EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 322 and 323. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 322 and 323.

HONORING WALTER HAASE AS THE NEWEST ELECTED MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UTILITY GROUP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Walter Haase for being elected to the board of directors of the American Public Power Association. Mr. Haase was appointed to this prestigious position during the association's annual meeting in Anaheim, California.

Since the year 2000, Mr. Haase has served as the general manager of the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities. He has seen the BPU through numerous modernizations and updates. Currently, Mr. Haase is working to create a brand new power plant to replace the existing one.

To its credit, the nationwide association encompasses more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities allowing it to serve more than 43 million customers.

Jamestown's board was formed in 1940 and is a charter member.

I am honored Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor Mr. Walter Haase for this noteworthy honor and for his innovations in the field of public utilities.

ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 33rd anniversary of the day Congress passed Title IX, in support of the landmark legislation that prohibited gender discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal funds.

Title IX provides for equal opportunity for women and girls in areas related to access to higher education, athletics, career education, education for pregnant and parenting students, employment, learning environment, math and science education, sexual harassment, standardized testing, and technology.

Unfortunately, recent action by the Bush Administration and Secretary Spellings has threatened provisions providing for equal opportunities for girls and women in sports. This new interpretation of Title IX compliance now only requires that schools survey current female students regarding their interest in sports. A lack of response can be assumed a lack of interest. This process has several flaws, including the reliance on using only email as an effective tool for soliciting feedback on such an important law.

Unfortunately, because this interpretation was deemed a simple "clarification" by the Bush administration, there will be no public comment period, despite the serious concerns the public has raised regarding this change. This is not the first time the American people have raised concerns regarding this issue, nor is it the first time this Administration has tried to weaken Title IX.

In 2002, the Administration attempted to change this policy through the establishment of the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics. The Commission made several negative recommendations that weakened the goals of Title IX, but significant public outcry prevented these misguided policy changes. Given this kind of public commitment to this issue, I am very concerned about the way in which this most recent "clarification" has happened—late on a Friday afternoon, without any consultation or time for feedback despite a clear history of interest in this issue.

Over the past 30 years, significant movements have ensured more opportunities for women and girls. In fact young women's participation in athletics has increased by 400 percent at the college level and by 800 percent in high schools. Title IX has provided opportunities for female I athletes; however, they continue to be shortchanged in terms of athletic scholarship opportunities, facilities, and other benefits and services. Women and girls receive only 41 percent of athletic opportunities today, despite the fact that they constitute more than half of student enrollments. Vigorous enforcement of Title IX, rather than the weakening of compliance measures, must be the goal of the Department of Education. This is a time to continue to ensure women and girls are offered equal athletic opportunities at all levels of their abilities.

Last month, I convened a roundtable discussion in my district with nearly 50 students, coaches, Title IX compliance officers, and athletic directors regarding the "clarification." They shared their stories about what sporting opportunities were like before Title IX compared to the opportunities girls and women have now, their commitment to Title IX, and their concerns regarding efforts to weaken it. In fact, some schools shared that because this particular measure of Title IX compliance is so weak in demonstrating equal opportunities, they do not plan to use it, but rather they will use other measures.

I am proud of the female athletes in Minnesota—not only for their accomplishments but for their willingness to stand up and ensure these opportunities remain for generations of women to come.

It is in their honor that I rise today in recognition of these women trailblazers in athletics and education to call on President Bush and Secretary Spellings to immediately withdraw this harmful "clarification" and to support efforts that strengthen, rather than weaken, Title IX.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Friday and was regrettably unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 315, rollcall No. 316, rollcall No. 317, rollcall No. 318, rollcall No. 319, rollcall No. 320, and rollcall No. 321.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 315, "yea" on rollcall No. 316, "no" on rollcall No. 317, "yea" on rollcall No. 318, "yea" on rollcall No. 319, "yea" on rollcall No. 320, and "no" on rollcall No. 321.

HONORING ROBERT BOOTH AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary educational service of Robert Booth, a resident of Chautauqua County, Village of Fredonia, upon receiving the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor, the highest rank bestowed by the SUNY system on faculty members.

Booth is a Visual Arts and New Media department official at the State University of New York College at Fredonia, and is one of only nine professors statewide to receive this honor.

Since 1978 Booth has dedicated much of his time and energy to his students, and is committed to them on many levels. He always is willing to help and guide them, while still letting them be ultimately responsible for his or her education.

In addition to teaching, Booth is also known in Chautauqua County for his art restorations of the Marks Fountain in Fredonia's Barker Commons and the King Neptune fountain that resided in Dunkirk's Washington Park. Booth is a well respected artist whose work is featured all over the eastern part of the United States.

Booth is currently the coordinator of the In Sight/On Site sculpture project at SUNY Fredonia and the facilitator of the GWB Visual Arts Award Scholarship. He resides in Fredonia, with his wife, and two children.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express the overwhelming support that hundreds of my constituents have demonstrated for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I share their concern about the partisan attacks to eliminate funding and undermine the Corporation's commitment to providing objective and educational programming.

As a member of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus, I have learned how critical Federal funding is for CPB in order to ensure the continued availability of educational, innovative, objective, and locally-relevant programming provided by public radio and television stations across the country. This Republican appropriations bill proposes to strip 51 percent of CPB's total Federal funding—a cut so drastic it will negatively impact every public television and radio station's ability to provide the free and unbiased programs that millions of Americans count on every day. Currently, Federal funding for CPB totals just $1.50 per American per year. In addition, this Federal funding successfully leverages more than five additional dollars from private sources. For these reasons, I am pleased to support Mr. OBEY's amendment to restore $100 million to CPB.

Public broadcasting is an essential source of information for millions of Americans. America's educators depend on public broadcasting—it's their top choice for classroom video, and a leading source of online lesson plans. Nationwide surveys find that public broadcasting is the single most trusted national institution. And, public broadcasting is exceptional because it's local. Unlike the large media conglomerates that dominate commercial TV, the 348 PBS stations across the country are locally owned and operated—accountable to the local communities they serve.

In my home State of Minnesota, we are proud of the high quality public broadcasting our State has known for years. Minnesota Public Radio and Twin Cities Public Television are treasures that provide balanced news, insightful information, and exceptional entertainment over the public airwaves. They deserve our support and the support of the Federal Government. Nearly 900 constituents have e-mailed, phoned, and written to my office regarding their support for public broadcasting.

It is with a commitment to ensuring that my constituents continue to have access to high quality, unbiased information, as well as thoughtful and educational programming, that I rise today in support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a longstanding appointment in my Congressional District, I was unavoidably absent for the legislative day of Monday, June 27th, 2005.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 322 and "yea" on rollcall vote 323.

HONORING FOREST HILL FIRE-RESCUE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fire-Rescue station of Forest Hill, Texas. The Forest Hill department will soon be unveiling state-of-the-art equipment to help assist in widespread disaster.

The equipment to be unveiled was purchased with the funds issued by Texas State Homeland Security Grant and the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant of $523,000 and $37,600 respectively. On the morning of July 12th, Forest Hill Fire-Rescue will unveil the newest purchases in "specialized equipment" that will help serve during times of natural or man-made disasters. In addition to using the grant money in such sensible and viable means, the Forest Hill Rescue Department employed their newly acquired resources as means to establishing the much acclaimed Southern Emergency Response and Preparedness Association, SERPA. SERPA was designed to develop relationships with other local departments and to create standard operating guidelines in the case of widespread emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, as their Congressman, I want to congratulate Fire Chief Pat Ekiss and his department for allocating the grant funds in a useful manner and to thank them for their dedication in assisting and saving others. It is with the service and dedication of department's such as the Forest Hill Fire and Rescue that ensure the continuing protection and prominence of our communities and nation.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, nearly 70 years ago, Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated in his second inaugural address that "the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." The FY06 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriation bill has failed that test.

Although I commend Chairman REGULA and Mr. OBEY, our ranking member, for their tireless efforts to provide deserving citizens with necessary programs, this bill is a product of having too little to fund valuable initiatives. The tax cuts enjoyed by the wealthiest 1 percent of our population have left this Congress unable to continue funding essential programs that directly impact the least, the last, and the lost. The cuts in education, energy assistance, and healthcare services are signs of what I believe are an unraveling of our economic tapestry.

Our youngest and most vulnerable citizens will be disproportionately affected by Federal fiscal budget constraints in this Labor, Health and Human Services bill. Even at birth, this bill is putting some at a disadvantage. The Maternal and Child Health Block grant program has been cut even though scientific evidence proves the importance of prenatal care. Despite the fact that we recognize the need to provide access to care for young people whose families are unable to provide other sources of treatment, this valuable program has suffered a $24 million cut.

Beyond health care, our most vulnerable citizens will continue to bear the brunt of enormous tax cuts in education. Title I funding, aimed at helping low-income children in failing schools improve their reading and math skills, will be $9.9 billion below the No Child Left Behind funding promise. And to make matters worse, the same children who will be unable to benefit from enrichment programs due to a lack of funds will go home in the winter months to cold and uncomfortable temperatures because the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program has been cut by almost $200 million.

It is time to take a step back to re-evaluate the path we have chosen for the people of this Nation. I will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues, community partners, and concerned citizens to ensure that all people are able to receive excellent care at an affordable rate—because one must not place a price tag on the health and well-being of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, our children. I would like to leave you all with some other valuable words that Mr. Roosevelt imparted to us: "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all try something." I urge all of my colleagues to try another method.

GAMBLING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is no longer just limited to the casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. There are now more than 400 tribal casinos in 30 States, online gambling is booming and ESPN and other cable networks bring high-stakes poker tournaments into our living rooms on a regular basis.

I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor. More and more youth are also being seduced by gambling. According to a recent PBS NewsHour report, recent studies indicate that more than 70 percent of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 gambled in the past year, up from 45 percent in 1988.

The promotion of gambling is not a proper role of government. I share the concerns of National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion, NCAGE, that as a school of government, Harvard ought to use more discretion in allowing of its credentials to support gambling, which corrupts and addicts government at all levels. As you may know, Harvard Medical School Division of Addictions, Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, sits on the board of the National Center for Responsible Gaming, part of the American Gaming Association. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a recent letter from the NCAGE to the Harvard University leadership outlining the coalition's concerns about what many might regard as an inappropriate relationship between the university and the gambling industry.

THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST GAMBLING EXPANSION,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2005.

President LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, MA.
HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,
University Place,
Cambridge, MA.
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, DIVISION ON ADDICTIONS,
The Landmark Center,
Boston, MA.

DEAR SIRS AND MADAMS: It is with considerable disappointment that, after much study and thought, we come to the point where we must challenge the integrity of your work and the great name of Harvard.

We have listened and tried hard over the last few years to understand the logic and scientific protocols cited in the protestations of your scholars as they defend their ''neutrality'' on the subject of gambling. Frankly, we have never believed that Harvard should be ''neutral'' on issues that threaten public health. More importantly, we have come to the earnestly considered opinion that even this professed ''neutrality'' has been widely breached and replaced by academic activism for and in behalf of gambling interests.

In support of our charge, we cite the attitudes and activities of the Business School, Addictions Department and School of Government.

The Harvard Business Review lauds and publishes the success of business school faculty expatriate Gary Loveman who has guided Harrah's to its position as the Nation's largest casino business—by utilizing loyalty-marketing techniques to promote an addictive substance. It is as if the philosophy and ethics departments have been buried at the far end of the campus from the School of Business. Is there no duty to customers ever mentioned in the MBA programs of this generation at Harvard? Are our future CEOs being taught that the highest ''loyalty'' to the market is to sacrifice humanity on the altar of corporate expansion?

If not, then why does Harvard continue to celebrate such behavior?

If the business classes have no feeling for humanity, one would think a division of the medical school might. Not so. The head of the Harvard Medical School Division of Addictions, Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, now sits on the Board of Directors of the American Gaming Association's ''responsible gaming'' team. This AGA front organization, titled the National Center for Responsible Gaming, has been so pleased with Harvard's industry apologetics that it now exclusively funds ''research'' through the Harvard facility. The AGA repeatedly proffers the assumption that only ''peer reviewed'' materials filtered through this new association can be considered ''valid.'' The veracity of that notion is irrelevant. The relevance is that the AGA is counting on Harvard to deliver its good name.

Their reliance is sadly valid.

We see the Harvard journal espousing its own self-aggrandized superiority as it smugly chides other scholars, pontificating, ''The Wild West had its snake oil salesmen and the field of gambling studies is no different. . . Unfortunately, some contemporary authorities fail to adequately understand the principles of scientific inquiry and sustain conventional myths and unfounded casual relationships. . . Unpublished evidence that has not been subject to peer review has been presented as definitive. Preliminary evidence has been summarized in public testimony or press releases without necessary documentation, including methodological details that must be available for scrutiny. In each instance, this public behavior violates professional standards of conduct and tarnished the work of legitimate scientists.

The assumed antidote, of course, is to publish only through Harvard's brand of ''peer review.'' The AGA uses that language to bolster its own propaganda. ''Over the last five years, a small group of anti-gaming university professors have created, out of whole cloth, a series of economic models which purport to show that any economic benefits from gaming will be exceeded by the social costs caused by the industry. These professors, whose theories cannot stand the test of academic peer review, have created a circle of disinformation wherein they continually cite each other as sources to validate their erroneous theories. Three of the professors are from the University of Illinois and have testified before the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC) in Chicago. They are: Earl Grinols, Richard Gaze (now with the Federal Reserve Bank but formerly was Grinols' assistant) and John Kindt.

Curiously, it is Harvard's scholars who have been promulgating the self-citing circle of obfuscation. Despite editorial insistence on notational integrity and peer review, Shaffer and Korn, writing for Shaffer and Korn and repeatedly citing Shaffer, Korn and others in the Harvard sanctum, come to completely undocumented hypothesis that ''Until Korn and Shaffer formally introduced the idea of healthy gambling, health care, addictions and public health officials professionals had not considered the possibility of positive health benefits.''

Their paper, ''Gambling and Public Health,'' draws lines between dissociated dots arriving at the hypothesis that gambling is healthy for individuals and communities.

''Like going to a movie, sitting in a pub, or participating in physical activity, going to a casino or horse race may provide a healthy change and respite from everyday demands or social isolation. This may be particularly important for older adults . . . (not annotated—but then where would one find a footnote to show feeding a slot machine is equal to physical activity).

''Gambling is a form of adult play. While importance of play has been recognized for the healthy development of children (annotated), play also is important for adults (annotated). For example, whereas children play card, board and video games, adults play blackjack, bingo and video slot machines. In addition to providing fun and excitement, some forms of gambling can enhance coping strategies by building skills and competencies such as memory enhancement, problem solving through game tactics, mathematical proficiency, concentration and hand-to-eye physical coordination. (Note how annotated concepts of play being good for children and adults proceed to the unannotated suggestion that gambling must be good as well. Good for adults, good for children? (Shaffer, et al, eschew logic in favor of empiricism as a basis for scientific inquiry. Given their command of logic, this is self-explanatory. (Play is good. Gambling can be called play. Gambling is good.—Communists wear red. Santa wears red. Santa is a Communist)).

This tome further suggests, ''Health benefits can accrue to communities through gambling-related economic development . . .'' and suggests without annotation that gambling created jobs and economic development accrue to the benefit of collective mental health.) (Jobs and money make people happy, so gambling makes people happy. Sadly, no footnotes elucidate the chasms between these dots either.)

Since co-morbidity is a generally accepted feature of addiction, this paper even suggests gambling addiction may ''catch'' people from progressing to a more serious addiction, like heroin. (Gambling addiction may preclude a worse addiction and is therefore a ''benefit.''

Within a handful of lines, this same paper sneers, ''. . . An unsupported but commonly cited estimate for the annual cost to society of each pathological gambler is $13,200.'' Like numbers have been meticulously recalculated and duplicated, but because they weren't published in the proper Harvard-edited journal, apparently they are ''unsupported.'' Because they did not emanate through halls funded by the American Gaming Association, they have not been appropriately ''peer reviewed.''

In this context, ''Peer reviewed'' has come to mean ''gambling lackeys vouching for gambling apologists.''

If the addictions group's advocacy of, or at least affinity for, the gambling industry is transparent, then the gambling industry association with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government is vivid.

Our attached comments speak plainly to deliberate and blatant examples of that school's use of Harvard credentials to support gambling, specifically through Indian tribes. It is shameful for an institution upholding itself a ''school of government'' to endorse a phenomenon which corrupts and addicts government at all levels. To my knowledge, no heroic figure or revered writer on the subject of American democracy has ever suggested that the promulgation of gambling is a proper role of government.

We believe the good name of ''Harvard'' has been co-opted by the gambling industry. It is apparent to any serious observer that ''Harvard'' is the brand of choice for those seeking to buy credibility for a product that ruins lives.

If this was a car, or a drug that damaged, ruined or ended the lives of one of each 100 Americans, we suggest you would not be ''neutral,'' and certainly you would not be advocates.

Because your performance is tainted and your reputation threatened, we respectfully ask your institution to stand down from this debate, and let it be carried forward by unsullied hands.

We ask for your support for a regeneration of the activities of the National Gambling

Impact Study Commission to assess the costs and benefits of legalized gambling in America from a less biased platform.

Sincerely,

DR. GUY C. CLARK,
Chairman.

Attached: Our bulletin article.

"HARVARD"—THE BEST NAME MONEY CAN BUY

Harvard, the venerable institution founded in 1636, is among America's most recognizable academic "Brands". Its public reputation is among the highest of America's institutions.

Through association, the phrase "Harvard says," becomes powerful validation, even when followed by statements Harvard didn't really make, or, perhaps, was paid to say. Thus it follows that when one of America's least reputable institutions—gambling—went shopping for a spokesman, they determined "Harvard" was the best name money could buy.

The American Gaming Association (AGA) opened shop in Washington, D.C. in 1995 to promote, in their own words, "better understanding of the gaming entertainment industry by bringing facts about the industry to the general public, elected officials, other decision makers and the media through education and advocacy."

The AGA became the propaganda machine for the commercial casino companies that funded it. The casinos faced tough questions from politicians and anti-gambling groups as gambling proliferated across the nation in the early 1990s.

Those questions intensified in 1996, when Congress funded the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC). Despite gambling's expensive attempts to stack the commission and its success in stripping it of subpoena power, the commission's final report in 1999 posted strong warnings about gambling expansion. It called for a "pause" in the expansion of gambling until more information on addiction, bankruptcy, crime, job cannibalization and other topics could be studied.

But gambling proponents were already staging their response. The same year the NGISC started its research, casinos founded their own "gambling research" organization, the National Center for Responsible Gambling (NCRG). Boyd Gaming Corporation provided the start-up funds for the NCRG and made a 10-year pledge of $875,000. Other leading gaming companies, including Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., International Game Technology, Mandalay Resort Group, MGM Mirage and Park Place Entertainment Corporation were "early and generous supporters," according to NCRG's own web site.

The site notes, "Today, with the contributions of the casino gaming industry, equipment manufacturers, vendors, related organizations and individuals, more than $13 million has been committed to the NCRG, an unprecedented level of funding for gambling research. This financial support has enabled the NCRG to attract the best minds from the most prestigious institutions to conduct research in this uncharted field," (Emphasis added.)

They boast the group is run by scholars and health care professionals, but it is chaired by professional lobbyist and former Congressman Dennis E. Eckart, with William Boyd, chairman of Boyd Gaming, serving as president, and the AGA's senior vice president and executive director, Judy Patterson as secretary-treasurer. Only five of the 21 remaining directors represent health care or academic organizations. The rest are all gambling executives or lobbyists.

Among the five is Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D. Director, Division on Addictions, Harvard Medical School, which is funded by the gambling industry through NCRG.

Gambling interests funded the NCRG with, according to their own accounts, $13 million. Of that they have contributed $6 million to "research," with that funding now going exclusively to the Harvard Project.

Harvard insists the NCRG board exercises no control over its research, but at least two noted treatment experts left the NCRG board because of their concerns about just such problems. Both indicated the NCRG would not likely allow researchers to tackle the big issues of proximity, high-speed addiction of machines and other factors that could be damaging to the industry.

Clinical psychiatrist Dr. Henry Lesieur from the Rhode Island Hospital's gambling treatment program and UCLA's Dr. Richard Rosenthal resigned from the NCRG board three years ago after concluding that the gambling industry wielded too much influence over the research.

Still, Harvard's addiction department continues to disburse grants to other research applications. With Shaffer as editor and other Harvard staff on the editorial board, The Journal of Gambling Studies, served as a prestigious gathering point and filter for research. Harvard editors in turn spent considerable ink "debunking" other contributed research. As an adjunct to its publishing efforts, Harvard distributed the WAGER, an online review of current topics between 2004 and 2005. The typical WAGER review comprised an outline of a study's premise, followed by the study's findings. Typically the last WAGER paragraphs were dedicated to a repetitive disclaimer that results were not conclusive because of sample size or some other weakness.

A classic example was the August, 2002 examination of suicides and their relationship to gambling. "Do Casinos have Casualties? Mixed Evidence for a Gambling-Suicide Link." Why Harvard would choose to review this study, which it concluded was inconclusive and flawed in many regards, is unclear. The Harvard editor dismissed the study's results for a number of reasons, including, "relationships between gambling settings and suicide rates could potentially be due to common features that influence suicide other than casino presence. For example, Nevada is home to a great number of retirees, a population which has demonstrated higher suicide rates."

That would be interesting if it were true. Nevada ranks 44th in the nation for population over 65, Nevada has ranked first in the nation in suicide rates for 10 of the last 14 years, never coming in lower than fourth. In suicides per capita it was surpassed recently by Montana, which has more video lottery terminals and Gamblers Anonymous chapters per capita than any other state in the nation.

Still, AGA spokesman Frank Fahrenkopf traverses the country announcing that "peer reviewed" studies have "failed to prove" a relationship between gambling and suicide. In AGA logic, having "failed to prove" an assertion is equal to a "proof' of its antithesis."

Fahrenkopf and his peers have deceived numerous legislators with illusions of "peer reviewed" studies that "prove" there is no correlation between gambling and crime, no correlation between casino proximity and addiction, and that gambling takes money away from other businesses.

Harvard's addiction department is not the only tool of the gambling industry. The university's renowned Kennedy School of Government is deeply connected to Native American organizations dedicated to the economic and political development of Indian reservations. Unfortunately, those organizations have adopted the NIGA mantra of gambling as the "New Buffalo" which will elevate the reservations to the status of economically and politically independent nations.

Again, the "Harvard" brand is a deliberate purchase of the gambling tribes. In 2003, just after Time Magazine published a blistering expose on the status of Indian casino development, NIGA commissioned Harvard to produce a study deliberately designed to show the benefits of Indian gambling.

News reports at the time quoted Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians saying, "NIGA's fellow trade organization, the AGA, constantly produces numbers to help its cause. The data bolsters policy decisions and helps make problems go away. Our study would allow the same to take place."

The study was to be headed by Katherine Spilde, a former Director of Research for the NIGA, and an ardent proponent of gambling expansion. Spilde told reporters the study would help reverse "a bona fide public relations crisis," for Indian gambling.

NIGA's Marguez said the study would be "the centerpiece of a public relations campaign" to promote Indian gambling. "The PR and the research go hand in hand. The study will provide the necessary data, and the campaign the necessary visibility."

The study was funded to support an intended finding, with an advertising campaign as the intended result.

Spilde also played the "peer reviewed" card, noting the study would be "validated" by other academics. "A peer-reviewed report will have the highest integrity possible and insulate us from critics who may try to imply that funding from Indian Country has influenced the results," she said.

"Gambling industry lackies vouching for gambling industry apologists," fumes NCALG/NCAGE chairman Dr. Guy C. Clark. A dentist by trade, Clark said, "It reminds me of a mouthwash introduced some years ago with a claim that its in-house studies showed the product was highly effective at removing plaque. Later independent studies showed the product was 'slightly less effective than water.'

"Harvard's motives look about as transparent as water too, no matter what they claim for intentions. I would think they would want to be more protective of the school's heritage," Clark concluded. "These so-called studies are no more than gambling industry in-house advocacy dressed up as academics."

TRIBUTE TO THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SILICON VALLEY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley as they celebrate 50 years as an advocate and resource for its members, business owners, professionals, students and the community in general by being the premier voice for Hispanic and minority businesses.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley, originally called the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, was founded in 1955, and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1975 when it began offering services to the Latino small business community.

Over the years, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has provided assistance and support to numerous Latinos and other minority small businesses in business education, economic assistance, international business, entrepreneurship, education, community development, loan program development, and procurement assistance, to name a few. The Hispanic Chamber has helped over 5,000 clients in the past 50 years and has helped businesses procure loans totaling over $3 million.

The Hispanic Chamber is a recognized leader and influential player in the development of the social, political and economic landscape of this region, and was recognized as the best Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the United States by an independent auditing firm in 1999.

I am proud of the leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose dedication has built Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley into an integral part of the fabric of our local community. And, in so doing, the Hispanic Chamber is contributing to making Silicon Valley a place that recognizes the vital role Hispanic businesses play in the economic development of our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 27, 2005, I missed the following votes: rollcall number 322, H. Res. 199, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995; and rollcall number 323, H. Con. Res. 155, urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on both Rollcall number 322 and rollcall number 323.

DELAWARE RIVER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1412, the Delaware River Protection Act, which institutes a variety of measures to protect the Delaware and other American rivers from future oil spills and environmental disasters and which I am pleased to have voted for. As the longest un-dammed river east of the Mississippi, the Delaware is a crucial part of America's infrastructure, serving as a key route for commercial shipping, a popular area for recreational activity, and a vital water source for hundreds of counties and municipalities on or near its path.

In late November 2004, the tanker *Athos* I, accidentally hit an unmarked, submerged piece of iron pipe on the shore of the Delaware River near Paulsboro, NJ. The metal tore a hole in the ship's single hull, releasing roughly 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the river and soiling over 200 miles of coastline. Hundreds of birds became oil-covered and died; countless fish—including many endangered short-nose sturgeon—were sickened or killed. The Coast Guard estimated the cost of cleanup to be in excess of $200 million—that in addition to revenues lost when shipping routes along the river were forced to close and power plants along the river were forced to shut down. But under current law, the tanker's owners are responsible for less than $50 million of that cost; American taxpayers are forced to foot the bill for the rest.

For almost 15 million people—including much of the New York metropolitan area—the Delaware is a primary source of drinking water. Polluting such a valuable resource should be far costlier than it currently is, in order to encourage companies to practice the safest shipping possible. The Delaware River Protection Act would have just that effect.

First, the bill increases responsible parties' cleanup liability by nearly ninety percent for single-hulled vessels like the *Athos* I, and by over forty percent for double-hulled vessels, which are safer and more resistant to hull damage. The bill also requires any person with knowledge of submerged objects in U.S. waters to report those objects to the Coast Guard or be subject to civil and criminal penalties; prior Coast Guard notification of the iron pipe submerged in the Delaware's banks could have prevented the *Athos* incident entirely.

Finally, the bill proposes two programs. The first, established jointly within the Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, would be devoted to determining the environmental effects of submerged oil, and to developing methods to locate and remove it. The second, the Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee, would be devoted solely to recommending ways to improve prevention of—and reaction to—oil spills on the Delaware.

In all, this bill makes important strides toward the environmental protection that our planet, our region, and the fifteen million Americans who rely on the Delaware for drinking water need. Preventing future oil spills and related disasters on the Delaware River is a vital and necessary goal. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Delaware River Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed votes on June 24th, 2005. Had I been present I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall Nos. 309, 310, 311, 312, 314, 316, 318, 319 and 320. I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall Nos. 308, 313, 315, 317 and 321.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST NICK IDALSKI

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and respect that I wish to commend United States Army Specialist Nick Idalski for the service and sacrifice he paid to this country. Specialist Idalski was tragically killed in the field of battle, while bravely conducting combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq, on June 21, 2005, just over a week shy of his 24th birthday. Specialist Idalski served our country with great honor, valor, and courage.

Specialist Idalski was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and 2nd Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colorado. His sacrifice will be remembered at funeral services on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, by a community that has been devastated by the loss of one of its own.

A native of Crown Point, Indiana, Specialist Idalski graduated from Crown Point High School in 2001. After graduation he went on to work for a local construction company and then to train as an emergency medical technician, where he finished at the top of his class. Instead of taking a more conventional route, Specialist Idalski bravely decided to enlist in the army to make a difference and to make his family proud.

Many of his friends and his family recall him as a free spirited teenager, so it came as a surprise when Specialist Idalski decided to join the Army. However, as his time in the army progressed and he finished basic training in 2003 at Fort Benning, Georgia, he made his friends and family proud. After spending time in Korea, he was sent to Iraq in August of 2004, where he courageously served his country. Specialist Idalski had chosen to make a career out of his service in the Army.

He loved his country and the members of his unit; however, Specialist Idalski treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his Mother, Kim Greenberg; Step-Father, Rick Greenberg, a retired Marine; Step-Brother, Army Sergeant Kevin Greenberg; and girlfriend, Lisa Wheeler. His community mourns with his family, and he is missed tremendously. The city of Crown Point, Indiana will honor Specialist Idalski with a moment of silence at the beginning of their Fourth of July parade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Nick Idalski. Specialist Idalski sacrificed his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his passing comes as setback to a community already shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Idalski will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the brave sacrifice he made in order to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

IN HONOR OF ROLAND G. DOWNING, PH.D.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the newly elected President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Roland G. Downing, Ph.D. Following in the footsteps of Howard F. Horne, Dr. Downing is the second Delawarean to lead the SAR in the past 5 years.

While growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, Roland was active inside and outside of the classroom, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, playing for his high school football team, and serving as the President of the student body. This commitment to excellence would continue at Vanderbilt University, where Roland earned a degree in organic chemistry.

After graduation, Roland would embark on a successful career with the Delaware-based DuPont Company, culminating in a 38-year tenure as Research Manager, Product Manager and Market Development Manager. During this time, Roland would take a brief hiatus to further his education, earning a PhD in organic chemistry. In addition to being a successful scientist, Dr. Downing served in the United States Naval Reserve for over 20 years, including a 3-year deployment at sea during the Korean War.

Prior to his election as President General, Dr. Downing held numerous other positions within the SAR, including: Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Regional Vice-President, and membership on the Executive Committee. Joining him in celebrating this new position are his lovely wife Norma, a son, two daughters, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I congratulate the SAR on their exceptional choice of Dr. Roland G. Downing as President General. He is an exemplary citizen, devoted family man, and most of all, a proud American.

STATEMENT OF HARLEY SHAIKEN BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—CENTRAL AMERICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (EXCERPTED)

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I submit into the RECORD the following statement of Professor Harley Shaiken, excerpted from the statement submitted in connection with the House Committee on Ways and Means hearing of April 21, 2005 on the Dominican Republic—Central America Free Trade Agreement.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—CENTRAL AMERICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(By Harley Shaiken)

STATEMENT FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, APRIL 2005

The standard by which to judge this agreement is straightforward: does the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) promote development and democracy, or does it create a small circle of wealthy winners and a far larger group of impoverished losers? Expanded trade has the potential to propel the former, but this agreement delivers the later. The result threatens rather than benefits U.S. workers. It's not that the train is moving too slowly, it's that DR-CAFTA is running in the wrong direction.

Plaguing the agreement is an unnecessary tradeoff: DR-CAFTA opens trade while locking in the labor status quo or worse. For citizens of Central America and the Dominican Republic, the tradeoff represents a squandered opportunity; for U.S. workers and their communities, it means an assault on wages and working conditions; for firms it may mean easier access to markets tomorrow but diminished markets in the coming years. DR-CAFTA provides strong language and tough penalties in all areas related to investment—at times riding roughshod over the six countries—but abandons labor rights largely to rhetoric and good intentions.

In some areas tough provisions favor special interests at the expense of the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. Consider agriculture. The rural population ranges from 34 percent in the Dominican Republic to 60 percent in Guatemala. See Ferranti, D., G. Perry, W. Foster, D. Lederman, A. Valdez, "Beyond the City: The Rural Contribution to Development," (Washinton D.C.: World Bank, 2005). How are small farmers supposed to compete with heavily subsidized U.S. exports? Due to subsidies for rice production, the U.S. exported paddy rice to Central America at a price that was 18–20 percent lower than its cost of production. *See* Oxfarn International, "A raw deal for rice under DR-CAFTA," November 2003, (5), http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what____we____do/issues/trade/downloads/bp68____Price.pdf. In pharmaceuticals, Professor Angelina Godoy has found that "the intellectual-property provisions in CAFTA actually extend the length of time during which the major pharmaceutical companies' products are guaranteed sole access to markets" which, in her view as well as that of many other observers such as Amnesty International, "just may be a death sentence for many in the Dominican Republic and Central America." See Angelina Godoy, "What makes free trade free?" Seattle Times, April 14, 2005, http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/htmllopinion/2002240604____nocafta14.html; and Amnesty International, "Guatemala, Memorandum to the Government of Guatemala: Amnesty International's concerns regarding the current human rights situation," (Washington D.C.: Amnesty International, April 20, 2005) *http://web.amnesty.org/library/lndex/ENGAMR340142005*. Many Latin Americans are likely to view provisions such as these as indicating that the U.S. is more serious about strong-arming weaker neighbors than sustainable economic integration.

Let's be clear from the start. This is not a debate about "free trade" versus "protectionism." Instead, the challenge is defining free trade for the twenty-first century. The right trade agreement could both encourage growth and move towards a more broadly shared prosperity, defining what one might call "smart trade." To do this, comparative advantage must be defined by innovation rather than repression. Labor standards are vital for protecting workers, but they also can help expand purchasing power, build healthier markets, and lay the basis for more robust trade.

What then is wrong with the labor provisions in DR–CAFTA? They send a clear message to the governments involved: the current situation on labor rights is acceptable and even fewer rights for workers will do. The agreement lays out lofty labor rights goals and then backs them up with weak, convoluted language and meager resources. Moreover, these inadequate provisions replace language that has had a modest positive impact. Consequently, firms willing to travel the low road will define competitiveness, cutting off those who want to do the right thing.

In this testimony, I plan to explore three themes: labor laws and their enforcement, the promotion of reform, and finally "smart trade."

LABOR LAWS AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT

For millions throughout Central America and the Dominican Republic, the issue of labor rights is not an abstraction but an urgent need. Although labor laws differ among these six countries, there is little serious debate among scholars as to the situation on the ground. The issue is not simply selective abuses but a systematic denial of the right to freely join a union or the right to bargain collectively. Numerous reports from the ILO, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations, and the United States Department of State confirm the seriousness of the problems. *See* U.S. State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004," for Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, February 29, 2005, *http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/cI4138.htm*; Human Rights Watch, "Deliberate Indifference: EI Salvador's Failure to Protect Workers' Rights," vol. 15, no. 5, December 2003, *http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/elsalvador1203/*; Human Rights Watch, "CAFTA's Weak Labor Rights Protections: Why the Present Accord Should be Opposed," March 2004, *http://hrw.org/englishl/docs/2004/03/09/cafta90days.pdf*; ILO, "Fundamental Principals and Rights at Work: A Labour Law Study," (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2003), *http://www.ilo. org/public/english/dialogue/download/cafta.pdf*.

When it comes to making the choice on whether or not to join a union, workers currently risk dismissal, blacklist, violence, and even death. The results are readily apparent in the low union density. In Guatemala less than 3 percent of the workforce belongs to a union. *See* U.S. State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Guatemala Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2004," February 29, 2005, http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41762.htm. In El Salvador, no independent trade unions have been formed in the last four years.

The low trade union density is only the tip of the iceberg. The unions that do exist tend to be fragmented, weak, and isolated. Effective collective bargaining has become a rarity rather than the norm. The percentage of workers covered by collective bargaining agreements in three ofthe six DR–CAFTA countries based on 2003 data ranges from a low end of 1.4 and 1.5 percent in Honduras and Nicaragua, respectively, to 4.3 percent in El Salvador—not exactly a critical mass for effective collective bargaining. See International Labour Organization Decent Work Indicators Database http://www.oit.or.cr/estad/td/indexe.php

A trade agreement should stimulate positive change, not ratify the status quo or worse. What type of labor standards might be rigorous enough to improve the conditions of work yet flexible enough to recognize different levels of development? One model is the five core labor standards developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO). See International Labor Organization, "Fundamental ILO Conventions," http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/norm/whatare/fundam/index.htm. particularly the right of association (Convention 87) and the right to organize and bargain collectively (Convention 98).

Although DR–CAFTA pays rhetorical homage to these standards, in practice it throws them overboard. The agreement calls for each country to enforce its existing labor codes, no matter how inadequate or distant from the ILO standards. The agreement recognizes ''the right of each Party to establish its own domestic labor standards, and to adopt or modify accordingly its labor laws.'' It then goes on to state that ''each Party shall strive to ensure that its laws provide for labor standards consistent with the internationally recognized labor rights. . . . and shall strive to improve those standards in that light.'' See United States Trade Representative, ''The Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement,'' August, 5, 2004, http://www.ustr.gov/Trade__Agreements/Bilateral/DR-CAFTA/DRCAFTA__Final__Texts/Section__Index.html. ''Strive to ensure'' and ''strive to improve''? This is the kind of language many would like to see on April 15 when they have to pay their taxes since it is virtually unenforceable. A standard based on effort is hardly a serious standard. Instead of ''striving to ensure'' international standards are met, the agreement could commit to upholding them and provide clear penalties if they are not upheld.

The domestic laws often read as if they are designed to thwart the formation of unions, and slipshod enforcement hardly improves the situation. Companies wanting to avoid unions can do just about anything; workers seeking to join unions face threats and intimidation. Protection against anti-union bias is akin to snow in San Francisco; it happens but not frequently. ''In practice, labor laws on the books in Central America are not sufficient to deter employers from violations,'' an International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF) study found. See International Labor Rights Fund, ''An Examination of Six Basic Labor Rights—Executive Summary of Reports on Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala,'' based on a study by Asociación Servicios de Promoción Laboral (ASEPROLA), April 5, 2005, http://www.laborrights.org/. Byzantine regulations tend to tie unions into knots, laying out registration procedures that are more maze than procedure. In Honduras, for example, the ILRF found ''obstacles and delays in union registration constitute a violation of ILO Convention 87 on the right to associate.'' Ibid. Weak as labor rights are, the track record hardly inspires confidence that they won't be ratcheted downwards in response to globalization.

Enforcement is squeezed by impunity and corruption, ineptitude and fear. In Guatemala, the U.S. State Department concluded in its 2005 human rights report that ''Workers had little confidence that the responsible executive and judicial institutions would effectively protect or defend their rights if violated.'' The report stated that ''the weakness of labor inspectors, the failures of the judicial system, poverty, the legacy of violent repression of labor activists during the internal conflict, the climate of impunity, and the long-standing hostility between the business establishment and independent and self-governing labor associations all constrained the exercise of worker rights.'' See U.S. State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, ''Guatemala Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2004,'' February 29, 2005, http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41762.htm.

THE PROMOTION OF REFORM

There is little dispute that labor conditions are bad today; the real question is will DR–CAFTA make them better? In fact, it will make them worse. What makes the DR–CAFTA approach particularly problematic is that it replaces the modest existing protections for labor rights embedded in two unilateral trade preference programs: the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Much of the halting, modest reform that has taken place in the region over the last 15 years stems from the pressure brought through these programs. For example, EI Salvador was put on GSP review for abusing worker rights in 1992 and labor law reform followed within two years. See AFL–CIO, ''The Real Record on Workers' Rights in Central America,'' (Washington D.C.: AFL–CIO, April 2005), http://www.aflcio.org/issuespolitics/globaleconomy/upload/CAFTABook.pdf.

What impetus is supposed to change destructive practices this deeply rooted? The core problem is one of political will, not lack of technical resources. The most powerful incentive for change is conditioning U.S. ratification on domestic labor law reform. Unfortunately, that horse has already left the barn. Some proponents argue expanded trade will result in more democratic rights. Burgeoning trade does not seem to have done much in Mexico—especially in the export sector—in the first decade of NAFTA. Cross border trade between the U.S. and Mexico has tripled yet the number of independent unions remains in single digits.

Realistically, powerful elites retain a strong hold on the DR–CAFTA economies. If expanded trade simply translates to expanded income for these elites, a small number of wealthy families may become wealthier and happier, but little will be passed along to the majority of the people of these countries. The growth of the middle class will be thwarted and, ironically, the potential market for U.S. goods dampened. By the same token, the pressure will correspondingly increase on the wages and working conditions for U.S. workers. The goal should be to harmonize standards upwards not the other way around.

SMART TRADE

The entire ratification process has caused severe strains and protests in civil society throughout Central America. Reflecting the gap between the ratification process for DRCAFTA and popular sentiment is the fact that legislatures often had to pass the agreement in the dead of night. The Honduran Congress ratified CAFTA in an early morning surprise vote specifically because protests were expected. The Guatemala Congress approved CAFTA in emergency session and under exceptional circumstances also because of anticipated protests. It passed by a lopsided vote of 126–12 on March 10; a Gallup poll carried out two weeks later (March 14–23) found that 65 percent of those polled felt that the agreement would harm the country. *See* Matthew Kennis, ''Despite Ratification Anti-CAFTA protests Continue in Guatemala,'' IRC Americas Program, (Silver City, NM: International Relations Center, April 13, 2005), *http://www.americaspolicy.org/pdf/commentary/0504guatcafta.pdf*.

When it came to the issue of labor rights, tough negotiating dissolved into acceptance of the status quo. The danger, according to former President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio, is that ''corporations take advantage of cheap labor, operating in enclaves with limited links to the national economy, trapping the region in a spiral of low salaries, low aggregate value and lack of compliance with basic labor standards, such as the freedom of association and the right to collective negotiation.'' *See* Rodrigo Carazo Odio, letter to the Members of the United States Congress Washington, DC, May 27, 2004.

We need to reframe the debate on the issues of labor rights and development. It is not a question of free trade versus protectionism, but rather ''smart trade'' versus ''polarizing trade.'' Smart trade recognizes rights, spurs economic growth with equity, and promotes democracy; polarizing trade might spur trade in the short run but the benefits go to the winners' circle while the number of losers grows far larger. Democracy itself could be a casualty.

Smart trade requires four provisions:

1. Upward harmonization of domestic labor law to match the core ILO conventions as the goal of a three-year phase-in period. The granting of trade and investment benefits would follow agreed upon reform in a country's labor law. *See* Carol Pier, ''The Right Way to Trade,'' Washington Post, August 1, 2003.

2. The ILO five core labor rights embedded in the core agreement, subject to strong enforcement provisions and penalties.

3. A development fund targeted for infrastructure and education. This fund would reinforce competitiveness in the six countries and place them on the ''high road.''

4. Expanded adjustment assistance for U.S. workers negatively impacted by trade. This assistance should also be proactive in industries threatened by trade.

No trade agreement can solve all the problems of development and globalization, but it should point in the right direction. A trade agreement that fosters prosperity and promotes democracy is possible and essential for the region and for the United States. Smart trade lays the basis for growing incomes and markets in Central America and the Dominican Republic and expanded U.S. exports and jobs. It begins to define a better model for integrating into the global economy. Unfortunately, that model is not this DRCAFTA.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND EMINENT DOMAIN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week, on this Floor I saluted the Supreme Court for a ruling that made citizens more free. Also, yesterday we passed H. Res. 312, Recognizing National Homeownership.

However, the Supreme Court I lauded was not ours, but the Canadian Supreme Court, for freeing the sale of health insurance. And in fact, USA homeownership may not be so liberating. Last Thursday, our Supreme Court backed that local governments can co-opt private property, and give it to another private entity, for economic development. This is under the power of eminent domain, and is an expansive setback to property rights advocates and all homedwellers.

The Fifth Amendment to our Constitution allows the government to take private property with "just compensation". Historically, it's been interpreted only for "public use": a highway, military base or other such infrastructure. Increasingly, and confirmed by Kelo v. New London, the Federal courts have said that private property could be taken for "public benefit," including tax revenues and job creation. Revitalization for the neighborhood trumps individual "homeownership".

Former bustling, now depressed New London, CT seeks to develop a private, commercial enterprise. They must compensate, but two homeowners don't want to budge. Susette Kelo has extensively remodeled her waterfront-view home. Wilhelmina Dery was born in her house in 1918 and has lived there her entire life.

You ask, why worry, how often? According to Institute for Justice, the public interest law firm litigating for the homeowners, nationwide, more than 10,000 properties were threatened or condemned in recent years.

Of the majority (Justices Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Breyer, and Kennedy), Justice Kennedy provided the dimmest hope, that states are free to pass additional protections. Fortunately for citizens of Connecticut,

Governor M. Jodi Rell is urging careful review, and possibly legislative solution in Hartford.

Florida is one of eight states that forbids the use of eminent domain when the purpose is not to eliminate blight. This does not reassure. A dismayed constituent cried that this decision has turned us into serfs who no longer own the land, we just inhabit it at the whim of the government. The Supreme Court's justices are appointed by our elected President and confirmed by our U.S. Senators, and affirm to uphold the U.S. Constitution, under which we think we are living. The Gainesville Sun polled "How do you feel about the Supreme Court ruling giving local governments power to seize private property to generate tax revenue?" Huge mistake, said 363 to 31. Similarly, the Marion Pulse of the Ocala Star Banner polled that 98.2 percent of its readers disavowed the ruling.

Justice O'Connor (joined by Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas) impassioned: "The specter of condemnation hangs over all property. Nothing is to prevent the state from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory. . . . . Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms. . . . As for the victims, the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

What did the Founders say? Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Charged with the care of the general interest of the Nation, and among these with the preservation of their lands from intrusion, I exercised, on their behalf, a right given by nature to all men, individual or associated, that of rescuing their own property wrongfully taken" (to W. C. C. Claiborne, 1810).

Yes, the less-connected and the feebler have more to fear. Justice Thomas reminded that urban renewal has historically resulted in displacement of minorities, the elderly and the poor. This is why civil rights-promoting groups such as the NAACP and AARP filed friendly briefs. Non-profits and religious organizations also worry—they don't generate taxes. So, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty were Amicus supporting petitioners.

When I took this job I vowed to uphold the Constitution. I will work with my colleagues, the Institute for Justice, the NAACP, the American Farm Bureau, AARP, Cato Institute, the National Association of Homebuilders, Reason Foundation and other property rights advocates, to take back the Fifth amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business on the afternoon of Monday, June 27, 2005. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall vote No. 322: yea; rollcall vote No. 323: yea.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD ELINSON

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I ask our colleagues to join us today in honoring Dr. Howard Elinson, who was born on the 11th of January, 1940 in New York City and who passed away on Friday June 17th, 2005 in Los Angeles at Midway Hospital.

Howard earned his B.A. and his Ph.D. in Sociology at UCLA. He taught for 1 year at Yale and for 7 years at UCLA. He worked as Administrative Assistant and Consultant for 27 years for Congressman HENRY WAXMAN. Six of those years were when Mr. WAXMAN was a State Assemblyman.

Howard is survived by his beloved and devoted brother Mark who is an admired and respected high school teacher of Social Studies in the Los Angeles City School system. He also serves as an Adviser to the L.A. Unified School District, instructing Social Studies teachers on the best techniques for teaching Social Studies.

Howard Elinson was and is unforgettable to any or all who knew or met him (no matter how casually or for how short a time). He changed the life of everyone in his personal orbit by his magnetic personality his unique insight into the human condition, his sharp wit his gigantic intellect his mastery of any human behavior subject, and his generosity and kindness.

But, unknown to most Californians and "Angelenos" (and unmentioned in media accounts) Howard Elinson changed the face of California and Los Angeles politics.

It was Howard Elinson who conceived and invented individually targeted computerized mail—the campaign technique that was instrumental in the 1968 primary election victory of HENRY WAXMAN for State Assembly (by, still to this date, the largest margin against an incumbent—this one a 26 year incumbent—of his own party), and the 1972 primary and general election victory of HOWARD BERMAN for State Assembly (the general against, ironically, a 26 year Republican incumbent).

It was Howard Elinson's ideas that were instrumental in electing Congressman HENRY WAXMAN, Congressman HOWARD BERMAN, Congressman Mel Levine, Congressman Julian Dixon, State Senator Herschel Rosenthal, State Assemblyman Burt Margolin, State Assemblyman Terry Friedman, and countless others.

And it was Howard Elinson who inspired the strategy and direct mail efforts that led to the election of Mayor Tom Bradley in 1973.

But Howard Elinson's life was much more than about politics. As a devout and Orthodox Jew his faith came first. And imagine this dark suited, yarmulke wearing, fast-talking man writing the "early 60's seminal study" of voting behavior for his Ph.D. thesis. He conducted lengthy and open-ended interviews, drawing out in their homes 50 white working class voters in Bell, California—the then-place-of-entry of the vast immigration from Oklahoma, the mid-west and the South to Southern California.

These Christian and working class people had perhaps never before met a Jew—and certainly not a readily recognizable Orthodox Jew. Yet they opened their hearts to this amazing man. They trusted him—no matter how "New York" he spoke, no matter how foreign he might have looked. That was the uniqueness, the special nature of Howard Elinson.

Perhaps inspired by his faith, or by his innate decency, Howard Elinson affected the lives of everyone who knew him. Many dozens of interns, staff, and budding politicians that came through HENRY WAXMAN's office sought Howard Elinson's advice and counsel—both personal and career. Hundreds of young people confused by the conflicts between a traditional religious life and modernity sought Howard Elinson's advice on how to cope—"who better to ask?" Children flocked to him—no child was unworthy of his attention, his sense of playfulness, his devotion to the child's value as a human being. No one in need (whether for a religious cause or in personal need) was turned down for a contribution. Howard Elinson's generosity was open ended and well known.

The untimely death of Howard Elinson was not just a loss to his family and friends, but to the people who have had in him a champion of a tolerant, liberal, and more humane America.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration this bill, (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Appropriations bill before us. This bill fails to address the priorities of the American people.

The bill shortchanges critical health care programs, offers the smallest increase to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) In 36 years, and falls to fulfill promises this Congress made to disadvantaged children. With 45 million uninsured Americans, we cannot afford to eliminate programs targeted at meeting the needs of the uninsured or remove the support systems that exist for those doctors and nurses who are serving in areas where there is a shortage of professional health services.

Furthermore, in a time when scientists are just beginning to make meaningful progress on the projects they began between 1998 and 2003, it is irresponsible to fund NIH at a level 2.6 percent short of what they need to keep up with inflation in research costs. Under this legislation, NIH will be able to support about 505 fewer research grants than just two years earlier.

Finally, with a record 55 million children in public schools and state budgets stretched thin, this bill proposes to cut No Child Left Behind funding by $806 million, leaving 3.1 million low-income children behind. This brings the total NCLB funding shortfall to $40 billion, since its enactment in 2002.

The Appropriations Committee did take care to address some critical issues, such as restoring funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program and the Assistive Technology Act, and I appreciate the support for these important programs. Unfortunately, the budget resolution for FY2006 prevented appropriators from being able to put forth a bill that truly reflected the needs of the American people. When Congress passed H. Con. Res. 95, the Budget Conference Report, the Republican leadership set the stage for these devastating cuts. This legislation makes it clear that tax cuts for the wealthy will continue to be paid for by slashing programs that Rhode Islanders depend on.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 3010.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today to highlight my disappointment with the lack of an adequate response from the the National Institutes of Health concerning the conduct of basic behavioral research and training by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. NIGMS is the institute dedicated to basic science that serves as the building blocks for applied research at multiple disease-specific institutes. For many years, Congress has directed NIGMS to fulfill its statutory mandate to include basic behavioral research and training as a component of its mission.

Two years ago, in August 2003, I met with the Deputy Director of NIH, and urged that he help ensure that this basic function at NIGMS receive funding. This meeting led to the formation of an advisory committee to the NIH Director. That Special Task Force reported to the NIH Director in December and recommended that basic behavior research and training authority be funded at NIGMS. The National Academy of Sciences, in May of this year, also urged implementation and funding of this authority, particularly in research training, as such researchers will support the important advances in understanding the wide ranging of fundamental behavioral topics relevant to a variety of diseases and health conditions.

Basic behavioral science is critical to a comprehensive research agenda at NIH, and as several expert panels have concluded, NIGMS is the logical place to house such research and training. I intend to work with my fellow appropriators in the other body and with the Chairman and Ranking Member to see that our final bill makes sure this priority is realized.

TRIBUTE TO THE VALLEY CULTURAL CENTER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach July 4, 2005, the 229th celebration of America's independence, I rise to commemorate and commend the Valley Cultural Center. The Center is celebrating 30 successful years of promoting arts awareness across the San Fernando Valley of California. By fostering creativity and culture, the Valley Cultural Center has inspired the type of artistic individuality and cultural understanding that has contributed to the excellence, camaraderie, and ingenuity of our Nation.

Since its was established in 1975, the Valley Cultural Center has stood at the forefront of arts and culture in the San Fernando Valley, assisting the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks in bringing arts awareness to the community. The Center reaches out and engages the community through its awards and programs, including its annual Concerts in the Park, and performances at the Madrid Theater.

The Valley Cultural Center's awards and programs encompass the unique cultural and artistic dynamics of the San Fernando Valley. It inspires our youth to pursue a future of arts appreciation and cultural awareness by granting annually $10,000 awards in performing and visual arts scholarships to outstanding students. The Valley Cultural Center also organizes arts, entertainment, and culinary celebrations throughout the year, including the Golden Horn Awards, and the Food, Wine and Micro-brew Festival.

Featuring rock, classical jazz, R&B, Latino pop, country, cowboy, Dixieland, and folk music, The Valley Cultural Center's Concerts in the Park series has established a tradition of family entertainment and a sense of community and culture for over 140,000 residents and visitors each summer. Free to the public, the Concerts in the Park are a central gathering point for residents to experience and share the diverse culture of the San Fernando Valley.

The Valley Cultural Center's annual July 4th Extravaganza is one of the best attended events in the Valley. It includes big-bands such as Don Sweeney and the SRO Band. Each year I take pleasure in joining thousands of Valley residents in the festivities that feature music, food, and fireworks as we celebrate America's independence. It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the Valley to honor our Nation and to celebrate with our families and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Valley Cultural Center in the San Fernando Valley. The Center's contributions have been invaluable in bringing enjoyment, cultural understanding, and individualism to our community. I commend its leadership and service to the San Fernando Valley.

HONORING THE LITHUANIAN KAIMAS FUND PROJECT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Co-Chair of the Baltic Caucus to commend the work of the Lithuanian Kaimas Fund project. The project provides children in rural areas in Lithuania with educational opportunities. In just its third year, the project is having a positive impact on the lives of more than 2,000 young people in more than 60 rural villages across Lithuania. The Kaimas (''countryside'') Fund is a private-public partnership between the American Lithuanian Economic Development Council, the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC and local non-governmental organizations who provide services to young people in Lithuania.

During a two-week summer program, community centers in the Lithuanian regions of Akmenes, Anyksciai, Marijampole, Moletai, Ukmerge, Utena, Skuodas and Vilnius will provide opportunities for youth to participate in educational and athletic activities, including computer training. Because the project is supported by contributions from American donors, the project also demonstrates the generosity of Americans and the shared values between our countries.

I would specifically like to commend the work of Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas, and his wife Loreta, who established the Kaimas Fund in 2000, and the leading American supporters of this important initiative: Dr. Daiva Bajorunas and Stephen Sarnoff, Stanley Balzekas, Beverly Bridges, Dennis and Sally Garrison, Audrey and Martin Gruss, Joseph Krivickas, Cynthia Pasky, John Prunskis, George Ramonas and Eugene Rainis.

Most importantly, I would like to encourage the young people and leaders of the community centers who are participating in this program in Lithuania. This summer, you are helping to strengthen the special friendship between Lithuania and America. You are also a vital part of the future of the special relationship our countries share.

MARKING THE 100 YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE CITY OF FIRTH, IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the townspeople of Firth, Idaho, in celebrating the city's 100th anniversary. This important milestone has been reached through the hard work and tenacity of the early settlers as well as the foresight and spirit of today's citizens.

The town of Firth officially came into existence in 1905 when Lorenzo Firth and his wife gave a plot of land for the town site and an acre for a one-room school house. The 4-room brick building which replaced that first school still stands on the original site, and the city has grown and prospered through the years. Some of the businesses which flourished in the early years of Firth included: a bank, barbershops, drug store, butcher shops and grocery stores, a lumberyard, harness shop, blacksmith shop, hardware store, theatre, grain mill, and potato warehouses. The original Firth Mill and Elevator continues to do business today. Collet's Bar and Grill is proud to have served the residents of Firth for over 75 years. Anthony's Auto and the Stop and Shop Grocery are early businesses still serving customers in the city.

The community's economy has its base in agriculture. Grain, hay, potatoes, and cattle were raised on the farms around Firth. Early civic organizations in Firth were the Riverview Grange, the Lions club, and the Firth Homemakers club. Three religious groups were significant in the success of the City of Firth: the Swedish Baptist Church; the Lutheran Church (which held its early services in the Swedish language); and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Community leaders who have been committed to the success of the City of Firth include Rudolph E. "Bud" Rogers who served as mayor for 16 years and Sam Collet, a city councilman for almost 29 years. Credit goes to these civic minded individuals and others like them who were dedicated to making the City of Firth a great place to live, work, raise families, and educate children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate everyone who has been involved in the "100 year celebration of the City of Firth". I know many of the citizens of Firth and have enjoyed their friendship over the years. I wish Mayor Kress, the City of Firth, and all its citizens well as they continue toward their second hundred years.

TRIBUTE TO SOL STETIN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life of a wonderful man, who sadly passed recently, Mr. Sol Stetin.

It is fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his lifelong dedication to the labor movement.

Sol was born in Poland on April 2, 1910 to Hymen and Fanny Stetin. Shortly after his birth, the Stetin family decided to migrate to America and subsequently settled in Paterson, NJ. The Stetin family had to work hard during the turbulent years of the Great Depression which led Sol to take a job with a local dye shop in the "Silk City." It was not long after Sol began working, that he became witness to the atrocities being committed by warehouse managers and business owners. Appalled by inhumane working conditions and lack of worker rights, Sol decided to lead strikes and arrange union campaigns.

The Federation of Dyers, Finishers, Printers, and Bleachers of America was the first organization Sol helped form and the first forum for him to express his concerns for the American laborer. Later, he went on to work with the CIO's Textile Workers Organizing Committee (TWOC), he worked to build the TWOC into a permanent union under CIO standard. His work-ethic was unparalleled and his stellar reputation earned him the office of secretary-treasurer of the Textile Workers Union of America. In just 4 years, Sol climbed to the rank of President and immediately began managing the workers' rights campaign in the South.

Sol Stetin then decided to lead a merger with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and Textile Workers Union, now known as UNITE/HERE. He served on the Executive Council of the AFL/CIO and as Executive Vice-President of the Amalgamated, until his retirement. True to Sol's nature, retirement could not slow him down. Instead of relaxing, Sol used his free time to found the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, NJ. For Sol, the museum was the ultimate tribute he could offer to union members and it solidified his personal dedication to labor education.

In addition to Sol's many professional achievements, his personal accomplishments should not and cannot be overlooked. He was the devoted husband of Frieda and the proud father of two daughters, Sondra and Myra. He leaves behind five exquisite grandchildren and five beautiful great-grandchildren.

I have had the privilege to know and work alongside Sol Stetin. We shared many of the same concerns and opinions on workers rights, not to mention the same passion for our hometown, Paterson, NJ. I can say without reservation that the work of individuals like Sol will live on in the hearts of those whose lives were enriched by his work.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of devoted activists like Sol Stetin. I ask that you join our colleagues, Sol's family and friends, and most importantly, the countless American workers Sol has touched throughout his years of work within the labor community in recognizing the outstanding service of Sol Stetin.

THE MORTGAGE INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague Congressman WILLIAM JEFFERSON, have introduced the Mortgage Insurance Fairness Act. Our bill would allow residential mortgage borrowers to deduct as an itemized deduction for mortgage insurance premiums for private mortgage insurance, FHA insured mortgages, VA insured mortgages and GRH insured mortgages. Residential mortgage borrowers with annual incomes of $100,000 or less would be eligible for this tax deduction.

Nationwide, mortgage insurance is a critical factor in allowing minorities and middle income families to become homeowners. Mortgage insurances covers 57 percent of mortgage purchase loans made to African American and Hispanic borrowers and 54 percent of the loans to borrowers with income below the median income. This legislation will benefit the 12 million American families who presently use mortgage insurance.

In Wisconsin alone, this legislation would benefit 124,000 families. Insured mortgages made up 35 percent of home purchase loans in Wisconsin and cover 49 percent of home purchase loans by minorities and low income home buyers.

Mr. Speaker, homeownership is a vital part of creating safe communities and a vital part of our Nation's economy. I urge my colleagues to join us in promoting homeownership and support this important bill.

LEGISLATION COMPELLING VOTES OF THE EX-IM BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS BAD POLICY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise my concerns about a proposal being floated that would compel the Ex-Im Board of Directors to bring up and vote on every proposal for Ex-Im Financing, whether or not the proposal met the basic—congressionally mandated—conditions for approval.

This would be a bad policy in general, and particularly with respect to industries which affect our national security, such as, the semiconductor industry.

Legislation compelling the Board of Directors to vote on a particular application for Ex-Im financing—and one that the Chairman has carefully considered and rejected—is bad policy and threatens to subvert the structure, policies, and procedures of the Export-Import Bank. The Chairman is responsible for bringing financing proposals before the full Board of Directors and ensuring that only those financing proposals which meet the statutory criteria are presented for a vote. If a deal fails to meet the basic criteria for financing, then it should not be brought up for a vote. To do otherwise would ignore Export-Import Bank legal requirements and procedures, and completely and inappropriately politicize Ex-Im financing.

Earlier this year, Ex-Im Chairman, Phillip Merrill carefully considered a proposed $770 million financing package for a Chinese semiconductor manufacturer, SMIC, and ultimately determined not to bring the proposal before the Board of Directors. Because the proposal clearly failed the statutory requirements, the Chairman was completely justified in that decision. As Mr. Merrill noted at a hearing before the House Small Business Committee on April 6, 2005, "It is my job to take the case to the board if we believe the case does not violate the mandate of Congress."

In this case, the proposed SMIC financing failed two separate and independent statutory requirements for Ex-Im approval: namely, the "economic impact" requirement, and the "additionality" requirement. First, in evaluating the "economic impact" requirement, Ex-Im is required by statute to consider any serious adverse effect financing might have on the competitive position of U.S. manufacturers. Ex-Im is expressly prohibited from making a loan or guarantee if its analysis concludes that the competing domestic industry would be adversely affected because either (i) the product supported by the financing will compete with a U.S. producer, or (ii) the commodity is in oversupply. In reviewing this case, the Ex-Im Chairman evaluated a study that demonstrated that the products made in SMIC's Chinese fabrication facilities—DRAM and other types of semiconductors—would compete with U.S. producers and were in serious oversupply, and that if the deal went through it would result in the loss of thousands of high-paying technology jobs in the U.S. semiconductor sector. The study also pointed out the economic and political folly of having U.S. taxpayers finance the export of high-tech jobs and technology to China, particularly given the current exodus of U.S. manufacturing jobs to that country and the massive trade deficit the U.S. has with China. Based on this unrebutted evidence, the Chairman correctly concluded that the SMIC financing proposal failed the "economic impact" requirement.

The SMIC financing proposal also failed the separate "additionality" test. The Chairman is required to ensure that no proposal is submitted for vote when the proposal merely duplicates available private sector financing. The "additionality" test can be met if there is a confirmed competing loan guarantee on the table from a foreign export credit agency or if there is some sort of market failure and the transaction would otherwise not go forward without the Bank's involvement. Neither of those circumstances is present in the SMIC financing proposal. Indeed, recent developments confirm beyond any doubt that SMIC has no need for a guarantee funded by the United States taxpayers. Only two weeks ago, SMIC announced that it obtained a $600 million loan from Chinese banks—all without an Ex-Im guarantee. The Chairman correctly concluded that the SMIC financing proposal failed the "additionality" requirement.

CHINA DOES NOT NEED U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP ITS SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

There is a significant danger in sending advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, especially if those exports are taking place as a result of subsidized support from the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

The economic costs of providing advanced manufacturing equipment to China are high. A recently-released report quantifies job displacement in the United States as a result of the United States' rising trade deficit with China since 1989: 20,000 lost jobs associated with the production of communications equipment; 64,400 lost jobs associated with the production of home audio and video equipment; and 53,300 lost jobs associated with the production of computers and office equipment. In addition, more than 46,200 jobs were estimated to have been lost in the semiconductor industry since 1997. Job losses in these electronics industries accounted for more than one-quarter of total job displacement documented in this report.

Another significant concern relates to the migration of high-tech production to China because of the strategic importance of this technology, and the ability of the Department of Defense to maintain an edge in the development and deployment of advanced communications, command and control and weaponry. According to a recent report by the Defense Science Board, the area of greatest concern is in the U.S. microelectronics sector which supplies defense, national infrastructure and intelligence applications.

Dependence on China for supplies of semiconductors and other microelectronics would leave the United States very vulnerable. Significant risks of supply interruptions exist and include natural disasters like earthquakes but also heightened tension between China and Taiwan could lead to significant disruptions of critical parts and supplies.

China also has taken steps to provide WTO-inconsistent subsidies to unfairly promote their semiconductor industry. China has adopted aggressive policies to promote domestic manufacture of semiconductors. Income tax incentives include a 5 year tax holiday plus 5 years at half-tax for reinvested capital with the clock starting when profits start. It is providing free land for industrial parks. Until recently, China applied a 17 percent value added tax (VAT) to imported chips, but not to those made in China. Agreements with the World Trade Organization on VAT may have negated the impact of the full 17 percent on imported chips however while amounts over 3–6 percent are still rebated for Chinese-made chips.

The number of engineering graduates in China is far outpacing U.S. totals so that students no longer have to come to the U.S. to attend school.

U.S. TAXPAYER SUPPORT FOR THE CHINESE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY: UNJUSTIFIED ON ANY GROUNDS

There is no economic justification for the United States government to be underwriting investments in the Chinese electronics industry. China has an extremely competitive and rapidly expanding electronics sector. Moreover, the Chinese government already offers a host of incentives for investing in integrated circuit ("IC") production facilities. The U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association ("SIA") has in fact raised repeated concerns regarding the level of government assistance to China's IC firms.

History has shown that the movement of electronics manufacturing to lower-wage countries has had deleterious effects on U.S. employment. Recently, it is higher-valued manufacturing activity that has exited the United States for China and other low-wage production sites. Electronics industry sources highlight that the exodus of advanced manufacturing has negative implications for engineering and R&D activity in the United States.

A just-released report quantifies job displacement in the United States as a result of the United States' rising trade deficit with China since 1989: 20,000 jobs lost associated with the production of communications equipment; 64,400 jobs associated with the production of home audio and video equipment; and 53,300 jobs associated with the production of computers and office equipment. In addition, more than 46,200 jobs were estimated to have been lost in the semiconductor industry since 1997. Job losses in these electronics industries accounted for more than one-quarter of total job displacement documented in this report.

The financing incentives contemplated by the Export-Import Bank are neither necessary nor appropriate. The Chinese IC industry has already been extremely successful in attracting investments through commercial channels, and the Chinese government already provides a wide range of incentives. In addition, assistance to the Chinese semiconductor industry will disadvantage a U.S. industry that provides high-value jobs and other economic benefits in the United States.

CHINA IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ELECTRONICS SECTOR

China has major advantages in electronics manufacturing. For one, China's labor pool is inexpensive, skilled, and highly motivated. Production worker wages are as low as $120 a month, and skilled IC designers make on average $2,000 a month. In sophisticated electronics, direct labor in China costs less than 10 percent of total costs of production. The number of trained engineers increases by 350,000 individuals annually. Young workers and managers willingly put in 12-hour days and work weekends. As for inflationary pressure on wages, the chief Asia-Pacific economist at Morgan Stanley notes that China's "vast pool of surplus labor . . . keep down labor's pricing power."

China also provides a huge and booming internal market that will further spur domestic production efficiencies. China's gross domestic product increased 9.1 percent in 2003, and the country emerged as the world's largest and most rapidly growing market for semiconductors. The existence of multiple suppliers creates intense domestic competition, further contributing to low wages and prices.

Electronics manufacturing in China began with finished consumer appliances, and now their component parts are also increasingly manufactured in China. The IC industry is one of the newer boom industries in China. A Chinese industry sources note that more than 10 fabs started operations in China in 2002.

Most of the early Chinese IC operations used the smaller 6-inch wafers, lagging the 8-inch and larger wafer technology common in the United States, Europe, and Korea. That is changing. SMIC is now at the forefront of global production technology for semiconductors by bringing a 12-inch wafer fab on line in 2004. SMIC plans four more 12-inch fabs to come on line by 2006.

The proposed equipment financing is substantial not only for SMIC but for the Chinese IC industry as well. China's 10th Five-Year Plan, which is in effect for the period 2001–2005, anticipates investments totaling $10.3 billion in new IC production lines. SMIC's new equipment purchases represent more than 10 percent of the entire amount anticipated to be invested in China over the course of 5 years.

Moreover, China's revenue from fab operations was approximately $400 million in 2002. The proposed financing is thus three times the value of fab revenues in a recent year.

In 2003, China is estimated to have spent three times the amount on new fab construction as all of North America. China accounted for about 5 percent of existing fab capacity in 2003, ranking seventh in the world; however, China accounted for fully 33 percent of fab capacity under construction in 2003, ranking first in the world. Taiwan and Korea followed somewhat distantly, accounting for 14 percent and 13 percent, respectively of fab capacity under construction the same year. In other words, China is rapidly emerging as a major semiconductor producer with some of the most modern and advanced facilities in the world. As Harvard University economist Richard B. Freeman has observed, "China . . . can compete both with very low wages and in high tech. . . . Combine the two, and America has a problem."

There is simply no economic need for U.S. taxpayers to be underwriting investments in the Chinese electronics industry. Every indication is that industry is booming, with investment flowing from a variety of sources. One industry source estimates that China already produces one-third of the world's electronics, and that will rise to one-half by 2010 or 2012.

CHINA OFFERS A HOST OF INCENTIVES FOR INVESTING IN THE IC INDUSTRY.

China emerged as a contender in the global electronics industry as recently as the late 1990s. One product launched during China's Ninth Five-Year Plan (1996–2000) was the 909 Project, administered by China's Ministry of Science and Technology. Investments under the 909 Project totaled over $1.2 billion. The primary beneficiary was the Shanghai Hauhong NEC Electronics Co., with was formed to design and produce both memory and logic ICs.

In advance of China's joining the World Trade Organization (which occurred in 2001), a number of investment incentives were introduced in 2000. For example, in June 2000, State Council Document 18, entitled "Policies to Encourage the Development of the Software and IC Industries," established a framework to attract investment to the Chinese IC industry. These incentive applied primarily to fab operations, and were effected through the reduction of effective value-added tax ("VAT") rates.

In December 2000, Shanghai's Document 54, entitled "Policies and Regulations Related to the Development of the Software and IC Industries," expanded the Document 18 incentives to design, packaging, and test facilities. As noted further below, the U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association subsequently raised concerns that China's VAT incentives provided discriminatory treatment.

Also in 2000, the Chinese central government updated its list of industries for which foreign investment is encourages, including more advanced IC production operations. China's Ministry of Science and Technology also designated the IC industry as a high priority in its 863 Program, which supports key technologies through research and development. Within a few years, the 863 Program had provided grants to more than 100 IC design centers, which had more than 1 billion RMB in annual sales.

China ratified its Tenth Five-Year Plan in March 2001, and the government stated at that time that its goal was to invest $120 billion in the IC industry by the end of 2005. Also in 2002, State Administration of Taxation Document 70 authorized VAT reductions for the IC industry, and State Council Document 51 added incentives for venture capital investments in the same industry.

In additional to incentives from the central government, regional authorities compete to attract investment in IC facilities. The Shanghai region is a leading area for semiconductor activity. Even within this region, however, localities offer competing incentives. SMIC is located in the Zhangjiang High-Technology Park in the Pudong District. Incentives available to enterprises in Pudong include the following:

Subsidies for interest rate payments;

Investment tax credits for infrastructure expenses;

A variety of rebates of VAT taxes;

Allowance for deduction of salaries and training costs for corporate income tax purposes;

Additional subsidies allowed for new post-graduate positions created; and

Special tax incentives for fabs producing below the .25 micron level, including exemptions on any production and testing equipment.

THE U.S. SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION HAS REPEATEDLY RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT CHINESE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

SIA has voiced numerous concerns about Chinese practices that discriminate against U.S. suppliers. As recently as December 21, 2004, SIA summarized its most pressing concerns in comments to the U.S. Trade Representative on foreign trade barriers. These comments highlighted the following:

China's VAT rebate scheme imposes a cost penalty on imported semiconductors. Such a scheme strongly suggests that China is not honoring the national treatment commitments required under Article III of the GATT, to which China is bound as a member of the World Trade Organization.

China had planned to implement a proprietary wireless encryption standard. According to SIA, "It was planned for implementation even though the technical details of the Chinese requirements were not readily available to international firms. Later reports indicated that Chinese authorities would require foreign firms to engage in value-added production with a select list of local firms to obtain import permits in order to sell wireless LAN equipment in China. Products already in-country would have also required permits. If enacted, such requirements would have set a dangerous precedent by imposing technology transfer and local content requirements that China committed to eliminate with WTO accession." China has delayed implementation but there is still significant pressure for a unique Chinese standard.

There have been other attempts to create unique Chinese standards, including for DVDs, HDTV, RFID, digital cameras, and electronic imaging for cellular phones. According to SIA, "Standards in China are often developed by government authorities through a nontransparent process, and without input of key stakeholders, in particular neglecting international ones. Unique Chinese requirements in many cases would require product redesign, creating additional costs to U.S. firms in development expenses and lost revenue."

China's intellectual property laws have serious deficiencies—to the point that China's compliance with the WTO TRIPs Agreement is in question. China's legal system hampers IP enforcement by making it more difficult both to bring, and to succeed in, cases against IP violators. SIA calls on China to enact legislative reforms in this area.

SIA also notes concerns as regards transparency in China's rule-making procedures. SIA questions, for example, whether environmental regulations are not in fact more trade barriers.

In October 2003, SIA also released a comprehensive review of Chinese incentive programs benefiting semiconductor producers. SIA concluded as follows:

> Maintaining U.S. leadership in microelectronics is critically important to the economy and national security of the United States. Government policy measures in any country or region which induce significant migration of the U.S. microelectronics infrastructure—capital, enterprises, individuals—warrant careful scrutiny by U.S. policy-makers. Several aspects of China's current developmental effort in microelectronics are problematic because they could erode the U.S. microelectronics infrastructure and contribute to an eventual loss of U.S. leadership in this field.

HISTORICAL IMPACT OF THE LOSS OF ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. electronics industry has been migrating slowly to off-shore manufacture for many years. According to a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. competitiveness in consumer electronics began to slip in the 1960s. Television production was one of the first industry to migrate off-shore. Jobs in the U.S. television industry dropped by half from 1971 to 1981. Innovations were increasingly introduced by foreign television makers, and this is evident in the leading position of non-U.S. brand name domination of high-definition and digital television at the present time.

According to the National Advisory Committee on Semiconductors, U.S. electronics manufacturers lost nearly 15 percent of the global market in the second half of the 1980s. This translated into more than $100 million in lost revenues for U. S. companies during that period—a loss has since grown considerably given enormous expansion in global electronics markets.

A 1997 survey of electronics manufacturing in the Pacific Rim observed that "the rapid development of electronics manufacturing in East Asia poses a challenge to overall U.S. manufacturing competitiveness as the United States becomes increasingly dependent on Asian suppliers. . . . In this survey, China was already observed to attracting a great deal of component manufacture. Initially, China drew manufacturing from neighboring Asian countries, that could no longer compete on labor costs. U.S. electronics manufacturing has also been affected. The U.S. printed circuit board industry is losing jobs to China as U.S. producers have seen sales slump from $11 billion to less than $5 billion since 2001. Meanwhile, printed circuit board exports from China have doubled.

Semiconductor device production remained a leading U.S. electronics industry even as more labor-intensive assembly operations relocated to low-wage countries. One key has been the retention of high-value-added activities in the United States. But numerous voices are now concerned about the attraction of China for advanced electronics manufacturing.

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology supports policies that encourage R&D and advanced manufacturing in the United States. A January 2004 report notes that the computer and electronics sector is a leading employer in the United States, and ranks very high in terms of value-added. The report notes as well the rise of China as an electronics producer:

. . . China's rise as a high tech manufacturer has caused increasing concerns. China is a large emerging market and its industrial and economic policies associated with expanding this sector are likely to continue indefinitely.

This report also notes the variety of Chinese programs aimed at expanding the electronics sector, including numerous tax incentives, currency valuation policies, industrial parks, and employment incentives.

The U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association shares this concern. SIA recently urged U.S. policy makers to keep chip fabrication in the United States by "insuring that the U.S. remains an attractive locations for chip manufacturing. . . . If leading edge moves offshore because foreign governments have created more attractive investment environments, over time R&D facilities for manufacturing processes are likely to follow."

SIA has documented the substantial contributions of U.S. semiconductor manufacture to the U.S. economy, in a number of reports, including as in the following illustration:

The semiconductor industry, which is the largest value-added sector in the U.S. economy, provides high quality employment to hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens and is projected to grow at a compound annual rate of fifteen percent for the next several years. The growth will create opportunities for new applications that will spawn new industries and it will ensure the continued vitality of many of the information technology industries.

SIA officials emphasized the potential of China in particular to attract leading edge semiconductor manufacturing in recent testimony before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission:

Semiconductors are the building blocks for American competitiveness in a broad range of high technology goods—from computers to medical technology. A strong and vibrant semiconductor manufacturing industry is a key part of a healthy information technology ecosystem—it supports everything from research and development to a robust university capability in microelectronics. . . . the members of SIA also believe it is vital to retain leading edge manufacturing capability here in the United States. . . .

China is growing into a major force in the information technology arena both as a customer and as a competitor. Given the size, growth, and potential of the Chinese market, it is essential that U.S. semiconductor firms have the chance to compete fairly.

A new report prepared for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission finds that 1.5 million U.S. job opportunities have been lost as a result of the ballooning U.S. trade deficit with China. As noted at the outset in this paper, more than one-quarter of job losses during 2001–2003 were in electronics. China's higher-value electronics exports, along with other products that require more skilled labor and advanced technologies, are growing much more rapidly than are China's lower-value, labor-intensive exports. The report notes that China's exports to the United States reached $32 billion, a figure that corresponds to the entire U.S. trade deficit in advanced technology products. Indeed, the U.S. exports and imports of advanced technology products as a whole are in balance; however, the U.S. has a significant and rising trade deficit in such products with China.

U.S. TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES TO THE CHINESE SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCERS ARE UNJUSTIFIED ON ANY GROUNDS

As discussed above, the Chinese semiconductor industry does not need U.S.-taxpayer-supported financing. The Chinese industry benefits from advantageous labor costs, a dynamic internal market, a critical mass of component and finished goods production, and a multiplicity of Chinese government supports. The industry is literally booming, with investment flowing from a multitude of sources. SMIC in particular is a formidable competitor on a global scale.

In addition, from a policy perspective, what is the U.S. interest in hastening the pace of expansion within the Chinese electronics sector? This expansion comes at considerable costs to U.S. industries. U.S. policy makers have in fact long recognized the value to the broader economy of maintaining high-value manufacturing and their associated R&D activities in the United States. This Administration has consistently been given this advice by its senior science and technology specialists.

The economic reality may be that China's electronics industry will continue to strengthen, but that outcome should be market-driven. U.S. taxpayer subsidies to enhance advanced Chinese semiconductor manufacturing capabilities are unjustified on any grounds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 322 I was detained due to an aircraft malfunction.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING CHRISTI LEHMAN ON HER PROMOTION TO VICE PRESIDENT AT CONNOLLY & COMPANY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christi Lehman in gratitude for her service, respect for her work, and congratulations on her promotion to Vice President at Connolly & Company.

I am also personally indebted to Christi for her help in 2004. Christi handled media relations for me with an adept hand and a cool maturity. Her ability to generate new ideas and pitch them to the appropriate media is consistently rewarded with tremendous results.

Brought on board as a media expert for Connolly & Company in 2002, Lehman excels in public relations through her creative approach and unique style. She has coordinated numerous media events and widely covered press conferences. Recently, she has focused on companies or individuals involved in litigation—ensuring their public image and message is protected and promoted.

I am honored to recognize Christi Lehman on her promotion to Vice President at Connolly & Company. She is a gifted writer who understands the media, but most importantly, knows how to produce real results. I continue to appreciate her support on both a personal and professional level, as I congratulate Christi on her outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN AGUIRRE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous young man, Christian Aguirre, whom I am proud to represent in Congress. Christian is 12 years old and attends Christopher Columbus Middle School in Canoga Park, California.

Christian was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease 2 years ago and has bravely undergone a series of treatments, many of them painful, since that time. Through it all, Christian has maintained his sense of humor and has met his challenge with grace and a remarkable outlook.

I know that his family, friends, doctors, nurses and teachers are delighted that Christian is doing well and has been able to return to school. The American Cancer Fund for Children recently awarded Christian with the "Courageous Kid" award. I want to congratulate him on receiving this award and ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Christian for his optimism and courageous resolve during his battle with Hodgkin's disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOP STUDENT HISTORIANS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the top student historians in the State of Colorado. Colorado History Day, an affiliate of National History Day, is a year-long education program that engages students in grades 6–12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Students produce dramatic performances, museum-style exhibits, multimedia documentaries, and research papers based on their own research related to a broad annual theme. Their projects are then evaluated in a series of local and state competitions, culminating in an annual national competition. Nationwide, more than 800,000 students are involved in the National History Day program. More than 4,000 Colorado students participate in History Day activities at the local level each year, and they represent every type of Colorado community, from the cities and suburbs of the Front Range to rural plains towns and mountain communities. At the Colorado History Day State Competition on April 23, 2005, held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, 54 students qualified to represent Colorado at the National History Day competition June 12–16 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

This year's National History Day theme, "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding," encompasses endless possibilities for exploration. Students embark on journeys of discovery that teach them about various facets of world, national, regional, and local history as they produce their original research projects. By encouraging young Coloradoans to take advantage of the wealth of primary historical resources available to them, students gain a richer understanding of historical issues, ideas, people, and events. Students in this program learn how to analyze a variety of primary sources such as photographs, letters, diaries, magazines, maps, artifacts, sound recordings, and motion pictures. This significant academic exercise encourages intellectual growth while helping students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help them manage and use information, now and in the future. For more than 25 years the National History Day program has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America's schools. The combination of creativity and scholarship built into the NHD program anticipated current educational reforms, making National History Day a leading model of performance-based learning.

These impressive students represent educational excellence in America, Every student in Colorado should have the opportunity to participate in this enriching program.

These students' teachers also deserve our respect. They are fine examples of the best in the teaching profession. Their encouragement and dedication has encouraged these students to strive for excellence and be successful in their endeavors.

The winners from Colorado's First Congressional District are Bryon Christman, Jacob DeCroce, Zander Chanin, Shannon Desmond, Tracy Fielder, Riley Price, Chloe Armao, Nyasha James-Davis, Aura Cruz, Jaqueline A. Meraz, Eboni Coleman, Faryn Tobler, Brigitte Siller, Norah Kissell, Jon Shockness, Akil Lugman, Nick Thorne, Alisha McKenzie, Jake Mundel, Kelsey E. Isberg, Annie Woodward, Ryan Brown, Kara Miller, Sarah Goode, Lila Creighton, Gabe Stein, Avery Colomb, Aaron Bernhardt, Adrian Leanzu, Brian Lays, Meera Rao, Laura King, Kira Newman, Adrienne Russman, David Schneider, John Stanford, Natalie Lays, Christie Collins, Madeleine Winslow, Chelsea Proctor, Cassie Cherry, Elliott Collins, Scott Sigman.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, H.R. 458. We passed this bill last year, and it is designed to prevent predatory companies from using the imprimatur of the U.S. Military to prey on financially vulnerable service members by selling them insurance and investment products with little or no value. During consideration of this bill in the Financial Services Committee, I offered an amendment to extend these protections to abusive lenders who prey on our troops, such as payday lenders. These payday loans are the most abusive financial product being offered to our troops today, and, according to military personnel, payday loans threaten troop readiness. The New York Times and other news outlets have reported extensively on this problem.

Noncommissioned officers at the Army base in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, say they counsel two to three soldiers per week who are indebted to payday lenders. "It's legalized thievery," says Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Perrin, a member of the XVIIIth (18th) Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

These companies put pressure on soldiers because they can be discharged if they default on too much debt, Perrin says. Staff Sgt. Carlton Brown says soldiers become distracted from their duties as they struggle to make payments and avoid disciplinary action. "It affects a soldier's mission readiness, and that can affect a whole unit, big time," Brown says.

The amendment I offered in Committee drew on the idea of my colleague SAM GRAVES, who introduced legislation capping interest rates on payday loans for service members. During that markup, Chairman OXLEY agreed to work with me to include provisions regarding abusive lending in the manager's amendment for floor consideration. I am very pleased that our work has resulted in the inclusion of some basic, but important protections for our troops, against payday lenders and other abusive lenders who target our troops. I want to thank him and his staff for the countless hours they spent working to hammer out this compromise. I also want to thank Ranking Member FRANK, Congressman DAVIS and their staffs for their hard work bringing this to fruition. Under this legislation, lenders (of both payday and other small loans) who target the military can no longer continue a number of egregious practices, including: requiring the involuntary assignment of military wages to secure payment of a loan; contacting, or threatening to contact the borrower's commanding officer or others in the military chain of command in effort to collect a loan; requiring the borrower to waive any rights under Federal or State law, including the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act; or using any words or symbols that create the impression that any department of the military endorses the lender or any service or product of the lender. I am sorry to say that all of these unconscionable practices are currently used by certain payday or short term lenders.

In addition, extremely high cost loans must be accompanied by a disclosure notice that informs the consumer of these protections and that there are other options available including grants or interest free loans from the military relief societies in the case of a family or other emergency.

This may not sound like a lot, and I do wish that it contained additional limitations on the loan amount and the number of turnovers by payday lenders, similar to legislation recently enacted in my home State of Illinois, but this is a good start, since many of these payday and other short term lenders completely evade regulation by the States and Federal Government. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

The Navy's senior enlisted Sailor, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott testified earlier this year in front of the House Appropriations Committee about the pernicious nature of these payday loans. Scott characterized the industry as one "that has made it a practice to prey upon our Sailors." Payday loan outlets, he said, often are found within a short walk outside the gates in the communities that surround Navy homeports, offering easy loans but with very high interest rates as compared to commercial lenders. He told the subcommittee that many who turn to these payday loan outlets end up far worse off than before.

"It is not being dramatic to state these payday loans to our troops could be a threat to their military readiness," he said.

Payday loans are the most abusive financial product preying on consumers today, but service members, who can lose their job or even be court-martialed if they are in too much debt, suffer disproportionately. Those who claim to support the troops should agree to restrict the worst financial product out there. Once again, I thank my colleagues for their help in securing these provisions and look forward to working with them in the future.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAWAS CITY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 150th anniversary as a city. On Thursday, June 30, 2005 the residents of Tawas City, Michigan celebrate their history that 150 years ago began a rollercoaster of triumphs and tribulations. From fishing to lumber to railroad to a military base, this city has adapted to each new opportunity resulting in a rich history and growth.

In the early days of what is now known as Tawas Bay, the fish rich area was difficult to traverse because of the seafaring dangers. A lighthouse was constructed in 1853 attracting the first of the English settlers including Oakland County Judge Gideon O. Wittmore, founder of Tawas City. Whitmore was drawn to the increasingly valuable endless supply of timber in the area. Timber was in great demand as new settlements were established in the Midwest region. Whitmore constructed the first sawmill, Whitmore and Company, and platted the city in 1855 as Tawas City. The city was named after the local Native American Indian tribe the Ottawas.

Just 15 years after becoming an official village, the rough waters of Tawas Bay had brought sand and sediment unto Tawas Point rendering the lighthouse useless to mariners. Almost immediately, work began on a replacement lighthouse that was completed in 1876 and is still in use today. This lighthouse, the Tawas Point Lighthouse, was recognized in 1984 in the National Register of Historical Places.

Throughout the late 1800's, the lumber boom had become a major facet in the local economy as the home for sawmills and the historic Detroit and Mackinac Railroad. It also provided many tales of great lumberjacks from the Michigan lumber camps. Some local residents believe that many stories we tell today about the great Paul Bunyan originated from that area. However, by the 1890's the lumbering boom had dwindled from depleted resources and the immense damage to the forests. The land resembled that of a wasteland and farming quickly took over as a top industry alongside fishing. However, with the invention of the automotive assembly line, young sons of farmers headed downstate to make quick money leaving hundreds of family farms vacant.

With its natural resources exhausted, young people left the Tawas area. The once beautiful landside was left naked, polluted and over fished. Tawas thought it had seen the worst but, on July 11, 1911 a fire leveled communities of neighboring Oscoda and AuSable with five dead and 2,000 homeless. Tawas area residents took in survivors and helped the two devastated communities rebuild. In the process of rebuilding the communities, they had the opportunity to establish six hydroelectric dams in the AuSable River that are still in use today.

It was around that time that Tawas City would see nearly 70 years of revitalization and economic opportunity come to the area. In the 1920's the United States Army Air Corps began a flight training program that would evolve into Wurtsmith Air Force Base. From the mid 1920's to the 1950's the Civil Conservation Corps planted nearly 500 million trees to restore much of the area ravaged during the lumber years. In 1937, the Tawas Post of the Michigan State Police became a permanent part of the Tawas community. Even during the war years, Tawas played an important role in protecting America and its soldiers from poisonous attacks with the Tawas plant, staffed by women, producing up to 42,000 gas masks a day. In 1965, Tawas Point State Park was created and provided 175 acres of camping sites, picnic areas, beaches and the lighthouse area which attracts over 250,000 people per year.

In the 1990's Tawas City would see another great challenge with the closure of the Wurtsmith Air Force Base. However, after nearly a century and a half of rising to meet challenges in the past, the local community partnered with State, local and Federal resources to turn the base into a thriving opportunity. The Wurtsmith redevelopment was so successful in turning the economy around they were cited as an example throughout the country on how small towns can overcome the hardships of military base closures.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Tawas City is made up of the tales of brave fishermen, innovative entrepreneurs, legendary lumberjacks, dedicated neighbors, hardworking farmers, courageous soldiers, devoted workers, and All-American families. The values that extend from each industry, every challenge, and every triumph have added to the fabric of this community. I applaud the people of Tawas—past and present—for advancing this city to be the outstanding place it is today. Furthermore, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tawas City and its residents on their first 150 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

HONORING KEISHA CASON OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keisha Cason of Brooksville, Florida.

Keisha Cason is a high school senior, who was recently recognized by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) as a 2005 NFIB Free Enterprise Scholars Award recipient.

Created in 2002, the award identifies high school seniors from all around the country who demonstrate scholarship and entrepreneurial achievement. From the 2,100 applicants nominated by NFIB members, an independent selection committee selected 378 rising scholars to each receive a $1,000 scholarship.

Keisha Cason represents the future voice of small business in America. As one of these gifted youth, she has displayed a sense of understanding of free enterprise far beyond her years. As she makes the transition to college, she will continue to perform at the highest standards.

Mr. Speaker, ambitious young men and women like Keisha Cason should be congratulated for their accomplishments. It is truly a privilege to honor Keisha Cason for her achievement as a National Federation of Independent Business Free Enterprise Scholar.

IN MEMORY OF WESLEY SCOTT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of an esteemed advocate for equality, Mr. Wesley Scott. Mr. Scott, a longtime leader in the civil rights movement in Milwaukee, died May 28, 2005, at the age of 88.

The oldest of 18 children, Wesley Scott came of age in an impoverished community of West Virginia coal miners. After earning his B.A. from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1942, Mr. Scott went on to serve his country, fighting in the South Pacific during WWII. Upon returning home he continued his education, receiving his Masters degree from Ohio State University in 1950. By 1951, he was serving as Executive Director of the Massillon, Ohio, Urban League.

In 1958, Mr. Scott assumed the position of deputy executive director of the Milwaukee Urban League. Within a year he was promoted to executive director, a position he held for 23 years. At the helm of the Milwaukee Urban League, Mr. Scott distinguished himself with a dynamic yet dignified style of leadership. His contemporaries lauded his unflagging commitment to the advancement of African-Americans and poor people. He is credited with building bridges between white and black communities, seeking out opportunities for progress in a very difficult and often turbulent environment. Under his leadership, the Milwaukee Urban League became a premier organization in the fight for civil rights.

Even after leaving the Milwaukee Urban League, Mr. Scott continued to work for racial equality. As an advisor to the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, he helped open new doors for African-Americans in the corporate world, ensuring the development of a new class of African-American professionals in Milwaukee. He also worked on behalf of African-American businesses, advocating for stronger mechanisms to ensure that disadvantaged business enterprises would benefit from the construction of Miller Park.

Throughout his life, Wesley Scott was a tireless advocate for equality. Earlier this year, the Milwaukee Urban League announced plans to honor his legacy by transforming its headquarters into the Wesley L. Scott Senior Living Community. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to salute Mr. Scott for his commitment to advancing equality and to celebrate the life he dedicated to serving our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was absent from this Chamber on June 24, 2005.

I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 308, 312, 313, 315, 317 and 321. I would have also voted "aye" on rollcall votes 309, 310, 311, 314, 316, 318, 319 and 320.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal conflict on Monday, June 27, I was not present in the chamber to cast my vote on rollcalls 322 and 323.

Please indicate in the appropriate place in the RECORD that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE GROKSTER DECISION

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Supreme Court's decision on Monday, June 27 in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd.

In a rare 9–0 decision, the Court found "that one who distributes a device with the object of promoting its use to infringe copyright, as shown by clear expression or other affirmative steps taken to foster infringement, is liable for the resulting acts of infringement by third parties."

Grokster and other companies that proactively enable the theft of creative and other protected works should immediately cease this activity.

MGM Studios v. Grokster is much more than a legal battle involving movie studios, record labels and the technology community. Grokster is fundamentally about ensuring that the creative and copyrighted works of millions of Americans who enrich our lives—including songwriters, musicians, screen writers and other artists—are appropriately protected in this era of rapid technological advancement.

I acknowledge that artists, as well as movie studios and record labels, have been the beneficiaries of the same creative energy of the technology community that has given consumers new products, such as DVD players and portable music devices. Clearly, technological advancements have fostered the enjoyment of these creative works.

There must be a balance between protecting the copyrighted works of artists and ensuring technological innovation. However, the unbridled theft of copyrighted works must be stopped, as the Supreme Court has so clearly repudiated this activity. The Court struck the right balance in protecting copyrighted material and innovators in the technology community. It is time for those who created a business model dependent upon infringement to adjust to this new legal standard.

RECOGNIZING MISS ALYSSA WILSON

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miss Alyssa Wilson, from Altoona Pennsylvania, as one of twenty national winners in a new award program called The Alexander Hamilton Citizenship Achievement Award. The award is sponsored by a new 501 (c)3 non profit organization, The Alexander Hamilton Friends Association (AHFA) of Seattle, Washington. Fourteen States were represented and amongst the twenty winners, Pennsylvania had three, all whom happened to be from Altoona Area High School. Over 200 candidates were considered for the award and it is a remarkable achievement for these three students and the Altoona Area school district.

The Alexander Hamilton Friends Association is a non profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington. The AHFA's goal is to preserve Alexander Hamilton's legacy by recognizing and honoring young people who share Hamilton's strong sense of integrity, achievement, pragmatism, and service. For a student to win the award the student needs to exhibit a high degree of personal integrity and receive an outstanding rating in two of the five areas, which are: community service, school-related extracurricular activity, entrepreneurial skill, scholastic record, and personal achievement. George Cox, president of AHFA said, "The key question we asked ourselves, was this: If a young Alexander Hamilton were placed in a situation like this student, would he have responded in a similar manner? In the case of our winners, we think the answer is yes."

Miss Alyssa Wilson is a junior at Altoona High School and has organized several charitable events including the MS Walk, and the Heart Disease Walk. She is involved in the student council and through it she has helped organize student functions such as the spring musical dance and is involved in peer mediation. She participates in marching band, concert band, and jazz band. She is also a member of the school drama team and is active at her church where she teaches at Vacation Bible School.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to congratulate Miss Alyssa Wilson on her outstanding achievements in community service and we are proud to have her as one of our constituents.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Michigan Congressional Delegation consisting of Senators CARL LEVIN and DEBBIE STABENOW, Congresswomen CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK and CANDICE MILLER, and Congressmen DAVE CAMP, JOHN CONYERS, JOHN DINGELL, VERNON EHLERS, PETER HOEKSTRA, DALE KILDEE, JOE KNOLLENBERG, SANDER LEVIN, THADDEUS MCCOTTER, MIKE ROGERS, JOE SCHWARTZ, FRED UPTON and me. We pay tribute today to an agency in Michigan that has spent the last 100 years improving the means by which those in the far reaches of our beautiful peninsulas utilize our most well-known state product, the automobile. Today, we in the Michigan Congressional Delegation would like to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Michigan Department of Transportation also known as MDOT.

It all began with the innovative spirit of a bicycle enthusiast and entrepreneur, Horatio "Good Roads" Earle, when he became Michigan's first highway commissioner. He began a movement by aligning the professional road builders and engineers to improve road transportation throughout the state. On July 1, 1905, the voters in the State of Michigan overwhelmingly approved state spending for roads making Michigan the 18th state in the Union to establish an agency to oversee transportation. Since that day that the State Highway Department was established, Michigan has not only led the world in automotive advancements but has achieved many firsts in the state, country and world for transportation initiatives.

There were many transportation firsts in Michigan including the construction of the first international underwater railroad tunnel (Port Huron-Sarnia Tunnel) in 1891; the first international underwater automobile tunnel (Detroit-Windsor Tunnel) in 1930; and the first freeway-to-freeway interchange on Jan. 18, 1955 at I–94 (Edsel Ford) and M–10 (John Lodge) in Detroit, permitting motorists to make turns "simply by moving in the direction they wish to go." Both the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit in 1929 and the Mackinac Bridge in 1957 were the world's longest suspension bridges when they were built. The world's largest automobile tire, utilizing the Ferris wheel ride from the World's Fair in New York from 1964, can be found next to eastbound I–94 just east of the M–39 (Southfield Freeway) interchange in Allen Park. MDOT was also the World's first transportation agency to automate management and processing of construction products from the construction site through contractor payment, saving taxpayers more than $20 million per year in 1993.

The national innovations are endless but include some of the most significant to our everyday living like the nation's first mile of concrete highway built by the Wayne County Road Commission on Woodward Avenue between 6 and 7 Mile roads in Detroit in 1909, the first painted centerline in 1911 and the first state trunkline in the nation to sport a centerline from Marquette to Negaunee Road (now US 41/M 28) in 1917. The nation's first highway materials testing lab was at the University of Michigan in 1912 and the nation's first four way red/yellow/green electric traffic light was at the comer of Woodward and Michigan Avenues in Detroit as the invention of Detroit Police Officer William Potts in 1918.

Other national firsts include the first roadside park on US–2 in Iron County, completed in 1919; the first practical highway snowplow was built in Munising in 1922; and the first "super highway" was an eight-lane divided highway with a 40–foot median built in 1923 along Woodward Avenue between Detroit and Pontiac. MDOT was the first highway department to use yellow centerlines to designate "no passing" zones in 1927. Michigan has the nation's first state operated information center which opened in 1935 near New Buffalo. Michigan was the nation's first state to complete a toll free border-to-border interstate on I–94 running 205 miles from Detroit to New Buffalo in 1960. In 1977 US–31 in Oceana County won the national "most beautiful highway" by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The nation's largest concrete segmental bridge opened up in 1988 when the Zilwaukee Bridge opened carrying I–75 over the Saginaw River. Recently, in 2003, Gloria Jeff was named the director of MDOT becoming the first female and African American State Transportation director in the nation.

Mr. Speaker these are only a few of the facts, figures and historical moments that are seemingly infinite examples that mark the significant influence this agency has had on transportation in our country and the world. In fact much of this information and a detailed outline of MDOT's history can be found through the resources of MDOT's centennial website at www.michigan.gov/mdot100. However, the greatness and innovation displayed by MDOT throughout this past 100 years is not limited to our history and evolution as a modern state. The recent state accomplishments and the goals laid out for the future show the numerous advancements this department continues to make on behalf of it residents.

Horatio "Good Roads" Earle would be proud of the efforts to make our roads, highways and bridges better each year. According to MDOT, since 1999, they have completed more than 93 percent of the road and bridge preservation programs announced in the fiveyear program making 88 percent of the vehicle miles traveled on Michigan freeways done so on good pavement. In the last three years, the capitol preventative maintenance program increased the life span of 3,710 miles of highway by up to seven years with a special treatment. Additionally, MDOT has made significant improvements to trunkline bridges through the state due to strategic planning as well as opening almost 80 miles of widened roadways and passing relief lanes to relieve congestion, reduce delays and improve safety. Other program successes have been in overall safety, economic development projects, parking, roadside programs, and environmental quality.

Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, a special ceremony to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Michigan Department of Transportation will be held at the Mackinac Bridge in my district, one of the world's largest suspension bridges that connects the Upper and Lower Peninsulas with five miles of concrete and steel innovation. Friday, July 1st, the department's employees will also celebrate the anniversary in Lansing, Michigan. Celebrating this milestone year at the Mackinac Bridge is most appropriate because of the symbolism the Mighty Mac shares with that of this accomplished state department. MDOT has connected people from Copper Harbor to Coldwater, has set a number of firsts in national accomplishments, and continues to look ahead at ways to improve transportation for Michigan residents and visitors. Since its inception by Mr. Earle, MDOT has focused on the quality of its services and resources, the effectiveness of their work, the dedication to the needs of their travelers, the integrity to improve transportation the right way the first time, and the pride of being the best as what they do. I ask the United States House of Representatives to join the Michigan Congressional Delegation in congratulating the Michigan Department of Transportation on its first 100 years and even better success through the next century.

CONGRATULATING THE PHOENIX COMPANIES

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Phoenix Companies on its active commitment to Connecticut's capital of Hartford. Phoenix restated that commitment today with the celebration of three events significant to the city where it has operated since its founding in 1851. In that time, the Phoenix has evolved into a leading financial services company specializing in life insurance, annuities and asset management.

The company has returned all of its Connecticut operations to Hartford, and today welcomes back 450 employees who have relocated there. In February, the Phoenix's distinctive two-sided headquarters that is a signature of Hartford's skyline was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Considered a classic example of Modernist architecture, the building was designed in the early 1960s by Max Abramovitz, who is widely acclaimed for his role in designing the United Nations and Lincoln Center. The Phoenix is undertaking a major $25 million renovation to update its landmark boatshaped building into a state-of-the art office building while maintaining its exceptional architectural integrity.

As The Phoenix renovates its home, it has also reached out to help the citizens of Hartford become home-owners. Its philanthropic arm, The Phoenix Foundation Inc., is providing a $100,000 grant to The Neighborhoods of Hartford, Inc., which is responsible for implementing Mayor Eddie Perez's homeownership initiative. The Foundation's grant will reinforce and extend the initiative, providing funding for additional projects designed to tip transition neighborhoods into healthy ones. Last year, The Foundation's grants totaled $1.36 million, almost all of which went to Hartford-area organizations.

The Phoenix's investments and active participation in the city is admirable, and its embrace of its community roots is to be applauded.

HONORING OLEE LEWIS FOR HER SERVICE TO HENRY COUNTY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Tennessean and a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Olee Lewis of Paris, Tennessee. Olee recently completed her 38th year of serving our community at the Henry County Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

As a daughter of a local tobacco farmer, Olee dreamed of being a missionary or a nurse, and as an adult, she made her dreams come true. Olee received her nurse's aide certification after high school and then began training at National Baptist Missionary Training School in Nashville. She had to leave missionary school before she was finished but still jumped into a life of missionary work back home.

Olee has directed the Henry County Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council and has helped many people throughout her years there. One of Olee's greatest accomplishments is the "Sister to Sister and Brother to Brother" club, which organizes black men and women to meet the needs of the community. "Sister to Sister" has been so successful there is now a "Sister to Sister II."

She has also found the time to organize the SHARE program, serve as Secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Ushers Department, and serve as a director of many different projects in her local church. For her extraordinary work in the community, Olee has received the Personalities of the South Award, was appointed to the important Families First Committee and was named a Kentucky Colonel. Married to the late Charles Wesley Lewis, Olee has been a wonderful mother to four foster children and also has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Throughout her life, Olee has contributed much to our community, our state and our nation. She has never shied away from work when her skills and efforts were needed and could make a difference. Mr. Speaker, please join me as I recognize Olee's many achievements and contributions, and to say thanks to her for all she has done through the years to make the city of Paris, Henry County, and the State of Tennessee a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO IRMA VELASQUEZ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of the extraordinary achievements of Irma Velasquez, who was recently awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service for her creation of a school for autistic children in my district. With her son as inspiration, Ms. Velasquez started Wings Learning Center five years ago so children with autism would have the tools to excel in the face of even the toughest disabilities.

The Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service has been nationally administered since 1972 by the American Institute for Public Service. The award is given to those who are committed to making a difference in their community. Ms. Velasquez was given her award by the San Francisco Chronicle for her tireless pursuit in search of techniques to let autistic children flourish.

Mr. Speaker, her son Aaron was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Having received her bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Administration from San Francisco State University and working as an accountant, she was ill-prepared for the diagnosis. Ms. Velasquez knew little about how to help her son with his disability and how to interact with him in daily life. She searched for the right education that could help her son while at the same time she educated herself about autism. Not satisfied with the special education disabled students were receiving at the schools in her district, she and her husband, Sherman Chan, started a unique school for her son.

Wings Learning Center, in San Mateo, California, maintains a team approach in the classroom and creates play groups that focus on social and motor skills. In addition to a dedicated set of teachers, the staff also consists of speech and occupational therapists. Today this primary school has 14 students enrolled from all over the Bay Area with more students starting in the fall of 2005. Ultimately Wings Learning Center hopes to find enough space to expand into a high school and provide training and support programs for educators.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Irma Velasquez deserves more recognition. What started as love for her child and a drive to understand his world quickly turned into an opportunity to help other children and offer resources for parents in a similar situation. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Irma Velasquez, and wish her well on a promising future as a provider of special education for autistic children.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ISSUE A COMPULSORY LICENSE FOR LOPINAVIR/RITONAVIR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Brazil's HIV/AIDS program has been recognized by the

United Nations AIDS program as one of the best in the world in both treatment and prevention. Working alongside nonprofit organizations, the government has aggressively fought the disease by offering universal antiretroviral treatment. Many of the first-line antiretroviral drugs used in Brazil are locally produced by generic companies, allowing the country to afford to treat tens of thousands of patients.

But other second-line antiretroiviral drugs like the lopinavir/ritonavir combination, efavirenz, and tenofovir have been sold by their brand name producers at a high cost. These three drugs alone consume 70% of Brazil's AIDS budget. According to Brazilian Health Minister Humberto Costa, the Brazilian government pays more than $2,600 annually per patient to purchase doses of lopinavir/ritonavir.

Some who oppose Brazil's action have claimed that it violates trade rules. In fact, the World Trade Organization's 1994 Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property specifically permits compulsory licensing. The 2001 Doha Declaration reaffirmed this option, stating, "Each member has the right to grant compulsory licenses and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licenses are granted."

As a signatory of the Doha Declaration, the United States should respect the rights of other nations to address important health problems.

MEETING BLAIR'S G–8 AFRICA GOALS—PROGRESS, BUT FAR FROM FINISHED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker I rise to discuss the ongoing progress towards meetings the objectives of Prime Minister Blair's G–8 objectives. The announcement of a tentative debt relief agreement for certain developing countries, mostly in Africa, is an extremely promising development for Africa that is long overdue. The recent agreement on 100 percent debt relief will initially benefit 14 nations in Africa, and is largely based on the Heavy Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Program, which already offers some debt relief to the world's poorest nations.

Several countries not included in the initial package are still technically eligible. An additional 9 African countries could qualify for full debt cancellation in the next 12 to 18 months, and a further 9 countries in Africa may potentially benefit from the agreement sometime in the future, if they continue to progress in meeting HIPC objectives, such as tackling corruption. But these additional countries are by no means guaranteed debt relief.

The current $40 billion debt relief package must be commended. It is by far the most significant and comprehensive debt relief package ever given to Africa. However, a recent article entitled "Plan That Falls Far Short of Global Needs" in the publication CaribNews suggests that the plan must be closely scrutinized. One glaring issue is that the current package at most cancels only one-sixth of Africa's $295 billion debt and leaves out several countries such as Nigeria and Kenya.

Nigeria, despite having a per capita GDP in line with HIPC eligible countries, and a staggering $36 billion debt, is not currently included in the deal, though G–8 representatives say that some type of Nigeria specific arrangement is in the works. As a leader in West Africa, if not the entire continent, its fate is closely linked to that of the region. As such, the inclusion of Nigeria in a debt relief package is crucial.

In addition to debt relief, the issue of increased assistance must be addressed. This was reiterated in a recent Op-Ed release by Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, which calls on the U.S. to do more to help Africa. President Bush has so far rejected Blair's call to double aid to Africa, as well as establish the UN sanctioned benchmark which calls on developed countries to devote 0.7 percent of their gross national income to overseas development assistance by 2015. Of the G8 countries, France, Germany, Italy and Britain, have all pledged to hit the 0.7 percent target in the allotted period. The European Union also a collective body has also agreed to the benchmark.

In 2004, the United States, the largest economy in the world, was second to last among industrialized nations in the amount of development assistance it gave as a percentage of Gross National Income—it was dead last in 2003. In sheer volume the U.S. gives the largest total amount of foreign development aid, but as a proportion of national income only 0.16 percent goes to aid, far short of the 0.7 percent UN target.

While we claim to be the leader of the free world, small countries such as Norway and Denmark dwarf us in the percentage of their national income dedicated to development. Indeed, these countries have long exceeded the 0.7 percent aid target that the U.S. has yet to adopt. In addition, a recent report released by the Brookings Institute argues that the extent of U.S. assistance in recent years is not as large as the Administration has asserted.

Lastly, the issue of trade liberalization must be tackled if Africa is to experience real and sustainable development. Africa has a population of 860 million, accounting for 13.6 percent of the world's population, yet it only accounts for only two percent of global trade volume—down from 6 percent in the 1980's.

This is compounded by industrialized countries' usage of unfair trading mechanisms, such as subsidies, which have prevented African farmers and firms from competing on an equal footing with other nations. While industrialized nations battle with each other over increasing the $50 billion they give in annual development assistance, they continue to spend over $300 billion on domestic agricultural subsidies.

For its part, the U.S. gives billions of dollars annually in subsidies to a very small group of largescale agricultural producers—while compelling poor countries to further open up their markets. The World Bank has estimated that an end to Western agricultural subsidies would allow developing countries to earn hundreds of billions—on their own. Concessions on trade may prove to be the hardest sell in Blair's G–8 agenda, but his agenda is one the world cannot afford to ignore.

HELPING THE LEAST OF THESE: CANCEL AFRICA'S DEBT AND SHARE THE WEALTH

(By Bernice Powell Jackson)

If you were only to read most of the newspaper headlines, you'd think that the U.S. government is being quite generous to the world's poorest continent, Africa, but it just ain't so. In fact, we're being awfully stingy and while President Bush is trying to put a happy face on his meetings with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Mr. Blair must be pretty disappointed at how little he is coming away with for Africa.

The truth is that 34 of the world's 48 poorest nations are in Africa, which is also facing a rampant AIDS epidemic, where thousands die every day. Moreover, a number of African nations are still recovering from civil wars and/or enormous national debts, many of which were incurred by unscrupulous dictators and illegitimate governments who never used the funds for the hospitals and schools for which they were intended. The truth is that Africa is a continent whose natural resources of gold, diamonds, oil, chromium and other much-needed minerals have been ravaged by much of the rest of the world. Moreover, tens of millions of its most precious resource—human beings—died or were stolen in the African slave trade a century ago. I remember being on a World Council of Churches panel in 1998 in Zimbabwe, where an African leader reminded us that when you count the billions of dollars lost to Africa through these ways, "we don't owe Europe and America anything. You still owe us," he said.

The truth is that for many of the poorest nations, paying back these huge national debts is not only burdensome, it is impossible. For most, they will never be able to pay off the principle, while the interest costs continue to mount. But many of these nations are forced to make these interest payments, which means that they cannot put funds into health care and education, which are critical to their national survival.

Even the new World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz; has said that a case can be made for more funds going to development in Africa. President Bush, however, doesn't seem to agree with his protégé, Mr. Wolfowitz. In his meetings with Prime Minister Blair, President Bush has expressed an openness to canceling debts, but he has refused to increase substantially U.S. foreign aid to Africa. Instead, he has agreed to use $674 million already allocated by Congress for emergency famine relief to a few African countries.

The extra $25 billion a year for Africa sought by Mr. Blair, are not budgeted President Bush replied. Nevermind that almost the entire $220 billion allocated for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been unbudgeted by this same administration.

Many Americans believe that we spend about 25 percent of our Federal budget on foreign aid to poor nations when we actually spend about 1 percent. Many Americans believe the headlines when our government agrees to fund programs like the $15 million announced for AIDS in Africa. The reality is that little of that money has been sent. Similarly, three years ago the U.S. signed onto the United Nation's Millennium Project. In it, the world's riches nations agreed to increase their aid to .7 percent by 2015 to the poorest nations. Two weeks ago the European Union agreed to double their aid by 2015. But, it seems the President Bush has told Mr. Blair that we won't be doing the same. It's the old story of the check is in the mail.

In a recent editorial, the New York Times pointed out that .7 percent of the American economy would equal about $80 billion. That's roughly equivalent to the amount the

Senate approved for additional military spending in Iraq and a little more than half of the corporate tax cut last year.

Three hundred million Africans live on less than $1 a day on a continent trapped in $300 billion in foreign debt. If we're serious about fighting the war on terrorism and serious about living out the moral values we're so quick to talk about, then we must not only cancel the debt of Africa's poorest nations, but we must also substantially increase our foreign aid to Africa.

You can write or call President Bush and tell him so. You can write or call your Senator. You can ask others to join you—it's up to us, all of us.

PLAN THAT FALLS FAR SHORT OF GLOBAL NEEDS

Now that the euphoria of the G–8 debt deal to help poor Africa, Caribbean and Latin American states has died down the reality of the situation is hitting home.

And it is painfully obvious that what was initially sold as a dream scheme isn't what it was cracked up to be.

Promoted as a plan designed to ease the financial pain of high debt inflicted on some of the world's poorest countries by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in particular the $40 billion debt write off scheme approved by many of the world's richest nations—the U.S., Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Italy, Russia and Canada—falls very short of what is really needed.

It's true that the deal is an important first step but it's far from the generous package, which countries and commentators would have us believe.

Some figures underscore the need for the industrialized world to give more money to the designated beneficiaries and also to expand the list of highly indebted nations, which are crying out for help.

It's important that we bear in mind that when the figures, which are being tossed around in a vain attempt to highlight the generosity of the developed states, are looked at carefully, the actual amount and how it is parceled out is a drop in the bucket of requirements.

In today's money, according to Gary Duncan, Economics Editor of the Times of London, the value of the recent write-off is "only about $17 million for the 18 countries to enjoy immediately."

Actually, as Duncan pointed out in well-reasoned analysis, the amount that Tanzania, Guyana, Honduras and the other 15 beneficiaries would save in debt payment, which can then be ploughed back into education, health, roads and infrastructural development, is chicken feed. The relatively small amount of $1.5 billion in annual savings "is a fraction of the $50 billion a year needed to double annual aid flows," which Britain's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, insist is needed to help Africa and other countries turn the corner by reducing poverty.

It is estimated that Britain's commitment under the deal calls for its taxpayers to provide $100 million a year for up to a decade, a sum that the United Kingdom can meet without breaking a sweat. The annual charge to the U.S. treasury is close to $175 million a year. That's not enough to pay for the public information system of the U.S. Justice Department. For Germany the bill would amount to about $50 million a year for the first three years. The sums get even smaller when we look at France's annual commitment of about $30 million.

It's obvious, then that we are not talking about large sums of money. Instead, the funds that don't even begin to scratch the surface of need in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. It's also clear that advocates of debt relief for the world's poor were right when they called for a broader debt relief and aid package.

For instance, Romilly Greenhill of Action Aid, raised question marks about the scheme when he called the plan very good short term news for the 18 countries that will benefit but complained that overall "it will do little to immediately help millions in at least 40 countries that also need 100 per cent debt relief. What is disappointing is the lack of any substantial concrete commitment on aid."

You can say that again.

What has hit home is that at a time when the United Nations Millennium Goals are coming up for review, the United States, the wealthiest of the wealthy, is unwisely opposing the International Finance Facility which the British Chancellor is seeking to establish to offer a greater helping hand to the poor by using bonds to raise billions of dollars. Washington's opposition is undermining efforts to boost aid and in the end is likely to cause greater suffering.

To make matters worst, Germany has made it clear that it doesn't intend to out up any new money to pay for the debt write-off. Instead it will use existing aid funds to finance its share of the deal, something that makes the whole thing laughable. In essence, then, we shouldn't be expecting any significant changes unless and until there is a substantial change in attitude towards the poor.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the colloquy between the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) and Chairman REGULA that highlights the importance of restoring funding for the Community Service Block Grant Program.

Mr. Chairman, while I certainly understand the difficult work of the Appropriations Committee as it strives to keep the 2006 budget process under strict allocations, it is my hope that we can somehow find additional funding for the C–S–B–G Program. While the President sought to consolidate the program in his 2006 budget to the Congress, I was pleased to support language in the House-passed budget package, which states that:

Community Service Block Grants provides invaluable assistance to low-income families and communities. These funds are used to build healthy and stable communities. Due consideration should be given to this program before Congress implements any changes.

Mr. Chairman, thousands of community action agencies provide services that help low-income individuals: Train for gainful employment, obtain quality living environments and generally move toward self-sufficiency. One of those agencies is "Total Action Against Poverty," in my congressional district, which has provided much-needed services to the Roanoke Valley and southwest Virginia for nearly 30-years.

I Believe a major reason for the effectiveness of organizations like "Total Action Against Poverty" are that they are locally controlled. Rather than seeking guidance from a know-it-all bureaucracy in Washington, DC, community action agencies can resolve community problems with community solutions. These organizations are grassroots-based, and are led by local boards and volunteers, with diverse memberships and strong roots in their communities. By nature, these groups are invested in their communities—and have the ability to leverage C–S–B–G funds with significant resources from private organizations including corporations and foundations with a stake in promoting the wellness of their neighborhoods, rather than pleasing constituencies in Washington.

Mr. Chairman, it is my belief that C–S–B–Gs are the kind of good-government programs that Congress should continue to support. I hope that conferees can support the C–S–B–G program.

SOUTHERN ALAMANCE WINS 3–A CROWN

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as baseball fans across America anxiously wait to see who will win this year's World Series, the Sixth District of North Carolina waits no longer for one of its champions to be crowned. On June 4, 2005, the Southern Alamance Patriots captured the North Carolina Class 3–A state baseball championship by defeating Northwest Cabarrus two games to one at Doak Field on the campus of North Carolina State University. This year, Southern Alamance captured its first state title since 1988 and its third in school history.

With the series tied at one in the third game of the series, the Patriots scored an unprecedented eight runs in the first inning. This was an anomaly after the Patriots were held to only three hits in game two. The (Burlington) Times-News reported that the Patriots learned from their mistakes and took advice from their coach Jason Smith when he told them to not try to, ". . . lift and hit it out. In this big park it is not going to happen." The players kept the ball on the ground and prevailed in what proved to be an exhilarating game.

Northwest Cabarrus went into game three on a "high" after beating the Patriots in game two. The game winning "high" was soon replaced with a "low" after the Trojan's starting pitcher, Robbie Gurley, walked two people and gave up a single in the first inning. Gurley was pulled and replaced by Joe Hubbard. After Hubbard could not get the job done and was replaced by a third hurler, the Patriots were confident after gaining an eight-run lead in the first inning. Among those who scored in the first were Thomas Sappelt, Michael Parker, Roy Albright, Brent Haynes, Jonathan Shields, and Brad Thornburg. Northwest Cabarrus coach Joe Hubbard was quoted in the Times-News saying, ''We couldn't stop the first inning; it just snowballed on us.''

The series' Most Valuable Player Brent Haynes stepped up to the plate in the bottom of the fifth inning with runners on second and third. Haynes hit a ground ball down the first base line and accumulated a RBI as Brad Thornburg whisked across home plate. Much to the dismay of the Northwest Cabarrus fans, the game ended under the 10-run rule.

After the dominating victory imposed by the Patriots, Coach Smith should be credited for much of the team's success. After coming off of a tough loss in game two, Coach Smith encouraged the players to play smart baseball instead of imitating the starlike swings of Barry Bonds or Sammy Sosa. Smart baseball for this team was to hit ground balls, which proved to payoff. Coach Smith had a strong coaching staff behind him that consisted of Eddie Wood, Paul Bishop, Nathan Holcomb, and Andrew Thomas.

Although the players' hard work and commitment to team excellence helped them succeed, they would be the first to tell you that the key to their success was impeccable leadership. We congratulate the players: Jimmy Robbins, Michael Pernell, Dave Sappelt, John Crawford, Jonathon Thrasher, Jonathan Shields, Michael Parker, Brad Thornburg, Jay Liddle, Reid Straughan, Richard Allred, Roy Albright, Brent Haynes, Thomas Sappelt, Gabe Shoffner, Cale Rogers, Zach Robinson, Luke Vandall, score keeper Stephanie Smith, and team manager Holden Walker. Each member of the team played a valuable role in their commendable season, which ended with a 27–5 record and a state title.

This 3–A state baseball championship brings pride back to the baseball program at Southern Alamance, and we congratulate Principal Kent Byrd, Athletic Director David Vaughn, the community of the Southern Alamance Patriots and most importantly the team and coaching staff for a job well done.

GOOD ADVICE ON HURRICANE PREPARATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the people of the Caribbean prepare for another chaotic hurricane season, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues some important advice on the preparation and prevention efforts in the region. During last summer's hurricane season the small island nations of Grenada, Jamaica, and Haiti were severely impacted with terrible destruction of essential infrastructure and significant loss of life. This catastrophe caused the Members of the last Congress to include $100 million in relief assistance in the supplemental appropriations bill for Florida.

Our neighbors in the Caribbean were harder hit than even Florida. Homes, lives, and economic prospects were destroyed in the wake of hurricanes that beat down on the island nations of the Caribbean and the United States southern coastline. Many were shocked and surprised by the destructive force of these natural phenomena. Many felt the devastating blows of the hurricane splitting and eroding homes, towns, and communities. Others witnessed the indiscriminate winds that ripped roofs from homes, merchandise from store fronts and children from homes.

Hurricane season routinely strikes the Caribbean harder than the U.S. The fragile economies of these noble neighbors too often succumb to the might and power of these natural disasters. As staples of their economy, tourism and agriculture suffer significantly in the wake of the floods, winds, and aftermath of a destructive hurricane. The effect of hurricanes on the United States alone is often breathtaking and requires a mammoth community mobilization and effort of the surrounding states. Imagine its impact on the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and St. Vincent.

As we enter this annual season of threat in 2005, this Congress should take the lead in preparing our Caribbean neighbors for the events to come. We should be ensuring that the resources are available to meet the humanitarian needs of the region. We should be securing the supplies and gear necessary for recovery. We should be certain that the regional infrastructure can handle the health and welfare needs that will arise.

CaribNews recently hosted a Caribbean conference in the Bronx on the subject of disaster preparedness. They focused on the planning and preparation of the region for the next major natural disaster. In a recent article, they established some important steps that should be taken to ensure that the region is prepared and ready to deal with the consequences of this year's hurricane season.

I submit for the RECORD the following editorial from the CaribNews on their conferences and recommendations for addressing the challenges of hurricane preparation.

WE NEED TO BE READY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES

Preparation, they say, is the mother protection. In this case, we are talking about protecting lives, property, and in many ways the future against the ravages of Mother Nature.

In the Caribbean and the South and the southwest of the United States, the need is to prepare against the often-ferocious high winds and the rain of hurricanes. And now that we are into hurricane season, and with the experts predicting some of the strongest weather patterns in recent years, it's important that the U.S. and the Caribbean nations be ready for what may befall us.

Just the other day, Adolfo Carrion, the Bronx Borough President, and this newspaper focused the city's spotlight on disaster preparedness. That was done at a highly successful Caribbean conference in the Bronx and participants in a panel discussion emphasized that we can't wait until a hurricane or other natural disasters strike and then respond.

After all, the geological and geographic features of the Caribbean archipelago almost guarantee that a hurricane can strike at any time during the second half of the year. While we can prevent trade conflicts, end political rows or avoid military adventures, there is precious little we can do to stop hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods from hitting us, affecting all those who live in a particular country or the region.

Last year's devastation in Grenada brought on by Hurricane Ivan was a case in point. Not only was it unstoppable but its effects will be felt for many years to come. The floods, which took thousands of lives in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, could not have been thwarted by human effort but the pain and suffering was prolonged by the inability to respond effectively once the tragedy had occurred.

Similarly, the damage caused by Ivan and other hurricanes in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Florida, St. Vincent and the Cayman Islands spoke more of the resilience of these countries to bounce back and the relatively good fortune that prevented them from being struck a mightier blow than to anything else.

We shouldn't forget too that Dominica was hit but spared extensive damage when an earthquake shook the Caribbean island. Unlike hurricane warnings, earthquake prediction didn't have any value in Dominica's case.

That's why the meeting in the Bronx was of such significance and why Caribbean nations, the international community and immigrant groups in New York, Miami, Boston, Hartford, and elsewhere must plan ahead in case the vulnerability of the small islands are exposed once again.

For as 2004 showed us, the twinkling of the proverbial eye and the decades long effort to build a country and put it in very good shape to propel living standards forward can be undone in a matter of hours.

Clearly, because natural disasters are inevitable, the emphasis must be placed on minimizing damage and responding to the needs of those affected.

To begin with Caribbean and U.S. governments must take measures to lessen pain, suffering and damage. Mutual assistance and self-help scheme at the institutional and individual levels are vital and must be integrated into sound natural disaster strategies. Building codes must be enacted and enforced to limit the effects of the troubles we have seen in recent years, not simply in the Caribbean but in the U.S. as well when entire villages come tumbling down.

It's incumbent upon home owners and business places whose structures were built several years ago or even recently to check to see to what extent their buildings can resist hurricane force winds, floods, or even seismic shocks.

Although Caribbean governments are already strapped for cash, they should consider providing tax incentives to property-owners to promote disaster mitigation. The tax system can be an important tool to achieve the goal of increasing the number of buildings that can withstand the winds and the rains spawned by hurricanes.

As for the Diaspora and the international community, not to mention local and state governments in New York State and other parts of the country, they must extend their disaster preparations schemes to include the Caribbean. After all, in places such as New York where hundreds of Caribbean immigrants live the inevitability of natural disasters is of great concern to many. So they must be included in the planning and the response.

Caribbean immigrants have in the past responded well and with alacrity to disasters in their respective homelands and in the region as a whole. But there is also an urgent need for a greater coordinated approach to relief.

The counterparts of the Bronx Borough President in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan should also consider the approach he adopted recently when he brought people and institutions together to consider the problem before it occur again. Assembling folks to discuss the potential perils ahead and putting mechanisms in place can go a long way in bringing relief after disaster has struck.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ROBERT "CY" LAUGHTER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations and best wishes to one of my dearest friends, Robert "Cy" Laughter, on the upcoming occasion of his 80th birthday on July 26, 2005. As birthdays are often a time for reflection, I think it is fitting to pause and pay tribute to this truly remarkable man, and share some of his more memorable exploits. As a devoted husband, a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, industrious businessman, philanthropist, and veteran of World War II, Cy has truly led a full and distinguished life.

A life-long native of Dayton, Ohio—but to me an Honorary Hoosier—Cy is probably best known to his friends and neighbors as an industrialist and founder of the famous Bogie Busters Golf Tournament. Held for over 35 years in Dayton Ohio this charity tournament always drew a distinguished list of participants including a few former U.S. Presidents and Vice-Presidents, Cabinet members, Members of Congress, governors, athletes, celebrities and national business leaders. Numerous organizations, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Johnny Bench Scholarship Fund, the Dayton's Children's Medical Center, and the City of Dayton itself received invaluable financial support and recognition through the Bogie Busters Tournament thanks to Cy's extraordinary efforts.

Over the years, Cy has given of himself in other ways, most notably by serving on the board of directors of Wendy's International, and as a trustee for Sinclair Community College and Wright State University of Dayton Ohio. And when President George Herbert Walker Bush called, Cy did not hesitate to answer that call to duty and service on the Federal Home Loan Board and the Battlefields and Monument Commission; just as Cy did not hesitate to answer his Nation's call to service during World War II in which he served as a U.S. Army light infantry foot soldier, and was awarded the Purple Heart for serious injuries sustained in combat during the legendary Battle of the Bulge. Cy recently came to Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the D-day invasion and listening to him talk about his experiences during the war it was obvious how profoundly he was changed by those events and how proud he is to have been a small part of saving the world from oppression and tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to consider Cy Laughter one of my dearest friends, and I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cy's lifetime of service to our Nation. I'm sure that Cy's family, longtime friends and colleagues will also join me in wishing him many more years of happiness. Happy birthday, Mr. Laughter.

RECOGNIZING ASTELLAS PHARMA ON OPENING ITS NORTH AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. I would like to recognize a very positive and significant development in the continuing growth of the biotech industry in Illinois. On April 1, 2005, Astellas Pharma U.S., Inc. officially opened its North American headquarters in my home Congressional district of Deerfield, Illinois.

Astellas Pharma U.S., Inc. is a new global company created by the merger of two leading pharmaceutical firms. Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc., based in Deerfield, and Yamanouchi Pharma America, Inc., based in New Jersey, merged their North American headquarter operations at Fujisawa's former headquarters in Deerfield, Illinois. This merger resulted in the creation and retention of a significant number of biotech industry related jobs for the State of Illinois and the 10th Congressional District. The merger of these two international pharmaceutical entities creates a global company with the mission of improving healthcare around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products.

In the past, this Deerfield based company has been an excellent corporate citizen and served the local healthcare community well. In addition to developing pharmaceutical therapies, Fugisawa's philanthropic activities included a large endowment to the Pediatric Dermatologic Research conducted through the Children's Memorial Institute for Education and Research. This particular act of philanthropy was the largest gift ever made to Children's Memorial Hospital by a corporation.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I am aware of some of the lifesaving therapies that Fujisawa and Yamanouchi already pioneered in areas such as solid organ transplantation, immunosuppression and urology. I look forward to working with the global firm of Astellas as it continues to tap the potential of the life sciences and support healthy living for people around the world. I congratulate the people of Astellas and wish them well in their efforts to make contributions to health and employment in Illinois.

ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for two bills that I have introduced that address the needs of our veterans. We have recently celebrated Flag Day, and I believe an appropriate way to celebrate Flag Day is to introduce bills that will help veterans in pursuing their education and gaining admission to state veterans homes.

My bill, H.R. 2365, the "Montgomery GI Bill Flexibility Act", improves education benefits. An important piece of the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization bill that Congress passed was a provision that extends the time limit from 10 to 14 years for members of the Selected Reserve to use their GI Bill education benefits. Life in 2005 can make it difficult to finish an education in 10 years. Many times, veterans with families, work commitments, and economic difficulties are unable to fulfill all their requirements to receive a degree or certification within the 10-year period, and Congress recognized this difficulty for members of the Selected Reserve. It is time to extend the number of years for all participants of the Montgomery GI Bill.

A veteran who is interested in seeing H.R. 2365 pass writes: "I served 8 years of active duty in the Army, including the Persian Gulf War. I am also a family member of an active duty service member. In support of my husband's military career, I have moved six times, currently planning move number 7, in the past 9 years. That, coupled with three babies, has made it difficult for me to use my GI Bill benefits." H.R. 2365 will ensure that more veterans are able to avail themselves of the educational opportunity that they have earned.

I have also introduced H.R. 3009, "A Guaranteed Home For Our Veterans Act", to address a problem that has been called to my attention by my constituents. One was told by his state veterans home in California that if he chose to transfer to his home state of Minnesota, he would have to wait a year in order to establish state residency before being accepted. Veterans should be able to transfer to any other state veterans home on a space-available basis. H.R. 3009 would make that change to save veterans from severe hardships if they want to move to be closer to their families.

Better Long Term Care and Education Benefits for our nation's veterans! I urge my colleagues to support these veterans' bills.

CONGRATULATING DR. GILBERTO VELEZ AND PASTOR SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE HISPANIC CHURCH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Gilberto Velez and Pastor Samuel Rodriguez for their leadership in the Hispanic Church.

Dr. Gilberto Velez, Policy Director for the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, was recently recognized by the Assemblies of God as one of America's premiere Pastors. Gilberto began what would eventually become the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia through a home Bible study in Laredo with a handful for people, in March of 1995. Just last week, the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia celebrated their 10th anniversary with a brand new 3,300 seat facility.

Because of its growth and vision, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference President Samuel Rodriguez has chosen the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia as the Evangelical Hispanic Church of the Year, a role model for other Hispanic Churches and Pastors to follow.

Through the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Pastor Rodriguez serves 15 million Evangelical/Born Again Christians in America, and helps advocate for family, socio-economic, and political empowerment for some 40 million Hispanics worldwide.

Samuel's efforts cross ethnic and denominational lines, preaching to all people regardless of culture or creed.

I am honored to recognize Samuel Rodriguez and Dr. Gilberto Velez. Their commitment to faith and the empowerment of the Hispanic community has set an example that we should all be proud of.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to voice my opposition to the existing law that provides an automatic annual cost-of-living pay increase for Members of Congress.

While I appreciate the hard work of my colleagues on this bill, I object to the process and believe it should be reformed. Failure to allow an up or down vote on this issue only serves to increase cynicism towards the political process and confirms the feeling of many voter that their representatives are out of touch. The American public deserves better. Members of Congress should be on record with our constituents as to whether we believe an increase in our salary is justified. Given the opportunity, I would vote "no".

Fiscal discipline must start with Members of Congress. While our nation's economy continues to improve, our national debt remains at unprecedented levels and many rural Americans are struggling. Struggling to put food on the table. Struggling to make their farms and businesses profitable. Struggling to pay sky-rocketing medical costs. Struggling to educate their children. Struggling to save for retirement. The people we represent deserve responsible government and Congress should not receive an automatic cost-of-living increase during these challenging economic times.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Charlotte Latin School, a 3A private school in Charlotte, North Carolina, for being awarded the Wachovia Cup for the 2004–2005 athletic year. The Wachovia Cup is awarded to the school that boasts the best overall year in varsity athletics. The Charlotte Latin "Hawks" won the state championship in soccer (the school's second straight state championship), volleyball, wrestling (the school's third consecutive championship), and lacrosse (the school's first state championship). Again, I congratulate them on this fabulous achievement, and look forward to their continued success in the 2005–2006 athletic year.

HONORING CRAIG NOEL—A SAN DIEGO TREASURE!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor San Diego's own living treasure, Craig Noel—the founding director of the Old Globe Theater.

Born in New Mexico in 1915, Craig came to San Diego as a child and made his Globe debut as a 20-year old actor in 1937. According to Craig, "it's been a long tenure. You know, it took me 70 years to accomplish what anyone else could have done in 10—but then this is San Diego. Everything takes longer here. But the important thing is we've been able to keep it going."

Craig has enriched the quality of life in San Diego through visionary dreams that became reality. He has worked to improve the larger community through his support and encouragement of playwrights, actors and theatre artists and through the nurturing generations of citizens who have become today's theatre-goers and arts supporters.

Craig established the world-renowned Shakespeare Festival at the Globe in 1949. He guided the theatre's transformation to professional status in 1959, establishing it as the oldest continuing, professional not-for-profit theatre in California.

Craig created an audience for new works through his early '60s spring seasons at the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, where he introduced the works of Beckett, Ionesco, Anouilh, Pirandello, Brecht, Behan, Giraudoux and Albee to San Diegans. Their response was so enthusiastic that Craig instituted seasons of such works at the Falstaff Tavern, which was later remodeled and renamed the Cassius Carter Centre Stage (1969). Among Craig's other innovations are Globe Educational Tours and the Play Discovery Program, which began in 1974.

To fulfill his long-held dream of a theatre that would extend across the border to enrich artists and audiences of Southern California's two neighboring cultures, Craig instituted the Globe's bilingual theatre component, Teatro Meta, in 1983. Teatro Meta administers an award-winning, bilingual in-schools theatre program.

Craig's most recent world-premiere productions include Lillian Garrett-Groag's "The White Rose" and Reuben Gonzalez's "The Boiler Room." He also directed the U.S. premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's "Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays" and "Intimate Exchanges."

Today, Craig, not willing to rest on his many past achievements, is in rehearsal for the Globe's upcoming production of "Moonlight and Magnolias."

In addition to his work at the Globe, Craig was the founder of the California Theater Council and a former vice-president of the California Confederation of the Arts. Craig has been recognized with many awards to include inclusion by the San Diego Union-Tribune on a list of 25 persons who shaped the city's history, the Governor's Award for the Arts and the University of Arizona Alumni Association's Outstanding Citizen for his contribution to their fine arts department.

Craig has had a distinguished 68-year career and staged over 225 productions of all styles and periods. Under Craig's devoted but demanding care, the Old Globe has developed into a major player in the world of theater and a training ground that has nurtured dozens and dozens of Broadway and Hollywood luminaries.