann was honored because of his character and integrity and because he is a shining example of what a rancher is and should be.

A rancher, like others who make their living off of the land, is a risk taker. His whole year's work can be wiped out by weather, disease, or a tumble in the market.

A rancher is independent and does not look for—or feel entitled to—a hand-out from government or anyone else, but he will drop whatever he is doing, even at considerable sacrifice, to help out a neighbor.

He is honest and straight talking; he has no need to beat-around-the-bush. Mother Nature and the demands of making a living off the land do not allow it for one thing, but more importantly, he comes from a background where a man's word is still his honor. He tells it as he sees it. The strength of what he says is found not so much in the words used but in his integrity.

He works hard—incredibly hard—from sun up until sun down and understands the value of a job well done, whether measured by the

depth of his corner post or the number of hay bales stacked in the field. While some of the tools he uses have changed over the years, like steel post drivers or pick-ups with round bale haulers mounted on the back, others have not changed at all, like a good horse. He realizes that some things, however simple they may seem on the surface, will forever stand the test of time, and it is in those things that he puts his faith.

A rancher has to respect nature and all of God's creation or he will not last long. From taking care of the land, which may have been in the family for generations, to helping a cow give birth, or nursing a new calf with a bottle, he understands the give and take that this life demands and the sacrifices necessary to maintain those things we cherish most, our families and our heritage.

These are some of the qualities which this award recognizes. Jiggs Mann is not the only person I know with these qualities, but he is the "best of the breed." It is appropriate to honor him, and through him, this important part of our national character.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MICHAEL FINE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill Fine, who is leaving his position as President and General Manager of Baltimore's WBAL-TV to return to Boston, where he will become Executive Vice President and General Manager, and, in 2006, President of WCVB, a station where he worked as Sales Manager before coming to Baltimore.

Baltimore's loss will be Boston's gain, as Bill has been a pillar of our community. He has selflessly volunteered his time and energy to numerous charitable causes, including the Chesapeake Region 2012 Olympic Coalition and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Through these efforts, Bill has established himself as a true civic leader.

At WBAL, he transformed the station into "the leader in nighttime news" in Baltimore. Under his leadership, WBAL won the Peabody Award in 2004, the most prestigious award in broadcasting, for its reporting on Chesapeake Bay pollution. WBAL was also named as one of the "Ten Stations That Do It Right" by MediaWeek Magazine in 2001.

Bill's accomplishments have been recognized by his peers as well. Baltimore Magazine named him Baltimore's "Best CEO" in 2000 and he was selected as one of the "25 Leaders We Most Admire" by Baltimore Smart CEO Magazine in 2005. Bill Fine was also awarded the American Advertising Federation's "Silver Medal Award" in 2004, in recognition of his "Outstanding Contributions to Advertising."

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Bill Fine's exemplary record of leadership and service to the Baltimore community. We will miss his presence in our city and we wish him all the best in Boston.

COMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN COLLEGE POINT, NEW YORK, OF THE FIRST KINDERGARTEN IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 47, commending the establishment of the first kindergarten in the United States, in College Point, N.Y.

This legislation praises Conrad Poppenhusen, the Poppenhusen Institute, and the citizens of College Point, New York, for establishing the first early childhood education institution open to the public, in 1854.

This resolution rightly expresses the sense of Congress that the government should recognize the importance of childhood education, and the social and academic enrichment provided to students through free and public kindergartens throughout the Nation.

Studies commissioned by the Department of Education consistently demonstrate that children who attend kindergarten exhibit higher levels of mathematics and reading skills than those who do not.

Children enrolled in kindergarten have consistently and more rapidly acquired skills necessary for success in an academic environment. Additionally, students enrolled in early childhood education are exposed at an early age to students of different racial, cultural, economic, and religious backgrounds, providing valuable learning experiences and aiding in the social development of our Nation's youth.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my support for this legislation and encouraging my colleagues to support it. The time has come for our government to recognize and honor the establishment of our Nation's kindergartens, the very institutions that equip our children with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in school and life while also providing a diverse environment in which to learn and grow.

CONGRATULATING CITY OF
COCONUT CREEK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Coconut Creek for its designation as a "community wildlife habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation. Coconut Creek becomes the first city in Florida and the eleventh city in the Nation to receive this environmental recognition.

In order to receive such a designation, criteria set by the National Wildlife Federation mandates that applicants must have a number of homes declared as back yard wildlife habitats while establishing habitats at schools and residential complexes. In addition, applicants must also create educational programs about various wildlife within the city.

Facing these various guidelines, residents of Coconut Creek met the challenge by planting

trees and various gardens around the city. City Manager John Kelly stated, "They tackled the project and took it as their own. And it's been a wonderful instrument for getting the word out about the environment in our schools."

Mr. Speaker, Coconut Creek, located in Broward County, was incorporated in 1967. Today, with a population of 48,000, the city takes great pride in promoting itself as an environmentally friendly community. In fact, Coconut Creek is considered the Butterfly Capital of the World.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent the city of Coconut Creek and its residents in the House of Representatives. I congratulate Mayor Gerber, the City Commission and the residents of Coconut Creek on being designated a "community wildlife habitat."

IN HONOR OF REESE EDWARD
PHILLIPS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Reese Edward Phillips of Milford, Delaware. Known to his family and friends as "Pappy," Mr. Phillips was born in Zion Grove, Pennsylvania on May 5th, 1916.

Mr. Phillips was a deeply patriotic man who went to great lengths to defend our freedom. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, his 32-year career in the military spanned both World War II and the Korean War. Although he retired from the service in 1972, Mr. Phillips would continue his unwavering devotion to our Nation's veterans for the rest of his life.

Mr. Phillips was instrumental in the planning and development of countless projects for Delaware's veterans, including the Delaware Veterans Cemeteries located in Bear and Millsboro, the state's first veterans home, and the establishment of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council, known today as the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Phillips would serve with distinction on the Commission from its creation until his recent passing, a period that included tenure as Chairman from 1991-1992.

In addition to these projects, Mr. Phillips was actively involved in other community organizations, including membership in the Walter L. Fox Post #2 in Dover, the Disabled American Veterans Department of Delaware, and the Calvary United Methodist Church in Milford.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, Reese Edward Phillips was a persistent man whose community involvement greatly benefited the entire state of Delaware. Those of us with the good fortune to know Mr. Phillips were touched by his kindness and caring. While he is greatly missed by his family and friends, "Pappy" will always be remembered for the work he has done on behalf of the veterans of our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I underwent corrective hernia surgery on June 13, and I was unable to record my vote during the consideration of legislation earlier this week, including the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill for Science, State, Commerce and Justice.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes Nos. 241, 242, 244, 246, 248, 252, 254, 255, 256, 258, 261, 264, 268, 270, 271, and 272.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 243, 245, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 257, 259, 260, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 269, and 273.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in reluctant support of this bill.

It needs to be passed, and I will vote for it, but in my opinion it falls short of what is needed to adequately fund a number of important purposes.

As Ranking Member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, I am pleased that the bill includes \$16.5 billion for NASA funding. NASA's working in human space exploration, space and earth science, and aeronautics plays an important role in advancing our knowledge, expanding our economy and inspiring Americans both young and old. I believe NASA performs important research which allows us to better understand our climate, the creation of our planet and the universe beyond.

I am encouraged that the Committee did not cut NASA's aeronautics budget by \$54 million as the President had requested. Progress in aeronautics is crucial to the health of the Nation's air transportation industry, which in turn is crucial both to the continued strength of our domestic economy and to our international competitiveness. Aeronautics research and development can enable advances in the capability of our Nation's air transportation system to handle the enormous increases in air travel projected over the next 20 years. Aeronautics R&D can enable more environmentally compatible commercial aircraft, with significantly lower noise, emissions, and energy consumption compared to aircraft in commercial service today.

I am also pleased that the Committee includes \$40 million more than the President's

request for earth science programs. These programs have taken a significant cut in recent years even though they have delivered important scientific data.

I am a strong supporter of the servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope and am happy to see that this bill expresses support for a fourth servicing mission to Hubble. However, I had hoped the bill would provide more detailed guidance regarding the amount of funds to be used for the Hubble servicing mission. I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that a Hubble servicing mission takes place and that it is provided with necessary funding.

This bill also provides significant funding for the President's exploration initiative. I support the President's Vision for Space Exploration and believe human space exploration is a worthwhile undertaking. However, NASA's exploration plans are currently in flux. NASA Administrator Michael Griffin has expressed a desire to accelerate the development of the Crew Exploration Vehicle, and Project Prometheus is being restructured. These are just a few examples of the possible changes to the Exploration program at NASA. So in light of the relatively immature state of the Exploration program, I believe we need to proceed cautiously and thoughtfully while ensuring that the demands of the exploration mission do not take away from other core missions.

We are currently faced with a tight budget, and I realize we need to make very difficult decisions about the Federal budget. However, I am concerned that we are not investing enough in science and research and development, which has the effect of strengthening and expanding our economy.

I am also pleased that the bill includes \$106 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). MEP serves small and medium sized manufacturing companies nationally to enhance their ability to compete globally. Every Federal dollar appropriated for MEP leverages \$2 in state and private-sector funding, which means that a small federal investment of \$106 million translates into billions of dollars in benefits for the economy in terms of jobs created and retained, investment, and sales. The appropriators' acknowledgment of MEP's importance is welcome—especially as manufacturers continue to experience tough economic times.

And, because of its importance for my own Congressional District, I am glad to note that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) budget includes \$45 million for construction and specifically \$9.4 million for the completion of the Boulder Central Utility Plant. NIST's Boulder laboratories were built in the 1950s and are in critical need of modernization to ensure the continuation of world-class research.

However, my support for the bill is reluctant for the reasons I have expressed year after year—namely, that it provides inadequate funding for the Department of Commerce laboratories in my district in Colorado—NIST and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The NOAA budget took a cut of 13 percent over the FY05 level and has been the target to draw from for other programs in the bill during debate on the floor. The office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), which funds the important work being conducted in the labs in my district, is funded at \$326 million in the bill—down from \$337 million in

FY05. NOAA performs vital research in climate change, cooperates with NASA on Earth observations, monitors our oceans and provides Americans with important weather forecasting that affects one-third of all industries in our country. A 13-percent cut to this agency means not only cuts to important research but also to Americans jobs. If we do not support and protect this research and these jobs, we cannot continue to be a leader in oceanic and atmospheric research.

NIST also fared poorly in this bill—receiving a cut of \$150 million from the FY05 budget. I am specifically concerned that the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) received no funding. While I believe this is an important and worthy program, if this body intends to eliminate its funding, at a minimum we need to provide close-out costs associated with its termination. The Views and Estimates of the FY06 budget signed by Democratic and Republican members of the House Science Committee identified at least \$33 million in close-out costs which will have to be absorbed by NIST labs, resulting in cuts to research programs.

The Small Business Administration also has not fared well. I am disappointed by the anemic investment made by the Bush Administration and Congress in our Nation's small businesses. Although small businesses are the top job creator in this country, the Small Business Administration (SBA) budget is one of the hardest hit in the bill. While the bill improves upon the budget request by reinstating the microloan program and 7a loan program, more needs to be done. We must not turn our back on America's economic future.

My reactions are also mixed regarding the Justice Department portion of the bill.

For example, I was glad to see that under the bill as it came to the floor the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) would have received an increase of \$54 million over the FY05 budget. I was supportive of this increase because I think it is important that we provide states with this reimbursement. However, I could not support the Dreier amendment that took funds out of the already dramatically cut NOAA budget to further fund SCAAP. Year after year, NOAA programs have faced budgetary cuts, which translate into degraded ability to perform its world-class research, and a loss of American jobs.

I voted for some amendments intended to improve the bill. Some were adopted, including the Baird amendment to increase funding for the COPS program, but others were not.

In particular, I am very glad that the House approved the amendment to limit the use of Section 215 of the "Patriot Act" to obtain information from libraries and bookstores. I hope that the approval of this amendment demonstrates that the Congress will take a similarly thoughtful approach when we consider whether to extend or revise that Act.

However, I was disappointed by the rejection of the amendment to bar prosecution on Federal drug charges of people using marijuana for medical purposes in ways permitted by the laws of Colorado or any other state that permits such use.

I am not a doctor or a lawyer. My support for the amendment was not based on a judgment about the medical value of marijuana or a disagreement with the Supreme Court's decision upholding the constitutionality of the Controlled Substances Act as applied to its

use pursuant to a state medical-marijuana law. Instead, it was based on my respect and support for the people of Colorado who voted to allow medical use of marijuana in our state. I think that the Federal government ought to share that respect and not seek to overrule that decision. That would have been the effect of the amendment, which is why I voted for it.

Finally, I am not encouraged by funding levels in the bill for State Department activities.

The State Department as a whole is funded 10 percent less than in FY 2005. Funding for peacekeeping missions is decreased from this year's levels when we take supplemental funds into account, making it harder for the international community to support activities that are ongoing in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Liberia, West Africa, East Timor, Cambodia, Western Sahara, Kosovo and Bosnia. Funding for education and cultural exchange programs is higher than last year but less than the request, which is disappointing at a time when our investment in the non-military sources of foreign policy is more important than ever. Even more disappointing at a time when the President is speaking out about the importance of U.S. democratization efforts is the 15 percent cut to National Endowment for Democracy programs.

In summary, this bill is not all that it should be—but it is not so bad that it should be rejected. I will vote for it and hope that it will improve as the legislative process continues.

COMMENDING ED MESSER FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Ed Messer, a resident of the Chautauqua County Town of Carroll, upon the occasion of the celebration of his years of dedicated community involvement.

As a young man Ed demonstrated his strength, courage and devotion to his country as a member of the United States Marine League.

Ed's patriotism continues to be evident today, as he devotes his time as an avid member and past Commander of the Frewsburg American Legion and the Chautauqua County American Legion.

Mr. Messer became active in the Town of Carroll Democratic Committee in mid 1970's. During that time he served as the election machine custodian for the Town of Carroll for many years.

Presently Ed serves as the Chairman of the Town of Carroll's Democratic Committee. His success in that role is apparent in the fact that currently, except for town justices, every office in the Town of Carroll including the County Legislator position is held by Democrats.

I ask that we pause to consider the contributions Mr. Ed Messer has made, not just to the Democratic Party in general, but to the people of his community, his county and to western New York as well. Chautauqua County is a better place because of Ed Messer's commitment to public service, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STEVEN C.
MILLER, USN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Steven C. Miller, United States Navy, for his twenty-six years of active duty service to our country. He is the Commanding Officer of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, California and will retire on June 17, 2005.

Captain Miller graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979. After being commissioned as an officer he embarked on an extraordinary active duty career as a Surface Warfare Officer. He has deployed throughout the world in support of America's global naval presence and power projection. Captain Miller has served as a Surface Warfare Officer on destroyers, frigates and cruisers. He was the Executive Officer of the USS *Ticonderoga* (CG 47) when she went to war in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991. Captain Miller was hand picked to be the first Commanding Officer of the USS *Stethem* (DDG 63) when she entered service in 1995. Under his leadership, the crew of the *Stethem* earned the coveted Battle "E" award for combat readiness in the first year of the ship's service.

Besides being a true warrior at sea, Captain Miller has had a distinguished career ashore. He has served in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations as the Executive Secretary for Joint Chiefs of Staff Affairs and as the Flag Secretary for the Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Following his command tour on the USS *Stethem*, Captain Miller shaped the future of the Navy's surface combat force while working on the program start of the DD(X). This new destroyer program will lead the Navy into the twenty-first century. Captain Miller has earned a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy at the Naval War College and qualified as a U.S. Navy Acquisition Professional.

I first met Captain Miller when he assumed command of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in my district. NSWC, Corona provides independent assessment and testing and evaluation to the fleet on weapons systems and operations and provides quality control for the tools our Navy uses to fight the Global War on Terrorism. I have come to know him as a strong leader who accomplishes the mission and takes care of his people.

Captain Steve Miller has done much to preserve our way of life. Our country, our Navy and my community have benefited from his selfless service. He is a fantastic example for today's young people who want to serve their country and for those who dream of attending one of our service academies. He has earned my many thanks. I wish him well in his retirement from the Navy and all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOORE
HIGH SCHOOL AND TOTTEVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the stellar baseball seasons of Moore High School and Tottenville High School. Both of these schools recently completed their seasons with respective City Championships.

Andrew Costello, a Tottenville senior, couldn't have scripted a better ending to his already impressive high school career. The right-hander fired a complete-game three hitter to give the Pirates their third Public School Athletic League city championship in six years. The Pirates finished their season with a 23-1 record, including a 6-0 record in the playoffs.

Costello put his three-pitch arsenal of fastballs, curve balls, and sliders to work against what some considered the city's most talented hitting order and could have hardly been much better. He allowed one earned run, walked one, and struck out seven. He retired the first nine batters that he faced took a no-hitter into the fifth.

Moore Catholic High School, just as Tottenville had, rode the strong arm of their starting pitcher, Nick Doscher. He pitched five of scoreless baseball and even helped his own cause from behind the plate by homering off the left field foul pole.

Moore High School, winners of their second Catholic High School Athletic Association championship, battled adversity through the early stages of the game by failing to score twice with the bases loaded.

Doscher, selected by the Kansas City Royals in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft overmatched his opponents over the final five innings of play; only allowing one hit and recording seven strikeouts, at one point, retiring twelve in a row.

On behalf of family, friends, fans, and the entire 13th Congressional District of Staten Island and Brooklyn New York, I would like to again congratulate both Tottenville and Moore Catholic High Schools for their outstanding seasons. Each player, coach, and fan should be very proud of their efforts. I commend them for their drive, desire, and sportsmanship that they revealed throughout the season.

REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION
OF H.R. 2939, THE OCEANS CON-
SERVATION, EDUCATION, AND
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE
21ST CENTURY ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday represented a giant step forward towards the protection and sustainable management of this nation's largest public trust: our oceans. I introduced OCEANS 21, a comprehensive oceans policy bill that answers the calls of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, along with other bi-

partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania, Tom Allen of Maine, and Jim Saxton of New Jersey.

Our bill offers a comprehensive legislative solution to crises documented in both of the Oceans Commissions reports by establishing a strong National Oceans Policy that protects, maintains, and restores the health of marine ecosystems. This National Oceans Policy will secure, for present and future generations, the full range of benefits of healthy marine ecosystems—a responsibility that I take quite seriously in my job of representing California's central coast, home to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The importance of this policy cannot be overstated, as we all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the person who visits the ocean once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, as well as opportunities for scientific inquiry, including medical discovery, and personal reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, the ocean economy—the portion of the economy that relies directly on ocean attributes—contributes well over \$100 billion to American prosperity. About one tenth of the nation's annual gross domestic product (GDP) is generated in nearshore areas, the relatively narrow strip of land immediately adjacent to the coast. If that area is expanded to include coastal watershed counties, representing about one quarter of the nation's land area, the contribution increases to about half of the nation's GDP. This is a huge economic contribution to our gross domestic product; a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming.

Oceans-21 was introduced in the 108th Congress to begin a national dialogue on our coasts and oceans. Since that time, the co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus have revised the bill based on input from the oceans and fishing communities. This effort reflects continued forward momentum toward the goal of healthy marine ecosystems for present and future generations of Americans. The most substantive changes to the bill from the 108th Congress are to the regional governance and trust fund provisions. The bill would establish Regional Ocean Partnerships that facilitate communication among federal, state, and local management entities. The Oceans and Great Lakes Conservation Trust Fund no longer relies on monies from outer continental shelf activities and instead draws from general revenues.

One of the most common concerns about the 108th Congress bill was that the structure of Regional Governance added an ineffective layer of bureaucracy without helping ecosystem-based management efforts. The integration of ecosystem-based management into current ocean and coastal management regimes must occur incrementally. Regional Ocean Partnerships are a first step toward deliberate and strategic planning for the long term health of our marine ecosystems. The revised language removes regulatory mandates from the Partnership's purview and concentrates instead on planning, removing the extra layer of bureaucracy. Currently, there is no organized forum for communication between federal and state entities responsible for management of coastal and ocean resources.

The successful co-management of the oceans relies on frequent and effective communication.

Fisheries are not only affected by the number of fish we take out of the sea but are also affected by pollution, invasive species, degradation of nursery areas, and other ocean uses. Fishermen have not been able to adequately address or voice their concerns about non-fishing issues that affect their resource. Oceans 21 will give fishing a loud voice by including the executive director of each Regional Fishery Management Council on the corresponding Regional Ocean Partnership. Fishermen need the ability to be effective ocean stewards.

I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans by supporting the House Oceans Caucus Founder's ocean policy bill. Our bill will not only bring U.S. ocean policy into the 21st century, it will set the tone for a future in which our oceans remain vital components of our economy, our communities, and our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the U.S. Commission Report that encapsulates my thoughts on the urgency of considering OCEANS 21 this session: "The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away."

NAMING THE FEDERAL BUILDING AT 333 MT. ELLIOTT STREET IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN AS THE "ROSA PARKS FEDERAL BUILD- ING"

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would name the Federal Building at 333 Mt. Elliott Street in Detroit, Michigan after Rosa Parks.

Rosa Parks was a seamstress and the secretary of the local NAACP. Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in December 1955. She was arrested and fined for violating a city ordinance. Her defiance began a movement that ended legal segregation in America and made her an inspiration to people everywhere.

The bus incident led to the formation of the Montgomery Association. The Association called for a boycott against the city-owned bus company. Black people citywide boycotted of the bus system for more than a year. As a result of the boycott and the actions of Rosa Parks, the Supreme Court eventually outlawed racial segregation on public transportation.

Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4, 1913. In 1957, Mrs. Parks and her husband Raymond moved to Detroit. She continued her seamstress career and later served on the staff of Congressman John Conyers. After the death of her husband, she founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. The Institute sponsors leadership programs for youth, including an annual summer program for teenagers called Pathways to Freedom.

Rosa Parks' work helped change history. Her contributions to the Civil Rights Movement brought this country a step closer to equality. Her devotion to the Civil Rights Movement and the city of Detroit will always be remembered.

I believe people who make meaningful contributions to society should be recognized and honored. Naming the Federal Building at 333 Mt. Elliott Street at E. Jefferson after Mrs. Rosa Parks will remind everyone who drives by or visits the building of the contribution she made for Civil Rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Mrs. Rosa Parks, by becoming a cosponsor of my legislation to name the Federal Building at 333 Mt. Elliott Street at E. Jefferson in Detroit, Michigan after Rosa Parks. The building will serve as a reminder of her strong sacrifice and unwavering commitment to her community and America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2005, I inadvertently voted in the affirmative on rollcall No. 234 on H.R. 2744. It was my intention to be recorded as "no" on this measure and I offer this clarification for the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND MON- SIGNOR JOSEPH J. GRANATO— GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to offer heartfelt congratulations to Monsignor Joseph J. Granato as he celebrates 50 years in the priesthood. Father Joe, as he is affectionately known was ordained on June 4, 1955, at St. Lucy's Parish in Newark, New Jersey.

As a youngster in his First Ward neighborhood of Newark, Father Joe embraced the Catholic traditions that were intricately woven into the lives of his family and friends. His Catholic school education began at Sacred Heart Cathedral Grammar School and included Our Lady of Good Counsel High School and Seton Hall University. He attended Darlington Seminary where he studied diligently and paid close attention to his prayers of obligation. Although Father Joe yearned for his mom's cooking and the camaraderie of his old neighborhood while in the Seminary, he was appreciative of the jovial exchanges he shared with his fellow seminarians.

Father Joe's religious assignment to St. Lucy's Parish has been a true blessing to him and his congregation. In addition to being close to his own home, Father Joe flourished under the guidance of Father Ruggiero until his death in 1966. Father Joe took responsibility for the CYO, Drum Corps, Children of

Mary, Altar Boys, sick calls, First Friday calls and confessions. He was subsequently appointed Administrator in 1971 and in 1977; he was assigned by Archbishop Peter Gerety as the Pastor of his beloved St. Lucy's. On July 16, 1979, Father Joseph J. Granato was awarded the honor of being named Monsignor by His Holiness, John Paul II, which the humble Father Joe attributed to the virtue of the people of St. Lucy's rather than himself. Father Joe has worked hard to transform the neighborhood around St. Lucy's. His leadership along with the cooperation of the city, state and federal government has resulted in the removal of the old abandoned high-rise apartments which have been replaced with new beautiful townhouses.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Monsignor Joseph J. Granato has served his church and the community well over the past 50 years. He has received several awards including the first Msgr. Joseph Granato Italian Culture Award from Seton Hall University and an induction into the Our Lady of Good Counsel Hall of Fame. St. Lucy's Parish is thriving under his guidance and leadership. I know my colleagues join me in wishing Father Joe a very happy 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN KACZOROWSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE BUFFALO AFL-CIO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Buffalo's wonderful American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) President, John Kaczorowski.

After nine years of stalwart service as Buffalo's AFO-CIO president, Mr. Kaczorowski chaired his final meeting on February 8, 2005. He has previously served at the Erie County Medical Center and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. In a previous career, Mr. Kaczorowski was both an autoworker and a union chief for General Motors Corporation, Tonawanda engine plant.

John Kaczorowski has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the working men and women of Western New York. His contingent of 75,000 affiliated union workers is among the largest of AFL-CIO members in any congressional district nationwide and he has vigorously campaigned on their behalf. He has organized numerous boycotts and protests, deftly handling both picket lines and conference rooms. This past December Mr. Kaczorowski made national news headlines by organizing a campaign with M-ONE Financial Services to send AT&T phone cards to U.S. troops overseas. He serves on numerous boards, including the Coalition for Economic Justice and the Workforce Development Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally proud to call John Kaczorowski my confidant and friend. He is the consummate campaigner—he has the know-how, gravitas and experience to get the job done. His tireless work in my race for U.S. House of Representatives last year was immeasurable. Although he may no longer be Buffalo's labor president, I am fortunate that he will remain a resident of the 27th Congressional District. Once again, I would like to

thank this outstanding gentleman for his magnificent service to our community. I wish him well with all his future ventures.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT
KENNETH J. SCHALL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero—Sergeant Kenneth J. Schall of El Mirage, Arizona.

On May 22, 2005, we tragically lost this soldier of freedom when his military vehicle was involved in an accident. Kenneth was nobly serving his country in Yusafiyah, Iraq as a vital and supportive member of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At the young age of 22, Kenneth has marked history as a true American hero. He sacrificed his life to protect the citizens of this great Nation and the cause of human freedom. Today, we deeply honor his memory with our profound gratitude and extend our most loving condolences to his family and parents, Mr. and Mrs. John and Terri Schall.

JUNETEENTH, 2005

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 140 years now since the United States finally severed its ties with the ancient inhumanity of slavery.

At the end of a great civil war—a war fought over slavery and won to eradicate the “curious institution”—600,000 Americans were dead, but 4 million were freed.

The last of those 4 million were freed 140 years ago Sunday, June 19th, 1865, in Galveston, Texas—by a man named Gordon Granger.

On his arrival in Galveston, Major General Granger of the United States Army, issued General Order Number Three to the people of Texas, informing them of the end of the war and the emancipation of slaves.

As he read the words of President Lincoln’s self-consciously legalistic Emancipation Proclamation, the world changed in front of him:

“This [order] involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.”

The United States, the first nation in history “conceived in liberty and founded on the proposition that all men are created equal,” was, at long last, fulfilling that conception and proposition for the millions of African-Americans whose freedom had theretofore been denied.

Juneteenth, then, is not merely a celebration for African-Americans, or for Texans—it is a celebration for all men in all times.

It should instead be a celebration of humanity itself, and of the human race’s universal yearning to be free.

How many Americans—black and white—joined in arms decades after emancipation, to

pass along the gift of human freedom to the continent of Europe in World War II?

How many more risked and gave their lives together in the Cold War against communist aggression?

How many more today are serving together to bring a new emancipation to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, who for too long have suffered under slave-like conditions at the hands of their oppressors?

The answer? As many as it takes.

Americans of all races today are joined in our hope for the freedom of all mankind, and will stand united against any enemy who would deny any people their human rights.

Juneteenth, then, is a reminder not simply of the great freedom won 140 years ago, but of the great freedom to be secured in the coming years, around the world.

COMMEMORATION OF
JUNETEENTH DAY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of Juneteenth Day. Today we remember the events of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led his Union troops through Galveston, Texas, to spread the news of the Emancipation Proclamation. This was more than two years after President Lincoln issued this directive. Initially celebrated by African Americans who had been slaves in the southwest, Juneteenth Day officially commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States.

This important anniversary represents how far we have come as a nation. With an emphasis on freedom, education, and achievement, Juneteenth Day recognizes the ending of one of the most sinister periods in our Nation’s history and the beginning of a new era of liberty, not just for the slaves that were freed, but for all Americans.

Today, a growing number of Americans celebrate Juneteenth Day. People of all faiths, races, and creeds from cities and towns across our country are gathering together to both rejoice in the progress this Nation has made and reflect upon how much work there is still to be done. We celebrate this day by spending time with our close friends and family, enjoying ourselves and listening to others.

In my own district in the State of Maryland, Juneteenth Day is being observed at Fort McHenry. In addition, on June 22nd, the members of the Boys and Girls Club of Central Maryland will re-enact the events of that historic day.

By celebrating this holiday, we recognize the progress that this Nation has made in advancing the fundamental values to which we, as a country hold true—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating this monumental day. Juneteenth Day has become part of the fabric of this Nation’s history, and deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the following high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These are exceptional students that serve the community and participate actively in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico, and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2005

Juanita Martizes, Albuquerque High School; Laura Rogers, Cibola High School; Britten Smith, Highland High School; Gary R. Stinnet, La Cueva High School; Robert Cordwell, Rio Grande High School; Cameron Banes, Creative Education Preparatory Institute; David Gullet, Temple Baptist Academy; Adam Geoffry Cowan, Calvary Christian Academy; and Leanne Raskob, St. Pius X High School.

Merethy Billian, Cornerstone Christian School; Jordan Spence, Evangel Christian Academy; Markenzi Williamson, Hope Christian Schools; Aaron Smith, Menaul High School; Emily Wildsmith, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Nicholas Trumble, Albuquerque Evening School; Karl Nieman, Career Enriched Center; Takesha Haynes, New Future High School; and Suzia Vanswol, East Mountain High School.

Jane Yein Song, Sandia High School; Erika Anaya, Moriarty High School; Samuez Luban, Charter Vocational High School; Danielle Treadgill, Bernalillo High School; Jessica R. Siegel, Sandia Preparatory High School; Ruth Ann Huning, Los Lunas High School; Kenneth David Rael, Sierra Alternative High School; Marie Jiron, Career Academy; Maggie Elizabeth Crank, Albuquerque Academy; and Orlando Pacheco Los, Puentes Charter School.

HOW MUCH TO FEED A DRAGON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you an article written by Scott Lilly, the former Democratic Staff Director to my distinguished colleague and Ranking Member of the Committee on Appropriations, David Obey. Scott, a longtime friend and valued resource to Members and staff on both sides of the aisle, left Capitol Hill last year after 32 years of distinguished service. His departure was and continues to be deeply felt by many of us, but as the article below reveals, Scott remains a tremendous resource for this institution as we work to deal with serious policy issues that impact our constituents, our communities and our nation.

In this article, How Much to Feed a Dragon, Mr. Lilly discusses the extremely important issue of the threat of China to the United States as an economic and world power. As Scott articulates so well, the time to act

against China and its currency undervaluation is now I urge my colleagues in the House to heed the warnings detailed in this article and to stop the rhetoric. We must act immediately and decisively to address the serious risk China poses to the American way of life—our nation's future depends on it.

HOW MUCH TO FEED A DRAGON

A few weeks ago the Bush administration took action to cap the growth of Chinese textile imports to no more than 7.5 percent a year, professing grave concern for what is left of America's textile industry. The controversy generated by that move largely obscured a far more profound decision by the administration only a week earlier. In a formal report to Congress, Treasury Secretary John Snow refused to designate China as a currency manipulator despite massive evidence of China's continuous intervention in global currency markets—keeping the yuan at levels far below what most economists believe is its true value. Snow stated that Chinese officials "have repeatedly vowed" to move toward "a more flexible" currency. When they will move or how far they will move is an issue that Snow will apparently continue to leave to the discretion of China's central planners.

While this issue sounds arcane, it may also rate as one of the most important economic issues of this generation. The intense manipulation of the Chinese yuan impacts greatly on numerous problems facing American households, ranging from high gas prices to weak job growth and stagnant wages. It has materially contributed to the problem of our growing foreign debt, the weakness of the dollar and a potential worldwide currency crisis that could lead to global depression. In addition, it has serious implications for the balance of global power in the decades ahead.

How has China impacted U.S. gasoline prices? World demand for energy grew by more than 3.4 percent last year—the largest yearly increase since the gas lines of the 1970s and more than twice the average yearly growth over the past two decades. Furthermore, it is clear that the big players in world energy markets see this spike in demand as anything but temporary. They are not only buying up oil futures and the shares of companies that own and sell oil but companies that explore and drill for oil as well.

The reason for this rapid growth in oil demand is attributable to one single fact: Oil consumption in China is growing at astronomical rates. During 2004 Chinese consumption of oil averaged more than one million barrels a day above the previous year, an increase of 19.3 percent, or eight times faster than the growth of energy consumption in the rest of the world. Without China, the global growth in oil consumption during 2004 would have been just 2.2 percent—a rate that the normal expansion of world oil exploration and production can accommodate without significant upward pressure on oil prices. Even in per capita terms, China's oil consumption is growing three times faster than the rest of the world.

Why is China guzzling so much petroleum? China's skyrocketing demand for energy is largely a function of the nation's skyrocketing rate of economic growth. For several years China has been growing at a rate of more than 9 percent per annum even after accounting for inflation. Some experts expect growth in the 8 to 10 percent range for the indefinite future. This rate of growth drove China last year to consume 40 percent of the globe's increased demand for crude oil in 2004—more than the rest of the developing world combined.

How can China maintain such a rapid pace of growth? The answer to that is also rel-

atively simple. According to a report released in Beijing last month by the State Information Center, foreign trade is the major driving force of China's economy. In particular, China's net exports, or trade surplus with the rest of the world, are credited with bringing strong growth to the nation. The report discloses that Chinese exports totaled \$156 billion in the first quarter of 2005 while imports totaled only \$143 billion. More than 60 percent of Chinese surplus came at the expense of the United States. Last year, the U.S. bilateral trade deficit with China exceeded \$162 billion, while the rest of the world actually ran a trade surplus with China. As a result, it is almost entirely the Chinese trade surplus with the United States that is providing the country with this extraordinary pace of expansion.

What makes China so competitive with U.S. and other foreign producers? It is important to remember that China is not a market economy. Prices in a particular sector can easily be manipulated by central economic planners. This goes for all inputs: labor, land, capital and energy. If China wants to compete and be the low price producer for a particular product, no other producers functioning in a market economy with fixed prices can match the price at which China will be able to sell.

But even more important has been China's manipulation of its currency, the yuan. The central government has gone to extraordinary lengths to cap the value of the yuan to no more than 8.3 to the dollar. As Secretary Snow points out, leaders in Beijing have talked at great lengths about future plans to allow the yuan to trade more freely on world currency markets.

But they have taken no such action and the rapid export-led growth of the Chinese economy would drop back to more normal levels if they did. Since rapid growth is seen by the leadership in Beijing as central to the nation's economic, political and geopolitical goals, it is hard to imagine that significant change will occur without strong external pressure. Since the United States alone represents nearly all of China's net trade surplus, the lever to force revaluation of the yuan is almost entirely in the hands of the United States.

Isn't China's growth good for the world? It depends on what part of the world you are talking about. Oil producing countries are having a bonanza. Saudi Arabia, a country in danger of not being able to make payments on its foreign debts just a few years ago, is now raking in revenues at a rate that dwarfs even the oil price boom of the 1970s.

Oil executives in this country are also prospering. The 3 million shares of Exxon Mobil held by Board Chairman and CEO Lee R. Raymond are now worth about \$170 million, up more than \$62 million or about 59 percent from the level such shares would have sold for only 18 months ago. Raymond is only one of thousands of oil company executives enjoying the new prosperity that China's demand for petroleum has created for the industry.

There are also other domestic winners in the unbalanced trade relationship between the U.S. and China—at least over the short term. Companies ranging from Mattel to Boeing have increasingly moved production operations from the U.S. to China in recent years. They reap two benefits in such transactions. First, the lower wages paid in the Chinese factories provide savings that go largely to the bottom line on corporate balance sheets. Chinese workers make about one-twentieth of what U.S. workers make.

But secondly, the mere threat of moving more production to China keeps downward pressure on wages paid to U.S. workers. Since 2001, the hourly output of U.S. workers

has increased by more than 16 percent, but the average wage production and non-supervisory worker wage remained virtually flat after adjusting for inflation. Corporate profits, on the other hand, have jumped by about 58 percent since the beginning of 2001 despite slower than normal economic growth. Not since the 1920s have workers' wages fallen so far behind their increases in productivity and at no time in the post-World War II era have corporate profits accounted for such a large portion of the growth in national output.

So while American corporations have at least thus far been winners in U.S. acceptance of China's trade and currency policies, U.S. workers have been major losers. Not only have wages been stagnant, but so have the number of jobs. The number of Americans with manufacturing jobs has dropped by 2.8 million, or 16 percent, since January of 2001. At the same time, the U.S. population has continued to grow. About 12 million more individuals are now being supported with paychecks that are no bigger in either size or number.

Whether or not U.S. corporations—outside the oil patch—will be long-term winners in this arrangement is a matter of increasing concern on Wall Street. Many on the street are expressing concerns that U.S. corporate profits cannot grow over the long term if American families have less and less income with which to make purchases. Since production and non-supervisory workers make up about 80 percent of the total workforce, the long-term health of the U.S. consumer is inextricably linked to the earning power of the U.S. worker.

There are also losers in other countries around the world. Underdeveloped countries with large pools of low-wage and underutilized labor are among those who suffer the most. Their dreams of development have been stymied by China's export gluttony and they have not only lost out in the struggle to attract industry and earn hard currency, but they now live in a world where the winner has driven the cost of energy they need for their own development to prices they can no longer afford.

But there are implications to our unbalanced trading relationship with China that may be grimmer than the impact it is having on the U.S. and world economy. Those implications involve China's geopolitical ambitions, which are clearly less benign than proponents of unbridled U.S.-Chinese trade would want us to believe.

While the CIA may have overestimated Iraq's military capabilities, it has consistently underestimated (at least until recently) the pace of Chinese military modernization. China has taken the politically painful steps of slimming down its uniform forces to levels compatible with high-tech, modern, Western military doctrine. It has invested heavily in the development of highly capable fighter planes, air-to-air missiles, radars, landing craft and other military resources needed to confront U.S. forces in the Formosa Straits and eventually in other parts of Asia.

China now has hundreds of nuclear weapons which are both strategic and tactical in type. It maintains at least twenty intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of hitting targets in the western United States and is believed to have recently recommissioned a submarine capable of launching nuclear missiles from waters off U.S. coasts. China is working on the DR-41 missile, believed to have greater range, accuracy and a shorter launch time than existing Chinese ICBMs. They are believed to be working on between four to six new submarines capable of launching nuclear armed missiles.

As Thomas Kane wrote last year in *Parameters*, a publication of the U.S. Army War

College, "Nuclear weapons allow the People's Republic of China to take diplomatic and military positions with a much greater level of confidence."

China's booming economy also has geopolitical implications beyond the mere contribution it makes to military modernization. If China's economy continues to experience real growth in the 9 percent range, it could surpass the United States as the world's largest economy within a single decade, even if GDP growth in the United States remains relatively strong. As the magnitude of China's economy grows, so will its geopolitical will. One does not need to go to Asia to find examples. Brazil has become a major source for Chinese raw materials and in turn China is discussing financing the construction of a long sought after road from the Amazon basin across the Andes to ports on the Pacific. Korea is becoming something of a "Silicon Valley" for Chinese industry, and even old adversaries such as India and Japan have to rethink how to accommodate the new reality that a rapidly growing China presents.

Some of these changes are inevitable. China needs to grow and will grow almost regardless of U.S. policy. But does China have the political maturity to absorb such a rapid increase in economic, political and military power and use it wisely? Its record on human rights, democratic reform and the treatment of its own citizens should raise serious doubts. We should want a growing economy and rising prosperity for the world's most populous nation, but we should question whether the current torrential rate of growth—growth driven almost entirely by huge net export surpluses with the United States—is a positive for the economic well-being of our own citizens or the prospects for world peace over the coming decades.

COMMENDING JAKE DILLENBURG FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Jake Dillenburg, a resident of the Town of Arkwright in Chautauqua County, upon the occasion of his recognition as the 2005 Chautauqua County Democrat of the Year.

Jake's dedication to public service has been manifest, and his commitment to the residents of Chautauqua County has been outstanding.

Jake's served as an appointed member of New York State Assemblyman Rolland Kidder staff from 1976 until 1982.

During that time Jake continued to work very hard for his constituents back home. In 1975, Jake was elected to the Forestville Village Board of Trustees where he served until 1977 when he was elected Mayor.

In 1980, Jake began a four term streak as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature. During his time as a Legislator, Jake's leadership and consensus building skills led him to be chosen by his colleagues to be both the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader.

The year 1992 ushered in six terms as the Arkwright Town Supervisor where there is no doubt that he did all he could to better the community.

Over 20 years later, Jake decided to hang up his hat as an elected official and in 1998 he began a five-year duty as the Clerk of the Chautauqua County Legislature; a responsibility, he was well suited to fill following his years of experience in the Legislature.

In addition to all of these outstanding achievements in public service, Jake still gave his all and served as the Town of Arkwright's Democratic Chair for 27 years.

Mr. Dillenburg deserves recognition and congratulations for the vast contributions he has made over the last three decades, not just to the Democratic Party in general, but to the people of his community, his county and to all of West em New York. Chautauqua County is a better place because of Jake Dillenburg's commitment to public service, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor him today.

RECOGNIZING THE 94TH BIRTHDAY OF PAOLI TROOP 1 OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paoli Troop 1 of the Boy Scouts of America on its 94th birthday.

In 1911 at the Good Samaritan Church in Paoli, Pennsylvania, Paoli Troop 1 was established. Its name was derived from it being the first Boy Scout Troop in the Paoli area. The Reverend Horace A. Walton was the Troop's first Scoutmaster and he established two patrols within the Troop called the Wolves and the Lions. As the group grew in membership, three additional patrols were created. The Colour Patrol guarded and carried the Troop colors. Thereafter the Eagle Patrol was established and, most recently, the Fox Patrol was added in 2003.

At the outset, Paoli Troop 1 had significant challenges. They were poorly equipped in both uniform and camping gear. During World War I, Troop activity diminished due to the lack of available young men. Following the War, Colonel Clifton Lisle became Scoutmaster and the Charter was resurrected under a "Group of Citizens" as sponsor. In 1924, the Troop moved to Wayne, PA.

Tradition has always been the foundation of Paoli Troop 1. Adherence to the Scout Law and Scout Oath constitute the bedrock principles of the Troop, but other traditions play an important role in the Troop's daily life, such as giving a sailor hat as a memento of the first summer trip. The Troop also adheres to the tradition of military dress (the wool shirt and military press) as started by Colonel Lisle. For 20 years, Richard T. "Dick" Bensing led the Troop until his retirement in 2004. Today, Scoutmaster Mike Manotta heads the Troop.

Paoli Troop 1's approaching 94th birthday is a wonderful achievement. With a rich, long history, the Troop has maintained its core purpose of promoting, maintaining, and carrying out the principles of the Boy Scouts of America and to work for the best interests of its members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Paoli Troop 1 on its 94th birthday. The Troop's efforts to create a positive environment to shape our youth into exemplary role models and citizens is a marvelous contribution to our state and nation and we commemorate them for this.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LIEU- TENANT GENERAL RICHARD V. REYNOLDS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Richard V. Reynolds. Lieutenant General Reynolds is retiring as the Vice Commander of Air Force Materiel Command after thirty-three years of faithful and distinguished service to our country.

In addition to being an effective Air Force officer, Lieutenant General Reynolds has been a positive contributor to the Wright Patterson Air Force Base community for the past eleven years. I met Lieutenant General Reynolds when I began to serve areas surrounding the base after the re-districting of 2002. I have always appreciated his candor, professionalism, and accessibility. In addition, I appreciated his willingness to educate my staff about both the Air Force and Wright Patterson at our 2003 staff retreat.

I am also greatly impressed by Lieutenant General Reynolds' dedication to our country and his commitment to advancing the competitive edge of the United States Air Force. He has a distinguished service record and has worked with some of the best aircraft and service technologies in our military. His service to both the Air Force and our country will be greatly missed.

To you Dick, I thank you for your service to our country, and I wish you and your family best wishes in your future endeavors. Congratulations for a successful and dedicated career.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS LEADER AUNG SAN SUU KYI HONORED

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday the world will celebrate the 60th birthday of Nobel Laureate and Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. It's usually not polite to discuss a lady's age—but in this case, I'm sure that this feisty fighter known by her supporters simply as "the Lady" will forgive us, because this occasion provides an opportunity to highlight the horrendous human rights situation in Burma.

Today Aung San Suu Kyi is under strict house arrest. Isolated from her family, her colleagues, and the Burmese people who so strongly support her. Sadly, this is not a new state of affairs. Suu Kyi has spent nine of the past 16 years either behind bars or under house arrest.

We must remember that Aung San Suu Kyi is not simply another democracy campaigner toiling away in a totalitarian nation—her party actually won elections in 1990, only to find the halls of power to be locked when she tried to assume the role she had won by right.

Aung San Suu Kyi is an inspiring figure. She could have left Burma countless times to rejoin her family, but she refused. Suu Kyi

would not abandon her people to the ruthless Burmese military goons, nor her hope that Burma would someday be a strong, democratic nation that respected human rights.

Sadly, house imprisonment has been the least of Aung San Suu Kyi's worries. Two years ago, the Burmese government tried to kill her in an ambush of her convoy in rural Burma. Burma's ruling thugs simply couldn't stand the fact that she remained enormously popular despite years of imprisonment, and

was being greeted by throngs of supporters everywhere she went.

We in Congress have not forgotten the cause of human rights in Burma, Mr. Speaker. Next week, it is my hope that the House will move forward with H.J. Res. 52, my legislation to renew import sanctions against Burma for an additional year. Only when the Burmese thugocracy feels the economic pinch of their sick rule will change finally come.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, I will be pleased to deliver 6,000 birthday cards to

Aung San Suu Kyi via the Burmese Embassy. I have no illusion that they will be delivered, or even that word of this deed will be delivered to her. But these good wishes from people across America show that the world has not forgotten Aung San Suu Kyi, nor the cause for which she fights. One day, Aung San Suu Kyi will finally be sworn in as the democratically elected leader of Burma, and it will be my great honor to attend her inauguration.