

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, the agreement we have before us is critical to America's economic future. You see, America's economic stability is directly linked to our ability to maintain a robust trading relationship with the rest of the world.

Right now, the CAFTA region is the second largest U.S. export market in Latin America. Eighty percent of goods from that region already enter the U.S. duty-free.

But currently, U.S. products don't enjoy the same benefits. American exporters of everything from cars, vegetables, fruits, grain and wood products all face average tariffs of 10 to 30 percent.

In my home state of Illinois, some farmers are paying tariffs on farm goods that are as high as 16 percent. These high tariffs prevent farmers from competing in the growing markets of Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Last year, export shipments from Illinois to the CAFTA region totaled \$211 million dollars. That's the 16th largest in the U.S.

Passing CAFTA will allow exporters in Illinois and the rest of the country to enjoy the same benefits that our Central American partners already have. And that means more U.S. products can enter and be sold in Central America.

This agreement is a win-win situation for American farmers, businesses and consumers. No matter how you look at it, business activity will increase. And we all know, when businesses do well, jobs are created. In fact, it is estimated that one out of every five factory jobs in the U.S. depends on trade.

There is another component to CAFTA that is also important to address.

This agreement will help solidify democracy and economic reform in Central America. Here is what we know. Trade creates jobs and lifts people out of poverty. And when that happens, societies stabilize and grow. And there is nothing like a stable society to fight terrorism and strengthen democracy, freedom and rule of law.

Finally, Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States. For the millions of Hispanic Americans with families still living in Central America, this agreement creates a mutually beneficial economic relationship that strengthens our ties and our friendship.

Put simply, this trade agreement is about fairness. Fairness for American workers and fairness for American exporters. Our businesses and workers deserve a competitive trading environment on a level playing field.

This is important legislation. It will expand economic opportunity in the United States,

and it will promote freedom and democracy in Central America. I urge the House to do the right thing and pass this legislation.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ANDREW W. KIRKLAND

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Therefore, I join with the residents of Cadiz, the entire 18th Congressional District, Andrew's family and friends in congratulating Andrew W. Kirkland as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO REDSTONE-HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army for being named for the second year in a row the "Best Overall" AUSA Chapter in the country.

AUSA is dedicated to supporting the United States Army and maintaining a strong national defense. AUSA achieves its goals by supporting the needs and interests of soldiers, retirees, and family members.

As the home of Redstone Arsenal, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and numerous defense partners, north Alabama has earned an excellent reputation for its role protecting the warfighter and defending our national security.

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA, which was founded in 1959, has been a strong advocate and voice for north Alabama's warfighters. All of us in north Alabama are very proud of the hard work and commitment AUSA has always exhibited.

Mr. Speaker, this award is wonderful news for our community and I rise on behalf of everyone in north Alabama to express our sincere congratulations to the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA.

IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE J. GOMES, AGRICULTURALIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George J. Gomes of Carmichael, CA. The California Farm Bureau has honored Mr. Gomes by naming him the 2005 "Agriculturalist of the Year."

George began his agricultural odyssey on his family's dairy in Gustine, CA, where he operated the family dairy and farmed forage crops. After selling the farm, Mr. Gomes attended California State University, San Luis Obispo where he attained his bachelor of science degree in Agribusiness Management and his masters degree in Agriculture Education. He began his professional career as an associate professor at Cal Poly where he taught Agricultural Management.

George Gomes' career took him in many directions. Upon leaving the university, George managed the Napa County Fair. He later joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1975 where he worked in the Division of Fairs and Expositions. Shortly thereafter, he became the assistant director before being appointed chief deputy director by Governor George Deukmejian. Mr. Gomes began a new journey in 1987 when he was named administrator of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

His extensive educational and professional experience has allowed George to become a widely recognized leader within California's agriculture industry. While in school he was an active member of the Dairy Club, National Dairy Judging Team and Agriculture Council. Beyond that, George has served as a member of the State Fair Advisory Committee, chair of the Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo Agriculture Advisory Committee, California Fair Services Board of Directors and Keep California Beautiful Board of Directors.

Through his public service commitments in education, government and community organizations George Gomes has been steadfast in promoting California agriculture. This award from the California Farm Bureau Federation could not have gone to anyone more deserving. I wish George and his family all the best.

COMMENDING ARMY SPECIALIST ADAM JAMES HARTING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I wish to commend Army Specialist Adam James Harting for his bravery in the field of battle and his

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

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

willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Harting was assigned to the 3rd Battalion 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 42nd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. Specialist Harting lost his life on Monday, July 25, 2005, in Samarra, Iraq. His sacrifice will be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Portage, IN, Specialist Harting graduated from Portage High School. It came as no surprise to those who knew Specialist Harting that he would serve his country. A true patriot, his love for his country was evident from the time that he was a child. He wanted to help make a difference in the world. At a young age Adam and his twin brother, Alex, wrote contracts to their father promising they were going to join the military.

Specialist Harting wanted to be a hero. He began speaking to recruiters about joining the military. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 made his decision final. Specialist Harting felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. Soon after graduation he joined the military. In January 2003, at the age of 19, he was featured in Time magazine for being one of the youngest soldiers to arrive in Kuwait to serve in the conflict. He helped take a bridge over the Tigris River, and overran the airport in Baghdad. On July 25, 2005, less than 2 weeks after returning to the country for his third tour, Specialist Harting was killed when an explosive device detonated near the Bradley Fighting Vehicle that he was driving. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. He gave his life so that the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by those around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Adam's sacrifice for his country is a tribute to his dedication and willingness to put others before himself. He died not only while defending his fellow soldiers, but also defending his country and the Iraqi people from an oppressive regime. He is survived by his parents Jim and Katherine; stepmother Brenda; his twin brother, Alex, who served in the United States Air Force; and his siblings Mark, Josh, Jimmy, Tiffany, Tabitha, Hanna, and Leslie. Those who knew him best describe Adam as a kind, fun-loving person who always wanted to help others. He ultimately gave his life while protecting his fellow Americans and his heroism will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Adam Harting. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARC WEST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Marc West has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Eagle Scouts; and

Whereas, Marc West has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Marc West has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Marc West must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Therefore, I join with the residents of Zanesville, the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio, Marc's family and friends in congratulating Marc West as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD SHOWERS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Showers and pay tribute to his thirty-six year educational career in North Alabama.

Dr. Showers has been an outstanding educator in North Alabama. Throughout his career, Dr. Showers has held many diverse positions. He has been an elementary technology teacher, a middle school earth science teacher, a middle school industrial teacher, a vocational education teacher, an adult education teacher, and an adult education coordinator.

Additionally Mr. Speaker, Dr. Showers has proudly served the Huntsville community as the District One City Council Member since October of 1988. In fact, he was the first African-American to be elected to the City Council since 1907. As a council member, Dr. Showers sponsored the first smoking ordinance in the city, he was successful in locating an industrial park in North Huntsville, and he supported efforts in naming the Northern bypass in honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Showers has had a tremendous effect on our community as a teacher and City Council member and I would like thank him for his lifelong commitment to inspiring our community's children and his encouragement of adults to continue their education. I rise today to join his fellow teachers, students, family members, and friends in celebrating his distinguished career and to congratulate him upon his retirement.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN SANDRA L. DEGROOT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Captain Sandra L. DeGroot of Lemoore, California. Captain DeGroot has diligently served her country for the past thirty years.

In September 1975 Sandra joined the United States Navy as a Nurse Corps Candidate and was commissioned an Ensign. It was there that Captain DeGroot committed

herself to ensuring proper care and recovery for the women and men who place themselves in harm's way in the effort to protect our freedom.

She graduated from Keuka College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1976 and reported for Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island. Upon completion of her Officer training, Sandra began her career at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida in the Intensive Care unit.

Captain DeGroot's profession brought her to a variety of places. She was assigned to Naval Hospital Pensacola, Florida as the charge nurse of the medicine ward. Shortly thereafter Sandra became head nurse of the Pediatric Clinic at Naval Hospital, Guam and after a brief return to Florida, she joined the ranks in California at Naval Hospital San Diego. At San Diego Captain DeGroot filled many roles; she served as the staff nurse on Labor and Delivery, Division Officer OB/GYN clinics and Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist. Ever the avid learner, Sandra transferred to Utah where she completed her Master of Science Degree in Nursing, with a major in Nurse-Midwifery. Her dedication to work and school brought great rewards and in 1996 Captain DeGroot reported to Naval Hospital Jacksonville where she was the Navy's first Director of Women's Health Services. A few years later Sandra was assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Keflavik, Iceland before returning to California at Naval Hospital Lemoore as the Commanding Officer.

On top of her successful career Captain DeGroot has also made time for membership in various organizations. The American College of Nurse Midwives, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Holistic Nurses Association and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses are just some of the organizations with which she is involved. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed because Captain DeGroot has received the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

For us, her retirement is bittersweet—although it is well deserved Captain DeGroot's efforts will be greatly missed. I congratulate Captain Sandra L. DeGroot, and wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING MR. GARY NEALE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Gary Neale on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of NiSource, where he has served the people of Northwest Indiana since 1989 and who I am proud to call a friend.

Mr. Neale guided the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, a mid-sized utility provider, to become NiSource, one of the Nation's leading energy companies. Today, NiSource is a Fortune 500 company—the only one headquartered in Northwest Indiana, and one of the few located in the State of Indiana. Because of Mr. Neale's work, NiSource is now

the largest natural gas distributor east of the Rocky Mountains. This incredible growth came under the talented leadership of Mr. Neale, as he has brought an unparalleled level of vision and energy to NiSource. Because of his commitment to the community and his company, he will continue to serve NiSource as Chairman of the Board of Directors after his retirement.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Neale will have nearly 40 years of experience in the energy industry. He has become one of the most well-respected leaders in the industry over the years. Mr. Neale has served as the chairman of the American Gas Association and the North American Electric Reliability Council. He was also appointed by former U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to serve on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board and was selected by former U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to serve on the National Petroleum Council.

His contributions to the economy of Northwest Indiana are only eclipsed by his commitment to community service. The NiSource Charitable Foundation contributes more than \$5 million per year to non-profit organizations in the communities served by NiSource. Under his guidance, NiSource developed its Environmental Challenge Fund to support wildlife enhancement projects. To date, the fund has awarded more than \$850,000 in support of wildlife projects. Mr. Neale himself is personally committed to public service, serving on the boards of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Lake County United Way Campaign, and the Northwest Indiana Americans With Disabilities Act Advisory Board. A leader in economic development and a man of foresight, Mr. Neale has worked to improve the efficiency of local government services through his involvement with the Good Government Initiative in Northwest Indiana. Additionally, he has invested great amounts of personal time and energy in the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center. He is also committed to higher education in Northwest Indiana, serving as a Trustee of Valparaiso University.

Mr. Neale has accomplished much since coming to Northwest Indiana from his home state of Washington, where he received his B.A. and M.B.A. from the University of Washington. I wish him, his wife Sandy, his two children, Julie and David, and his five grandchildren the best of luck in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Gary Neale for his outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended. Over the years, I have sought out Gary for his advice and counsel on energy issues and to seek his assistance on matters affecting Northwest Indiana. I have always found him to be conscientious, deliberate, and innovative in his guidance. As James Joyce said, "not in time, place, or circumstance but in the man lies success;" or, as my father would say, "he's a 100% guy."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NANCY BELL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Nancy Bell received the Spirit of Democracy Award in recognition for her accomplishments as the Director of the Ross County Board of Elections; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell has been acknowledged by Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell should be commended for her outstanding dedication to the Ross County Board of Elections and for her exceptional knowledge of the elections process.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Nancy Bell for receiving the Spirit of Democracy Award.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Huntsville, Alabama on its 200th birthday. Huntsville is a part of my Congressional District and also my birthplace and hometown.

The City of Huntsville, named after Pioneer John Hunt, was founded in 1805. By 1819, it was the largest city in the Alabama Territory and was soon named the State of Alabama's first capitol.

Over the last two centuries, Huntsville has played a significant role in the development of our Nation and has established itself as a leader in science and technology development. Today, technology, space, and defense industries have a major presence in Huntsville with the Army's Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and Cummings Research Park. The City is home to several Fortune 500 companies and also offers a broad base of manufacturing, retail and service industries. In fact, Huntsville was recently named by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the best cities in the nation to live and work.

Huntsville is most well known as America's Space Capitol. In the 1950s, German Rocket Scientist Wernher von Braun and his team came to Redstone Arsenal to develop rockets for the U.S. Army. The von Braun team eventually developed the rockets which put the first American in space and transported the first astronauts to the moon. Huntsville's space legacy continues today at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the City's bicentennial, the City is constructing a large Bicentennial park. Once completed, the park will incorporate a wide variety of symbols that represent the first 200 years of the City.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Huntsville has been honoring its proud history through 2005 and will culminate its celebration during the first week of August with parades and the lighting

of the Unity Candle on the City's birthday cake. I rise today to join the celebration and to congratulate Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, City Council Members, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Mark Russell, Sandra Moon, Bill Kling, Jr., and Glenn Watson, and the Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission, Mary Jane Caylor on a job well done.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN- TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). I would like to be clear that I support increasing fair and free trade with our allies in Central America, and I appreciate the steps these nations have taken to improve business relations with the United States, especially among small businesses in my home State of Rhode Island. Fair trade between our nations could also help to bridge the relationship of our governments, leading to more stability in the region. There are several sociological and economic benefits that could be achieved through fair trade; unfortunately, those who drafted CAFTA did not aim to use this agreement as a vehicle for change, but rather chose to honor special interests before addressing the needs of the families and children living in those nations that will be most affected.

At a time when our Nation is preparing to pass sweeping trade legislation, the Administration has not only cut corners within the agreement, but also within the Federal agencies we rely on to regulate our global policies. I think this fact is best illustrated by the President's funding priorities in this year's budget. He requested, and his party's leader's agreed, to cut the International Labor budget by 86 percent. This funding helps to save children from spending their childhoods working in factories with deplorable conditions. I find it hard to believe that we can stand here and pass such a sweeping trade agreement as we continue to obliterate our ability to protect the children and low-wage employees that will be most affected.

Don't be fooled by those who tell you that there are protections for labor in this bill. The fact remains that this agreement simply permits Central American nations to "enforce their own laws." Should they change their laws, or weaken them in any way, the United States will have no recourse to protest this change. In fact, two CAFTA nations have already weakened or proposed weakening their basic labor laws since the signing of this agreement.

My colleagues from across the aisle talk about providing increased funding for labor protection and enforcement. But that's all it is—talk. There is absolutely nothing written in this agreement that requires the Congress to put money behind their promises, and after passing a budget with an 86 percent cut to the program that stops child labor, I am not confident that this funding will be present in the

next budget handed down from the White House. Let us use our trade policies to help the world's most vulnerable populations, and take advantage of the great power of our nation to lift individuals out of poverty, not perpetuate the status quo.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
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SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3045, and in opposition to the unfair trade policies and burdensome costs to Americans that this agreement represents.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, which binds together the trade policy and economic future of the U.S., Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, was negotiated over an 18-month period. As globalization takes hold in the world and our Nation becomes further integrated economically with others, it is vital that we only enter into a trade agreement that will protect U.S. workers, consumers, and businesses, and that economic development, the proliferation of democracy, environmental protection and, most importantly, the rule of law is honored in the agreement.

Unfortunately, CAFTA does not meet these standards, and instead, includes provisions that will cause considerable distress and harm to U.S. workers and businesses. It lacks a sincere commitment to protecting American jobs. It lacks strong environmental protection provisions. It lacks strong public health provisions. It lacks worker protection provisions. It lacks consumer protection. One of the most egregious portions of CAFTA would allow drug patents to be extended beyond normal limits, thus denying CAFTA nations the opportunity to introduce and offer generic drugs to its citizens, the majority of whom are poor and cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. Perhaps most importantly, CAFTA lacks that comprehensive policy that should be an overarching feature of any multinational trade agreement—the ability to proactively engage and integrate the domestic business and labor policies of each nation to ensure that each realizes new, improved standards of living, economic standing, and commitments to democracy.

I will vote against CAFTA because I do not believe it will achieve these goals. And I am not alone. In my state of New Mexico, numerous labor and business organizations have voiced opposition to this trade agreement. Since the President signed CAFTA nearly 1 year ago, my constituents have continuously expressed to me their concerns of what CAFTA will mean for them and their families. And they continue, in greater and greater volume, to voice those concerns to me as we have begun debate on H.R. 3045 here in the House.

U.S. trade policy must be fair trade policy, and CAFTA is not. I believe we have squan-

dered an opportunity to enact positive trade policy, and I believe enacting CAFTA will cost our American businesses and families. I oppose this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
PASTOR WAYNE ICKES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Wayne Ickes is celebrating 50 years of service and dedication to the ministry; and

Whereas, Wayne Ickes is the well loved executive pastor of East Richland Evangelical Friends Church in East Richland, OH; and

Whereas, Wayne Ickes is happily married to Barbara with sons David and Doug.

Therefore, I join with the residents of East Richland, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Wayne Ickes as he celebrates his 50th Anniversary of service to the Lord.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3045, the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

I'm an unapologetic avid free-trader. I believe we are in the midst of a globalization revolution. I believe the United States has an enormous role to play in that revolution.

We are the nation that benefits most from global economic integration, so it is our job to make sure globalization is sustainable. That it creates more winners than losers, in as many places as possible, on as many days as possible.

But Mr. Speaker, we need to understand that CAFTA is more than just a trade pact. It's a signal of U.S. commitment to democracy and prosperity for our neighbors. And it's the best immigration, anti-gang, and anti-drug policy at our disposal.

I recently returned from leading a congressional delegation to El Salvador, Venezuela, and Colombia. The trip left me more convinced than ever that a large part of the answer to so many questions confronting the D.C. region and the entire United States is, quite simply, free trade.

Want to fight the ever-more-violent MS-13 gang activity originating in El Salvador but prospering in Northern Virginia? Pass CAFTA.

Want to begin to ebb the growing flow of illegal immigrants from Central America? Pass CAFTA.

Want to curb the still-steady stream of illegal drugs to American streets? Pass CAFTA.

Want to help make sure Al-Qaeda and other foreign terrorist groups don't easily utilize the

southern border to enter the United States and do us harm? Pass CAFTA.

The reality is, CAFTA has profound implications for not only U.S. economic interests, but geo-political and homeland security concerns as well. My fear is that we are now so focused on promoting freedom and democracy in Iraq that we risk missing a critical and timely opportunity to further those causes in our own backyard—all because of some misguided but politically compelling opposition rhetoric.

Take the so-called "labor concerns," for example. I discussed this with Salvadoran President Tony Saca, and he chuckled at the illogical nature of the criticism. "We have a profound respect for unions," he said. "But if we don't have more jobs, we won't have more unions. Because I haven't seen any jobless unions."

Saca knows what opponents won't admit: the economic benefits arising from CAFTA would significantly increase wealth in El Salvador—wealth that will allow Saca to enforce existing, and even implement new, labor environmental safeguards.

Each of the CAFTA nations is unique, but they share traits, including an urgent need for investment and jobs. Do we really think there is no connection between a lack of economic opportunity in Central America and illegal immigration to the U.S.? Or no connection between rising gang activity and poverty, underemployment, and broken homes? Our own neighborhoods are not insulated from the lack of economic opportunity abroad.

Our best immigration policy is one that strengthens economies south of our border.

For U.S. economic interests, the gains are equally clear: U.S. exports to the six nations total about \$15 billion a year; that would increase by \$4 billion in the pact's first year, resulting in a net gain of about 25,000 U.S. jobs.

And, having seen firsthand the growing hostility toward America in Venezuela under Hugo Chavez, I can only conclude that American national security interests are also at stake with CAFTA. While the collective attention of our Nation has been primarily focused on Iraq, a string of troubling events has been unraveling in South America.

Economic collapse in Argentina. Growing instability and leftist populism in Bolivia and Ecuador. Chavez consolidating power in oil-rich Venezuela, and extending his anti-US influence into the Caribbean and across the Andes. Brazil signing huge economic deals with China.

Meanwhile, the six CAFTA countries comprise some of our most reliable, steadfast allies anywhere. El Salvador, to this day, maintains hundreds of troops in Iraq in support of the U.S.-led mission.

Some say CAFTA is a move to ship U.S. jobs to Central America; in actuality, it offers a path toward importing apparel and other goods from Central American allies instead of China.

The CAFTA countries are dominated not by Chavez-like dictatorships with a "democratic" face, but by 21st century leaders who realize that when people are given a larger economic role in their community, they in turn demand a greater role in how that community is governed.

But this rising democratic tide could be easily turned back unless Central Americans see—and see soon—that democracy delivers more than promises. The best way to make

promises a reality for all is to open our doors to trade.

It may also be the best way to fight some of our biggest societal problems here at home.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SHAPIRO & COMPANY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Samuel Shapiro & Company on its 90th anniversary. Based in Baltimore, Maryland, Samuel Shapiro & Company is one of the leading customs brokers in the United States.

Samuel Shapiro & Company was founded in August 1915 by Sam Shapiro—the hard-working son of Russian immigrants. In its first year of business, Samuel Shapiro & Company's books showed a net cash position of only \$46.50. Undeterred, Sam Shapiro kept on working, building up his company through two World Wars and the Great Depression.

After the end of World War II, Samuel Shapiro & Company began to expand, opening up offices in Norfolk, Dulles and Baltimore-Washington (then Friendship) Airport. The company was passed on to Sam Shapiro's son Sigmund who guided it through the many technological transformations of the second half of the 20th century.

The new millennium has brought a new generation of Shapiro family members to manage the expanding company, which now has eight offices from New York to Savannah. Sig Shapiro's son Robert is now the company's lawyer and his daughter Majorie has taken his place as President & CEO. Under Majorie Shapiro, Samuel Shapiro & Company has maintained its reputation for delivering the highest quality of personalized customer service while using the most modern techniques available to provide that service.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting this third generation family business that has provided 90 years of the highest quality service to customers while maintaining a reputation as a model corporate citizen.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
FRANCES WILKINSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Frances Wilkinson has been a faithful member of the Board of Trustees of Belmont Senior Services for 25 years; and

Whereas, Frances Wilkinson has lovingly guided and nurtured the Belmont County Senior Services molding it into a effective and productive agency; and

Whereas, Frances Wilkinson has established a legacy of dedication to a worthy agency that provides care for the elderly citizens of Belmont County.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the 18th Congressional District of Ohio and the

entire State in commending Frances Wilkinson for her outstanding ability to give of herself to others for the past 25 years.

HONORING WILLIAM C. POLACEK,
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you and my Colleagues a tribute to a man who has contributed to the economic development and community development of the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Mr. William C. Polacek, who has over twenty years of knowledge working in the steel fabrication industry. Mr. Polacek is not only a business man, but a civic minded individual who gives back to his community.

Born and raised in Daisytown, Pennsylvania, Mr. Polacek started out working in the family business, Johnny's Welding. In 1987, he purchased the business from his father; and through a great work ethic and superior workforce, the company has thrived and grown over the years to over seven hundred employees in two states. As well, he owns other businesses in the area. Mr. Polacek has always focused on "treating employees the way he would want to be treated."

Mr. Polacek has received numerous awards and honors for his success in business. His many awards are: 1994 Who's Who in Business; 1995 Dale Carnegie Highest Achievement; 1996 Western Pennsylvania Entrepreneur of the Year; 1997 Featured in "Follow That Dream," a Public Broadcasting Station national documentary; 1997 Cambria/Somerset County Entrepreneur of the Year; 1998 Arthur Anderson award for "Motivating and Retaining Employees in Western Pennsylvania; 2002 Chapel of the 4 Chaplains Award; 2004 "Forbes Magazine" story about his Entrepreneur character and for creating and keeping jobs in Johnstown.

Community service will be a legacy he will leave with our area for generations. Mr. Polacek and his family founded a non-profit organization, The Polacek Family Human Needs Foundation, which is devoted to assisting the community. Besides his foundation, other civic groups benefit from his involvement, such as the Junior Achievement, Mom's House, Johnstown Area Heritage Association, The Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board, Johnstown Area Regional Industries, Geistown-Richland Pee Wee Football League, and Venture Quest (a local entrepreneur group).

Currently, Mr. Polacek, his wife Sherry and their four children live in Richland Township. Johnstown Welding and Fabrication Industries was founded on a commitment to family and family values and continues to flourish in the Johnstown area. These values will be a lasting tribute to Mr. Polacek and his family.

Here in the 12th Congressional District, we are grateful to Mr. Polacek not only for his economic investment in the community, but his civic legacy to the future. I wish to congratulate Mr. William C. Polacek on receiving The Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Johnstown Achievement Award, and I wish him continued success.

CONGRATULATING PATRICIA A. TOMSHO ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FOLLOWING 37 YEARS IN THE HUMAN SERVICE FIELD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Patricia Tomsho, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, who is retiring after 37 years in the human service field.

Since 1968, Ms. Tomsho has been affiliated with United Charities in West Hazleton. Initially, she served as director of social services which entailed coordination of services, regulation compliance, service delivery, supervision of personnel, program planning, evaluation of service delivery and client advocacy.

From 1985 to the present, Ms. Tomsho has served as executive director of United Charities and United Children's Homes. In that capacity, she has been responsible for budget development and fiscal administration, personnel recruitment and management, regulation compliance and coordination of services, program proposal and grant writing, coordination of building and grounds improvement and board preparation and management.

A graduate of Ursinus College where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, Ms. Tomsho also graduated from Bryn Mawr College where she earned a master's degree in social work and social service administration.

From 1974 through 1982, Ms. Tomsho worked at Northeast Counseling Services in Hazleton as a crisis interventionist, therapist and client advocate.

She is active in her church as a Sunday School teacher and member of the choir. She has served as a loaned executive for the United Way. And she has given selflessly of herself working to combat domestic violence and homelessness. She is an instructor at Marywood College and is frequently called upon to speak to various groups.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Tomsho on the completion of a remarkable career. Her devotion to the needs of others has benefited thousands over the years and has contributed to elevating the quality of life in the Hazleton area of Luzerne County.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JILL THOMPSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Jill Thompson is being recognized as the Athen's County Auditor; and

Whereas, Jill Thompson is being honored as the Distinguished County Auditor; and

Whereas, Jill Thompson should be commended for her completion of 100 or more hours of continuing education during her office term.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Jill Thompson for her outstanding accomplishment.

THE THRIVE ACT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to direct my colleagues to the critical need for adult immunizations and ask that they join me in supporting the Total Health Requires Improved Vaccination Efforts—or THRIVE Act—which Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and I are introducing today.

Vaccines are one of our great medical achievements. Successful immunization efforts have eradicated small pox and driven rubella from the United States. Mumps, diphtheria, measles, and chicken pox are at record low levels. And thanks to immunization, we're on the brink of eradicating polio across the globe.

Unfortunately, the success of childhood vaccination efforts has largely overshadowed the need for adult vaccinations. Vaccine-preventable diseases among adults result in 45 thousand unnecessary deaths each year.

I urge my colleagues to support the THRIVE Act which will improve adult immunization efforts and help save lives.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. With the economy in shambles, we are here today discussing free trade in the form of CAFTA. My colleagues, if passed, this free trade bill would be a net loss for American workers, for the environment, and for the local workers in Central America as well. So you may ask . . . who wins if CAFTA passes? Simple enough. As has too often been the case with this administration, the folks at the country clubs would win. Yes, the same people who benefit from the Bush administration's tax cut plans for the wealthy . . . the very same people who have been benefiting since President Bush took office back in 2000, all at the expense of our Nation's working people!

CAFTA does not care whether or not you use child labor or forced labor. It does not care whether multinational companies pollute our planet's water and poison our air. This is a treaty that clearly says we do not care how safe the products are that we import, no . . . this trade agreement, just like NAFTA and free trade policies in general, serves just one purpose: To make the richer even richer, while keeping our Nation's workforce at the bottom of the barrel.

Even under the Clinton administration, we were promised more jobs, yet what happened? Millions and millions of American workers found themselves out of work! Workers' lives have been ruined, their families have been torn and uprooted, and in fact, entire agricultural industries like the tomato industry in Florida have suffered. In fact, for the past dec-

ade, Florida vegetable growers, especially tomato and bell pepper farmers, have been nearly put out of business! My State's citrus crop, which is often considered the jewel of Florida's agriculture production, is facing greater and greater pressure from Mexico every day. Indeed, if this trade agreement passes, it could easily drive this important industry right out of business!

I yield back the balance of my time and encourage everyone in this building to cast a vote against this bill, and to vote in favor of America's workers, in favor of our farmers, in favor of the environment, and in favor of what's right for our Nation!

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
SUSAN COLER**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Susan Coler has been recognized with the Morgan County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities 2004 Employee of the Year Award for the enthusiasm and knowledge she brings to the job; and

Whereas, Susan Coler has displayed commitment and sincere dedication to the individuals in the Mary Hammond Programs; and

Whereas, Susan Coler should be commended for her involvement with the 4-H Riding Therapy Program and her contributions to the Morgan County Special Olympics.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Susan Coler for her outstanding accomplishment.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement and intend to vote against it.

I am proud to be a pro-trade Democrat in Congress and am proud of my record—having supported every free trade agreement since I took office in 1997.

I voted in favor of granting the President Trade Promotion Authority in 2002 and voted against withdrawing from the World Trade Organization in 2000 and again earlier this year.

I am a longtime member, and the current chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of members who often support free trade. We see our role as a group of pro-business, pro-defense, and pro-trade leaning members who seek ways to open foreign markets to American goods and services. I also co-chair the Friends of New Zealand Caucus in the House, and hope we may soon see a free trade agreement with New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that free trade, when organized properly, benefits our economy. It

can only help to improve our relations with the other countries involved.

In the case of CAFTA, I want to see our Nation maintain close ties with our neighbors in Central America. Our economic security and our national security depend on cooperative relationships with our friends and allies.

However, in pursuing free trade, we must also consider the impact and direct effects the agreements will have on workers—both here and abroad.

And CAFTA fails to provide adequate protection.

It simply does not do enough to invest in basic job training and education for Americans—specifically those Americans who lose their jobs due to trade.

The current budget for Trade Adjustment Assistance is insufficient: the President's 2005 request was \$300 million less than Congress authorized for FY 2004, despite the obvious needs for job training and retraining. What's worse, Mr. Speaker, is that CAFTA does not provide any TAA funds for service workers, who comprise 80 percent of today's American workforce and produce three-quarters of our products. When job training programs go under funded, American workers are at risk.

Furthermore, CAFTA is the first FTA negotiated by the United States with developing countries, some of which have weak labor laws and a history of suppressing the rights of their workers.

We need to do all in our power to ensure that this agreement helps these countries raise their working standards. Unfortunately, the labor chapter requires that each country simply enforce its existing laws. It does nothing to require the DR-CAFTA countries improve their laws to reflect fairness to working people. There are also no safeguards in the agreement to prevent countries from explicitly weakening their labor laws. This "enforce your own laws" standard is a giant step backwards. Under our current trade policy, the Caribbean Basin Initiative allows us to withdraw trade benefits from countries who violate the labor standards of the agreements they have signed. If CAFTA goes into effect, those remedies are wiped out and simply replaced with the "enforce your own laws" standard.

This labor agreement is simply unacceptable.

And finally Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to say a word about the legislative process here in Congress. I would be remiss if I did not do so.

This Administration has made a habit of regularly excluding Democrats from the table during the negotiation and drafting of all major legislation. We saw this with the energy bill, the Medicare prescription drug bill, and again with CAFTA. We were not consulted at all on this FTA.

We all have valid ideas and concerns worthy of discussion regarding improving international market economies and they need to be fully and fairly debated. That did not happen with CAFTA. We were not engaged. I thought that at some point in the process members of the New Democrat Coalition would be consulted, as we generally support free trade. However, I was wrong. There was no outreach from House leaders or from the President to us.

One would think that after the passage of Trade Promotion Authority in 2002—by a 3 vote margin—a clear signal was sent to the

Administration that passing free trade agreements will not be easy. Everyone ought to be at the table. Instead of heeding past warnings, they have continued to make a habit of regularly excluding Democrats. CAFTA has been no exception.

As a result of poor negotiations with the Democrats and a lack of steady involvement by the President with members of his own party, on the day of the CAFTA vote, President Bush made an eleventh hour trip to Congress to twist arms in hopes of squeaking out the minimum number of votes needed to pass this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, trade should not be a Republican or Democrat issue. It is an American issue. Passing trade agreements by one or two votes, in the dead of night when both the American and Central American people are sleeping, is not the way to have a responsible trade policy.

Both the people of Central America and workers here in the United States deserve better.

HONORING TREK BICYCLES

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Trek Corporation of Waterloo, Wisconsin, for their contribution to Lance Armstrong's seven straight Tour de France victories.

When Lance Armstrong triumphantly rode across the finish line in Paris, France on his Trek Madone SSLx on July 24, 2005, it marked the 7th time a Waterloo-manufactured Trek bicycle powered Armstrong to a Tour de France victory.

In 1998, while others doubted Armstrong's chances at returning to professional cycling after his battle with cancer, Trek signed a contract with him. One year later Armstrong won his first Tour de France on a Trek 5500 OCLV Carbon stock bike.

Every push of the pedal by Armstrong on his way to each Tour de France victory is a testament to the quality of Trek bicycles. Whether pushing up the Pyrenees Mountains or racing through the French countryside, Armstrong could always depend on his Trek bicycle.

Trek embodies the best of American innovation and dedication in business. Started by Dick Burke in 1976 with only 5 employees in a Waterloo barn, Trek now manufactures 700 bikes a day in Waterloo. Trek has a long history of innovation, which includes the introduction of their first carbon road bike in 1986 and the creation of the OCLV carbon bicycle in 1992. Trek got their start in professional cycling in 1983 when they sponsored their first race team.

Trek is still family owned, CEO John Burke is the son of the founder, and the company employs over 1,500 people dedicated to making some of the finest bicycles in the world. The devotion Trek has to producing superb bicycles is further demonstrated every time Lance Armstrong has raised his arms in victory.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCHAS DAM

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the construction of Conchas Dam, near Tucumcari in my home State of New Mexico. Built during the Depression under the Emergency Relief Act of 1935, the Conchas Dam project created jobs for thousands of New Mexicans and resulted in a structure that controls flooding, conserves water and provides irrigation to nearby farmlands. On July 29 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host an anniversary celebration and dedicate a plaque to the WPA workers who built the dam.

Located on the confluence of the Canadian and Conchas rivers, the dam is 230 feet high, 6,230 feet long and contains 836,000 cubic yards of concrete and 887,000 cubic yards of earth. Reservoir capacity is nearly 529,000 acre feet of water which covers almost 26 square miles and provides irrigation to some 42,000 acres of otherwise arid farmland. Water from Conchas Lake allows farmers to grow alfalfa hay, grain sorghum, cotton and broom corn, much of which is used to feed area livestock.

Construction on Conchas Dam started in 1935 when unemployment in New Mexico was as high as 50 percent due to the Depression. The Emergency Relief Act dictated that 90 percent of the workers must come from the relief pool so thousands of New Mexicans found employment building the dam. Workers and their families lived in tent cities near the site. After completion of the dam in 1940, many of them stayed in the community of Conchas which was a tremendous boost for the local economy.

Conchas Dam created the fourth-largest lake in New Mexico and one of the most popular water recreation sites in the state today. Conchas Lake features 60 miles of beautiful shoreline dotted with numerous coves, canyons and beaches. Tourists and locals alike enjoy fishing and boating on the reservoir and picnicking in the shadow of Conchas Dam.

Mr. Speaker, Conchas Dam is a testament to the achievements of the Works Progress Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a monument to the laborers who built it. The construction of Conchas Dam was a tremendous economic boost to New Mexico in the 30s and its value to the State today is nearly inestimable.

The 70th anniversary of the construction of Conchas Dam coincides with its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; a fitting time to reflect on the past and look to the future with the determination and fortitude of those men who built this great dam that we honor today.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JAMES AMATO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, James Amato has demonstrated ongoing commitment

to public service for the Shadyside School District and the Village of Shadyside, OH; and

Whereas, James Amato has served the State of Ohio as both an educator and a legislator for over 27 years; and

Whereas, James Amato has exemplified the meaning of successful civic duty through his unselfish role to serve the greater good of the Ohio Valley.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the District of Shadyside and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing James Amato for his longtime dedication to the residents and children of Shadyside, OH.

MOVEMENT DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill that calls for the observance of October as Movement Disorders Awareness Month. Movement disorders affect nearly 40 million Americans and often cause chronic or debilitating conditions. Some common movement disorders include: dystonia, Parkinson's disease, Rett Syndrome and Huntington's disease.

An author, Matt Marty, once said, "Understanding is curing ignorance and curing ignorance is abolishing fear." Many people fear what they do not understand. We must establish a Movement Disorders Awareness Month to educate the public about the causes, characteristics and treatments of movement disorders. Awareness would guide the public consciousness toward understanding. Acceptance is the key. We must affirm our commitment to the individuals and families who are affected by these disorders. We must encourage further research on movement disorders. We must also raise public consciousness and understanding in regards to these conditions. This is a most worthy and necessary cause.

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS BUSINESSMAN JACK STEPHENS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a great businessman, Mr. Jack Stephens, who spent a lifetime helping Arkansas gain a competitive edge in the global economy. His talent and generosity led to important advances in business, transportation, medicine, and the arts that have left a lasting mark on our state.

Jack Stephens was born on August 9, 1923 in Grant County, Arkansas, the youngest of six children. He grew up on a farm near Prattsville during the great Depression. Coming from humble beginnings, the hard times and his parents taught him the values of self-reliance, diligence, integrity and hard work. His father, A.J. Stephens once told his young son, "It's no disgrace to be poor, it's a disgrace to stay poor." His father also advised, "Success is not a destiny to be reached, but the quality of the journey we make."

The advice from his father stayed with him throughout his life. In his younger years Jack Stephens worked on the family farm behind a mule drawn plow and picking cotton. By age 15, he held summer jobs as a bellhop and shoeshine boy at the Barlow Hotel in Hope, Arkansas. He added the delivery of telegrams to his duties when he realized he could do so after his normal hotel shift was finished.

A bright student, Mr. Stephens attended public schools in Prattville and graduated high school from Columbia Military Academy in Columbia, Tennessee. He attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. (Class of '47.)

Poor eyesight prevented Mr. Stephens from active duty in the Navy so he took a job offered to him on his graduation day by his brother W.R. "Witt" Stephens. With a simple handshake in his room at Annapolis, Mr. Stephens agreed to join his brother in Little Rock at a municipal bond house.

Witt was outgoing, a natural salesman. Jack was quiet, unassuming and studious. A decade later, in 1956, Jack became an equal partner with his brother and became President and Chief Executive Officer the following year (1957). The two brothers acquired the Fort Smith Gas Company and renamed it the Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Company.

The pair also acquired an oil and gas exploration firm and named it Stephens Production Company.

Both investments proved to be the catalyst for expansion from a municipal bond business to a diversified financial group that became Stephens Inc.

Jack Stephens served as President and CEO of Stephens Inc. from 1957 until 1986 when Stephens Group, Inc. was formed and became the parent company of Stephens Inc. His son, Warren, assumed the leadership of Stephens Inc. at that time. Mr. Stephens became Chairman of Stephens Group, Inc. that year, a title he carried for the remainder of his life.

Over the decades, Mr. Stephens led the company to great heights. Under his leadership, Stephens Inc. invested or assisted in many enterprises including the former Union Life Insurance Company, the former Systematics, Donrey Media (now Stephens Media Group), Dillards, Alltel, Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods and many more. Jack Stephens' leadership and business acumen was responsible for the creation of hundreds of businesses in America and thousands of jobs. Many of those enterprises have become Fortune 500 companies, and a number of them are located in his native Arkansas.

In recent years, Mr. Stephens has been recognized for his philanthropy but it is something he did all his life. He once told a reporter, "There are only two pleasures associated with money, making it and giving it away." For over 20 years Jack Stephens has been the principal benefactor for The Delta Project, a program designed to assist and educate underprivileged children in Arkansas' delta. When he sold the Little Rock cable franchise in 1985, he put the profits into the City Educational Trust Fund. For 20 years the Trust Fund has provided scholarships for students and incentive awards for innovative teachers. His gift of \$48 million built the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute on the campus of the University of Arkansas for

Medical Sciences (DAMS) campus and financed the purchase of equipment for the institute as well as support programs and research.

The Stephens family has been a life long supporter of the Arkansas Arts Center and Jack Stephens donated a portion of his personal art collection to the Center as a permanent display. The Stephens Gallery currently boasts the works of Degas, Monet, Picasso, Wyeth and more. The Stephens display, valued at \$22 million at the time of the gift, has been recognized as one of the most important art collections in the country. It is perhaps the finest art collection in the nation for a city the size of Little Rock. Mr. Stephens was also the lead contributor for the construction of a new 30,000 square foot wing at the Arkansas Arts Center.

The Episcopal Collegiate School, the campus of which bears his name, occupies 31 acres near downtown Little Rock. The total amount of this gift has never been made public but Mr. Stephens donated the money to purchase the land that comprises the campus. In April 2004, he donated \$20 million of the announced \$30 million endowment for the school. His son Warren and Warren's wife, Harriet, donated the remainder of the gift. Mr. Stephens also donated \$20.4 million for the construction of the Jackson T. Stephens Special Events Center on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The facility will become the home court for the UALR Trojan basketball team.

The list of contributions to his community also includes a \$5 million dollar endowment to Harding University, establishment of the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas, and the Bill and Skeeter Dickey Scholarship at the University of Arkansas Athletic Department.

Mr. Stephens's love of sports (football and golf in particular) led to a \$10 million gift to the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation in Annapolis, Maryland. The donation funded the recent renovation at the Navy Marine Corp Stadium near the campus which has been renamed Jack Stephens Field. The gift is the largest ever made to the Naval Academy.

When asked by the PGA Tour if he would support the launching of a new program to teach golf and its values to children by creating affordable and accessible golf facilities, Mr. Stephens surpassed their expectations with a \$5 million donation to help start The First Tee. The program serves children who have not previously been exposed to the game of golf.

Mr. Stephens loved the game of golf and once told a reporter, "Golf is a great teacher in life. The same skills needed to master this game are the same skills needed to master life, a life full of unseen obstacles and excitement."

In 1962, Mr. Stephens was invited to become a member of the Augusta National Golf Club. Mr. Stephens served as its fourth Chairman (1991-1998) with the responsibility of overseeing the golf club and the most prestigious tournament in golf, the Masters. After turning over the duties of chairman to Hootie Johnson in 1998, Mr. Stephens was named Chairman Emeritus.

Mr. Stephens won numerous awards and recognitions during his lifetime. He was honored with the Horatio Alger Award in 1980 and he was the first recipient of the J. William Ful-

bright Award given for international trade development in 1989.

Mr. Stephens served on the board of the Little Rock Boys Club, The Quapaw Council of The Boy Scouts of America. He served 10 years on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law Degree and a University of Arkansas Distinguished Alumnus citation. He was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, the Arkansas State Golf Hall of Fame, and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame.

Jack Stephens was a proud and loving father and grandfather. He is survived by two sons: Jackson T. "Steve" Stephens, Jr.; Warren Stephens, and his wife, Harriet Stephens; six grandchildren: Caroline Stephens, Jackson T. Stephens III, Mason Stephens, Miles Stephens, John Stephens and Laura Stephens; two great-grandchildren: Sydney Stephens and Bruce Stephens, Jr.; and two adopted children: Kerry LaNoche and James Stephens. Mr. Stephens is also survived by two sisters: Jewel Mays of Prattville, Arkansas and Wilma Thornton of Searcy, Arkansas.

Jack Stephens was an original American success story with roots deep in the soil of his home state of Arkansas and his other great devotion, the Augusta National Golf Club. His life was filled with many successes and his compassion, commitment and dedication resulted in an extraordinary journey that touched many lives.

He was a great Arkansan, American, and friend.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WANDA KAFURY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Wanda Kafury has been designated as the AAA District 9 Elder Caregiver of the Year; and

Whereas, Wanda Kafury has been acknowledged by the Ohio Department of Aging for her several years of faithful service; and

Whereas, Wanda Kafury should be commended for her compassion and dedication.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Wanda Kafury for her outstanding accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully detained in a meeting regarding the Base Realignment and Closure process affecting SUBASE New London in my district, and was unable to be on the House Floor for roll-call votes 390 and 394.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 290, an amendment offered by Rep. KING (IA), and "yea" on rollcall 294, an amendment offered by Rep. WATSON.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 525, which would authorize small businesses around the country to establish Association Health Plans. An estimated 45 million people are uninsured in the United States, and the number has grown since 1989. Eighty-five percent of these people are in working families where the price of premiums have increased so much that they cannot afford the coverage that will give them peace of mind.

The majority of Americans receive health insurance coverage through their employers, but with rising health care costs, many small businesses can no longer afford to provide coverage for their employees. H.R. 525 would remedy this by allowing small businesses to band together to garner greater buying power when bargaining with health care providers. Let's give Americans access to more affordable health care and support Association Health Plans.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT
CLEMENS ROTARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Mount Clemens Rotary as they plan a unique local celebration of the 100th anniversary of Rotary International.

The Mount Clemens Rotary Club, organized in 1920, is the oldest and largest service club in Macomb County. The Mount Clemens Rotary and many individual rotarians have been at the forefront of activity in their community. A few of the many projects over the years include: assistance through the Cripple Children Society and the Boy Scouts; providing aid to the Clinton River Flood victims; working in the Relief Store during the Great Depression; leading the Urban Renewal Program in the 1950s and 60s; and helping to establish both Rotary Park in Downtown Mount Clemens and the Playscape on the old Wilson School property.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, the Mt. Clemens Rotary is preserving a bit of history in downtown Mt. Clemens. Two cannons, donated by the United States Government in 1901, were originally in front of the old Macomb County Court Building. The cannons were placed on pedestals and remained there until 1942 when at the request of the U.S. Government they were donated as part of the World War II scrap metal effort.

For sometime the Macomb County Historical Commission has wanted to replace the missing cannons, but the cost was always a major hurdle. Members of the Mount Clemens Rotary Club decided this worthy project could both commemorate local history and the history of Rotary.

The two cannons are accurate representations of a cannon used by General Alexander Macomb in 1812 and a cannon used by Colonel Stockton in the Civil War. General Alexander Macomb was the hero of the battle of Plattsburg and Lake Champlain during the War of 1812. General Macomb with only 3,000 troops was able to rout 13,000 British troops. The other cannon was dedicated to the memory of the Michigan Eight Calvary Regiment and their commander, Colonel John Stockton. The Regiment along with the Battery M of the 1st Michigan Artillery was organized and trained at Camp Stockton in Mount Clemens from the Fall of 1862 to May 1863.

Mr. Speaker, on August 27, 2005, the Mount Clemens Rotary, working with the Macomb County Historical Society, will replace and rededicate the two cannons at a grand ceremony during the Bath City Festival. I look forward to joining with them, and ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in saluting a major community asset, the Mount Clemens Rotary, on this important and historic occasion.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING EVA
J. DENNEY ON HER 100TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Eva J. Denney was born on June 19, 1905; and Whereas, Eva J. Denney is celebrating her 100th birthday today; and

Whereas, Eva J. Denney, is a long-time active participant in the social and civic life of her community; and

Whereas, Eva J. Denney has exemplified a love for her family and friends and must be commended for her life-long dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Eva J. Denney a very happy 100th birthday.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I voted against the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement. As negotiated by the Bush Administration, it fails the fundamental tests that our trade agreements should meet.

First, our trade agreements must be structured to raise labor standards, not put downward pressures on the rights and protections of American workers. All workers—in the U.S., the Dominican Republic and Central America—deserve fair wages, safe workplaces, and reasonable working conditions.

Second, all citizens—in the U.S., the Dominican Republic and Central America—deserve

clean air and clean water. Polluting factories that poison our environment should not be located in San Salvador or San Jose, any more than they should be in Baraboo or Beloit, or Waunakee or Wisconsin Dells.

The United States should be a leader in the world in raising standards for everyone. DR-CAFTA was an opportunity to enshrine these fundamental protections in a model trade agreement that could have served as a template for raising working standards, wages, safety and environmental protections around the world. Instead, it is an opportunity squandered.

Unfortunately, even more than an opportunity squandered, it threatens to undermine those very protections that American workers and their families have every right to expect. We need a truly fair trade deal. DR-CAFTA isn't fair, and it isn't a deal.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL "MIKE"
WALKER OF LOWER LAKE, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California Highway patrolman, Michael "Mike" Walker of Lower Lake, California as he retires from 33 years of public service.

Born in Vallejo, California, and raised nearby in Benicia, Mike learned at an early age the importance of public service and the necessity of helping others. Compelled to serve our country, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1972. He served as an instructor teaching jungle survival techniques overseas. His hard work and commitment were duly noted as he earned four promotions during his three years in the United States Marine Corps.

In 1975, Mike joined the Benicia Police Department as a reserve officer. One year later, he transferred to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department where he served as Deputy Sheriff. Three years later, in 1978, he joined the California Highway Patrol and went through the academy in Sacramento. Upon graduation Officer Walker was assigned to the Glendale law enforcement team. In 1980 he transferred to Newhall and in 1984 to Clear Lake where he has spent the past 21 years serving the citizens of Lake County.

Officer Walker served as an instructor, training and arming his fellow officers with the proper knowledge and skills needed for fieldwork, including physical methods of arrest and advanced accident investigation.

Officer Walker is a kindhearted man, who has selflessly devoted his life to helping others. He is revered throughout Lake County as someone always willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed.

In retirement, Mike and his beloved wife of 29 years, Dorrie, plan on spending more time with their children, Christopher and Patricia, and their 2 grandchildren, Denim and Katie.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we honor and thank California Highway Patrolman Michael "Mike" Walker for his hard work and dedication to public service and extend our best wishes to him in retirement.

MR. LEONID NEVZLIN'S STATEMENT BEFORE THE HELSINKI COMMISSION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, some major news organizations have been reporting current developments in Russia, directed by the Kremlin, that clearly undermine democratic institutions in that country. The latest initiative, a measure just approved by the Upper House of Parliament, further consolidates political control in Vladimir Putin's party and reduces any opportunity for opposition parties in future elections. It also greatly limits outside groups from monitoring or observing vote tabulation and reporting in national elections.

This week, my colleagues heard directly from a prominent "victim" of Mr. Putin's effort to purge political opposition. In an appearance before the Helsinki Commission, Mr. Leonid Nevzlin, who is a major share holder in the YUKOS Oil Company, discussed his situation and the political deterioration in Russia. When he visited Washington three years ago, Mr. Nevzlin was Deputy Chairman of the Upper House International Relations Committee, and advisor to the government on Middle East Policy, and head of the Russia Jewish Congress. Today, Mr. Nevzlin is forced to live in exile in Israel because he, like his long time associate and friend, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, dared to oppose the forces within the Kremlin.

Mr. Speaker, Leonid Nevzlin's statement before the Helsinki Commission clearly states the current situation in Russia today. I ask that it be included in the RECORD at this point.

STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE "HELSINKI COMMISSION"

(By Leonid Nevzlin, July 13, 2005)

Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to appear before the Helsinki Commission to discuss the current situation in Russia and the concerns of all of us about the Putin government and the future of Russia.

First, I wish to emphasize the value of the Commission's mandate and stated criteria to promote compliance with the fundamental standards of civil society in Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

Second, those of us who have witnessed first-hand the travesty of justice in Russia much appreciate the concerns expressed by the co-chairmen about the improper handling of the Yukos trial and the sentencing of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his colleagues by Russian authorities. Your formal statement to the world's press that the "case appears to the world to be justice directed by politics" and that the "selective prosecution such as appears to be the case here will wreak havoc on Russia's legal system" reflects that the chairmen of this commission have an accurate view of the Khodorkovsky trial and the weakened state of the legal system in Russia.

Third, it is vitally important that the Helsinki Commission continue monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Accords as they relate to Russia and report its findings to the public. While the U.S. Administration and Congressional leaders must necessarily balance many variables in the bilateral relationship, the Helsinki Commission has a clear mandate to insure that human rights and basic freedoms are maintained in the countries under its jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman, it is my opinion that the rule of law is the cornerstone of civil society because it serves to protect the rights and freedoms of all citizens. What we have witnessed this past year in Russia is a legal system that differs very little from the Soviet days. The state prosecutor is an instrument of the Kremlin and the judiciary is not truly independent. When the finest lawyers in Russia cannot get a fair and just trial for their clients when the whole world is watching, no one in Russia can expect to obtain justice.

The lives of many hundreds or even thousands of people have been harmed forever as a result of the abuses of the Russian government, which has violated basic human rights and its own laws again and again. Many of those cases do not receive wide attention, but some do, and human rights groups have begun to document them. They are worthy of your attention and your future labors.

I am most familiar with the cases involving Yukos. Beyond Mr. Khodorkovsky and myself, Alexei Pichugin, a mid-level Yukos executive, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison in a secret murder trial conducted entirely behind closed doors. Mr. Pichugin has been drugged, interrogated without his lawyers present, kept from his wife and denied independent medical treatment—even after he lost nearly 70 pounds while in the custody of the FSB. My colleague, Platon Lebedev, who is suffering from liver ailments and who was arrested in his hospital bed, has also subsequently been denied independent medical care. He was tried in the same cage with Mr. Khodorkovsky in a show trial in which Russian and international legal norms were repeatedly violated. He, like Mr. Khodorkovsky, has now been sentenced to 9 years in prison.

The scope of the attack on those associated with Yukos has been broad in scope and terrible in its tactics. For example, Svetlana Bahkmina, a young Yukos lawyer, was arrested in December. She has been interrogated by FSB or other Russian officials to the point where her lawyers report that she has lost consciousness. She has been isolated from her children, ages 3 and 7. In the meantime, Russian government officials have said that Ms. Bahkmina will be released when her boss, Yukos' chief in-house lawyer, returns to Russia from England, where he is effectively a political refugee.

Other Yukos employees have had to flee Russia, too, and have found refuge in the democracies of the world. In a stark example of how the world now recognizes Russian "justice" for what it is, the Bow Street Magistrate's Court in London rejected a Russian extradition request for two such Yukos employees charged in the anti-Yukos campaign. Having heard all of the evidence, and noting President Putin's personal involvement in the cases, the judge concluded that no Russian court could be expected to withstand the Kremlin's political pressure such that it could provide a fair trial to these men. Subsequently, the British Home Office has given political asylum to a half dozen additional Yukos "refugees."

Beyond Yukos, just recently, it was reported that Russian prosecutors have opened a criminal case against former Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov. Mr. Kasyanov was dismissed by Mr. Putin last year and has been critical of the administration since then. He has specifically criticized the handling of the Yukos case and has expressed his own higher political aspirations. The Kasyanov case has all the earmarks of another Yukos-style campaign, in which the powers of the FSB and Russian federal prosecutors are misused by the Kremlin to destroy a political opponent.

The West, and particularly America, is rightfully concerned by the Kremlin's co-

opting of Russia's criminal justice system as a tool to crush political opposition. The West is further properly concerned because, in the Yukos case, the Kremlin's campaign attacked what had become a model for corporate governance and transparency.

No one should doubt for a minute President Putin's motive in the dismemberment of the Yukos Oil Company and the state take-over of its major production unit. Energy is both very profitable and, given that major industrial companies depend on imports for their energy needs, inherently political. It is the Kremlin's aim to control Russia's energy sector to insure its dominant role in the world energy market. This will most certainly enhance President Putin's standing given that Europe and other countries become more dependent on Russia as a major supplier. The respected Count Lambsdorff of Germany warned last week that his country was on a perilous course by increasing its dependence on natural gas imports from Russia.

On civil society, whatever progress was made in developing democratic institutions during the Yeltsin years have all but disappeared under the current regime. The major tenets of democracy, as we know them, barely exist in Russia today. While there may be a degree of freedom and liberty, the institutions that protect those rights have been usurped by forces within the Kremlin. The government now owns or controls all media outlets, the courts are not truly independent, there is no viable political opposition, and the list goes on. It is increasingly apparent that former KGB and FSB officers are now dominant in the Kremlin and whatever transparency existed a few years ago is not in evidence today. The result is an emerging form of corruption at the highest levels in the Russian government. This corruption threatens to corrode the foundation of the Russian government to a degree that could put at risk Russian security and stability as well as the long-term economic well-being of the Russian people. I fear this will be Vladimir Putin's legacy.

This current view of Russian authorities is not confined to me or to opponents of the Kremlin. Valentin Gelter, the Director of the Human Rights Institute in Moscow said to your committee just a few short weeks ago that "very often, political, corporate and even personal reasons prevail over the rule of law [in Russia]." I absolutely agree. Michael McFaul, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and executive director of the Council's Task Force on Russian American Relations, headed by former U.S. Vice Presidential nominees Jack Kemp and John Edwards, said that "Four or five years ago, there was a debate about whether Putin was a democrat. The debate is now over. The question today concerns the nature and extent of Putin's authoritarianism." Finally, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that the Russian government's handling of the Yukos case "shook people's confidence," and that Russian officials must demonstrate that laws and regulations are fair and applied "consistently over time, applied over various cases."

It is not just Yukos that is under persecution by Russian authorities. As reported by Irina Yasina, the head of the Open Russia Foundation, a non-profit organization established by Mr. Khodorkovsky, myself and our colleagues to promote a democratic Russia, non-governmental organizations have been under "direct pressure and threats from the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Public Prosecutor's Office and Federal Security Services." This year, the Ministry of Justice has suspended the activity of the Nijny Novgorod Society of Human Rights and frozen the accounts of the Society of Russian-Chechen

Friendship. The Kremlin has also thought to dismantle and put pressure a number on of international civil society organizations, including the Soros Foundation, the National Democratic Institute & British Council.

Mr. Chairman, I regret that Russia is moving in a direction that is contrary to Western values and traditions. This must be troubling to America as well. The question is what can America and other Western democracies do about it. Obviously, what does not work are casual refrains and diplomatic overtures. Given that the hardened and cynical forces in the Kremlin understand and respond only to sanctions that threaten their own interests, I offer two thoughts:

I applaud Senators MCCAIN and LIEBERMAN and Congressmen LANTOS and COX for their sponsorship of the G-8 Resolution. In examining the criteria for membership, it is clear Russia meets neither the economic nor democratic requirements for a seat at the G-8 table. Making clear that Russia's continued membership depends on its adherence to democratic principles and the rule of law will gain the attention of a leader who clearly relishes his position in the G-8 Club. At least America and other G-8 members should not allow Vladimir Putin to head the group given the circumstances in Russia today.

Russia aspires to be in the World Trade Organization for understandable reasons. But is it possible that a major country that uses extralegal means to seize control of private assets, selective prosecution, businessmen, renationalizes private enterprises, harasses companies with bogus tax charges and fails to erect a legal system that protects investments, shareholders and commercial contracts, deserves membership in the WTO? Capital outflows and the decline in investments are clearly due to perceptions inside and outside Russia that it is not safe for investment. If responsible nations ignore these trends and do not take effective action to combat them, it will only encourage Russian authorities to continue down the path of authoritarianism.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make it clear I want to see an open, uncorrupted, prosperous and free Russia. On my last visit to Washington in June 2002, I was Deputy Chairman of the Russia Federation's International Relations Committee, president of the Russia Jewish Congress, a major shareholder in Group Menatep, the holding company of YUKOS oil, and heavily involved in education and philanthropic causes.

Today I am a proud citizen of Israel, the country whose democracy protects me from false accusations of undocumented crimes by a prosecutor who is on a political witch hunt. My sins, as viewed by the Kremlin, were to work with Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Yukos to promote greater freedom, an open civil society, business transparency and democratic values in Russia to help the Russian people. This is a dark time for those of us who cherish freedom and embrace democracy. If the Russian people had a greater faith in democracy and recognition of their power to demand it, there would be an uprising in the country. But their experience is too limited. Our only hope is that America, the author and inspiration of democracy, will use its prestige to convince Mr. Putin to change his ways.

Again, I thank the Helsinki Commission for maintaining its commitment to democratic values and willingness to confront Russia and other nations whenever those values are put into jeopardy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote No. 440. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I voted "no" on the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, DR-CAFTA, in the vote last night. I informed the majority leader and the Appropriations chairman I was voting "no", as I had informed my constituents I was voting "no." Representative HOWARD COBLE and I voted "no" together. Due to an error, my "no" vote did not record on the voting machine. The clerks computer logs verified that I had attempted to vote, but it did not show my "nay". I am re-inserting my "no" vote in the record. But even with my "no" vote re-inserted, the bill still passed.

HONORING PRESIDENT JUDGE
THOMAS G. PEOPLES, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Judge Thomas G. Peoples, Jr., who after 25 years of distinguished service is retiring from his prestigious responsibility as president judge. President Judge Peoples has had a very prestigious career with many achievements and recognitions. Completing a bachelor of arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from Dickinson School of Law, Judge Peoples was admitted to the Bar of Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1965. Since 1965, he has practiced before all appellate courts of Pennsylvania and before the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

President Judge Peoples had a private law practice from 1965 to 1980 and he was first district attorney in Blair County from 1974 to 1980. From 1980 to 2005, he was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County and during this same time he was the president of Blair County.

He has been involved in many public service and community activities including incorporator and member of the original Advisory Board of Blair County Legal Services Corporation. He has been the President of the Board of Trustees for Mercy Hospital, Altoona, PA, and Bon Secours-Holy Family Hospital, Altoona.

Judge Peoples is an advocate for children and is presently a member of the Board and former president of Child Advocates of Blair County. He is also the co-founder and former

Advisory Board member of the Blair County Domestic Abuse Project. He was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award—Penns Woods Council, Boy Scouts of America and the Saint George Award of Scouting.

He resides in Altoona, PA, with his wife Maureen McManus Peoples. They have three children, Thomas G. Peoples III, Amy M. Dudukovich, and Jennifer A. Yourkavitch.

Mr. Speaker, President Judge Thomas G. Peoples, Jr. has been very active in both professional and personal activities throughout Blair County, PA. President Judge Thomas G. Peoples, Jr. is a great citizen of Blair County and we are honored to recognize him for all of his work and accomplishments. I congratulate him and wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING ALAN E. MICHELSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I pause today to congratulate Alan E. Michelson, principal of Cordill-Mason Elementary School in Blue Springs, Missouri on his recent election as President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Mr. Michelson has served the students, families and community of Blue Springs for a great number of years. He is a graduate of Tarkio College and received a Masters Degree from Central Missouri State University.

During his 27 years of service in the field of education, Mr. Michelson has been granted numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding skills and dedication as an educator. He was named one of the Heritage Who's Who in 2005. He received the Blue Springs School District Award for Leadership, Professionalism and Dedication in 2001. In 1993 he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Parent Teacher Association. Rounding out his list of distinctions, he was named one of 10 Outstanding Missourians in 1982.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Michelson. I personally look forward to a continued relationship with him as both Principal of Cordill-Mason Elementary School and as President of the National Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS (TOM) J.
WALSH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. Thomas J. Walsh of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Tom was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 3, 1932, son of Thomas E. Walsh and Clare E. Walsh. He attended Visitation Elementary School and Southwest High School. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Missouri where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Social Fraternity. After graduation, he served in

the United States Army as an officer in the Field Artillery. Upon his discharge from the service, Tom attended Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., where he received his juris doctor in 1958 and was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity. While attending law school, Tom also worked in the office of Missouri Senator Stuart Symington.

Since 1958, Tom had been a member of both the D.C. Bar and the Missouri Bar and had maintained a full service law office in Lee's Summit, Missouri. During his years of practice, Tom served as attorney to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, vice chairman of the Missouri Counsel of Criminal Justice, and as chairman of the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee. Tom was recognized in the inaugural edition of *Who's Who in American Law*, and in 1993, he was admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar. He was a gubernatorial appointee to the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners from 1993 to 2001. Tom also was the original chairman of my Skelton for Congress Committee.

In 1956, Tom was married to Ellen B. Walsh. They also are the proud parents of three children: Carolyn Walsh Heinz, David T. Walsh and Katherine Walsh.

Tom made many significant contributions to the community. He was a member of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City, the Lee's Summit Optimist Club and the Lee's Summit Democratic Club.

Mr. Speaker, Tom was a valuable leader in his community who was respected by everyone who knew him. He was a dear friend of mine and will be missed by all. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today Congress draws a line in the sand and says it has had enough of trade agreements that are unfair to America and harmful to our reputation across the world. Today we say enough with agreements that let our competitors reverse engineer our products, manipulate their currency and steal our intellectual property. Enough with agreements that ship good paying American jobs to regions of the world where wages are but a fraction of ours—where environmental and labor standards put already vulnerable families here and abroad at greater risk.

It has been said that this debate is about globalization. But by rejecting CAFTA, we do not reject globalization, Mr. Speaker. Rather, we set a new path for America—one that embraces globalization's capacity to raise living standards here and across the world, to strike at the heart of poverty, and expand markets that will serve as the foundation of the 21st Century economy.

Those are America's values, Mr. Speaker, and they ought to be central to this bill. But if

these last four years have taught us anything, it is that we do not spread our values by denying our trade partners' citizens the right to affordable generic drugs for diseases like HIV and malaria—this pact prevents developing countries from accessing lower priced generic drugs by granting drug companies new and extended patent protection and additional shelter from price competition. We do not spread American values by exploiting cheap labor, deepening income inequality in the developing world. Indeed, CAFTA's single enforceable workers' rights provision requires only that countries enforce their own labor laws—laws that fail to meet international standards.

Yet globalization marches on, and America stands idly by, missing one opportunity after another to shape globalization's rules to our benefit and the world's. Already 55,500 workers from my state's once-thriving manufacturing base have been left behind, their jobs shipped overseas. 2.8 million more have been sent abroad nationally, decimating our industrial capacity and leaving us with a \$617 billion trade deficit. No one expects this pact to bring these jobs back—the combined purchasing power of the CAFTA is no more than that of my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut. But by including loopholes like one which could allow massive quantities of Chinese yarn, fabric and other products to displace U.S. products, it is hard to imagine this deal will make American companies and workers as competitive in this century's global marketplace as they were in the last. And that must be our goal.

This is a moment for unity, Mr. Speaker. By rejecting CAFTA, the Congress can say with one voice that how America responds to globalization is too important for the partisanship and divisiveness that have brought us to this point. Only then can we send negotiators back to the table with a clear mission and singular moral purpose. That is what this debate is about, and that is why I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

HONORING JAMES T. MOLLOY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James T. Molloy, former Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives who has been honored with the naming of a United States Postal Service facility located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the "James T. Molloy Post Office Building". Jimmy Molloy has been my friend since I first arrived in the House of Representatives back in January of 1989. He was the door keepers-door keeper, a special person simply beloved by everyone.

Six Presidents heard his thunderous announcements of their presence before joint sessions of Congress for the State of the Union address. When he said, "Mr. Speaker, The President of the United States," the chamber would erupt in applause reflecting the enthusiasm of the doorkeeper's voice. It was always a great moment to witness.

Jimmy always remembered his roots and the love he had for Buffalo, New York and its

people. He spoke with great affection of his childhood in western New York and the foundation he developed for life in this region. Hard work, long hours, true friendships, and honesty were the hallmark of his life.

To Jimmy Molloy, his family and friends, congratulations on the naming of the United States Postal Service facility on South Park Avenue in Buffalo. You deserve this special recognition. As your friend, I am very pleased.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Animal Rescue League's, WARL, efforts to provide care and compassion for homeless and abused animals in our Nation's Capital and beyond, and to bring to the U.S. Congress's attention that Saturday, August 20th is National Homeless Animals' Day.

For over 90 years, WARL has worked tirelessly to promote humane treatment and eliminate the plight of homeless animals. Founded in 1914, WARL was the District's first animal shelter. Since its creation, this private, not-for-profit organization has expanded its mission from housing dogs, cats and horses to being a leader in implementing programs that promote animal welfare. WARL's policies and procedures were progressive from the organization's inception. From mandating home visits far potential adopters to providing low-cost or free veterinary care for animals in need, WARL is in a league all its own.

WARL's doors are always open to welcome an adoptable animal in need of care and compassion. Dedicated staff and volunteers work in many ways to promote animal welfare and find loving homes for these wayward animals. Throughout the week, WARL counsels potential adopters to match their cats and dogs in appropriate, loving, caring homes. WARL's medical clinic provides the highest quality care to the dogs and cats in residence and to companion animals of the District's low-income families. On weekends, while the shelter operates business as usual, WARL staff and volunteers hold off-site adoption events at animal-friendly businesses throughout the D.C. area.

Overpopulated animal shelters are a problem for too many communities. To help alleviate the stress of overcrowding in shelters as far as Florida and Arkansas, WARL created the Shelter Animal Relief Effort, ShARE, program. Shelters participating in ShARE use WARL as their resource when in crisis, eliminating the need to euthanize adoptable animals.

Additionally, WARL provides humane education to District school children using a curriculum that includes in-class lectures, activities, and trips to visit the shelter and medical center. This program strives to ensure the future of animal welfare in our society by teaching children to treat animals responsibly and with care and compassion.

Through these many efforts, WARL hopes to achieve its goal to eliminate the need to observe future National Homeless Animals' Day.

But for now, WARL will join others across the country to raise awareness of the world's companion animal overpopulation crisis by participating in National Homeless Animals' Day on August 20th and spearheading the first event of its kind in our Nation's Capital.

Every day, WARL works to end the plight of homeless dogs and cats. We can all make a difference by promoting responsible guardianship and by adopting our pets from a local animal shelter, instead of a breeder or pet store, and by preventing the exponential increase of homeless animals by spaying and neutering our pets.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PLANTING
FIELDS ARBORETUM STATE
HISTORIC PARK IN OYSTER BAY,
NEW YORK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, located in Oyster Bay, New York. The park's 409 acres on the beautiful North Shore of Long Island provide a unique opportunity to educate, enrich, and entertain the visiting public.

The "Gold Coast" of Long Island is known around the world from F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, *The Great Gatsby*. The Planting Fields Arboretum is a remarkable public garden that provides the public with the chance to experience the beauty and tranquility of this legendary part of America's geography.

The Planting Fields Arboretum is entering the final stage of construction of a new facility, the Hoffman Visitor Center. This enriching addition, due to open in the summer of 2006, will function as an educational center and will serve as a permanent home for the historical records of all Long Island parks.

Visitors to the Hoffman Visitor Center will be able to participate in interactive exhibits, which will acquaint them with the history and culture of the Planting Fields Arboretum. A 3-dimensional topographical map, featuring fiber optic light-up paths surrounded by educational panels, will introduce the visitors to the many attractions and specialty walks that the Planting Fields Arboretum has to offer.

Individuals interested in learning about Long Island's storied history will be able to peruse the archives, which will contain more than 85,000 images, schematics, blueprints, and plans from Robert Moses' Long Island National Park System.

The Planting Fields Arboretum will also showcase a new rooftop garden, complete with a pergola filled with hanging baskets of seasonal flowers to attract butterflies and birds. This relaxing area will be the perfect spot to sit and picnic with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in commending the Planting Fields Arboretum of Oyster Bay, New York for the construction of the Hoffman Visitor Center, a facility that will only add luster to one of Nassau County and New York's brightest cultural gems.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR
GEORGE PABEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mayor George Pabey for being honored as 2005 East Chicagoan of the Year. For sixteen years, Twin City Community Services in East Chicago, Indiana, has awarded this title to prominent members of the community who have greatly contributed to the city and people of East Chicago. This year's festivities will take place on Friday, August 5, 2005, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago.

George is a native of East Chicago, Indiana. At a young age his parents taught him the importance of hard work, accountability, and community service. His strong family values set the tone for his life and career. These values paved the way for George's decision to serve the people of East Chicago. In 1972, he decided to become a police officer with the East Chicago Police Department. George quickly rose through the ranks and his hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. He served in the Narcotics Unit and was instrumental in developing the city's Gang Unit. In 1990, he was appointed Chief of Police. After he retired from the East Chicago Police Department in 1997, he was appointed Director of Security for a nationally known casino located in East Chicago, Indiana.

George's political career began in 1999. After campaigning on a platform of providing safer streets, reinvigorating neighborhoods and empowering people, George was elected to East Chicago's Common Council. Throughout his career, he earned praise for his leadership and integrity. On October 26, 2004, George made history and became the first Hispanic democrat to rise to the standing of Democratic nominee for Mayor of the City of East Chicago.

The Knights of Columbus Hall will be filled Friday night with friends and family who have been blessed with the opportunity to know and work with George and who wish to celebrate with him as he receives his award. George's hard work and dedication, which have earned him the East Chicagoan of the Year award, have been improving the community and the lives of East Chicagoans for over twenty years. Though he is dedicated to his career and the community of East Chicago, he has never limited his time and love for his family. George and his wife, Hilda, have two children, Maria Lisete and Anthony, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor George Pabey on being recognized as East Chicagoan of the Year. It is my privilege to extend my personal thanks to Mayor Pabey for his lifelong dedication to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Indiana.

THE PRIZE ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce the Promoting Responsible Interrogation Standards Enforcement Act. I am disappointed that it is necessary to do so, but over a year after the first pictures of abuse Abu Ghraib were leaked, there has still been no command responsibility for those who condoned the atrocious behavior. And recent news reports tell us that even more pictures of even worse treatment will soon be released.

Over the past year, we have come to learn that the abuse of detainees in American custody is not the work of a few bad apples in a single Iraqi prison, but a common occurrence throughout our military controlled detention centers. From Afghanistan to Guantanamo, at our hands or at the hands of well-known sponsors of torture, we have abused, tortured, and even killed those who we have captured or detained in the war on terror.

We clearly cannot leave the Administration to its own devices to prevent this abuse from happening again. After ten so-called "investigations," we are no closer to discovering just how high in the Administration the approval of torture tactics went. Every day we learn of more abuse, each allegation more horrific than the next. How much longer can we pretend it was all an accident?

That's why I am introducing this bill to clarify that torture at the hands of our personnel, or upon their request, is not allowed under any circumstance. It also clarifies that our responsibilities in the U.N. Convention Against Torture, unlike what the Attorney General is claiming, apply to everyone in our custody, regardless of where they are kept or which country they come from.

Intelligence obtained through torture is notoriously unreliable, and is therefore bad policy in the first place. But perhaps most importantly, our use of torture only encourages other nations to torture our own captured personnel. We cannot continue to put our own fighting men and women in danger.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of both this bill, and H.R. 952, Congressman MARKEY's bill banning the outsourcing torture. Together, they will clarify that this Congress will no longer tolerate the inhumane treatment of those we capture or detain, and will hopefully start our country down the road to repairing its now tarnished reputation as the world's most preeminent human rights leader.

STATEMENT ON THE BAKASSI
PENINSULA DISPUTE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an international dilemma that has been brought to my attention. There is a disturbing situation taking place that is seriously affecting the relations between the African nations of Cameroon and Nigeria. President Olusegun

Obasanjo of Nigeria promised several years ago to withdraw his troops from the Bakassi Peninsula in the Republic of Cameroon. President Obasanjo has yet to follow through on this arrangement. Not only has the Nigerian military remained in the Bakassi Peninsula, on June 17 and 18, there was an unfortunate violent incident that led to the death of a Cameroon soldier and the wounding of another. I call upon Nigeria to adhere to the International Court of Justice's decision and obey the rule of law by returning the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon, thereby finally putting an end to this ongoing dispute.

I call upon President Obasanjo to withdraw Nigerian troops from the Bakassi Peninsula and return the territory to the Republic of Cameroon. The West African region is extremely volatile and has already experienced numerous conflicts and wars. I sincerely hope that both nations can reach an agreement in accordance with the decision set forth by the International Court of Justice and work together in establishing greater cooperation and stability. A genuine effort from both sides is needed to resolve this issue in a peaceful and timely manner and I anticipate the realization of this goal.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BAYE—2004 AIR FORCE SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Baye who was recently awarded the 2004 Air Force Outstanding Scientist of the Year. Mr. Baye, a computer scientist with the 22nd Space Operations, was recognized on June 29, 2005.

Paul Baye's effort to develop the first defensive counter-space architecture for Electromagnetic Environmental Monitoring System, EEMS, earned him this distinguished award.

Mr. Baye worked for the Air Force Space Command Space Analysis Center and the Space Warfare Center before joining the 22nd Space Operations as an operations analyst.

This award is a very unique honor, and proves the success of his hard work and dedication for the Air Force and the American people. Approximately 3 years ago Mr. Baye became involved in radio frequency spectrum monitoring. The project needed to be able to handle information from several disparate databases, none of which were originally designed to communicate with one another.

Fourteenth Air Force had told then Colonel Suzanne Vautrinot, of the 50th Space Wing Commander, that the wing needed a way to protect Air Force Satellite Communications Network traffic from radio-frequency or electromagnetic interference.

Mr. Baye used a computer software architecture originally developed at the Rome Battlelab evolving it to fit the AFSCN's needs. Implementing the combination of science and technology was the crux of the project.

Colonel Vautrinot asked for a demonstration, which the Space and Missile Center and AFSPC provided in January 2004 in a downselect between competing products. Mr. Baye's project was selected and moved from concept to prototype. Once the EEMS project

became available, Mr. Baye took over the project development.

What makes this project unique is that the 14th Air Force requirement was unfunded. This project was provided and funded by the 50th Space Wing, which was a large sacrifice on their part.

Using an open architecture will allow developers to quickly and cheaply modify software to fit their needs. That, in turn, will save the Air Force even more time and money as it steps further into the frontier of defensive counterspace.

We are standing at the threshold of defensive counterspace, and it is my great honor to recognize Paul Baye, a great scientist and a great American.

URGING THE U.S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO APPROVE THE TRIBAL RECOGNITION PETITION OF THE MASHPEE WAMPANOAG

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before the House today with news that the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have reached an important agreement. The Mashpee will be placed on the BIA's active consideration list for federal recognition. This agreement is an important milestone on what has been an exceedingly long and arduous road for the Mashpee.

As some of my colleagues know, the Mashpee are long-time residents of Cape Cod in our area 5,000 years before there was a United States of America, much less the Tenth Congressional District of Massachusetts. The Mashpee literally met the Mayflower in 1620 and were the Native Americans who aided the Pilgrims through their difficult first months and who attended the first Thanksgiving feast.

The history of the Mashpee Wampanoag in American life goes back to that meeting in 1620, but that only tells the most recent chapters of the story. With an unbroken chain of habitation spanning five millennia, the Mashpee accepted the Pilgrims and others—and went out of their way to offer assistance. And then, when European culture gave way to a fledgling United States, the Mashpee Wampanoag embraced their roles as both Native Americans and Americans. Mashpee Wampanoag Indians have served honorably in the U.S. armed forces in every war from the Revolution through Iraq. The Tribe's current Chief was part of the Allied invasion of Normandy in the Second World War, and the Chairman of the Tribal Council is a survivor of the siege on Khe Sanh. Mashpee Wampanoag Indians continue to serve and sacrifice with so many other Americans.

But the Mashpee have a dream: Formal recognition of their cultural identity by the Federal Government. They have sought a decision from the Bureau of Indian Affairs since 1978. Today I am pleased to tell you that the Bureau has agreed to place the Mashpee's application on active status and has committed to issuing a decision by April of next year. This process, I have no doubt, will lead to recognition of the tribe by the federal government, as Massachu-

setts has since the early days of the Commonwealth.

Many in this chamber are familiar with this issue and I thank my colleagues and their staffs for helping so much to this point. I ask for your continued support as the day of decision draws near. We all remember the Mayflower. It's now time to remember those who stood on the shore the day she landed, and, with open arms, embraced the Pilgrims—the Mashpee Wampanoag Indians.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAVIN DEGRAW

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Gavin DeGraw, a native son of Sullivan County, New York, whose hard work, persistence, and talent have propelled him into the national spotlight. On the occasion of Gavin's return to Sullivan County for his upcoming concert at Kutcher's Country Club, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Gavin and his family on the tremendous success that Gavin has thus far achieved in his relatively short career as a songwriter and performer.

Born and raised in South Fallsburg in the Catskill region, Gavin was engrossed in music throughout his youth. Inspired by his parents' musical talents and interests, Gavin began playing piano and singing at an early age. He later played music in cover bands with his older brother, who encouraged him to write his own music in addition to playing other artists' songs. Gavin studied music briefly at Ithaca College and then at the prestigious Berklee School of Music, but decided to pursue his career as a singer/songwriter in New York City in 1998.

With the continued support of his family, Gavin pursued his dream with passion and diligence, and over the following years, steadily built a loyal following in the New York City live music scene through his soulful performances, personal charisma and honest songwriting style. Gavin cultivated his talent and career patiently, refusing early recording contract offers, and committed himself to his continued development as an artist and performer. These deliberative efforts paid off as he continued to make a name for himself through his local performances, and eventually signed a recording contract with Clive Davis and J Records, who represent a number of nationally known artists.

Gavin's album *Chariot*, released in July 2003, debuted in the top ten on Billboard's Top Heatseekers chart and inspired reviewers and fans alike to compare Gavin with such musical icons as Elton John, Billy Joel and Van Morrison. The single "I Don't Want To Be" hit number one on Billboard's Top 40 Chart and is used as the theme song for the WB show, "One Tree Hill." The album was certified platinum in January 2005. Gavin's popularity as an artist has continued to grow, as evidenced by his string of sold-out live performances and his appearances on national shows, including *Late Show With David Letterman*, *Tonight Show With Jay Leno*, *Good Morning America* and *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Gavin DeGraw and welcome him back to Sullivan County for this concert. I know that I speak for many in the community in stating that Sullivan County is proud of his success and proud of the fact that he has achieved this success through hard work and by remaining true to his own personal style and conviction.

HONORING THE PASSING OF CHIEF OF POLICE JAMES M. POWELL, THE FIRST CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of Chief James M. Powell, the first Chief of our United States Capitol Police following the separation from the DC Metropolitan Police Department. Chief Powell had a long distinguished career in law enforcement that lasted over four decades and culminated in his work transforming the Capitol Police force into a first-rate Federal law enforcement agency.

He was born on a farm in Chapel Hill, Tennessee on May 13, 1914. Like so many others during the Great Depression, he came to Washington in 1934 to look for work. While working at various jobs in DC he met and married his wife Dorothy E. Forsht on June 4, 1938.

Finally settling on a career, he joined the DC Metropolitan Police Department in 1940. He spent six years in the 5th Precinct where he started as a patrolman. He was promoted to Precinct Detective in 1944 and then to Detective Sergeant in 1946, when he was assigned to the Robbery Squad.

In 1953, Mr. Powell was promoted to Detective Lieutenant and named the Third District Detective Supervisor. Five years and several commendations later, he was promoted to Captain and began his work in the U.S. Capitol as supervisor of the Senate Plainclothes Detail. In 1965, he became an inspector and designated chief of the U.S. Capitol Police under the direction of the DC police department.

On December 20, 1979, the Congress enacted Public Law 96-152. This act created the position of Chief of the Capitol Police appointed by the Capitol Police Board. This law established the Capitol Police as its own independent legislative branch agency in charge of the safety and security of the Capitol complex. Mr. Powell was appointed to be the first Chief of the reorganized U.S. Capitol Police.

Chief Powell not only served with distinction by protecting the legislative branch, but he managed to earn recognition for his protection of the executive branch as well. While on Metropolitan police detail protecting President Harry S. Truman, he apprehended one of the Puerto Rican nationalists during the attempted assassination in 1950.

Mr. Powell retired from the U.S. Capitol Police on September 30, 1984. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the Members of the House of Representatives in expressing our gratitude for his dedicated service. Our deepest sympathies

and prayers go out to his wife, Dorothy; his three sons, Jim, John, and Joe; his sister; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MARINA BLAKELY HANNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Jennifer and Andy Hanner of Columbia, South Carolina on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Marina Blakely Hanner was born on July 11, 2005 at 5:30 p.m., weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Marina has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing, and I greatly appreciate the longtime friendship I have shared with Mr. and Mrs. Hanner.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL THOMAE BARRETT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the Barrett family on the death of Carol Barrett, the mother of my staff member Jennifer Barrett. Jennifer and her family came up with some reflections on Carol's life that I would like to submit for the RECORD. I know that Carol died from complications related to Parkinson's disease, an illness I am all too familiar with, since my father also lost a long struggle with Parkinson's in 1998.

I continue my fight for a cure for Parkinson's as co-chair of the Bi-Cameral Caucus on Parkinson's Disease. The fight is too big for one individual, but working together I believe we can make great strides. What we achieve as a community will impact medical research, health care delivery, and millions of people throughout the country and the world. Continuing our search for a cure for Parkinson's won't save Carol's life, but it will go a long way to honor her memory.

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF CAROL THOMAE BARRETT

Carol was born November 12, 1938 in Boston to parents with strong ties to their Scandinavian and German heritage. Family ties were strengthened further when two Thomae brothers married two Larson sisters. Carol had no siblings, but her two cousins, Ken and Bob Thomae were very close to her, and became her brothers.

The families attended the Lutheran church in Dorchester and much of Carol's social life was connected with the youth activities of the church. An old photograph shows her as the Lucia Girl, chosen from the entire Boston area. She excelled in her academic studies, making it possible for her to attend Girl's Latin School in Boston, and subsequently to be admitted to Wellesley College as an English major.

A blind date for a day of skiing with a Harvard medical student named Peter changed

her life, and Peter's, forever. They were married during their respective final years in school and moved into their first home, a fifth floor walk-up apartment in Boston.

Peter's princely wages of \$60 per month as a resident in Internal Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital did not stretch very far, and Carol became the bread-winner by combining a teaching assistant position with a Masters program offered by Tufts University. Subsequently, her work as an elementary school teacher in Boston and in Bethesda, Maryland, provided most of our small family's support. The family expanded in 1963 with the arrival of John in 1963, in Bethesda, where Peter spent three years in research at the National Institutes of Health. Following an additional year in Boston, marked by the arrival of Jennifer, the family headed for the Wild West, where Peter continued his medical training, and then joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Gastroenterology in 1967. In the early years of marriage, Carol and Peter moved five times in a span of seven years, and they were very glad to move into a home in Palos Verdes where they could stay for a longer time. That home was located at 29377 Quailwood Drive, and that was 38 years ago. The third young Barrett, Anna, joined the family in 1969.

Carol was an active participant in community affairs, particularly with the Peninsula Committee for the Philharmonic, and became its President in 1990-91. She enjoyed her involvement in the PTA, various tennis leagues, book club, and numerous family trips to Montana and Colorado. Vacations often involved visiting Carol's family in the Boston area, or welcoming them into the home in Palos Verdes. Carol's grandmother, "Great Nana," was born in Sweden and had never traveled by air until she visited the Barretts. She enjoyed her visit greatly and became a "regular".

Carol always considered her most important roles to be in the home. Her consistent support was vital to Peter's success in his medical career, and was equally important in providing a wonderful home for their three children. She was their counselor, teacher, booster, and most of all, she was their mother. True to a lifelong pattern, on her last shopping trip she bought two dresses "for the girls."

Parkinson's disease was first diagnosed eleven years ago, but Carol was determined to continue with her many activities as long as possible. Initially she was very successful in these efforts, but the past several years brought increasing difficulty and frustration as her Parkinson's worsened. Nevertheless, because of the steadfast support of her large circle of friends, she was able to continue and to enjoy most of her social activities.

Carol's final trip consisted of a series of wonderful visits with family and friends. It included a visit with daughter Jennifer in Washington, with tours of the Capitol and White House; a day spent with life-long friends near Boston; several days of Harvard and Wellesley reunion activities; and a visit with her cousins in suburban Boston. At this point, new health problems developed which resulted in hospitalization at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the hospital where she was born. All of her family were with her when she finally slipped away. Life for her family and friends will not be the same without her.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM HER CHILDREN

My mother Carol T. Barrett was a wonderful, intelligent, competent, efficient mother. She loved us and changed her life for us. Her greatest hurt was not being able to be with and help her family as she wished, in the setting of lengthy disability brought on by Parkinson's disease.

When we noticed a connection between cheesecake and Little League victories, she made a cheesecake each time I pitched. When I cut my finger playing with a razor blade, she calmly picked me up, took me to the doctor, and didn't say she told me so. She took three of us, ages 6, 4, and 3 months, unassisted, 3000 miles to go to our Uncle Ken's wedding on the east coast. She forgave us for pouring water on her cigarettes.

My mother's illness came on slowly and strong in the end. She didn't want people to know at first. To the end, she wanted to be with her family and love them. I feel like I did not pay her back for her love in the way that she deserved. When I told her I don't think she could hear me.

My mother expressed strong ideas about our country's approach to curing and managing diseases. Some people express religious objections to a scientific approach to these problems. I think my mother would say to them, "God helps those who help themselves." If the religious zealots who oppose such research followed my mother's moral and ethical compass, we would be better off. Her care and love had nothing to do with shouting and theorizing, and all to do with doing.—John F. Barrett, MD.

Mom was unhappy for the last few years of her life. She could no longer do the things she loved to do, such as ride horses or play tennis. She could no longer do things without assistance, like dressing or getting up from a chair. Travel was extremely difficult—so she didn't see her children or grandchildren as often as she would have liked. She lost her independence, and with it, her passion for living.

Despite her pain and steady decline, Mom held on tight to those she loved. Even when her life was closing around her, she always wanted to know about our lives and loves and dreams and disappointments.

At times the pain of the last few years has threatened to overwhelm my happier memories of Mom, but I'm determined to keep them alive in my heart, since they are all I have in the end. I will always remember her beauty and vitality and sense of fun. She was always there to protect us, watching as we swam in the huge waves at Redondo Beach, picking us up from school. She was always there to praise us for good grades or performances in school plays. She was a wonderful, warm, loving mother.

All she really wanted was for her children to be happy and to find love for ourselves. When we weren't happy, she felt our pain. I'd like to think that she is happy now, knowing that her children have found their way. All three of us are challenged by our jobs and busy lives. John is married with a beautiful wife and two children, Anna is recently married (one of Mom's last joys was attending the wedding of Anna and Kevin), and I am happy and in love. The thought that—at the end—she knew of my happiness gives me great comfort.

I will miss her forever.—Jennifer Hollister Barrett.

"I am part of all that I have met."—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Carol Ann Thomae Barrett is a part of everyone and everything she touched, and the impact she made on her family, friends, and community is everlasting. If I am half the mother, daughter, wife, friend, and community volunteer that she was, my life will be fulfilled and I will owe it all to her. A Native American proverb says "They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind." My heart aches too much right now for this to bring me comfort, but I know it will in time. Mom lives in more hearts than I can count.—Anna Larson Barrett Loewen.

HONORING PEGGY HEINKEL-WOLFE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the achievement of Mrs. Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe. Mrs. Heinkel-Wolfe has been awarded a contract from the University of North Texas to publish her book detailing the first four years of her son's life before he was diagnosed with autism.

After attending the University of North Texas, also my alma-mater, Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe worked with UNT as a research and development specialist and wrote for various publications including the Denton Record Chronicle. She has returned to UNT and is now a web marketing specialist for the university relations office.

Mrs. Heinkel-Wolfe's manuscript was chosen from among 34 entries by a panel of literary professionals at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest. The book will provide insight for millions of individuals across the country who can relate to her son, Sam. The simple yet significant milestones she describes will allow readers a chance to place themselves "in her house" and "in her shoes."

Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe has captured the incredible compassion in her home and skillfully transposed those feelings into a novel. The compassion her family displays is an attribute every household should strive to instill.

I look forward to the completion of her story, and I applaud her for providing insight and advice to all who have the opportunity to read it.

UPON RETIREMENT OF JACK KATZ

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, I would like to thank Jack Katz for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 28 years.

Throughout the years, Jack has made significant contributions to the financial management of the U.S. House of Representatives' accounts and the processing and oversight of the staff payroll. Jack began his career with the House on March 25, 1977 and has served this great institution in financial counseling and payroll positions within the offices of both the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. He has held the positions of Auditor, Accounts Clerk and Financial Management Counselor in the Office of Finance, and currently holds the position of Payroll Counselor in the Office of Human Resources. During the past 28 years, Jack has provided financial and payroll guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that House staff is paid accurately and on time each month. His payroll and financial acumen has enabled House entities to make critical decisions related to financial and staff payroll issues. He has also provided many years of financial and payroll support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I would like to extend my congratulations to Jack Katz for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House staff payroll function. I wish Jack and his wife Melissa many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF LUCILLE "LUCY" BRIGGS TEMPLE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Rachel and Adam Temple of Columbia, South Carolina, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Lucille Briggs Temple was born on April 19, 2005 at 6:30 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 21 inches long.

Lucy has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing. Adam is doing a wonderful job as Deputy Communications Director for U.S. Senator JIM DEMINT, and I appreciate the friendship of both Mr. and Mrs. Temple.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3045, the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, DR-CAFTA. Deciding how to vote on this has not been easy, but ultimately I believe that the bad in the agreement outweighs the good.

I definitely believe free trade brings benefits, but in this case I question who would get those benefits. I agree that open markets have helped lift up the lives of people in many countries of the world. But I am also alarmed about the growing economic inequality within and between countries. Unless free trade is also fair trade, we risk lifting up the few to the detriment of the many.

I think that an improved commercial relationship with the Dominican Republic and the five Central American countries could benefit our economy and U.S. farmers, workers, and manufacturers. But I am concerned about a number of provisions of DR-CAFTA. The agreement will help some U.S. agricultural industries, services markets, and high technology, chemical, medical and scientific equipment companies, among others. But it will harm other agricultural markets, and could have a detrimental impact on small Central American farmers as well. We ought to be encouraging rural economic development in this part of the world, not undercutting it.

The most problematic aspect of DR-CAFTA is that the administration failed to incorporate internationally recognized labor standards. Nor does the agreement clearly require any country to maintain and enforce a set of basic environmental regulations. America's interests are

not simply about the bottom line. The U.S. should also be concerned about maintaining and enhancing the high mark set by American workers. While expanded trade is important to this country and the world, it will only be beneficial to a broad range of people in our Nation and abroad if it is carefully shaped to include basic standards and adequately protect the rights of workers and the environment. This agreement does not meet that test.

DR–CAFTA would also allow foreign investors to challenge our laws and regulations before international tribunals, bypassing domestic courts, if they believe U.S. laws on labor, environmental protections, and public health and safety reduce the value of their investments. The U.S. has already spent millions defending our laws from NAFTA, which includes a similar provision. Foreign companies have sued the U.S. over California's ban of MTBE, a California law regulating harmful gold mining practices, and the Agriculture Department's decision to close the border to Canadian beef due to concerns about mad cow disease.

DR–CAFTA also creates a challenge to the safety of the American food supply because it is silent on the issue of imported goods meeting the rigorous food safety and sanitary rules of the United States Department of Agriculture. This agreement takes a step backward in our efforts to provide the American consumer with the safest food possible.

Finally, the agreement includes a provision precluding generic pharmaceutical products from obtaining regulatory marketing approval for a 5–8 year period if approval has been granted for a brand name drug in that market. Especially since low-cost generics are already available in the DR–CAFTA countries, this provision will only serve to make drugs unavailable and unaffordable for most Central Americans, who are suffering in great numbers from HIV/AIDS and untreated diabetes, among other maladies. While market access for U.S. goods is important, we shouldn't be in the business of potentially undermining a country's ability to provide prescription drugs to its citizens.

As part of a long-term strategy to strengthen the American economy, I have supported a number of agreements to expand access to foreign markets for exports from our nation's farmers and businesses. But DR–CAFTA is one I cannot support.

I don't want this country to miss out on economic opportunities, but the problems with this agreement are real, and I don't believe this agreement will create the opportunities its proponents have touted. In the end, our progress together has to be about raising, and not lowering wages, reducing and not adding to the world's poverty, making more "haves" and fewer "have-nots."

I do believe in actively shaping globalization, not passively closing our doors. Although I cannot support DR–CAFTA today, I remain committed to this activist course and hope the Administration will present us with an agreement that deserves our support.

IN MEMORY OF BURL JACK AKINS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Burl Jack Akins for his lifelong contributions to his community, family, and country. Mr. Akins passed away at his home in Mesa, Arkansas with his wife Gail, by his side.

Born in rural Crawford County, Arkansas to Gene and Bonnie Akins, he was the youngest of three children. In 1947, Mr. Akins joined the United States Air Force and served as an aircraft mechanic for B52's and F111's until 1959. It is worth noting that he was intent on serving his country, so much so, that at the ripe, young age of 16, he lied about his age so he could be admitted into the armed services.

Mr. Akins continued as a civilian employee working for LTV Steel and General Dynamics until medically retired in 1971. He and his first wife Barbara, who preceded him in death after 45 years of marriage, had 7 children, 20 grandchildren and 17 great-grand children.

It was my honor to know Burl Jack Akins. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, whose contributions made richer the fabric of our American culture, be inspiration to all who seek their dreams to serve their fellow man.

UPON RETIREMENT OF JEWELL DEESE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to thank Jewell Deese for her outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 28 years.

Throughout the years, Jewell has made significant contributions to the financial management of U.S. House of Representatives' accounts and the processing and oversight of the staff payroll. She began her career with the House on July 5, 1977 and has served this great institution in financial, benefits, and payroll positions within the offices of both the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. She has held the positions of General Clerk in the Office of Finance, processing the daily receipts for the House Restaurant system, and has held various positions in the Office of Personnel and Benefits. She will retire from her current position of Payroll Counselor in the Office of Human Resources. During the past 26 years as an Office of Human Resources Payroll Counselor she has provided financial and payroll guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that all House staff is paid accurately and on time each month. Her payroll and financial acumen have enabled House entities to make critical decisions related to staff payroll issues. She has also provided many years of benefits and payroll support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I would like to extend my congratulations to Jewell Deese for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House staff payroll function. I wish Jewell and her husband Gregory many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF AIRMEN JOHN LAYLAGIAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Janelle and Leon Laylagian of Hopkinton, New Hampshire, on the birth of their son. Airmen John Laylagian was born on June 4, 2005 at 5:58 p.m., weighing 6 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Airmen has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing. I appreciate the friendship I share with both Mr. and Mrs. Laylagian.

HONORING SEVERAL SCHOOLS IN TENNESSEE'S 7TH DISTRICT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring several schools in Tennessee's 7th Congressional District that have been ranked among the best in the Nation.

Both Brentwood High School and Franklin High School were found to be exemplary by Newsweek magazine.

Brentwood High School, home of the Bruins, lives up to its mission statement of "Excellence through teaching and learning."

Few communities are fortunate enough to have one school noted for distinction, but we have been blessed with two.

Franklin High School, home of the Rebels, was also credited by Newsweek for providing a quality education and giving our kids a great start.

Mr. Speaker, these schools deserve our congratulations for their commitment to our community, and for planting the seeds of knowledge that will help make these students lifelong learners.

All of us should offer our thanks to Principal Kevin Keidel of Brentwood High School and Principal Willie Dickerson of Franklin High School for their hard work and dedication.

SEEKING TRANSPARENCY AT THE UNITED NATIONS' WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, the United States has been a party to "The Convention Concerning Protection of the World Cultural and

Natural Heritage" (World Heritage Convention) for over thirty years. This convention, administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), currently protects 20 World Heritage Sites in the U.S. Moreover, the "Tentative List" of U.S. World Heritage Sites (www.cr.nps.gov/worldheritage) presently contains 70 properties including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In order for a site to be nominated as a potential World Heritage Site, it must first be on a nation's "Tentative List."

The House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over U.S. participation in the World Heritage Convention. Because of my concern for protecting private property rights and American sovereignty, I monitor the activities of the World Heritage Committee as do some U.S. organizations advocating these same principles.

Sovereignty International, based in Hollow Rock, TN and chaired by Henry Lamb, contacted me earlier this year requesting my assistance in its efforts to video tape the proceeding of World Heritage Committee's meeting held earlier this month in Durban, South Africa. Despite my efforts to advance this very modest proposal, Sovereignty International's request was denied in writing by the Secretary of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee based in Paris, France.

Because I believe strongly that governments and international organizations should make all reasonable efforts to be transparent, I have asked UNESCO for a detailed written explanation of why it denied Sovereignty International's request which is very modest by American standards. I urge my colleagues to read this letter and be forever vigilant in requiring the United Nations and other international organizations to be much more transparent in their daily operations.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2005.

Hon. FRANCESCO BANDARIN,
Secretary, UNESCO World Heritage Committee,
Paris, France.

DEAR DIRECTOR BANDARIN: As you may know, the House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over the United States' participation in the World Heritage Convention. Earlier this year, I was contacted by Mr. Henry Lamb of Sovereignty International requesting the Committee's assistance in his efforts to tape proceedings of the World Heritage Committee's July meeting in Durban, South Africa.

Since Sovereignty International has solid credentials as an NGO and has taped official proceedings of the House Committee on Resources and many federal agencies, I can only consider this modest request as reasonable. As UNESCO frequently advocates increasing its "transparency" and this request is not only consistent with but also furthers transparency, it seems only logical that UNESCO would encourage taping of the proceedings.

Thus, I was surprised to read your June 22, 2005 letter to Mr. Lamb which stated, "the World Heritage Committee is a public meeting, except when otherwise decided by the Committee. The World Heritage Committee has not approved requests to film the proceedings in the past."

To better understand your decision regarding the request to video tape the Durban proceedings, I respectfully request the following:

1. A copy of the World Heritage Committee's official policy on taping that served as

guidance for this decision to deny Mr. Lamb's request.

2. A list of Committee Members (and UNESCO and Centre staff) that addressed Mr. Lamb's request and an explanation of how they interpreted this official policy to reach their decision. Minutes of any relevant meetings would be most helpful.

3. A list of other organizations that have requested to "film the (Committee's) proceedings in the past," copies of any correspondence regarding these requests and an explanation as to how each of these requested were handled.

Finally, I would like to meet with you on this and other matters when you next visit Washington, DC. It would allow us both to better understand each other's concerns.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and a timely reply on this matter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

UPON RETIREMENT OF LINDA DI MAURO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to thank Linda DiMauro for her outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 26 years.

Throughout the years, Linda has made significant contributions inputting financial data for the U.S. House of Representatives and processing and overseeing the staff payroll of the House. She began her career with the House on October 1, 1979 and has served this great institution in accounting and payroll positions within the offices of both the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. She has held the positions of Data Processing Clerk in the Office of Finance, Accounting Department, Payroll Counselor, and currently serves as a Senior Payroll Counselor in the Office of Human Resources. During the past 26 years, Linda has provided payroll guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that all House staff is paid accurately and on time each month. Her payroll and financial acumen has enabled House entities to make critical decisions related to staff payroll issues. She has also provided many years of payroll support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Linda DiMauro for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House staff payroll function. I wish Linda, her daughter Denise, and her grandson Dominick, many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN
DASO AND THE GIFTED ARTIST
OF AMERICA CENTER, INC.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the valuable

work of Mr. John Daso, a talented artist who resides in Lexington, South Carolina.

As one of the most beautiful states in the nation, South Carolina's landscape is certainly not easy to accurately illustrate for most artists. However, Mr. Daso's work demonstrates his unique ability to reflect the beauty of our state. I am proud that we have such a remarkable artist living in the Second District of South Carolina.

As the founder of the Gifted Artist of America Center, Inc., Mr. Daso is also generously serving our community. This valuable center helps educate, mentor and inspire young artists who are or were unable to afford a formal education. Specifically, the center offers business development, marketing skills, financial awareness, associative skill training and graphic design. By supporting our youth and encouraging public interest in the Arts, the Gifted Artist of America Center is inspiring individuals to make a difference in their communities by using their artistic skills.

I am grateful for Mr. Daso's artistic talent and leadership in our community.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN- TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose CAFTA, because I believe it is a bad deal for rural and agricultural communities like those in my 18th district of California.

There is no indication that U.S. agriculture will benefit from a poorly negotiated deal that—without adequate safeguards—opens trade with a region that has little capacity to purchase our goods.

This administration's lax enforcement of trade agreements makes CAFTA's prospects even bleaker.

Currently, our agricultural trade deficit with the six countries covered by CAFTA totals 765 million dollars.

If we assume that the projections for CAFTA are as far off the mark as the projected gains turned out to be for NAFTA, this deficit is likely to grow even higher.

By passing this deeply flawed agreement, we would do two things: Reward these Central American countries for their poor records on labor rights—and add to our ballooning agricultural trade deficit with that region.

Like my Democratic colleagues, I believe in fair trade, not flawed trade.

I believe in trade deals that protect American farmers and ranchers and raise living standards in our partner countries. CAFTA fails to meet these basic standards, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Voting Rights Act was Congress' greatest accomplishment in America's long struggle in the fight against discrimination and oppression.

This, the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, serves to remind us of the need to reauthorize and strengthen many expiring provisions. There are many who say there is no longer a need for the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

It is true that we have made remarkable progress since 1965, including: outlawing segregationist principles such as literacy tests, poll taxes, and the grandfather clause. However, we must not relent. There is still much work to be done.

As we all saw during the 2004 elections, minorities faced the uphill battle of misinformation distributed in black communities over how and when to vote, purging of voter rolls, and election day lines where individuals were waiting eight or more hours to vote.

I am proud to serve alongside Representative Lewis, whose bravery and presence during that historic march across the Pettus Bridge in Selma changed this Nation. In this pivotal moment, Congress and President Johnson could no longer look away from the oppression and segregation America had long ignored.

There are many young people who may not know of, or did not experience this battle towards equality. However, it is imperative we recognize and celebrate our great accomplishments as a Nation. We cannot develop future policies or laws without knowing or applying the lessons we have learned from the past.

As we move forward, it is my hope that our young people will remain diligent; remembering the contributions of those who came before them, and finding new inspiration to fight for change.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY SGT. MICHAEL SCHAFER OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Army Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer of Spring Hill, FL. Sgt. Schafer was killed by enemy fire July 25, 2005 in Oruzgan, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his loving wife Danielle, parents Karen and Dan Barr, brother Tim, and grandparents Ron Forbes and Stand and Loretta Barr. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sgt. Schafer was a true American hero.

A volunteer for the Army in 1999, Sgt. Schafer performed his basic training at Fort

Benning, GA and Airborne training in Fort Bragg, NC. After he completed his training, Sgt. Schafer served in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as Kosovo. A proud member of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Sgt. Schafer was one of the first paratroopers to jump into Kirkuk, Iraq during the March, 2003 invasion. Sgt. Schafer served 9 months in Iraq before being transferred to Afghanistan, and had expressed interest in going back to Iraq to be where the action was.

In addition to serving honorably in the United States Army, Sgt. Schafer was a true and dedicated family man. Married to his wife Danielle within a week of shipping out to Kosovo, the couple was in constant contact throughout his tours of duty. At the time of his death, Sgt. Schafer and his wife were looking to adopt a baby.

As a sign of the love for his family, Sgt. Schafer wrote a poem to his mother before he left for basic training.

"Mother, There comes a time in every boy's life When he leaves the warmth of the nest. Perhaps to look for all your qualities in his future wife; Or join the working class like the rest. I am standing here before you this very day. To let you know when I leave not to fear, Because I will never be that far away. And you will always be near and dear to my heart, It is where I will keep your love. I know that the bond that we have between us cannot be torn apart, And when I think of you so beautiful like a white dove, I want you to know that as I leave for the Army, If you are feeling scared, do not be afraid to show it. Your love for me won't let any one harm me. I will be back home before you know it."

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sgt. Schafer's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not be returning home. I can offer them this pledge, however: that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sgt. Schafer made serving his country.

ARGUS COURIER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Petaluma Argus Courier, my hometown newspaper, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The first edition of the Petaluma Journal and Sonoma County Advertiser, the forerunner of today's Argus-Courier, was published on August 18, 1855. That's 3 years before the City of Petaluma was incorporated.

It is a compliment to the Argus-Courier and its staff that the newspaper has kept in step with the vast changes that have taken place in Petaluma over this 150-year period. As the 10th oldest newspaper in the State of California and one of Petaluma's oldest business institutions, the Argus Courier is an eyewitness to Petaluma history.

The Argus-Courier has always fulfilled its obligation to its community by providing sound information and vigorous leadership on all

matters affecting its citizens since 1855—from the Civil War to the Iraq wars, from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to Loma Prieta, and from Petaluma's fame as the "egg basket to the world" to its status as telecom valley. The fact that the Argus-Courier has been published continuously for 150 years is evidence of its devotion to the public interest and its contribution to the growth and development of the community it serves.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Petaluma Argus Courier on its sesquicentennial and know that it will continue to inform, entertain, and be a valued messenger of news and information to my constituents and me for many more years to come. And, I know that the Argus-Courier derives much satisfaction from the knowledge that it has had a part in the growth and in the furtherance of the free press that has helped to make this Nation great.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD J. HARVISON, NTTC, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not to bury Cliff Harvison, but to praise him.

After, a number of decades of working in Washington, DC, and with 40 years dedicated solely to serving the cargo tank truck industry, Cliff is retiring at the end of this year.

Through the establishment of the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and more recently, the Department of Homeland Security; through deregulation of the trucking industry, and carrier consolidation; through the terrorist attacks on our infrastructure and upon our Nation; Cliff Harvison has kept watch at the National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc., the tank truck industry's national trade association.

In addition to working with me—for almost three decades as a Member of Congress who understands the needs and vast potential of our national transportation network to States such as West Virginia—as well as working with a great many other Members of Congress over the last several decades, Cliff has worked also with labor, with Federal agencies, and with his own carriers to improve highway transportation. In so doing, he has played a key role in the development of major legislative and regulatory initiatives aimed at highway safety, hazardous materials uniformity, and transportation security. The Motor Carrier Safety Act, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act—and its successor, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act—the Safe Food Transportation Act, truck driver hazardous materials endorsements—these are all key pieces of legislation and regulation affecting motor carriers, and bear the stamp of Cliff Harvison's input as an honest, and honorable, broker.

Mr. Speaker, without America's cargo tank truck industry, Americans would not be able to buy gas conveniently at so many corner filling stations across the country. If we couldn't rely on the cargo tank truck industry, our chemical manufacturing sector, which is a very important manufacturing industry in parts of my

home State of West Virginia, would be impeded by a great difficulty in getting goods to help make products to serve our ever day needs. Were it not for our cargo tank truck industry, it would not be possible to move fertilizers, baking products, plastics, and many other household products we take for granted.

All of these different products, transported in so many different kinds of uniquely designed trailers to ensure safe transportation, are vital to our national interests. Likewise, the ease with which they are transported guarantees Americans more affordable gasoline and other products, and protects our way of life. In addition, the cargo tank truck industry itself employs hundreds of thousands of Americans with good paying jobs.

As the cargo tank truck industry has evolved over the last four decades to play an increasingly integral role in our national economy, one constant has been Cliff Harvison's dedicated service to the industry, and to our Nation.

For these reasons, and many more, I am pleased to be able to honor Cliff for his service.

INTRODUCING THE VOTER OUTREACH AND TURNOUT EXPANSION ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will significantly alter the ways in which we conduct elections. The Voter Outreach and Turnout Expansion Act of 2005, expands upon the Help America Vote Act, HAVA, of 2002 to incorporate several necessary measures.

In the aftermath of the 2000 election, Members of Congress united in an unparalleled bipartisan effort to pass election reform legislation. HAVA was one of the most far-reaching electoral measures since the Voter's Rights Act of 1965. This one accomplishment does not, however, signify the dissolution of political disenfranchisement within our current system.

In the 2004 Presidential election, we saw numerous problems resurface. Again, voters waited for hours to cast their ballots. Across the country, newly registered voters were denied access to polls and thousands of names were wrongfully removed from voter rolls. These egregious acts of disenfranchisement affected those most vulnerable, young students, minority communities and the elderly.

Such problems will continue to persist until further action is taken to implement election reform. We must not be afraid to be innovative in our solutions. Our greatest political legacies have often been born in times of unrest and implemented under the acquiescence of skeptics.

The VOTE Act takes aim at combating voter apathy through same day voter registration, early voting, no excuse absentee voting, improved registration by mail procedures, the establishment of an Election Day holiday, and guaranteed leave on election day to allow employees to vote. Specifically, the legislation does the following:

The VOTE Act requires states to establish same-day voter registration procedures. Under

the legislation, voters who have not previously registered to vote will be permitted to register on Election Day at the appropriate polling location and vote in that election. To address concerns over voter fraud that in the past so many of my colleagues have suggested occurs, voters are required to present proof of residence and written confirmation pursuant to the Help America Vote Act. Title I of the bill is linked to the enforcement provisions of the Help America Vote Act to ensure states' compliance.

Further, the VOTE Act requires local elections supervisors to establish early voting polling locations within the jurisdiction where registered voters will be able to vote prior to election day. Early voting must commence no less than 22 days, or three weeks, prior to election day and shall be made available to voters during normal business hours each weekday. Additionally, elections supervisors must make early voting available to voters on no less than two weekend days during the three weeks.

The bill also prohibits states and local supervisors from requiring voters to provide a reason for voting absentee. All too often, voters become discouraged from voting absentee, or just voting at all, because they are required to provide a reason. Voting should not be a test where excuses are not permitted. On the contrary, absentee voting should be an option—and an easy one to take advantage of at that.

The VOTE Act also amends the Help America Vote Act to require that election supervisors provide voters with adequate time and opportunity to complete their mail-in voter registration form. In instances where the state registration deadline has already passed, supervisors are required to inform the voter of same-day voter registration opportunities that exist.

Further, my legislation requires that federal employees be given the day off on Election Day and encourages states to make Election Day a legal holiday and provide paid leave for state government employees.

Finally, the VOTE Act requires private companies with 25 or more employees to allow their staff to take up to 2 hours of paid or unpaid leave time to vote. Employees who live more than 25 miles away from their workplace are allowed to take up to three hours of leave. Enforcement of these provisions is tied into the Family Medical Leave Act. By and large, Americans who do not vote cite employment as the top reason for not voting. The VOTE Act allows them to work and vote without the fear of losing their jobs in the process.

Throughout these halls, Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous discussions of elections, yet the focus has been on who is spending what and how. We have become immersed in a discourse that is out of touch with the true needs of those we represent. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to pro actively address any and all institutional restrictions on political participation and civic engagement.

Mr. Speaker, how can we condemn the prevailing apathy among our youth if we ourselves personify that same approach? The VOTE Act will both engage new generations of voters and empower Americans in every city and State, nationwide. Our electoral concerns will not be abated unless such far-reaching legislative action is pursued. I urge my colleagues to not stand idly and watch our systems continue to weaken, lend your sup-

port to the Voter Outreach and Turnout Expansion Act.

INTRODUCTION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PATRIOTISM ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act with Representatives PETER KING, WEINER, NADLER, HIGGINS, FARR, SERRANO, ENGEL, OWENS, McDERMOTT, LANTOS, SCHAKOWSKY, BENNIE THOMPSON, SOLIS, SCHIFF, BERMAN, PALLONE, PATRICK KENNEDY and GRIJALVA.

We are introducing this legislation because the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left many surviving spouses and children of legal employment-based visa holders and undocumented workers in jeopardy of being deported, because their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center. While the USA PATRIOT Act allowed these individuals to stay in the United States until September 10, 2002, that reprieve has expired. These individuals should not be forced to leave the country because of the actions of the terrorists.

The "September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act," which would provide for the adjustment of status (application for permanent residence, commonly known as "green card" status) or the cancellation of removal (and adjustment of status) for the spouse, child, dependent son, or dependent daughter of victims who were killed on September 11. While the Administration continues to act with care by not moving forward with deportation procedures for these individuals, their legal status remains in limbo unless they are given legal status in the United States. They should not continue to be victimized by the 9/11 terrorists by living in fear that they will have to leave their homes, jobs, and communities. Additionally, New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, supports this legislation and is calling on Congress to act.

Finally, I would like to thank Moshe and Debra Steinberg for their assistance in preparing this legislation for introduction and for all of the work they have done on behalf of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its swift passage into law.

TRIBUTE TO EIGHT SEWICKLEY WWII TUSKEGEE AIRMEN OF THE ALL AFRICAN-AMERICAN 99TH PURSUIT SQUADRON

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and join the Daniel B. Matthews Historical Society in honoring the extraordinary patriotism and valor of eight Sewickley WWII Tuskegee Airmen of the all African-American 99th Pursuit Squadron.

Often referred to as the "Sewickley Eight" by local historians, the three surviving honorees include brothers Mitchell Higginbotham and Robert Higginbotham, of California, and William Johnston of Ohio. Jim Addison, Curtis Branch, William Curtis Jr., William Gilliam and Frank Hailstock will be honored posthumously for their unprecedented service by the society as well.

These distinguished men continued their successes after the war. In a period of extreme racism, these men overcame immense professional challenges. Mitchell Higginbotham, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and pilot, now serves as an itinerant Ambassador of Goodwill for the Tuskegee Airmen. After serving as an expert in multi-engine aircrafts, Robert Higginbotham went on to become the first African-American intern and resident at the Sewickley Valley Hospital. William Johnston, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, serving as a Tuskegee pilot, went on to become a corporate pilot.

The "Sewickley Eight" and their families will be honored on Thursday August 4th by the Daniel B. Matthew Society's first annual Founders Luncheon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Sewickley, Pennsylvania. This event will take place on the opening day of the 39th annual Come-On-Home Weekend in Sewickley.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the brave Sewickley natives of the WWII Tuskegee Airmen of the all African-American. 99th Pursuit Squadron. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such citizens as the Tuskegee Airmen who embody the spirit of patriotism.

**TRIBUTE TO KENYA AJANAKU, A
MULTIFACETED CULTURAL
LEADER**

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article that appeared in the July 15th edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which pays tribute to a man of abundant and diverse talents, Mr. Kenya Ajanaku. Not only has Mr. Ajanaku played an important part in my personal life as an admired relative, he has been a huge asset to the city of St. Louis. As the executive director of the Harambee Institute, and a professional jewelry maker, drummer, singer, dancer, storyteller and educator, Mr. Ajanaku has proven that pursuing one's passions can be personally rewarding as well as beneficial to one's community. The article, aptly entitled "Multifaceted", delivers Mr. Ajanaku the proper recognition he deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch article be placed in the RECORD.

[From the St. Louis Dispatch, July 15, 2005]

MULTIFACETED

(By Kathie Sutin)

Some of the best things in life happen by serendipity, that accidental, happy discovery that comes when you're looking for something else.

Take Kenya Ajanaku, a multi-talented man—a professional jewelry-maker, drummer, singer, dancer, storyteller and educator.

Ajanaku, 57, is executive director of the Harambee Institute, a nonprofit organization he created in 1994 to pass on to others what he has learned about making jewelry and the performing arts. He also performs a 45-minute interactive program incorporating drum-playing and the storytelling of African folk tales to groups around St. Louis and the country.

Except for singing, which he has done most of his life, he came upon each of his other professions by chance.

"I became a jeweler at 25, I became a dancer and drummer at 31, and I became a professional storyteller at 41," says Ajanaku (pronounced ah JAHN ah koo).

"It has enabled me to have heaven right here on Earth: he says. "I do this for a living, and it's really a blessing. I can't call it a job because a job is something you hate to do. I have to call this a profession because it's something I love to do."

Not that the path was easy. In the '70s, when Ajanaku started, it was almost unheard-of for an African-American to make a living selling jewelry.

"Most people said, 'He has gone crazy talking about he gon' make a living making jewelry,'" he said with a laugh.

Ajanaku understands the skepticism of those days.

"Our people hadn't seen anyone making a living doing this," he says. "And then I got involved with the drumming, and my mother—bless her soul—says, 'Bi-State is hiring. You're 31 years old. What are you going to do with a drum?'"

He credits his wife of 38 years, Weyni, who learned jewelry-making with him and who does the paperwork and teaches at the institute, for believing in him. The couple sell necklaces, bracelets and rings they handcraft from copper, brass, silver and 14-karat gold. They also set semiprecious stones from around the world such as obsidian, turquoise, malachite, black onyx and tiger's eye. Ajanaku also fashions antique sterling silverware he finds at auctions into bracelets and rings.

After graduating from Vashon High School in 1966, Ajanaku headed to Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., on a swimming scholarship. Shortly thereafter, he married Weyni. Then, three years into college, he moved back to St. Louis to become a barber.

A few years later, he and his wife decided to sell their possessions and the barbershop to move to Panama with friends to open a business.

But there, their plans were stymied when they learned that to open a business, they needed a Panamanian partner. They decided to go back to Charlotte, where they opened a small variety store across from the university Ajanaku had attended.

After going to a movie one day, the couple encountered two African-American men near the theater. They had big boards shaped like Africa, and they had black velvet on them, and they had their jewelry pinned on the front, Ajanaku says. One of them said, "Hey, would you be interested in some handcrafted jewelry?"

Ajanaku was amazed.

"It was the first time I had seen handcrafted jewelry, especially made by someone who looks like me," he said. "Up to then, I had never conceived that I could become a jeweler. You see, when I was growing up in my community, you didn't see any professional jewelers."

He was also impressed by the jewelry.

"I was just flabbergasted at the beauty and the time and effort that went into these pieces that they made," he said.

The couple learned that the men, part of a communal group called the Ajanakus, made their living traveling from city to city and selling jewelry. They bought some jewelry and invited the men to dinner. Later they would change their last name to Ajanaku, a Nigerian term meaning "strong-willed person."

After dinner, the men brought out their tools and materials and showed the couple how they made jewelry. That night, Kenya Ajanaku made his first piece of jewelry—a pair of earrings.

Ajanaku and his wife were captivated by the lifestyle, as well as the jewelry.

So they sold their business and eventually headed for Washington, where he met a man who taught him how to solder and set stones in silver.

"I remember our first piece of sterling silver we bought in Philadelphia," he says. "It was 1 foot of 16-gauge round sterling silver wire. Man, you would have thought that was gold to us because we had never worked with sterling before."

The family returned to St. Louis in 1979 and began to sell jewelry at craft shows.

Here, Someone told him about renowned dancer Katherine Dunham and a Senegalese man she brought to East St. Louis to teach African drumming. Ajanaku signed up for the class.

"I became a pretty good drummer, and fortunately Miss Dunham hired me as one of the drummers for the Katherine Dunham Dancers. That was really a help because when I first moved back to St. Louis, the only way I had to make money was through the jewelry. When I got involved in the performing arts, it helped me to diversify."

Ajanaku later played percussion behind St. Louisan Bobby Norfolk, one of the first African-American professional storytellers, who was on the roster of Young Audiences. When Norfolk went on to national and international gigs, the group asked Ajanaku to come up with a storytelling presentation.

Though the Ajanakus spend a lot of time teaching children and adults at the Harambee Institute and at classes they teach through the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Department, the Ferguson-Florissant School District and at Mark Twain Elementary School in St. Louis, they still sell their jewelry at festivals. That includes such events as the Festival of Nations, which will be held July 23-24 in Tower Grove Park, and the Best of Missouri Market at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Ottobrofest at the St. Louis Zoo, both in October.

Ajanaku sees the institute as a way to enlighten the African-American community about professions in the arts and others about African culture.

"Nowadays, I tell people, 'The cotton has been picked; automation is here, so the need for unskilled laborers nowadays is zero,'" he says. "Nowadays you need some type of skill or some type of service you can provide."

The Harambee Institute is at 5223 Raymond Avenue. To learn more about it or to make an appointment to visit the gift shop, which features items from Africa and the Ajanakus' jewelry, call 314-454-6584.

**ON THE OCCASION OF GLADYS
BAISA'S 65TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my most distinguished constituents on the occasion of her 65th birthday.

Gladys Coelho Baisa was born on August 13, 1940 on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. She grew up in the plantation camps and can remember a time when no door was locked and no one was a stranger. She lost her father at an early age was raised by her mother alone. Gladys graduated from Maui High School in 1958, where she was class valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society. Two years later she graduated as a Practical Licensed Nurse from the St. Francis School of Nursing and began her illustrious career as a Licensed Practical Nurse and then a private duty nurse.

In 1967, having taken additional education at Maui Technical School in the accounting program, she began at the Maui Memorial Medical Center in the billing department. Within two years, Gladys was recruited to join the Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) Inc., where she has been in a leadership position for 36 years and Executive Director for 21 years.

Gladys has demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership since taking the reins of MEO in 1984. When she became Executive Director, MEO had a budget of \$1.9 million and operated 17 programs under three major categories: the Community Services Block Grants, Head Start, and County of Maui Grants. There were eight key staff members and seven supervisors. Today, MEO expects to serve over 20,000 unduplicated clients through its programs and community partnerships and has 272 employees and a budget of \$14.5 million.

Additionally, in 2003, the National Community Action Partnership presented Gladys and MEO with its inaugural "Award of Excellence in Community Action", one of only four agencies to be so honored out of over 1,100 community action agencies in the nation.

Today, under Gladys' vision and enthusiasm, MEO offers job training, microenterprise business development, family development programs, housing assistance, welfare to work opportunities, Head Start, senior citizen programs, medical and life sustaining transportation, farmworker employment and training programs, immigrant acculturation, food distribution to those in need, youth programs, reintegration of inmates back into the community, and many other innovative and far reaching programs that have been incorporated into government operations and continue to serve the community.

Gladys wasn't content with just building up MEO. She saw a need to develop the not for profit sector on Maui and took an active role in the creation of the Maui Non-Profit Directors Association. This organization of over 50 dues paying members has become an important force in public policy discussions affecting Maui County, and a forum for training and information designed to strengthen each agency in their mission.

For almost four decades Gladys has selflessly given her passion, energy, and unending desire to assist the people of Maui and Hawaii. She has long been a leading source of "best practices" management and her colleagues honored her with their very first "Executive Director of the Year" award.

Gladys will soon retire from MEO for well-deserved rest and time with her family. I know this will be merely an informal retirement and she will continue to stay involved in assisting the Maui community and will continue to live by MEO's motto: "Helping People. Changing Lives."

Hauoli La Hanau, Gladys, and many many more!

MEMORANDUM OF FORT WORTH CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CHUCK SILCOX

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the following memorandum from Fort Worth City Council Member Chuck Silcox to the Mayor of Fort Worth and Council Members dated July 5, 2005. In the memorandum, Councilman Silcox indicates his desire for the successful implementation of the Trinity River Vision project in Fort Worth, Texas.

MEMO

JULY 5, 2005.

To: Mayor & Council Members,

From: Chuck Silcox,

Re: Trip to Washington, DC, June 21-23.

On June 21, I flew to Washington, DC for a series of meetings regarding the Trinity River and Highway 121 projects. Initially, let me report that the meetings went quite well. My appreciation to Congresswoman Kay Granger and her staff for all they did to arrange the schedule for me. I was accompanied with Reid Rector, Robert Head (Ms. Granger's Deputy Chief of Staff) and Pete Rose.

Wednesday, June 22, began with a meeting with Congresswoman Granger to discuss the agenda and key issues relative to the Trinity River and Highway 121 projects. This meeting went well, and I left there very comfortable that in the sense that Congresswoman Granger's office will continue to work very closely with us in support of our federal legislative agenda, to include the successful implementation of the Trinity River Plan and the Highway 121 projects. In addition, we also discussed, in general terms, the importance of maintaining the Wright Amendment and the current status of the B-36 project as affected by a lack of funding to retain the B-36 in Fort Worth.

Following the above meeting, we met with senior staff at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps was represented by Steve Stockton, Deputy Director of Civil Works, Gary Leow, Director of Civil Works Program Integration Division and John Meador, Civil Works Deputy, Southwestern Division. Several key points were discussed during this meeting:

1. The Corps staff stressed that while the key underlying need for the TRV was and remains flood control and repair of the levees in the area, this type of project is becoming more and more common in the Corps' work, i.e., combining economic development and flood control issues. In the terms of flood control, Corps staff emphasized that upstream development has significantly affected downstream drainage and flooding issues. In addition, the existing levees have "settled," a condition that also contributes to the flooding potential. The Trinity River project, with its bypass channel, would appropriately address these issues.

2. Regarding environmental issues associated with the Trinity River development, Corps staff indicated that the initial environmental impact statement is in line and that their initial review does not reveal any significant environmental problems. However, they stated that approximately \$25 million has been allocated for dealing with any issues that might arise.

3. Regarding the location of businesses within the Trinity River project area, Corps staff stated that the only property that would be obtained would be that property necessary for the bypass channel and that no other property would be sought.

4. Regarding increases in project costs (\$360 million to \$435 million), it was explained that this is primarily due to "contingency" costs being added to insure that unanticipated costs are adequately covered.

5. These issues and any other relevant issues will be addressed at public meetings currently scheduled for July 26 and 27. It is my intent to see that these meetings are publicized so that the public can attend, learn about this project and raise any relevant questions they may have.

We then met with staff from the Federal Highway Administration to discuss the SH-121 project. Attending for the FHWA were Charles Nottingham, Associate Administrator for Policy and Government Affairs, Sal Deocampo of the Texas Division (by telephone), Ruth Rentch of the Office of Environmental Planning, Jennifer Southwick, a Special Assistant for Policy and Governmental Affairs and Marc Ott (by telephone). As in the case of the meeting with the Corps of Engineers, several key issues were discussed:

1. The plan for groundbreaking in late 2005 was discussed and it was emphasized that City intended to stay on schedule.

2. With the revised cost estimates, as all parties investigate opportunities for refinement of the cost estimates, it is the City's strong intent not to compromise the quality of the project.

3. It was noted that NTTA should, within 90 days, be able to better understand the cost increases for the project. In this regard, it was noted that the City should be in close contact with the NTTA to urge favorable action relative to dealing with any cost increases. Marc Ott indicated that a letter from the Mayor was being forwarded to the NTTA addressing the cost issue.

4. Relative to these costs issues, FHWA staff indicated that costs cannot be finalized until the Record of Decision has been issued as the Record will play a significant role in final cost determinations. Now that the ROD has been issued, FHWA staff felt that the cost related issues would be resolved as design work progresses.

These meetings with Congresswoman Granger, the Corps and the FHWA were very informative. As a result of attending these meetings, I am confident that we can successfully address the relevant issues affecting the Trinity River and SH-121 projects.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ACT OF 2005

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Environmental Restoration Act of 2005. I am joined in the introduction by Representatives MURTHA, ENGLISH, HART and PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

It is fitting that this bill be introduced on the same day that the House will pass comprehensive energy policy legislation. This bill has the dual benefit of cleaning up a terrible environmental and health situation at the same time that it increases our energy independence.

The Environmental Restoration Act of 2005 creates incentives for the cleanup of dangerous and unsightly waste coal, or gob, piles by utilizing the waste coal as a domestic energy source. The bill provides transferable tax credits for the clean and safe burning of waste coal as fuel for power generation. The bill will result in the creation of jobs, enhanced energy security, recycled energy recovery from waste coal, and restoration of blighted areas back to productive use.

I want to highlight the environmental benefits of the legislation. This bill will produce electricity with a recycled waste energy resource. It will help clean up abandoned gob piles. There is over one billion tons of waste coal available on the ground today. Land will be restored to green space or productive use. Stream quality will be improved by eliminating sedimentation and acid mine drainage. Electricity will be produced with emissions lower than regulatory requirements. Finally, the need and number of refuse disposal facilities will be reduced.

The bill applies to existing as well as planned and future waste coal processing facilities. Today such facilities exist not only in my State of Pennsylvania, but in Utah, West Virginia and Montana. I hope to see more of these efficient plants developed.

I want to give an example of one of the Pennsylvania facilities that would qualify for credits under my bill—the Beech Hollow Power Project in Washington, Pennsylvania. Beech Hollow is a waste coal-fired power generation facility located in Robinson Township. The project is constructed on a 38-acre site immediately adjacent to a gob pile. The power generated will be transmitted via an interconnection with a transmission line owned by West Penn Power. The project has strong state and local support. There is a 17-year supply of waste fuel for this plant.

Beech Hollow has received all of its state and federal clean air act permits, with the strong support of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. By using clean coal technology the plant and will exceed federal emission standards.

Beech Hollow will produce 252,000 kilowatts of net electrical power, derived from clean energy. This will be enough power to supply about 240,000 homes. In addition to the significant environmental benefits associated with the removal of this large source of groundwater contamination, the Beech Hollow Project will also have significant and diverse positive economic impacts throughout the local community. For instance, between construction and operation, it is estimated that the project will generate a total of 7,906 full-time equivalent job years of employment in Pennsylvania.

In the spirit of comprehensive energy policy and energy independence, I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. It is a prime example of how environmental protection and domestic energy use can go hand in hand.

HONORING DELFORD BOYER

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an exceptional man,

Mr. Delford Boyer, who passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2005. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife of 63 years, Dona Boyer, his son and daughter-in-law, Reg and Nancy Boyer, daughter and son-in-law, Jody and Roger Durand, daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Jim Maenner, his beloved grandchildren, Kristin, Molly, Aaron, Nick, Katie, Colin, Joslyn, and Marne and his brother Don and sister Shirley.

He was born in Cheney Nebraska on May 29, 1917 and served as a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force and with the U.S. Army Air Force in the China, Burma, India Theater during World War II. He was a recipient of the APTO Ribbon, Victory Medal, one Overseas Bar, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation I join all my colleagues today in expressing our sorrow and our thanks for the life and the service of Delford Boyer. His was a life full of love and grace. Words cannot express the grief of those whose lives he touched. He will be missed.

UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIME ACT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act with Congressman Bennie Thompson. As a former "Freedom Rider" in Mississippi during the 1960s, I have seen first hand the need for this bill.

While most are familiar with the recent prosecution of Edgar Ray Killen his participation in the slayings of Civil Rights workers James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, there are many other cases that aren't as well known or remain unsolved, like Emmett Till. These cases need to be investigated.

We as a Congress have a moral obligation to bring justice to the families of these victims. Furthermore, as a society based on laws, we have a responsibility to ensure that criminals don't go unpunished.

This bill creates a special section within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to focus specifically on unsolved pre-1970 Civil Rights' homicides. In addition, the bill authorizes up to \$5 million annually for this new section, which will provide States assistance with prosecuting Civil Rights era cases that have grown cold over time.

Unlike many other endeavors that have come before this House to address past racial injustice, this bill goes beyond mere rhetoric and "lip service" and provides an avenue to actually address Civil Rights' crimes.

Our country has come a long way since the 1960s. For example, seven states, since 1989, have reexamined 29 killings from the Civil Rights era, leading to 27 arrests and 22 convictions. However, as most are aware, there are still many unsolved homicides from that time period. And, while we can't go back in time, we can acknowledge our past transgressions and do our best to work towards correcting them.

"Justice delayed" is better than "Justice denied!"

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2005"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, an essential component of livable communities is the ability to avoid, withstand and quickly recover from disaster events. Today I am joined by my colleague from Pennsylvania, CURT WELDON, in introducing the Safe Communities Act 2005. This bill will give communities the tools to help them plan for and reduce the impact of disaster events.

The Safe Communities Act will create a new grant program to support state, local and regional planning activities aimed at reducing threats posed by natural and human-caused disasters. Grant-eligible projects include: comprehensive risk assessment and inventory of critical infrastructure, land-use planning for natural hazards and terrorism security, updating building codes and urban design techniques for risk-reduction. The bill will also create a research program to investigate the best practices in comprehensive land use and community planning aimed at reducing threats posed by natural hazards and acts of terror.

The number of people who live in harm's way is expanding dramatically; more properties and more lives are at risk from both natural and human-caused disasters. It is estimated that almost 75 percent of our communities are at risk for some type of natural disaster, be it wildfire, hurricane, flooding, or earthquake. Rising disaster-recovery costs impact us all: taxpayers, the financial services and insurance industry, as well as local communities.

Federal investment in natural disasters should include prevention and mitigation as well as response and recovery. Investment in prevention can save money in the long-term: The World Bank and U.S. Geological Survey have estimated that \$40 billion invested in risk reduction strategies could have saved as much as \$280 billion in worldwide economic losses from disasters in the 1990s—a \$7 return for each dollar invested.

I hope that this bill moves quickly through the legislative process so that the Federal Government can be a good partner to communities to help them prepare for and prevent natural disasters.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of one of our nation's most vital and successful social programs: Medicare. To this day, it remains one of the greatest accomplishments, providing near universal coverage to America's most vulnerable citizens.

Since its inception in 1965, Medicare has drastically reduced the number of Americans

living below the poverty line, and considerably reduced the financial burden on seniors and their families. The program has increased life expectancy among Americans, giving minorities greater access to health care, and given individuals with disabilities access to health care that was never previously available. All the while, this program has operated efficiently with our tax dollars. Administrative costs average less than two percent of expenditures, a fraction of what private insurance companies spend on such costs.

Yet while we have seen remarkable success in the last 40 years, we must ensure that the mission of Medicare is carried on through this new century. So far, this Congress has fallen woefully short. The Republican majority pushed through the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to provide prescription drug coverage to American seniors. A noble idea, but this law falls far short of the universal coverage and prohibits the government from using common sense negotiation strategies to keep drug costs low.

As future generations reflect on the legacy of this Congress, in many respects it will be shaped by the commitments—rather than the rhetoric—that we make to our seniors. Medicare is a program that offers stability and hope for millions. It is our responsibility to continue the strong history Medicare has built. Let's give America's seniors the drug and medical coverage that they deserve.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to celebrate August 6, 1965, the day President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the historic Voting Rights Act. It and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are two of the most significant civil rights statutes ever enacted. Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to protect the voting rights of all Americans and ended the techniques that had been used for decades to deny millions of minorities the right to vote.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, those in the civil rights movement worked to get basic civil rights and voting rights enacted into statute. The cost for those in the movement was high: church burnings, bombings, shootings, and beatings. It required the ultimate sacrifice of ordinary Americans: James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner who simply sought to register voters and Jimmie Lee Jackson whose death precipitated the famous march from Selma to Montgomery.

After the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted, those in the civil rights movement turned their attention to the importance of obtaining voting rights. The struggle for voting rights led nonviolent civil rights marchers to gather on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965—a day that would come to be known as “Bloody Sunday” when the bravery of the marchers was tested by a brutal response, with many marchers being beaten.

The Voting Rights Act provided extensive protections by prohibiting any voting practice

that serves as an impediment to the right to vote, such as: intimidation, voter harassment, poll taxes, literacy tests, language barriers, racial gerrymandering and other tools of disenfranchisement. It also provided for criminal and civil sanctions against persons interfering with the right to vote.

It is clear that the Voting Rights Act has been a great success. Consider the statistics. At the time the Act was adopted, only one-third of all African Americans of voting age were on the registration rolls in the specially covered states, while two-thirds of eligible whites were registered. In some states, fewer than five percent of African Americans were registered.

Today, African American voter registration rates are approaching parity with that of whites in many areas, and Hispanic voters in jurisdictions added to the list of those specially covered by the Act in 1975 are not far behind. Also, thanks to the Voting Rights Act, today there are 81 members of Congress of African American, Latino, Asian and Native American descent, and thousands of minorities in elected offices around the country. Despite the progress from 40 years of enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, voter inequities, disparities, and obstacles still remain for far too many minority voters.

It is important that we recognize this significant anniversary because The Voting Rights Act is an expression of important American values—equality, nondiscrimination, fairness, and ensuring the full participation in our society by everyone. Therefore, I celebrate this anniversary with pride and reflection knowing that although we have come a long way, we still have great distance to go in order to fulfill our nation's ideals of equality and equal opportunity.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, DR-CAFTA is good for our country, and good for Kansas. The market access provisions of the agreement will remove remaining trade barriers in the region that raise the cost of Kansas exports, and will keep Kansas exporters competitive internationally. According to the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, exports of manufactured and non-manufactured products from Kansas to the Central American region totaled \$23 million in 2004. That figure will grow after the signatories to the agreement implement DR-CAFTA. For manufactured goods, duties on 80 percent of U.S. exports to the Central American region will be eliminated immediately, with the remaining duties phased out over a period of up to 10 years. Manufactured goods accounted for 89 percent of Kansas' exports in goods to the DR-CAFTA countries last year, and Kansas will continue to benefit under the market access provisions of DR-CAFTA.

Additionally, DR-CAFTA will open markets for American agricultural goods. For agricul-

tural products, duties on over 50 percent of U.S. exports would be eliminated immediately upon implementation of DR-CAFTA, with the rest phased out over a period of up to 20 years. Together, the DR-CAFTA countries are Kansas' 11th largest market for crop exports. This agreement will benefit Kansas farmers.

As a transportation hub, the Kansas City metro area, which is ideally situated on the banks of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers and home to hundreds of miles of commercial rail lines and highways, will play a critical role in moving Kansas exports to market.

Finally, trade liberalization benefits American consumers. Greater movements of goods and services between the United States and other nations increases competition and applies downward pressure on prices, which will help keep inflation at historically low levels. Though the importance of international trade on subduing inflation should not be overstated, neither should it be dismissed. Increased competition, together with a reduction in production costs, can reduce the prices for consumer goods and services in our country.

The global integration of markets for goods and services, referred to as “globalization,” is a fact of modern life. As we enter the twenty-first century, the pace of globalization is accelerating. The United States has been a global leader in international trade for decades. And our country is well positioned to shape the direction of globalization if we continue to engage with the rest of the world.

In theory, international trade can raise standards of living and efficiently allocate resources between nations. In reality, the potential benefits and drawbacks of trade are usually addressed within the language of trade agreements. Each trade agreement that the United States considers entering into with our trading partners needs to be examined carefully on the merits of the agreement. While I have concerns with DR-CAFTA, I believe the potential benefits of the agreement outweigh its potential deficiencies. For that reason, I plan to vote in favor of DR-CAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago several of the DR-CAFTA countries, each of which has its own unique history and culture, were mired in civil war and suffering from deplorable human rights abuses. The region has come a long way over the last two decades, but there is more work to be done. By passing DR-CAFTA, we have an opportunity to help the region in its progress toward greater freedom and economic prosperity. As former President Jimmy Carter wrote in expressing his strong support for DR-CAFTA: “For the first time ever, we have a chance to reinforce democracies in the region. This is the moment to move forward and to help those leaders that want to modernize and humanize their countries. Moreover, strong economies in the region are the best antidote to illegal immigration from the region.”

DR-CAFTA has the potential to create jobs in the region, raise standards of living for the citizens in the DR-CAFTA countries, and further stabilize what has been an unstable region. Defeat of this trade agreement will have devastating consequences for the region, which will likely lose textile and apparel jobs to countries with lower wages and weaker worker protections. Turning our backs on the DR-CAFTA countries is counterproductive, both for the Central American region and for America, while engagement holds the promise of future benefits in our hemisphere.

While DR-CAFTA will bring tangible benefits to both the United States and the Central American region, there are chapters in the agreement that could have been improved as this process unfolded. I am disappointed that there was not more consultation with Congress as the administration negotiated the agreement. Members of both parties have concerns regarding DR-CAFTA's labor provisions. Although the agreement subjects failure to enforce labor laws to binding dispute settlement, which could lead to fines or sanctions, greater protections of workers' rights should have been made subject to binding dispute settlement.

In addition, while Congress will provide \$20 million in funding for capacity building efforts in the DR-CAFTA countries to help those nations implement and enforce the provisions of the agreement, \$20 million is not enough. More funding will be needed in future years to help the DR-CAFTA countries enforce the laws that protect workers, including children, from potentially dangerous work conditions.

I am also disappointed that the agreement does not confront the reality of globalization's negative consequences here at home. Trade agreements need to do more to help workers transition from jobs in distressed industries to new jobs in areas that stand to benefit from our modern economy. I would like to see greater efforts to retrain displaced workers. I look forward to working with the administration to help American workers remain competitive and employed well into the twenty-first century.

Mr. Speaker, globalization is a fact of life in our country and the rest of the world in 2005. It is part of a broad, long trend toward global economic integration. The United States should embrace its historic role as a global leader in international trade and seek to shape the path of a trend that will continue to unfold ready or not. The United States has the strongest economy and the best workforce in the world. We are well positioned to succeed throughout the twenty-first century. DR-CAFTA is not a perfect trade agreement. But it is a step in the right direction for the future of our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY SGT MICHAEL SCHAFFER OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Army Staff Sergeant Michael Schaffer of Spring Hill, FL. Sgt. Schaffer was killed by enemy fire July 25, 2005 in Oruzgan, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his loving wife Danielle, parents Karen and Dan Barr, brother Tim, and grandparents Ron Forbes and Stan and Loretta Barr. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sgt. Schaffer was a true American hero.

A volunteer for the army in 1999, Sgt. Schaffer performed his basic training at Fort Benning, GA and Airborne training in Fort Bragg, NC. After he completed his training,

Sgt. Schaffer served in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as Kosovo. A proud member of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Sgt. Schaffer was one of the first paratroopers to jump into Kirkuk, Iraq during the March, 2003 invasion. Sgt. Schaffer served nine months in Iraq before being transferred to Afghanistan, and had expressed interest in going back to Iraq to be where the action was.

In addition to serving honorably in the United States Army, Sgt. Schaffer was a true and dedicated family man. Married to his wife Danielle within a week of shipping out to Kosovo, the couple was in constant contact throughout his tours of duty. At the time of his death, Sgt. Schaffer and his wife were looking to adopt a baby.

As a sign of the love for his family, Sgt. Schaffer wrote a poem to his mother before he left for basic training.

Mother, there comes a time in every boy's life when he leaves the warmth of the nest. Perhaps to look for all your qualities in his future wife; or join the working class like the rest. I am standing here before you this very day. To let you know when I leave not to fear, because I will never be that far away. And you will always be near and dear to my heart, it is where I will keep your love. I know that the bond that we have between us cannot be torn apart, and when I think of you so beautiful like a white dove, I want you to know that as I leave for the Army, if you are feeling scared, do not be afraid to show it. Your love for me won't let any one harm me. I will be back home before you know it.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sgt. Schaffer's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not be returning home. I can offer them this pledge, however; that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sgt. Schaffer made serving his country.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE BENEFITS AND IMPORTANCE OF FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AND THE MEDICAID PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR SUCH CENTERS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today calling attention to the essential work of America's community health centers in providing quality affordable health care to people served by the Medicaid program and the nation's uninsured. I am pleased to be joined today by my colleague, the gentleman from New York, Mr. TOWNS, and a number of my House colleagues in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers will celebrate their 40th anniversary this year as will the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Among these programs, Medicaid and community health centers enjoy a special relationship, as twin pillars of a broad effort to improve health care for poor, minority, and un-

der-served Americans. The two programs in fact are specifically designed to work in tandem with one another to make access to quality health care a reality for the nation's most vulnerable populations.

Recognizing the importance of this unique relationship, the Congress in 1989 made health center services a guaranteed benefit under Medicaid. In 2000, I joined with a bipartisan majority of colleagues in the Congress to once again reaffirm the importance of this relationship by supporting legislation that created the health center Medicaid Prospective Payment System. As the Congress intended, this payment system has allowed health centers to provide and expand primary care and preventive services to more people in need, while promoting efficient operation of and ensuring adequate Medicaid reimbursement for these centers.

Today, because of Congress's wise actions, community health centers help to form the backbone of America's health care safety net, providing quality health care to 15 million underserved individuals nationwide, nearly 6 million of whom are enrolled in Medicaid.

In my own State of Mississippi, health centers are the family doctor and medical home for more than 300,000 individuals, more than a third of whom are covered by Medicaid.

However, health centers are doing more than just providing affordable quality health care to and improving the health status of the Nation's vulnerable populations, they are also delivering cost savings to taxpayers and to all payers of health center services. To be sure, health centers' costs rank among the lowest, and health centers are effectively reducing the need for more expensive hospital in-patient and specialty care. In addition, dozens of studies over the past three decades have found that health centers save the Medicaid program 30 percent or more in total annual spending per beneficiary, compared to other providers. Studies have also shown that the cost of treating Medicaid patients through health centers is 26 to 40 percent lower for prescription drugs costs.

Mr. Speaker, I believe health centers are a top priority of President Bush and this Congress because they undoubtedly are providing cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved and because they are a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system. I urge my colleagues to show their support for America's community health centers by supporting this important legislation.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICAN-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement and encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing its ratification. Trade agreements of this magnitude must not be entered into lightly, and their impact must be investigated thoroughly.

I have studied this issue in great detail, Mr. Speaker. Over the last several months, I have heard from a great number of my constituents; some support the agreement and believe that it will have significant economic and social benefits for the United States, others oppose this agreement because they are concerned that the environmental and labor costs are too great.

I oppose the ratification of CAFTA because it does not adequately protect American interests, ensure that our trading partners will protect our shared environment, provide protection for the rights of workers, or join us in our fight to ensure intellectual property protections.

Mr. Speaker, a globalized economy in which goods and services move with relative ease across national borders is a fact of life in the 21st Century. As New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman has said, "Globalization is not a phenomenon. It is not just some passing trend. Today it is an overarching international system shaping the domestic politics and foreign relations of virtually every country, and we need to understand it as such."

I support trade that is free and fair. And in fact, I have supported each of the individual trade agreements that have come before me. However, to be free and fair a trading regime must ensure that American workers are not competing with nations whose labor and environmental standards guarantee that we cannot compete, and where the intellectual capital of our people is stolen at will. And we must have an Administration that is willing to use all the force of its office to enforce the standards which are set. The dynamism of the American economy, the quality and dedication of American workers, and the constant renewal of American society through immigration have left us in a unique position to thrive in this new economic world. The challenges for the United States are how to draft good trade agreements, enforce their terms, prepare our work force to deal with globalization, and ensure that our workers have the opportunity to fairly compete.

Regrettably, I lack confidence in the Bush administration's willingness to fight for a level playing field on behalf of American workers. For this reason and because I believe that Congress should play a role in shaping trade agreements, I opposed passage of "Trade Promotion Authority" in 2002. I do not believe that we should be forced to accept a flawed deal, or reject a good deal that has some shortcomings. Nor can we accept half-hearted efforts to enforce labor, environmental or intellectual property provisions—or, as is too often the case, no effort at all.

Mr. Speaker, one area of particular concern to my constituents is the lack of adequate protection for American intellectual property. One of our greatest exports is in the area of creative content and intellectual property. In fact, this has been the only area in which we have had a positive balance of trade with every nation on earth; China is now the only exception. This incredible creative reservoir is derived from the hard work of song writers, technicians, artists, programmers, software makers, musicians, filmmakers and scores of others who make their living from the lawful sale of these items. It is critical that these resources are protected, and the Administration has not adequately sought to put in place or enforce the protections necessary to shield America's creators from intellectual property theft.

I have reviewed the CAFTA agreement that was signed on May 28, 2004, and I have listened to concerns over labor, environmental, and intellectual property issues that have been expressed by my constituents and others. I have also listened to those, including former President Jimmy Carter, who support the agreement, and argue that it will create jobs here and expand democracy and opportunity for our Central American neighbors. Ultimately, however, I am not convinced that CAFTA is a mutually beneficial agreement that protects our hemisphere's workers, environment, and intellectual property, and particularly so when the Administration has such a lackluster record on enforcement.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in opposing the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Mr. Speaker, it is possible to work with our Central American neighbors to develop stronger trade ties, collectively protect workers and our environment, spur economic development throughout the trade cooperative, and enter into an agreement that benefits all interested parties. Unfortunately, CAFTA falls short in all of these areas.

TRIBUTE TO SPARTA, INC.

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sparta, Inc on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, Sparta is an employee owned firm that provides world-class technical products and services to the Defense, Aerospace, Intelligence, and Homeland Security Sectors of the Federal Government.

Sparta began operations in 1979 in the Huntsville, Alabama home of Wayne Winton. Today, it has fourteen offices and approximately fourteen hundred employees across the Nation.

In Alabama, Sparta works with the Space and Missile Defense Command's Future Warfare Center, Technical Center, and Technology Integration Center. By providing technical, programmatic, and acquisition support to many of SMDC's programs they make a significant contribution to our Nation's defense capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sparta and all of their employees on twenty-five years of service to our military and our country. On behalf of the House of Representatives and everyone in North Alabama, I thank them for their commitment to the war fighter and the security of our Nation.

BUSINESSMAN, TEACHER, ROLE MODEL

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on August 19, 2005, Sam Gordon will celebrate his 90th birthday, surrounded by his loving wife of 66 years, Carolyn, his family and his friends. I rise today to honor Sam, who continues to be

an inspiration and a blessing to all who know him.

Sam Gordon is the son of a milkman, and his friendly, welcoming manner was forged during the trips he made as a young man to the homes of his customers in Worcester, Massachusetts. The oldest of four children born to Russian immigrant parents Pearl and Reuben Gordon, Sam has the curiosity and creativity that belies his senior citizen status. After working his way through the University of Michigan with a series of part-time jobs, Sam graduated as an English Major in 1937. He then joined his father's milk business and quickly developed a new concept—selling frozen food items, which were just becoming available with the invention of refrigeration. Sam's idea to offer frozen food along with milk, cream and cottage cheese led to the formation of a successful new business, R. Gordon and Sons, a wholesale frozen food company which sold frozen strawberries, juice, ice cream and other products to supermarkets, schools and hospitals.

Despite his demanding work schedule, Sam was a leader in his synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel in Worcester. He served as president of the Congregation, president of the Congregation's brotherhood, and president of the New England Region Men's Club. Prayer and community service continue to be central parts of Sam's everyday life. For the past five years, he has developed and run a senior learning initiative where he teaches Yiddish classes to many adult learners throughout Worcester, including classes at his synagogue, independent and assisted living buildings, and at the local Jewish Community Center, where some of his students are still in middle school. At the synagogue, he continues to be responsible for many creative ideas and fundraising projects. As always, his wife Carolyn plays the indispensable supporting role for Sam's many projects.

Whenever he had the opportunity, Sam set out with his wife to travel to interesting places around the world. They visited Europe, Israel, China, Thailand, and Singapore. Before he embarked on his journeys, Sam always thoroughly researched points of interest, including cooking and stained glass classes and local wineries. In his retirement, Sam continues his love of music by playing the organ and more recently taking lessons on his new keyboard. An Internet aficionado since the mid-1990's, Sam is online everyday, keeping current with news and trends. He continues to amaze his grandchildren with his up-to-the-minute knowledge of the latest developments in art, literature, and popular culture. Sam attends synagogue services daily and prayer is a powerful force in his life.

Sam is a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Carolyn, and he shares his zest for life through his honesty, integrity, knowledge, and sensitivity to his family and community. Sam's beloved mother, Pearl, taught him these values, instilling in him the importance of establishing "a good name" and reputation that stood for righteousness and respect for others. As his ninetieth birthday approaches, the name "Sam Gordon" is synonymous with these enduring American values.

Sam and Carolyn have two children, Nancy and Joel; four grandchildren, Ellen, Mark, Jennifer and Jessica; and two great-grandchildren, Ari and Abigail.

I am pleased to join with Sam's family and friends to honor this great American on his ninetieth birthday.

COMMENDING CONGRESSMAN
DAVID OBEY FOR HIS DEDICA-
TION TO THE GREAT LAKES ICE
BREAKER REPLACEMENT
PROJECT

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. New Englanders are accustomed to harsh winters. We know all too well that frozen rivers and blocked harbors can impede tankers carrying goods and barges laden with home heating oil stocks, resulting in lost commerce and putting lives in danger.

The people of the Great Lakes are no strangers to these problems too—which is why I am so pleased that the state-of-the-art Ice Breaker *Mackinaw* was recently delivered to the U.S. Coast Guard. The *Mackinaw* replacement project couldn't have happened without the support and hard work of our colleague, and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, DAVE OBEY.

As many of my colleagues know, the new *Mackinaw* replaces a World War II-era ice-breaker of the same name. For 60 years, she never missed a winter. However, the elements were beginning to take their toll on the ship, and it was becoming clear that a replacement vessel was needed.

Toward that end, Congressman OBEY has worked tirelessly to ensure the Coast Guard got the funding it needed for the Great Lakes Ice Breaker replacement project. His involvement with all aspects of the project—from concept to commissioning—means that the newly christened *Mackinaw* will continue the legacy of her namesake well into the 21st century.

But the *Mackinaw* is more than just an ice breaker. It is a homeland security platform complete with the necessary tools to carry out law enforcement operations on the Great Lakes. Additionally, its expanded decks will allow the cutter to tend to the lakes more than 2,500 navigational aids.

Without Congressman OBEY's leadership we'd still be waiting to commence construction of the new *Mackinaw*. In the meantime, the lakes would have continued to freeze-over and access to vital harbors would have been blocked. The result would have been millions of dollars of lost commerce and lost livelihoods. The people of the Great Lakes region and the Nation—as well as the U.S. Coast Guard—are truly the beneficiaries of his stewardship.

HONORING LOUISIANA EMPLOYER
AGGREKO'S NATIONAL REPAIR
TEAM—RECIPIENT OF THE MAN-
UFACTURING EXTENSION PART-
NERSHIP OF LOUISIANA'S SEC-
OND ANNUAL PACE AWARD

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, our local economies are greatly enhanced by the products, services and jobs that are created from the commitment and dedication of our local manufacturers. The manufacturer that I am recognizing today takes great pride in its contributions to the local community, as well as to the Nation, and demonstrates excellence through ongoing improvement in manufacturing and business management.

Aggreko's National Repair Team, located in New Iberia, Louisiana, provides major repairs and reconditioning of power generators and air compressors for Aggreko locations throughout North America. This local manufacturer has made significant advances in driving productivity and quality throughout their organization. In acknowledgement of these accomplishments, Aggreko will be honored by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana, MEPoL, with the second annual Platinum Award for Continued Excellence, PACE Award.

MEPoL, a non-profit business resource based at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, serves to provide business and technical assistance to emerging and established manufacturing firms throughout the State of Louisiana. Since 1997, MEPoL, based on a philosophy of education, encouragement, and empowerment, has worked with manufacturers such as Aggreko to increase their productivity and profitability.

Working with MEPoL, Aggreko's National Repair Team has built a foundation for excellence through the principles of "Lean Manufacturing." By embracing this systematic approach for identifying waste and eliminating non-value added activities through continuous improvement, Aggreko has demonstrated leadership and set the stage for future growth and development. Their dedication to excellence is the reason that they are the recipients of MEPoL's second annual PACE award.

I congratulate Aggreko's National Repair Team, a local manufacturing leader whose significant organizational advancements and commitment to success has led to this outstanding achievement.

UNITED STATES TRADE RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting against H.R. 3283.

While I too am concerned about China's compliance with its trade commitments and the surge of Chinese imports into the United States, the legislation being considered today

is unfortunately a false promise to address those concerns instead of real action that will become law and bring China to the table to correct these problems. In particular, the bill does nothing to address currency manipulation.

I remain strongly supportive of strengthening our trade laws and enforcing the laws we currently have on the books. In particular, I have been supportive of taking action to require cash deposits from new shippers of goods in anti-dumping cases to avoid defaults. This provision affects several domestic industries, and it is certainly important to honey producers in North Dakota and the nation. I hope this provision is passed as a stand-alone bill or included in legislation in the near future that addresses the compliance issues with our trading partners in a meaningful way.

TRIBUTE TO DENISE SNYDER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Denise Snyder on a lifetime of service to the youngest residents of my district. Ms. Snyder recently retired after 17 years as Director of the C.C. Children's Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

During her tenure at the Center, Ms. Snyder guided over 1,500 children through their formative years. She embraced the children and their families, personally guiding them through their challenges and successes. Ms. Snyder ensured that the Center provided children with a nurturing environment that fostered cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development.

Ms. Snyder worked tirelessly to ensure that her doors were always open to children who needed the Center. She welcomed children of all races and religions, providing them with an environment where they could feel safe and loved. Her careful planning and outstanding leadership have earned the Center national accreditation from the National Association for Early Childhood Education.

Ms. Snyder has earned the trust and affection of her students and the respect and devotion of her staff. Her work sets an example for early childhood educators, and she has my gratitude for her many contributions to the Montgomery County community.

Mr. Speaker, there are too few people in this world with a heart as warm or as big as Denise Snyder's, and I am pleased to recognize her for her contributions to her community.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST AT- TACKS IN SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT ON JULY 23, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the victims and their families after last Saturday's depraved and savage terrorist attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. I

also rise to pledge my and the rest of the House of Representative's steadfast support of the people of Egypt as they stand resolute in the face of terror.

On July 23, 2005, a series of explosions throughout Sharm el-Sheikh; Egypt, resulted in the death of eighty four civilians and injured hundreds of others.

These murderers, whoever they are, have an absolute disregard for human life. They deliberately kill innocent people. These explosions were strategically placed in public areas, to kill the maximum number of people.

Sadly, we should not be surprised by the barbaric attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh. We have seen it before. We experienced our own tragedy from terrorism, losing 3,000 of our own citizens in one awful morning. Across the ocean that same fashion evil touched London, and fifty two people died with hundreds of others injured.

We are engaged in a global struggle against an apocalyptic radicalism that will take not only military power, but also the power of our ideology that values freedom and diversity. The latest attack in Egypt changes nothing. We still stand strong in the face of terror. We remain loyal to finding the terrorist wherever they may be, and capturing them from behind the rocks and shadows where they hide.

Egypt has been a strong and faithful ally throughout the war on terror. Her resolve is only strengthened by this latest attack. Our Egyptian friends will continue to fight terrorist with the same devotion they have already shown. Today we see the character Egyptians share. Many Egyptians returned to their public facilities the very next day, unafraid of the terrorists.

I have no doubt that our two nations will continue to face down terrorists and extremists. Our cause, which speaks to the noblest parts of the human soul, will win, just as it has throughout our shared times past.

May God bless America and Egypt.

COMMENTS BY A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, too often, violence claims innocent lives in our world. We have seen suffering on our own soil, and all over the world in places like Indonesia, Israel, Palestine, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and recently, England. Amid this instability, for a Representative in the United States Congress to even hypothetically suggest that the United States would destroy Mecca, a holy site of one of the world's major religions, serves only to exacerbate the impression that U.S. actions in the Muslim world are part of a religious struggle—certainly a step backwards in national security. Sadly, such statements also perpetuate the unfortunate misunderstanding that an entire religion is responsible for the actions of a minority of religious extremists. These reckless comments do not reflect American values, and irresponsibly put American security at risk.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, 40 years ago, in many parts of the American South, it was almost impossible for people of color to register to vote. Just 40 years ago, people of color had to pay a poll tax and pass a so-called literacy test in some States in the South. There were black men and women who were professors in colleges and universities, black lawyers and black doctors who were told that they could not read or write well enough to register to vote. People were turned away from the courthouse when they attempted to register. Some were jailed.

Forty years ago, on March 7, 1965, about 600 black men and women, and a few young children attempted to peacefully march from Selma, Al, to Montgomery, to the State Capital, to dramatize to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. And the world watched as we were met with night sticks, bull whips; we were trampled by horses and tear gassed.

Eight days after what became known as Bloody Sunday, President Johnson came to this very Chamber and spoke to a joint session of Congress. He started off that speech on March 15, 1965 by saying: "I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy." President Johnson went on to say: "At times, history and fate come together to shape a turning point in a man's unending search for freedom. So it was more than a century ago at Lexington and at Concord. So it was at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama."

And during that speech, 40 years ago, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma, and called on Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act. Echoing the words of the civil rights movement, he closed his speech by saying "And we shall overcome."

Forty years ago, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and on August 6, 1965, it was signed into law.

Because of the action of Congress and the leadership of a President and the courage of hundreds and thousands of our citizens, we have witnessed a nonviolent revolution in America, a resolution of values, a revolution of ideas. The passage of the Voting Rights Act helped expand our democracy and open up our democracy to let in millions of our citizens.

We still need to keep the voting rights act strong. The Voting Rights Act must be reauthorized. Not just reauthorized, it must be renewed and strengthened. The vote is the most powerful, nonviolent tool that our citizens have in a democratic society, and nothing, but nothing, should interfere with the right of every citizen to vote and have their vote count.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the right to vote in America is a history of conflict, of struggling for the right to vote. Many people died trying to protect that right.

For millions like me, the struggle for the right to vote is not mere history; it is experience. The experience of minorities today tells us that the struggle is not over and that the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 216, a resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which I introduced with my colleagues from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CHABOT and Mr. NADLER. In that resolution, we pledge to "advance the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Act to protect the voting rights of all Americans."

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the voting rights of all Americans.

Today we celebrate how far we have come. We celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain famously said that one of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives. This is certainly the case with respect to one of the most persistent slanders against the State of Israel: the contention that on June 8, 1967, the Israel Defense Forces intentionally attacked a U.S. Naval Intelligence vessel, the USS *Liberty*.

Fortunately that lie has been put to rest once and for all by the careful and exhaustive research of the Honorable A. Jay Cristol, a distinguished judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. His careful research of the *Liberty* incident clearly demonstrates that this tragedy was the result of mistaken identity at the height of the Six Day War, when Israel's very survival was at stake.

This conclusion is in line with the conclusions of 10 official U.S. investigations—including five congressional investigations—that there was never any evidence that the attack was made with knowledge that the target was a U.S. ship. There is substantial evidence the attack was a tragic mistake caused by errors on the part of both the U.S. and Israel.

On June 8, 1967, at the height of the Six Day War, a U.S. Naval intelligence vessel, the USS *Liberty*, strayed into the waters 14 miles off the Sinai Peninsula, near El Arish. The Israel Defense Forces, having incorrectly identified it as an Egyptian vessel engaged in an attack of Israeli forces, attacked the *Liberty*, killing and wounding some of the crew.

As a U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry found, "Available evidence combines to indicate that the attack on LIBERTY on 8 June was in fact a case of mistaken identity."

No one with an open mind can read the evidence amassed by Judge Cristol and reach any other conclusion. Nonetheless, the conspiracy theories persist.

Conspiracy theories tend to have a life of their own. They can never be disproved. If there is no evidence supporting the conspiracy, then it is proof of a coverup. If there is evidence proving there was no conspiracy,

that is also proof of a coverup. Either way, evidence disproving a conspiracy theory only proves to believers that the conspiracy really exists.

No one denies that this incident was a terrible tragedy, but some have sought to exploit a case of mistaken identity by insisting that the Israeli military knew that the *Liberty* was a U.S. naval vessel, and attacked it on purpose. Despite the complete absence of any credible evidence to support this outrageous claim, it continues to be repeated as if it were true.

Judge Cristol has done a tremendous service with his work. It is my hope that his book, "The Liberty Incident: The 1967 Attack on the U.S. Navy Spy Ship," which was the result of more than 14 years of research, will finally lay to rest this slander against one of our Nation's most reliable allies.

RECOGNIZING THE L.A. HOMPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist temple and its members as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary. The temple is located in downtown Los Angeles in my 34th Congressional District.

The Temple, which began in 1905 in Little Tokyo on Jackson Street and Central Avenue, was established due to the strong and faithful desire of the followers of the teachings of Buddha to have a place to congregate after emigrating from Japan. The Issei (first generation) pioneers brought with them their Japanese culture, traditions, customs, and their Buddhist religion.

In 1925, a new temple was built on the corner of First and Central streets. The Temple, fondly called "Nishi" by Buddhists in Southern California, is currently housed in a traditional Japanese-style temple building on First Street in the eastern sector of Little Tokyo. Nishi is one of sixty temples around the United States that make up the Buddhist Churches of America.

Since its inception, Nishi has continuously served its members and the Little Tokyo community. Even during World War II, when the Temple was used as an initial assembly site for many of the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the west coast of the United States to internment camps, the Temple provided the evacuees a haven to safely store their belongings until after the war. Throughout their internment, Nishi ministers continued to administer to the faithful Buddhist members.

Today, the Temple offers Sunday services, as well as services for weddings, funerals, and family memorials. Nishi also provides a children's day care center, and community programs for youth and adults, such as sports and cultural activities.

The Centennial Anniversary Celebration commemorates the dedication and commitment of the Issei pioneer members that laid the foundation of the Temple. It also commemorates the hard work of succeeding generations that built the Temple as it stands today. The addition of the new Wisteria Chap-

el and the Murjo Koju-do (nokotsudo-columbarium) were built as a centennial project to commemorate the pioneering members and to continue the legacy of the Issei for future generations. The Dedication Service of this new addition to the Temple will be part of the Centennial Celebration weekend of August 27–29, 2005. Nishi members will also conduct a memorial service in honor of past members and ministers and host an evening banquet.

I congratulate the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and its members on reaching this historic milestone, and I join them in celebrating their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act of 2005.

The Act will help to right a historic wrong that occurred during the construction of the Oahe dam and reservoir, depriving the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of some of their best lands and failing to provide adequate compensation.

Recognizing these past wrongs, Congress moved to compensate the tribe in 2000 by establishing a trust fund. While these actions were commendable, they left one important group behind—tribal members that lost privately owned lands. This act would correct that omission and allow the tribe to distribute funds to individuals who are currently prohibited from receiving them.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act would provide just compensation for the taking of lands over 50 years ago. I urge its swift consideration and passage.

RECOGNITION OF FINN GRAND FEST 2005

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a festival in my district in northern Michigan that honors the history, heritage, culture and contributions of American-Finnish and Canadian-Finnish people. This joint U.S./Canadian Finnish festival to be held on August 10–14, 2005, in Marquette, Michigan gives the Finnish communities in the U.S. as well as Canada the opportunity to experience activities, educational programs, worship opportunities, musical entertainment, cultural displays and a parade based around the theme "Heritage Powers the Future".

The Finn Grand Fest 2005 is the second time FinnFest USA and Finnish Canadian Grand Festival will have participated in a joint, international event. The first occasion took place five years ago in Toronto, Canada. Planning committees from both countries have expressed interest in holding a joint festival held

every five years as a new tradition. The Canadian festival is considerably older than its U.S. counterpart having first been organized in the 1940's as an influx of Finnish immigrants came to Canada to work. Although Finnish immigrants first came to the U.S. during the decades around 1900, FinnFest USA was not established until 1983 in Minneapolis, MN.

Since 1983, FinnFest USA has been held each year around the country except the 1½ year gaps before and after February 2004 when accommodations were made for a winter festival in Florida. Locations are determined by places where there is a strong Finnish community to organize the event. A large population of people of Finnish descent live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This will be the second time Marquette, Michigan has hosted the festival in the United States. They also hosted it in 1996. Other Michigan cities to host this event include: Hancock in 1985 and 1990 and Farmington Hills in the Detroit area in 1987. Other cities throughout the country include: Seattle, Washington (twice), Lake Worth, Florida (twice), Minneapolis, Minnesota (twice), Fitchburg, MA, Newark, DE, Thousand Oaks, CA, Portland, OR, and Portland, ME.

While Canadians have been able to maintain the use of the Finnish language in their current culture, the communities in the U.S. have unfortunately watched as the traditional language has been replaced by English. This happened over the generations as many families spoke Finnish at home but the children learned English in school. As time went on, English was the primary language used to communicate with non-Finns, taught in school and practiced at home. Canadians are facing the beginning phases of this trend that may result in the loss of native Finnish speakers in their country as well. Thankfully, there are still a number of people in Michigan's Upper Peninsula who still speak Finnish. In fact, my district is home to a weekly television program call "Finland Calling" hosted by Carl Pellonpaa. "Finland Calling" is a weekly show about Finnish heritage that has been on the air for 43 years.

Like the Finnish language, the original organizers of FinnFest are slowly slipping away. A major contributor from among the earliest generations was Dr. Sylvia Kinnunen who recently passed away on July 25, 2005. Despite her admired age of 84, she was an energetic force in the planning and execution as the Co-chair of Cultural Programs for Finn Grand Fest 2005. We appreciate her devotion to preserving Finnish culture and for her contributions to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She will be greatly missed.

Americans and Canadians are proud of their Finnish heritage and the Finnish people. FinnFest organizers have noted that even are non-Finns have taken active roles and in some cases are major contributors to the event. Among those non-Finns is the musical headliner White Water made up of a family of folk music artists from Amasa, Michigan. The Premos began incorporating Finnish influence in their music and even performed at a folk music festival in Finland last year. The premiere performances at the Finn Grand Fest 2005 include a solo by Evan Premo during a double bass concerto on Thursday, August 11 and 100 violinists of all ages performing at the opening ceremony organized by Evan's mother Bette Premo.

The esteem felt for the Premos by the local Finns is an example of the educational sharing

and overall embracing of non-Finns to the culture and heritage of the community. Aside from the encouragement of Finnish people to understand more about their own history and traditions, those involved with this festival hope that all people are able to enjoy and learn more about the Finns' unique ethnicity that has evolved in the American and Canadian societies throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, it has been due to the incredible insight, dedication, passion and innovation of the planning boards from the U.S. and Canada that have made this four-day joint festival possible. I am pleased Marquette has been chosen for the second time to host the U.S. festival and as the first American location for the joint festival—it is because Marquette is “Sisu”. I applaud the Finnish communities in both the United States and Canada for preserving their sense of identity into the next generation and, based on the theme “Heritage Powers the Future”, I applaud them for utilizing their past to power the direction of their culture for years to come. I wish the Finn Grand Fest 2005 the greatest success and look forward to participating in the event this August.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL
JAMES B. STOCKDALE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, a true American patriot and a great military veteran. Vice Admiral Stockdale passed away on July 5, 2005 at the age of 81 after a life of public service and sacrifice. He is survived by his beloved wife Mrs. Sybil B. Stockdale of Coronado, Calif., and his four sons.

I believe Gordon R. England, the Secretary of the Navy, eloquently described the legacy Mr. Stockdale has left behind: “Admiral Stockdale’s courage and life stand as timeless examples of the power of faith and the strength of the human spirit.”

I could not agree more and would like to share a few details of his extraordinary life. Vice Admiral Stockdale was born on Dec 23, 1923 in Abingdon, Ill. At the age of 24 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in the Class of 1947 and began his unmatched naval career. Among his many distinctions, Vice Admiral Stockdale is remembered for his remarkable leadership as the senior naval officer held in captivity during the Vietnam War.

On September 9, 1965, after flying more than 200 missions over Vietnam, he ejected over a small village after his plane was struck by anti-aircraft fire. He broke his left knee during the landing and it was broken a second time during his captivity.

During his 7½ year imprisonment, Vice Admiral Stockdale was tortured numerous times, was forced to wear heavy leg irons for over two years and spent four years in solitary confinement.

But his spirit and determination to survive never wavered. Despite the torture and abuse, he refused to participate in enemy propaganda films. Vice Admiral Stockdale’s extraordinary heroism became widely known when he was

awarded the Medal of Honor in 1976, only three years after his release.

His 26 combat awards included two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Distinguished Service Medals, two Purple Hearts and four Silver Stars. He is a member of the Navy’s Carrier Hall of Fame, the National Aviation Hall of Fame and an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. Stockdale received several honorary doctoral degrees.

He is the highest-ranking naval officer to wear both aviator wings and the Medal of Honor. His other accomplishments include earning a master’s degree from Stanford University and serving at the prestigious institution’s Hoover Institute for 15 years. He was also President of the Citadel for two years.

In 1992, he was a candidate for Vice President of the United States winning nearly 20 percent of the popular vote.

Mr. Speaker, I introduce this resolution today to recognize the great sacrifices Vice Admiral made protecting the freedoms of the United States and to recognize his commitment to public service. I would also like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family Mr. Stockdale left behind, including his wife and four sons.

His life serves as an inspiration to the many servicemen and women protecting our country at home and abroad. Vice Admiral Stockdale was admired and respected for his courage and unfaltering determination.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN KERFOOT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of New Jersey’s finest citizens, John Kerfoot, and to honor all that he has done for his fellow Americans.

John is a model citizen who devoted his life to serving his country and community. He fought bravely in the European Theater in World War Two, and was rightly honored with a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star for his service.

Upon his return, John Kerfoot committed himself to helping the great state of New Jersey. He has devoted time and energy to the Camden County Democratic Committee, the Office of the Aging, and the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. He has served as a Sergeant at Arms for the New Jersey State Senate, a Camden County Freeholder, and a Labor Compliance Inspector for the Camden County Community Development Program. Over the past fifty years, John has helped his hometown of Audubon by serving honorably with the Audubon Park Fire Company, the Audubon Board of Education, and the Audubon Park Borough Council.

Although John is an extremely busy man, he still finds time to bowl with his wife Anne. His skills are certainly not limited to bowling, however. He successfully boxed in the Golden Gloves Tournament in the early 1930’s, and even won the boxing championship at Fort Dix in 1932 at the age of seventeen.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor John Kerfoot today. He has certainly accomplished much in the past 90 years, and his ex-

emplary life of service is one to be admired. Moreover, it is a pleasure to call John a friend, and I wish him a very happy birthday, with the hope of many more to come.

SHERIFF LAWRENCE “LUMPY”
LEVEILLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement officer who 40 years ago began his dedicated career in St. Ignace, Michigan as a police officer and rose through the ranks to head the Mackinac County Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Lawrence “Lumpy” Leveille retired this past winter with eight service stars upon his epaulets, each representing five years on the force. Sheriff Leveille’s nearly 40 years as a law enforcement officer and leader stand as a shining example to us all.

Sheriff Leveille graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 1965 where in the 10th grade he was given the nickname “Lumpy”. Being native of the first city across the Mackinac Bridge from Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, it seemed fitting for Leveille to return to St. Ignace when he began his career as a police officer on May 25th, 1965. That same year on September 11, he married Ara Jean Litzner. Through the years, they have grown their family with five children and eleven grandchildren. After nine years of patrolling and protecting St. Ignace along the shores of the Straights of Mackinac, Leveille was promoted to Sergeant of the local police department.

Among his long list of accomplishments, Sheriff Leveille has decreased the number of drunk driving arrests thanks to new technology and better training for his officers, despite the increase in Mackinac County’s population. He has improved safety for residents and his officers because of new cameras installed on patrol cars and in booking rooms which have lead to a reduction in criminal trials. He was also able to achieve fast finger print and background searches to help officers as well as the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team. Sheriff Leveille’s staff of 22 and budget of about \$1.5 million made his department the largest in the county.

Although Sheriff Leveille’s career with the Mackinac County Sheriff’s Department has come to an end, he has continued to serve the public as a Mackinac County Commissioner. There he has and will continue to have an influence on local policy with the best interests of County residents in mind. Having worked with many of the people involved in the county’s administration, “Lumpy” Leveille’s transition to the Board has been smooth as he works to bring a better harmony to the system.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a former State Trooper myself, I have had the pleasure of knowing Sheriff Leveille over the years and can attest to his impeccable reputation of being a fair and honest protector of the people. I know that through his work he has encountered both exciting opportunities to grow with the community but also hard times when tragedy and tough times affected the area. He has given his heart and soul to his work and I have always admired his dedication to the people of Mackinac County and Michigan’s First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in thanking Sheriff Lawrence "Lumpy" Leveille for his nearly 40 years of service to the people of St. Ignace, Mackinac County and to the State of Michigan and wish him well in his new position. Lawrence "Lumpy" Leveille's commitment to community and to justice has been a model of public service.

A TRIBUTE TO ELMER HAMILTON

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Elmer Hamilton, a civil-rights activist, a crusader for labor rights, a loving husband, and a caring father and grandfather. On August 20, 2005, Elmer will retire from a 45-year career in community and public relations and the organized labor movement.

Mr. Hamilton's life of service began in 1953 when he enlisted in the Navy, eventually serving as a machinist mate. After his military service, Elmer's commitment to civil rights led him to work on voter registration drives in Alabama and Mississippi and organize against racial discrimination in Georgia. He also served as a special assistant to Southern Christian Leadership Conference leader Ralph David Abernathy during his congressional bid.

Elmer's served in various community relations capacities in New York and South Carolina providing educational and job placement services to community members. At one point he served as a community organizer for the Brooklyn, NY, Borough President.

After moving to Georgia, Elmer worked in public transportation as a bus operator for MARTA, the Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. He became the president of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 732 where he negotiated contracts for over 3,000 transit employees from MARTA, Cobb County Transit, and Gwinnett County Transit. When he retires, he will also leave his post as a board member of the AFL-CIO representing the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me, Elmer's wife, Peggy, his six children and two grandchildren in congratulating Elmer on a fulfilling career. Best wishes, Elmer, and enjoy your retirement.

MEDICAL DEVICE USER FEE STABILIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2002, the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act, MDUFMA, was signed into law.

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

MDUFMA amended the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, FFDCA, to authorize the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, to collect user fees from manufacturers who submit cer-

tain applications to market medical devices. The premise behind initiating a user fee program for medical devices was to provide for more timely and predictable review of medical device applications, as well as to make the necessary infrastructure investments required to conduct the review of increasingly complex medical device applications in the future in a timely and predictable fashion.

The FFDCA as amended by MDUFMA, authorizes FDA to collect user fees for certain medical device applications in FY 2006 and FY 2007 only if certain conditions are met. MDUFMA specifies that for FY 2006 fees may not be assessed if the total amounts appropriated for FY 2003 through FY 2005 for FDA's device and radiological health program did not meet certain targets. Appropriations for FY 2003 through FY 2005 for FDA's device and radiological health program were below the amount specified in MDUFMA. This legislation modifies those conditions, minimum appropriation levels for FY 2003 through FY 2005, to allow FDA to continue to collect user fees until October 1, 2007.

User fees make possible investments in information technology infrastructure and human capital, more comprehensive training for reviewers, greater use of experts in academia and the private sector, enhanced project management, increased guidance development, expanded participation in globalization and standards setting activities, and increased interaction with industry both before and during the application review process. As medical device applications become progressively more complex, this investment will become ever more necessary to keep up with performance standards that FDA has thus far been successful in meeting. Keeping the device review program on sound financial footing is essential to ensure timely and predictable review of medical device applications. Providing the device review program with sufficient resources to fulfill its mission is critical to ensure that patients have access to the latest and most effective technology.

The Committee also believes it is important to provide industry with predictable annual increases in application fees. Since the inception of MDUFMA, user fees for certain application types have increased dramatically from year to year. To address these concerns, H.R. 3423 will limit fee increases in FY 2006 and FY 2007 until MDUFMA sunsets on October 1, 2007. This legislation is designed to provide a transition until Congress reauthorizes the program in 2007. During deliberations on the reauthorization of the program the Committee on Energy and Commerce recognizes the need to consider comprehensive changes to the structure of the program to provide for stability and predictability in both application fees and fee revenues for companies that pay user fees and for the FDA.

II. ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 3423 removes the requirement that the total amounts appropriated for FY 2003 through FY 2005 for FDA's device and radiological health program must meet levels specified in MDUFMA before FDA can collect user fees in FY 2006 and FY 2007. As a result, FDA will be able to collect user fees in FY 2006. To avoid similar problems in FY 2007, FDA may continue to collect user fees as long as appropriations are not more than 1 percent below the target amount.

This legislation also provides industry with greater predictability as to the amount by

which fees will increase over the next two fiscal years. The fee rate for a premarket approval application (PMA) will increase by 8.5 percent in FY 2006 to \$259,600 and by 8.5 percent in FY 2007 to \$281,600. Small businesses will receive additional financial relief by expanding the definition of a small business to include entities that reported \$100,000,000 or less of gross receipts or sales in their most recent Federal income tax return for a taxable year, except that the small business threshold for an entity to be eligible for a first time, full-fee waiver for a PMA application will remain at \$30,000,000. For FY 2006 and FY 2007, FDA will report to Congress on the number of different applications and notifications, and the total amount of fees paid for each type, from businesses with gross receipts or sales at or below \$100,000,000.

To provide FDA with a measure of financial security should fee revenues fall short of current projections, the agency may use unobligated carryover balances from fees collected in previous fiscal years if the following conditions are met: (1) Insufficient fee revenues are available in that fiscal year, (2) the agency maintains unobligated carryover balances of not less than one month of operating reserves for the first month of FY 2008, and (3) the agency sends a notice to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives at least 14 days prior to using these funds. To ensure that funds are not directed away from device safety activities, FDA must certify that the amounts spent by the agency for salaries and expenses to perform device-related activities not pertaining to the review of applications are no less than the amounts spent on those functions in FY 2002 multiplied by the rate of inflation.

Section 301 of MDUFMA added a new subsection (u) to section 502 of the FFDCA that required devices or attachments to a device prominently and conspicuously to bear the name of the manufacturer of the original device or of the reprocessed device, if it was reprocessed, a generally recognized abbreviation of that entity, or a unique and generally recognized symbol identifying the manufacturer. This provision was intended to ensure that the manufacturer of the device, whether the original manufacturer or reprocessor, could be properly identified. In developing the original provisions of Section 301, the Committee believed it was important for device user facilities and the agency to have the ability to correctly identify the responsible party for a device when there is an adverse event associated with a device.

However, under the current language of Section 301, the FDA could waive the branding requirement if compliance is not feasible or compromises the reasonable assurance of safety or effectiveness of the device. For some devices it may be difficult to comply with the marking requirement due to their physical characteristics, such as size and composition. Even if the physical characteristics make it difficult to mark a device, the Committee believes it is important that every device have a mechanism to identify the manufacturer of the product when there is an adverse event.

Reporting of adverse events of medical devices by manufacturers and device user facilities is fundamental to the FDA's post-market

regulation of medical devices. Concerns have been raised that once a medical device is removed from its packaging and placed on a tray ready for use on a patient, physicians and nurses are likely to identify the device with the OEM. While medical device user facilities are required to report manufacturer information beyond the product labeling, the lack of specific labeling to identify devices has led to claims of underreporting of patient injuries and product malfunctions involving reprocessed devices. It is important to the Committee that device facilities are properly reporting the manufacturer responsible for the device. The Committee believes the effectiveness of the FDA's medical device reporting system is undermined when the agency does not receive proper information regarding the party responsible for the safety of the device, and that FDA should take steps to ensure it is in fact receiving such information.

The Committee has carefully considered the concerns about section 502(u) as originally adopted and has amended it to provide for a more comprehensive provision that does not allow waivers to branding requirements. Section 502(u) now focuses on reprocessed single-use devices. Any single-use device reprocessed from an original device that the original manufacturer has prominently and conspicuously marked (which may be accomplished through marking an attachment to the device) with its name, a generally recognized abbreviation of its name, or a unique and a generally recognized symbol for it, must be prominently and conspicuously marked (which may be accomplished through marking an attachment to the device) with the reprocessor's name, a generally recognized abbreviation of its name, or a unique and a generally recognized symbol for it.

H.R. 3423, while limiting compliance to reprocessed devices, allows such a device to satisfy this labeling requirement by using a detachable label that identifies the reprocessor if the original device did not prominently and conspicuously bear the name of, abbreviation of, or symbol for the manufacturer. Under this new provision, there will be no possibility of a waiver of the branding requirements, and every device should be traceable back to the responsible party. The Committee recognizes the benefits of the detachable label can only be recognized if the labels are used as intended by being affixed to a patient's medical records. The Committee believes the amended provision will strengthen the medical device reporting system. However, the Committee will continue to closely monitor the use of detachable labels by device user facilities to ensure that the intent of the provision is realized.

Although the Committee encourages the use of these detachable labels on all reprocessed devices, the use of such a detachable label on a reprocessed single-use device that is prominently and conspicuously marked by the original manufacturer is not a legitimate substitute for the requirement of section 502(u)(1) that the reprocessor directly mark the reprocessed device or an attachment to it. In order to avoid erroneous identification of the original manufacturer as the source of a reprocessed device and to ensure that the MDR system provides FDA with the information it needs with respect to reprocessed devices to adequately protect patients, the identification of the reprocessor by means of a detachable package label is strictly limited to those cir-

cumstances where the device itself, or an attachment thereto, does not prominently and conspicuously reflect the identity of the original manufacturer.

The effective date of this provision is 12 months from the date of enactment. In the interim, the FDA is charged with developing guidance to identify circumstances where the original equipment manufacturer's marking is not prominent and conspicuous. Section 519 of the FFDCA, and FDA's Medical Device Reporting (MDR) regulations, require manufacturers to report patient injuries and product malfunctions to FDA, and device user facilities to report these adverse events to FDA and manufacturers. The Committee believes that the requirements of section 502(u), as amended, will operate to improve this post-market surveillance system, and thus patient safety. It is the intention of the Committee that upon the effective date of this provision device user facilities should in every instance be able to determine the proper party responsible for this device.

For those devices that already contain a marking by the original equipment manufacturer the Committee believes that companies currently reprocessing devices should begin to place identifiable markings as soon as possible. The Committee also believes the 12-month effective date should give ample opportunity for the regulated companies to comply with this provision, and the Committee expects the FDA will enforce this provision on the date it becomes effective.

Section 1. Short title.

This section provides the short title of the bill, the "Medical Device User Fee Stabilization Act of 2005."

Section 2. Amendments to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

This section amends Section 738 of the FFDCA (Authority to Assess and Use Device Fees), Section 103 of MDUFMA, Section 502(u) of the FFDCA (Misbranded Devices), and Section 301(b) of MDUFMA.

Subsection (a) addresses amendments to the device user fee program authorized in Section 738 of the FFDCA. Subsection (a)(1) eliminates the statutory fee revenue targets for device user fees in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 in section 738(b).

Subsection (a)(2) eliminates the inflationary, workload, compensating, and final year adjustments previously used in annual fee-setting calculations, as provided for in Section 738(c). Subsection (a)(2) also sets the pre-market application user fee at \$259,600 for fiscal year 2006 and \$281,600 for fiscal year 2007, which is an 8.5 percent increase each year (fees for other device submissions are then determined as a percentage of the pre-market application fee, as provided generally in section 738(a)(2)(A)). Finally, subsection (a)(2) also amends Section 738(c) to permit FDA to use up to two-thirds of fees carried over from previous years to supplement fee revenues in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. FDA must notify Congress if it intends to use these carryover balances.

Subsection (a)(3) amends section 738(d) to clarify that the small business threshold for the purposes of a first-time waiver of the fee on a pre-market approval application or a pre-market report remains at \$30 million, as under current law. It raises the small business threshold from \$30 million to \$100 million for

the purposes of fee reductions on all other applications, reports, and supplements. Subsection (a)(3) also eliminates the ability of the FDA to reset this new small business threshold if user fee revenues are reduced by 16 percent because of the small business fee reduction. Subsection (a)(4) amends section 738(e) to raise the small business threshold from \$30 million to \$100 million for the purposes of fee reductions on pre-market notifications.

Subsection (a)(5) amends section 738(g) to eliminate the "trigger" requirement of additional appropriations in the FY 2003 and FY 2004 for FDA to be able to collect user fees in FY 2006 and FY 2007. It also builds in a 1 percent tolerance on the appropriations trigger for FY 2006 and FY 2007, to cushion against possible across-the-board rescission in the appropriations process for those years, which would lead to accidental termination of the program.

Subsection (a)(6) eliminates the statutory authorization targets for FY 2006 and FY 2007, and subsection (a)(7) makes a conforming amendment throughout Section 738.

Subsection (b) amends section 103 of MDUFMA to require additional information in FDA's medical device user fee program annual reports for FY 2006 and FY 2007 on the number and types of applications received by the size of small business up to the new small business threshold of \$100 million, and to require a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in the annual report that appropriated funds obligated for other purposes relating to medical devices are not diverted for device review.

Subsection (c)(1) amends section 502(u) of the FFDCA to address the marking and tracking of reprocessed medical devices intended for single-use by the original manufacturer. Section 502(u) as amended requires reproducers to mark a reprocessed device if the original manufacturer has marked the device. If the original manufacturer does not mark the device, the reprocessor must still mark the device, but has more flexibility in how to mark the device, such as by using a detachable label on the package of the device that is intended to be placed in the medical record of the patient on whom the device is used.

Subsection (c)(2) requires FDA to issue a guidance document no later than 180 days after the act becomes effective to address compliance with section 502(u) in circumstances where an original manufacturer has not marked the original device prominently and conspicuously.

Subsection (d) amends section 301(b) of MDUFMA to make the amendment made by subsection (c)(1) to section 502(u) of the FFDCA effective 12 months after the date of enactment of the act, or 12 months after the original manufacturer has first marked its device, if that is later.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. MARC LIEBERMAN ON TEN YEARS OF TIBET VISION PROJECT

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with Dr. Marc F. Lieberman the tenth

anniversary of his humanitarian work in Tibet. Since 1995, Dr. Lieberman, an ophthalmologist and clinical professor at University of California at San Francisco, has traveled back and forth from Tibet as the founder of the non-profit, non-governmental organization called Tibet Vision Project.

Dr. Lieberman was truly inspired after meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1990 and discussing the high occurrence of preventable blindness plaguing the people of Tibet. Due to the high altitudes of Tibet and the harmful UV radiation that permeates the "roof of the world," cataracts progressively erode the sight of many Tibetans.

Tibet Vision Project's primary goals are two-fold. First, the Project seeks to provide state-of-the-art eye treatment to a population suffering from cataract blindness. Second, Tibet Vision Project aims to assist Tibetans in developing their own medical resources to eliminate cataract blindness throughout Tibet by the year 2020.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lieberman spends almost two months in Tibet each year, traveling by Land Cruisers to remote and underserved rural areas, an eye camp comprised of 6–8 Tibetan nurses and technicians, and an entire mobile hospital unit complete with microscopes, lens implants, sutures and medicines, provides free eye care to everyone who visits. During the first three out of five days of eye camp, 250 to 400 patients—who travel by yak or on foot—are evaluated. Eyeglasses are disbursed as appropriate and children receive corrective lenses. As many as 150 patients are provided free, sight-restoring lens implant surgery—all performed by Tibetan surgical teams.

Along with the 2000 people whose vision has been restored by the Tibet Vision Project, 20 Tibetan surgeons provide great hope to the people of Tibet. Dr. Lieberman and his colleague Dr. Melvyn Bert work with an extension of the Tibet Vision Project at the School for Blind Children in Lhasa, Tibet, supervising medical and referral needs to ensure the well-being of the children.

In conjunction with the Swiss Red Cross, Tibet Red Cross and Tilganga Eye Centre of Kathmandu, Nepal, Dr. Lieberman gains greater access to remote underserved populations in Tibet, meanwhile creating infrastructure for long term solutions to eye problems in Tibet.

Mr. Speaker, in the next ten years, Tibet Vision Project aspires to help Tibetans become completely self-sufficient in eye care, providing competent and compassionate care to their own people. Dr. Lieberman and his crew are developing pilot projects for primary eye care such as accessibility to reading glasses, treating simple eye infections, and referring cataract cases to larger towns for surgery.

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Lieberman was trained at Johns Hopkins University before coming to the West Coast. While in the United States, he divides his time treating glaucoma in his offices in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Cruz. He is currently considering spending more time in Tibet, expanding his visits from two to four a year.

Despite the struggle to work with a budget of \$50,000 a year and the obstacles of setting up remote eye camps, on rough terrain with poor roads, and dealing with the Chinese medical system, Lieberman and his teams continue their much needed work. Dr.

Lieberman's visits to Tibet are nothing of miraculous. I admire his incredible, indefatigable work and his leadership in organizing so many others to help him on this quest. I am delighted that Tibet Vision Project has been so successful in its tireless work to help the people of Tibet.

I would like to recognize Dr. Lieberman with some words from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, which summarizes the recognized need and gratitude for Dr. Lieberman, his colleagues, and his trainees' efforts.

"In Tibetan Buddhist culture numerous positive references equate clear sight with wisdom and knowledge and obstructions to it with ignorance and negativity. The quest for the clear-sightedness of wisdom is priced on par with developing the kind heart of compassion. But these largely concern cultivating the mind.

By voluntarily training Tibetan doctors and nurses in modern eye care he and his colleagues have contributed to restoring the sight of thousands of the rural poor in Tibet. What a great act of kindness!"

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that Dr. Lieberman's generosity stems from his faith and practice of Judaism and Buddhism. In the spirit of gratitude and continued support for his humanitarian work, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Marc Lieberman in the tenth year of Tibet Vision Project.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am a Conservative Democrat representing a rural area of Tennessee, and I rise today in opposition to the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I will support any trade agreement that results in American job growth and allows our manufacturers and farmers to export their products to new, fair, and competitive markets in other countries. In fact, I have supported previous trade agreements with Chile, Singapore, Australia, and Morocco. But my constituents and I are fearful of this particular agreement.

Our fear is that the only export we will see in this country because of CAFTA is American jobs. This fear is based on our real life experience with a similar agreement that sounds much like this one. That agreement, of course, was NAFTA. My congressional district has been devastated by the loss of jobs since NAFTA's passage.

You know, I've been told a lot of different things by a lot of different folks about why I should support this agreement. One argument was that supporting CAFTA is the Christian thing to do. Well, I am a devout Christian, and I for one do not think exploiting cheap labor for corporate profits is particularly Christian. So, I have a message for corporate America: the real Christian thing for you to do is provide wages to your new Central American employees that are equivalent to wages of the employees in my district who will lose their jobs

as a result of this Central American Free Trade Agreement.

I strongly urge all my colleagues who truly care about the American working man and woman to reject this trade agreement, and let's work on creating new jobs in this country instead of outsourcing the ones we currently have.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the proposed North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2005, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating certain coastal lands on the north shore of the Island of Maui between the towns of Pa'ia and Sprecklesville as a unit of the National Park Service. This area is fully worthy of designation as a National Seashore, National Historic Park, or National Recreation Area.

Since assuming office as the representative for Hawaii's Second Congressional District, I have heard loud and clear from the people of Maui, in person during countless times on the island and through petitions and postcards from some 2,000 constituents, about their deep concern for preserving this beautiful, historically significant and resources-rich coastline. Although the 128 acres identified in the bill are currently zoned as open space or parkland, they lie directly in the path of development in Maui's hot real estate market.

The desire of the people of Maui is to have the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of this unique area preserved and protected from development, and ultimately designated as the Patsy Takemoto Mink North Shore Heritage Park. As many of my colleagues know, my predecessor in this body, the late Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, was born and grew up in Hamakua Poko, a small village near Pa'ia on just this coastline. If the Park Service finds that the area merits inclusion in the National Park System, I will introduce legislation authorizing establishment of a park and directing that it be named after Congresswoman Mink.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the Maui Sierra Club and especially of Lance Holter, a dedicated community activist, for inspiring the introduction of this bill. I can tell by the hundreds of cards I continue to receive from Maui residents in support of establishing such a park that there are many more people who have dedicated enormous energy and time in the hopes of preserving our precious natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and invite you to come to the Island of Maui to visit this special area. I know that if you do so, you will be convinced as I am of the vital importance of protecting these lands.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit my testimony on Select Revenue Measures before the Committee on Ways and Means for the RECORD:

Thank you Chairman Camp and Ranking Member McNulty for holding this important hearing. I would like to bring to your attention a proposal I introduced last Congress, H.R. 3655, the Progressive Tax Act of 2003, which will have a positive impact on millions of taxpayers.

I think it is fair to say that all Members of Congress believe we need to strive for a fair, simple, and adequate tax system. We may disagree on how this has been accomplished, but we have the same goals.

However, I think we can agree on the need for transparency. Transparency in the tax system is necessary to achieve fairness. Transparency permits the taxpayer to understand how fairness is arrived in the tax code. A simplified tax code can provide this transparency, which in turn provides a sense of trust in the government.

This committee should enact my proposal to create a \$2000 Simplified Family Credit, a refundable tax credit that simplifies the tax code by consolidating the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, Additional Child Credit, and dependent exemption for children into one streamlined Simplified Family Credit. This tax credit will simplify the tax code, provide greater transparency, provide extra work incentives, and provide a stimulus effect.

Families should not have to struggle to understand the eligibility requirements for each of the various family tax breaks in current law. All families should follow the same set of rules.

The Simplified Family Credit is structured to provide progressive tax benefits and a work incentive. The families with lower income will get more benefit, but they are also rewarded for work. The credit would be steeply phased in at the lowest income levels providing the incentive to work and a substantial benefit. As income rises a slow phase out would be necessary to ensure we maintain a progressive tax system.

The cost of this proposal would fall in the range of \$20 billion a year. Given our current deficit problems, I believe that Congress should only create the Simplified Family Tax Credit if it is paid for. In my legislation H.R. 3655, there are several options to pay for this proposal including rolling back parts of the tax cuts enacted in the last 5 years. Those tax cuts only added to the complexity of the tax code and removed any remaining transparency.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE
EAST

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, with the world watching, Israel announced on April 18,

2004 its disengagement plan to withdraw Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements. Intended to improve security for Israeli citizens, Israel's disengagement plan also creates a possibility for greater Middle East peace.

Beginning in 1948, hostile nations have denied Israel's right to exist. Today, violence from terrorist organizations not only threatens stability in the region but the sovereignty of the Israeli people.

With the future uncertain, we must recognize one thing: freedom and security can be the future for both the Palestinian and Israeli people. The impending disengagement creates the opportunity for progress towards this goal.

We must recognize the difficulties Israel will face and support our dependable ally. We must also support efforts by the Palestinian leadership to fight terror and create more peaceful, sound Palestinian regions.

And, as Americans who have faced threats to our own existence, we must never forget what freedom is.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVE
DIGERLANDO

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a close, personal friend, Steve DiGerlando, on his last day as Chief of Staff in my California office. It is with deep gratitude—and more than a little sadness—that today my staff and I wish Steve farewell. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his twelve outstanding years of dedicated service to my office and to the residents of the 48th district of California.

For more than a decade, Steve has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Orange County residents. Since first joining my staff in 1991, Steve has personally handled more than 5,000 cases and he has helped literally thousands of people resolve their problems with Federal agencies. After a brief leave from my office a few years back, Steve returned in 2003 to take the post of Deputy District Director. Soon thereafter he was promoted to California Chief of Staff, where he demonstrated superb leadership and management skills. Steve has been a loyal and capable director, and his expertise, endless patience and imperturbable spirit have guided the office through the most hectic of times. All of us who have been fortunate to work with Steve over the years are deeply grateful for his generosity, his thoughtfulness and his friendship.

Steve was born and raised in Orange County, and his entire family still resides in Southern California. He is a staunch supporter of his alma mater, California State University, Fullerton, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Upon completing his Masters in History at Cal State Fullerton, he went on to become a professor of world history and American history at Cypress Community College and Mt. San Antonio College. Thankfully for us, Steve's vast knowledge of history includes that of Orange County. He has been most helpful in educating members of my Washington staff who have not been

personally familiar with the district, and he could often be found behind the wheel of a car giving his famed Orange County tour to visiting staff.

Though he is an Orange County native, Steve is somehow, mysteriously, an ardent Dodgers fan. As a big Angels fan myself, this has created a friendly baseball rivalry in the office, even though Steve always trumps me in baseball trivia regardless of the team we're discussing. I know he'll be missing those Dodger dogs once he leaves California.

Steve is a scholar and historian in the truest sense. Beyond academia, his wealth of knowledge ranges from the most important to the most trivial of facts. After working with him for more than twelve years, I am now ready to audition for Jeopardy. One particular anecdote I'll always remember relates to the statue of a rather obscure hero in California history that stands in the United States Capitol. Whenever I lead tours down this particular hall, I always bet my visitors that they cannot name the two statues that represent California. Invariably, most are able to name the most famous statue, Father Junipero Serra, the founder of the California missions. To this day, not a single one has correctly identified the second statue—except, of course, for Steve. Not only did he know the name, but he was an expert on the legacy of Thomas Starr King, the little known leader whose eloquent speeches and brave action saved California for the Union during the Civil War. In fact, Steve's knowledge of Thomas Starr King has even made its way to the pages of Orange County's local newspaper.

My staff and I are not the only ones who will miss Steve after he departs the office. A void will be felt throughout the county and the state when he and his family move to their new home in Houston, Texas. While we will miss having him in Orange County, we're excited for the great opportunities that await Steve, his wife Rita, and their daughter Samantha in the Lone Star State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Steve DiGerlando on the occasion of his last day as my California Chief of Staff. He will be greatly missed, and I wish him every success in his future endeavors.

GAMBLING EXPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I remain terribly concerned about the explosion of gambling outlets, particularly casinos, opening around our country.

I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor. According to the California Council on Problem Gambling, which operates a crisis hotline, 3,400 callers had lost an average of \$32,000 each. That's \$109 million of lost wealth, many who probably could least afford to lose it. Even more tragic is the fact that this statistic represents problem gamblers in only one state.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a copy of the article When Gambling Becomes Obsessive from the July 25 edition of Time magazine. I recently wrote President Bush

urging his action on calling a halt to tribal gambling, which is now moving off reservations. Unfortunately, the administration responded that they do not have the authority to address this issue. If the administration believes it does not have authority to issue a moratorium to halt new tribal gambling operations, it should send Congress legislation so that we can take action to give it that authority.

[From Time Magazine, July 25, 2005]

WHEN GAMBLING BECOMES OBSSIVE

(By Jeffrey Kluger)

For a man who hasn't bet a nickel since 1989, Bruce Roberts spends a lot of time in casinos. He's rarely there alone, however. He usually has an escort walk him through—the better to ensure that he doesn't succumb to the sweet swish of the cards or the signature rattle of the dice. A onetime compulsive gambler, Roberts, 62, weathered his years of wagering better than many. He never lost his wife or his home—although he has refinanced the house nine times. “Cards and Vegas were the two biggest things in my life,” he says. “I’m a helluva poker player, but I have one serious flaw: I can’t get my ass off the chair.”

When Roberts visits a casino these days, it's as executive director of the California Council on Problem Gambling, an organization that helps gaming halls run responsible gambling programs. The rest of the time, he's back in the office, overseeing a crisis hotline. Last year his service took 3,400 calls from gamblers who had lost an average of \$32,000 each. That's \$109 million of evaporated wealth reported to just one hotline in just one year.

And California is not alone. More than 50 million people describe themselves as at least occasional poker players. Millions turn on the TV each week to watch one of eight scheduled poker shows—to say nothing of the 1 million who will tune in to ESPN's broadcast of this year's World Series of Poker.

Two hundred forty-seven Native American casinos dot tribal lands in 22 states; 84 riverboat or dockside casinos ply the waters or sit at berth in six states. And with local governments struggling to close budget gaps, slots and lotteries are booming. All told, 48 states have some form of legalized gambling—and none of that includes the wild frontier of the Internet. By 1996 the annual take for the U.S. gambling industry was over \$47 billion, more than that from movies, music, cruise ships, spectator sports and live entertainment combined. In 2003 the figure jumped to over \$72 billion.

All that money is coming from someone's pockets, and it's not the winners'. According to Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, as many as 10 million U.S. adults meet the “problem gambling” criteria. Kids are hit even harder. Exact figures aren't easy to come by, but various studies place the rate of problem gambling among underage players somewhere between two and three times the rate for adults.

Nobody thinks the gambling genie can be put back in the bottle. What health officials want to know is whether the damage can be curbed. What separates addictive gamblers from occasional ones? Is it personality, brain chemistry, environment? Can a behavior be a true addiction without a chemical driving it? “People have seen gambling in moral terms for a thousand years,” says Whyte. “It's only recently that we've begun seeing it as a disease.”

Defining compulsive gambling is like defining compulsive drinking: it's not clear

when you cross the line. But if there are enough signs that your behavior is starting to slip out of your control (see the self-test), chances are that you have a problem. It's a problem of special interest to researchers because it reveals a lot about addiction as a whole. One of the difficulties in understanding drug or alcohol abuse is that the minute you add a chemical to the body, you muddy the mental processes. “It's hard to tease the connection out because you don't know how much is the drug and how much is the behavior,” says Whyte. “But gambling is a pure addiction.”

To see if that's true, scientists turn to such advanced diagnostic tools as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machines to peer into the brains of gamblers while they play. In a 2001 study conducted at Harvard Medical School and elsewhere, researchers monitored subjects as they engaged in a wheel-of-fortune game. The investigators looked mainly at several areas of the brain known to be involved in processing dopamine, a pleasure-inducing chemical released during drug and alcohol use.

Sure enough, the same areas lighted up when test subjects gambled, becoming active not only when they won but also when they merely expected to win—precisely the pattern of anticipation and reward that drug and alcohol users show. “This put gambling on the map with other neurobiologic addictions,” says Dr. Barry Kosofsky, a pediatric neurologist at Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City.

Surprising support for that work came earlier this month when researchers at Minnesota's Mayo Clinic reported that 11 Parkinson's disease patients being treated with dopamine-enhancing medications began gambling compulsively; one patient eventually lost \$100,000. Six of the 11 also began engaging in compulsive eating, drinking, spending or sex. Only when the dopamine was discontinued did the patients return to normal.

The dopamine cycle may not be the only thing that drives gamblers. Personality also plays a part. This month researchers in the U.S., Britain and New Zealand released the latest results from an ongoing, 30-year study of roughly 1,000 children born in the early 1970s. One purpose of the research was to determine which temperament types were most likely to lead to addictions.

The just released results showed that compulsive gamblers, drinkers and drug users have high underlying levels of negative emotionality, a syndrome that includes nervousness, anger and a tendency to worry and feel victimized. Significantly, they also score lower in the so-called constraint category, meaning they are given to impulsiveness and thrill seeking. That's a bad combination, particularly when you throw drugs, drink or gambling into the mix. “It's like picking your poison,” says psychologist Avshalom Caspi of King's College in London, one of the researchers in the study.

What makes people start gambling may also be a function of availability. A 1999 study ordered by the U.S. Congress found that people who live within 50 miles of a casino have two times as much risk of developing a gambling problem as those living farther away. And the growing popularity of electronic gambling only makes things worse. In one study, researchers at Brown University found that while gamblers take an average of 312 years to develop a problem when they're playing traditional games like cards, slot-machine players fast-forward their addiction, getting hooked in just over a year.

So what can be done to get problem gamblers to quit? Medication, in theory, may help. Psychologists like G. Alan Marlatt of

the University of Washington are interested in the potential of so-called opioid antagonists, drugs that might partially disrupt the neurochemistry that produces feelings of well-being, thus denying gamblers the kick they seek.

More effective may be the 12 Step protocol used by Alcoholics Anonymous. Gamblers Anonymous groups meet all across the country, stressing abstinence and providing a community of ex-gamblers to offer support. Marlatt is worried that abstinence may be less effective with young gamblers and is exploring cognitive techniques that instead teach kids to recognize the triggers that get them to gamble too much. The states may also have a role to play. Illinois has instituted a self-exclusion program in which gamblers can put their names on a voluntary blacklist, allowing casinos to eject them from the premises, require them to donate their winnings to a gambling-treatment program and, in some cases, charge them with trespassing.

Like Marlatt's moderation strategy, however, the Illinois program takes a measure of self-discipline that may be the very thing compulsive gamblers lack. “In addiction, they call it chasing the high,” says psychologist Carlos DiClemente of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. “In gambling, it's called chasing the big win. And that's where self-regulation goes down the tubes.” Better, say DiClemente and others, to simply to put down the cards or dice or cup of coins for good. As battle-scarred gamblers are fond of saying, the only way to be sure you come out ahead is to buy the casino. —With reporting by Melissa August/ Washington, Helen Gibson/ London, Noah Isackson/ Chicago, Coco Masters/ New York and Jeffrey Ressler/ Los Angeles

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 30, 2005, a sudden death in my family kept me from casting votes on rollcalls No. 359, 360, 361, and 362. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on all four votes.

HONORING JACK AND CAROL ENGLAND ON THEIR 70TH BIRTHDAYS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Mary Carol England on the occasion of their 70th birthdays.

John and Mary, or “Jack” and “Carol” as their family and friends know them, have been married to each other for 43 years and have lived in Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania for 48 years.

The elder son of John England and Ruth Hines-England, Jack was born near our Nation's Capital in Baltimore, Maryland on September 2, 1935. Carol, the first of two daughters of Walter G. Holden and Isabel Bolan-Holden, was born in the Nation's heartland in Sioux City, Iowa on September 12, 1935. They were born only 10 days apart, yet the

worlds of their early childhoods could not have been farther apart given the differences between urban and rural America during the Great Depression.

Their families weathered the difficult times of the Depression and World War II, and both Carol and Jack enrolled in college at American University in Washington, DC in the early 1950s. It was while studying at the university that they met and began their courtship.

Following their graduation from American University in 1957, Carol and Jack continued their graduate education separately. Carol earned a master's degree in sociology from Columbia University in New York City. After completing her graduate degree, Carol served as Associate Dean of Students at Plattsburgh State University in New York and later worked in human resources for the Woodard & Lothrop Department Stores for several years in the Washington, DC area.

Meanwhile, Jack entered the United States Air Force and earned a master's degree in hospital administration from the George Washington University.

On January 27, 1962, Jack and Carol were married at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bethesda, Maryland surrounded by family and friends. During Jack's service in the Air Force, the young couple had three sons—William, John and Andrew—who were born in Maryland, Texas, and Massachusetts respectively. Their youngest son, Thomas, was born in Washington, DC when the family settled in the Maryland suburbs after Jack completed his service in the U.S. Air Force in 1971. The young boys kept Carol busy at home as a full time homemaker.

After separating from the Air Force, Jack continued his work in hospital administration and served as assistant administrator at the Washington Hospital Center. In 1978 he accepted a position as administrator at the Allegheny Valley Hospital in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania and he and Carol moved their young family to the neighboring community of Lower Burrell in October. In 1998, Jack retired as President and CEO of the hospital, where he served for 20 years of his 27 years in civilian hospital administration.

In retirement, Carol and Jack have taken courses from the Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington Campus where Jack also served on the advisory board. They are both avid fans of the performing arts, and they travel regularly to Niagara-on-the Lake in Ontario, Canada for the Shaw and Shakespeare festivals. Carol and Jack volunteer at both the local library and their parish church of St. Margaret Mary, and Jack is the secretary for his local Rotary. However, without a doubt, their favorite pastime is visiting with their young granddaughter, Sarah Elisabeth England and their daughter-in-law, Lorie Slass.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my best wishes to Jack and Carol England on the occasion of their 70th birthdays on September 2, 2005 and September 12, 2005 respectively, and I salute their continued active involvement and commitment to their family, community, and church. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to their sons on their parents' many accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOUTH MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill directing the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating and acquiring lands located along the southern coast of the island of Maui as a National Seashore, National Recreation Area, National Monument, National Preserve, or other unit of the National Park Service.

The study area covered by the proposed South Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2005 includes lands from and including the 'Ahihi-Kinohi Natural Area Reserve to Kanaloa Point, a distance of approximately six miles.

The area is rich in archaeological, cultural, historical, and natural resources. Important sites in the proposed park area contain remnants of dwellings, heiau (places of worship), fishing shrines, platforms, enclosures, shelters, walls, graves, and canoe hale (houses) that date back as early as 1100 A.D. This portion of the southern coast is also the home of unique native plants and animals, some of which are endangered.

The County of Maui passed Resolution 00-136 on October 6, 2000, expressing its support for having this area designated as a National Park. The Hawaii State House and Senate also passed bills in support of having the area managed by the National Park Service.

Both these resolutions were in support of my predecessor, Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink's bill, H.R. 591, introduced in the 107th Congress, to study the feasibility of designating the more limited area from Keone'o 'io to Kanaloa Point as a National Park.

An initial reconnaissance survey by the NPS indicated that the resources deserved protection but stated that the more limited area was not appropriate for a National Park because most of the land was owned by the state. However, I believe the expressions of support for NPS control of the area by the County and State offer a firm basis for moving forward. Therefore, I have included a provision in my bill to ensure that the proposed study includes consultation with the State of Hawaii to assess the feasibility of transferring some or all of the State lands in the study area to the federal government.

The State of Hawaii has been unable to effectively manage and protect these important resources due to lack of funds. Further, this pristine coastline lies directly in the path of development and, absent action, too soon will be lost forever.

This is a site of national significance, which deserves the level of protection only the National Park Service can provide. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF NORA CASTLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Nora Castle of Cleve-

land Heights, Ohio, upon the occasion of her retirement following thirty-two years of outstanding service in her role as champion of consumer rights, through radio and TV's consumer advocacy program, Call For Action. The work of Mrs. Castle has created a vital platform for countless consumers seeking justice throughout Northeast Ohio—consumers whose voices would otherwise not have been heard.

In 1978, Mrs. Castle was the point person for Call For Action at WERE radio, when Virgil Dominic, then News Director at TV-8, brought Mrs. Castle and the Call For Action program to television. Cleveland area residents flooded the lines with calls ranging in scope from the mundane, to serious issues concerning the health and safety of the community. Mrs. Castle's work consistently reflected diligence, integrity, and an unwavering search for consumer justice. Comfortable working behind the scenes, Mrs. Castle shied away from the spotlight of praise and accolades. Her focus on protecting the rights of consumers was consistent throughout her career, and she infused the same value, energy and commitment into every case, whether it involved an individual citizen or a Fortune 500 company. Her work brought these cases into the light of public discourse, and her advocacy enlightened legislators, ultimately prompting them to pass consumer protection laws on local, state and federal levels, including the Lemon Laws.

Beyond her career, Mrs. Castle's family and faith have always been central to her life: her husband, William; son, Peter; daughter, Amy; grandson, Aidan; and the memory of her daughter, Kate. Mrs. Castle's strength, faith and love for her family are extended throughout the community, where she continues to share her time, talents and energy with others. She and her family are long-time members of the Fairmount Presbyterian Church, where she serves as an officer with the Fairmount Women's Guild. Mrs. Castle taught Sunday school at the church for more than twenty-five years, and was also a twenty-five year volunteer at the Natural History Museum.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Nora Castle, for her outstanding work in protecting the rights of thousands of consumers across Northeast Ohio. Mrs. Castle's unwavering dedication as wife, mother, grandmother, co-worker, mentor, teacher, volunteer and friend, framed by her energy, wit, and above all, her concern for others, has uplifted the lives of countless individuals, bringing the light of justice throughout our community. As she journeys onward, I wish Mrs. Castle and her family an abundance of peace, health and happiness, today, and in all the years to come.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY WITH PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stress the urgency of strengthening Social Security for future generations.

Over the next twenty years, the number of seniors will grow by 70 percent because of the retiring baby boomer generation. A half-century ago, 16 workers paid into Social Security

for every retiree. Today only three workers support every retiree and in the next few decades, that number will drop to two. By 2042, the system will become bankrupt and it will only be able to pay 70 percent of promised benefits.

Younger workers can earn additional benefits by giving them the option to invest a small portion of their Social Security taxes in bonds and stocks. Personal accounts will allow them to build a financial nest-egg for their retirement; they can pass on to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, personal accounts will give our children and grandchildren the peace of mind that they will be financially secured in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA BARILE

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a close friend and exceptional employee, Cynthia Barile, in anticipation of her last day as Caseworker in my California office. It is with deep gratitude—and more than a little sadness—that my staff and I must wish Cynthia farewell. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her 6 outstanding years of dedicated service to my office and to the residents of the 48th district of California.

Since joining my staff 6 years ago, Cynthia has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Orange County residents. She was first hired in August 1999 as the Office Manager for my California office, and assumed her new administrative duties with great ease. With Cynthia in this critical post, the district office was in the most capable of hands. She quickly demonstrated excellent communication and interpersonal skills and, thanks to her fluency in both English and Spanish, she became a vital link between the staff and our diverse constituency. In 2002, Cynthia was promoted to Congressional Caseworker, a position in which she has excelled for the past 3 years. In this time, Cynthia has personally handled over 2,500 cases and has helped literally thousands of people resolve their problems with Federal agencies. Though she has dealt with nearly every Federal agency during her tenure in my office, she has specialized in cases involving the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service; the Department of Veterans Affairs; the Department of Defense and military branches; the Department of Justice; and the State Department and U.S. Embassies around the world.

Cynthia's career in public service predates her work on behalf of the 48th Congressional

District. Prior to joining my office, she was the Scheduler and Office Manager for former California Assemblyman Bill Campbell. Bill is a close, personal friend of mine, so I know how greatly he valued Cynthia's years of service to him and the constituents of the 71st Assembly District. Although she is now departing my office, she is not leaving the House of Representatives. Cynthia is moving just 25 miles up the road—and saving herself countless hours of commute time in Orange County traffic—to be a Caseworker in the district office of U.S. Rep. ED ROYCE in Fullerton. I have no doubt that she will continue to excel in this new position, and commend my friend and colleague, Ed, for his foresight in bringing her onboard.

Over the past 5 years, I have had the privilege of getting to know Cynthia and her family. Her love for and dedication to her two daughters, Brianna and Alexis, are inspiring. While on my staff, Cynthia celebrated her marriage to her husband Mark Barile, and the birth of their son Christian. Along with all those who have had the opportunity to know and work with Cynthia, I have been incredibly impressed by her ability to balance the demands of being a mother, wife and successful career woman.

Cynthia's professionalism, patience, and courtesy in working with her colleagues, constituents, and agency representatives have made her an invaluable asset to my staff. She is a dedicated, diligent and loyal public servant, and she will be missed greatly by all of us who have had the honor of working with her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Cynthia Barile as she prepares to celebrate her last day as Caseworker in my California Office. She will be greatly missed, and I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHARITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, there are more than 40 million uninsured Americans today—nearly a million in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Throughout the country, medical professionals and countless others have responded to the need of those who are seriously ill and cannot pay for a doctor, medicine, and other health costs. In many places, this help has come in the form of community free clinics.

Community free clinics, particularly in Virginia, have helped people in communities come together to care for those in need. The health care “safety net” for the poor, like the

community free clinics in my congressional district, exists in communities across America, but often in widely varying degrees.

I am pleased to introduce today “Charity Care for the Uninsured Act.” While this legislation alone will not solve the problem of the uninsured, I believe it will help strengthen community “safety nets,” like the community free clinics in Virginia, for those in need and will allow doctors recognition for their willingness to give back to their communities.

The Charity Care for the Uninsured Act would provide a personal income tax credit of up to \$2,000 for doctors who provide between 25 and 50 hours of uncompensated, pro bono charity care to the uninsured in a single calendar year. This legislation would encourage the many physicians who have treated patients who were not able to pay, either in their offices or in community clinics, to continue to do so.

The Charity Care for the Uninsured Act also will help provide a valuable tool—a personal tax credit—to community clinics in recruiting physicians as well as helping motivate countless specialty doctors to take community clinic referrals. Free clinics have contributed to reduced emergency room (ER) utilization among the uninsured, helping save taxpayer dollars. A safety net in which the uninsured can access specialists and medications will improve their health and guard against catastrophic illnesses and trips to the ER.

All of the cost savings and health benefits can be traced back to the commitment and the compassion of the doctors and community partners, and their concern for those who cannot afford insurance. The Charity Care for the Uninsured Act of 2005 recognizes and encourages these caring acts made to help those who need a helping hand. This legislation can be an important tool for communities as they seek to strengthen or build the health care safety net available to their uninsured residents.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Charity Care for the Uninsured Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. CHARITY CARE CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 25B the following new section:

“SEC. 25C. CHARITY CARE CREDIT.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of a physician, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for a taxable year the amount determined in accordance with the following table:

“If the physician has provided during such taxable year:

At least 25 but less than 30 qualified hours of charity care	
At least 30 but less than 35 qualified hours of charity care	
At least 35 but less than 40 qualified hours of charity care	
At least 40 but less than 45 qualified hours of charity care	
At least 45 but less than 50 qualified hours of charity care	
At least 50 qualified hours of charity care	

The amount of the credit is:

\$1,000
1,200
1,400
1,600
1,800
2,000

“(b) QUALIFIED HOURS OF CHARITY CARE.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) QUALIFIED HOURS OF CHARITY CARE.—The term ‘qualified hours of charity care’ means the hours that a physician provides medical care (as defined in section 213(d)(1)(A)) on a volunteer or pro bono basis.

“(2) PHYSICIAN.—The term ‘physician’ has the meaning given to such term in section 1861(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(r)).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25B the following new item:

“Sec. 25C. Charity care credit.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 18, 2005, personal business kept me from casting votes on rollcall Nos. 380, 381, and 382. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on all three votes.

IN PRAISE OF THE NEW POSTAL STAMP COMMEMORATING FRANK GEHRY’S WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate famed architect Frank Gehry for the selection of the Walt Disney Concert Hall as one of the Masterworks of Modern Architecture for this year’s United States postal stamp collection. The Walt Disney Concert Hall stamp will be part of a collection of twelve masterworks of modern American architecture that includes Frank Lloyd Wright’s Guggenheim Museum, the concrete Yale Art and Architecture Building, the Chrysler Building in New York, and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. The Walt Disney Concert Hall is the newest structure in this series and the only architectural masterpiece from our country’s West Coast to receive this honor.

The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located in my congressional district, at the intersection of First Street and Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles. This beautiful masterpiece, situated on historic Bunker Hill, is home to the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The hall’s bold and unique exterior is comprised of enormous curved shapes of stainless steel. The magnificent and magical architecture of the exterior is matched by that of its interior. The hardwood-paneled main auditorium, designed by world-renowned expert Yasuhisa Toyota, has been lauded for its state-of-the-art acoustics. In the auditorium, guests sit on all sides of the orchestra. Private boxes, typically present in concert halls, do not exist.

The Disney Concert Hall further welcomes a community atmosphere with its expansive

transparent doors and windows that stretch along Grand Avenue. Occupying a full city block, the 3.6 acre site is also home to California’s smallest state park.

Frank Gehry’s Disney Hall masterpiece has drawn national attention to Los Angeles and has served as the centerpiece of successful efforts to revitalize downtown L.A. and its diverse artistic and cultural offerings.

This landmark project began in 1987 when Walt Disney’s widow Lillian Disney gave a \$50 million gift to Angelenos to build the concert hall and to demonstrate Walt Disney’s commitment to the arts. Mr. Gehry was selected as its architect the following year. Construction on the hall began in 1999 and the Disney Concert Hall opened its doors in 2003.

The building of the Walt Disney Concert Hall was a collaboration of efforts throughout the County of Los Angeles. Talented ironworkers crafted the remarkable exterior. Corporations, foundations, and individuals, in conjunction with the State of California and the Disney family, partnered to provide the funding for this incredible undertaking.

Open daily to the public, Angelenos and visitors alike now enjoy an internationally renowned architectural masterpiece and one of the most remarkable concert halls in the world. Since its opening, the Walt Disney Concert Hall has had more than 450,000 visitors.

Frank Gehry’s masterpiece is a fitting contribution to the U.S. Postal Service’s collection of the Masterworks of Modern Architecture. On behalf of all Angelenos, I congratulate him and all who helped to make the Walt Disney Concert Hall a reality, worthy of this prestigious honor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize expansion of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park located on the Island of Hawaii.

This bill would authorize expansion of the park’s boundaries to allow the National Park Service to acquire 656 additional acres between the 1,000 and 2,000-foot elevation marks in the Kahuku district makai (ocean-side) of State Highway 11. This property, which is a part of the historic Kahuku Ranch, most of which has already been added to the Park, includes extensive natural and cultural resources. These Kahuku lands encompass the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa, one of the most massive volcanoes in the world.

The geologic features of the proposed acquisition—three large pit craters—provide vestiges of native forest and other unique attributes. The property also includes ranch buildings, walls, and pasture lands that are reminiscent of nineteenth and early twentieth century ranching and contain remnant ranchlands that are not currently represented to the public by any National Park in Hawaii. These buildings would provide public, office, educational, and research space for a much-needed satellite headquarters for this portion of the 333,000-acre park. And locating these serv-

ices in these historic structures will preserve more of the natural resources of the park in an unspoiled condition.

The property also provides magnificent open landscape views and vistas that offer a glimpse into a cultural landscape that has remained unchanged for decades.

The geologic, biologic and cultural resources contained on this property will also enhance the quality of the park for its legislated purpose and as a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve. In addition, the park has a well-developed partnership with adjacent landowners in management of native ecosystems and historic landscapes and acquisition of this makai section of Kahuku will help to facilitate this partnership.

The Hawaii House of Representatives passed H.R. No. 56 in the 2001 session supporting acquisition of the Kahuku Ranch as part of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the Hawaii State Senate passed a similar resolution.

I would be very grateful for the support of my colleagues for this important bill.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL ELLSBERG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Daniel Ellsberg, a true patriot who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, dedicating his life to the service of his country. An expert economist with two years in the Marine Corps and two years at the State Department in Saigon, he is best known for revealing the truth about the Vietnam war through what became known as the Pentagon Papers. After his many years of dedicated service, he recently received the Rollo May Award, given to an individual whose life’s work demonstrates his faith in human possibility.

Daniel is a man who has had the courage to stand up for his beliefs and speak the truth even in the face of great adversity. In bringing the Pentagon Papers to the public’s attention, he took a risk that no member of Congress was willing to take, despite their immunity. Daniel leaked the information to the press in a desperate attempt to get out the truth, knowing that he would likely spend the rest of his life incarcerated. But for Daniel the loss of American lives was too great a sacrifice to be allowed to continue needlessly.

A man always looking out for the injustices of the world, Daniel has become a lecturer, writer and activist on the dangers of unlawful interventions and the nuclear era. He is there to remind us of our greater responsibilities to mankind, and I applaud his heroism and fortitude.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Daniel Ellsberg for his years of outstanding service to his country. His strength and dedication to the ideals of this country are to be commended and admired.

FAIRNESS AND TRADE POLICY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for too long, the International Trade Commission and Department of Commerce have ignored the impact that anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imported steel have had on steel consumers in the United States. Soon, the ITC will release a report on stainless steel duties and it's my hope there will be evidence that steel consumers are being considered.

Steel duties favor steel producers. Yet, the ITC has not even considered the impact such duties have on steel consuming industries. With nearly thirteen million American employees of steel consuming companies, but only two-hundred thousand employees of steel producing companies, this is simply wrong.

In the past, the ITC has not recognized the fundamental fairness of giving steel consumers the consideration they deserve. Forty-five Members of Congress have joined in co-sponsoring House Resolution 84, urging the ITC and Commerce Department to consider the effects of such duties upon steel consumers. Hopefully, the ITC will finally listen.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXPAND THE AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE HAWAII

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to expand USDA's Agricultural Management Assistance Program to include my State of Hawaii.

The Agricultural Management Assistance Program provides cost-sharing assistance under contracts of three to ten years in fifteen specified states to help producers construct or improve water management and irrigation structures, plant trees, control soil erosion, practice integrated pest management, practice organic farming, develop value-added processing, and enter into futures, hedging, or options contracts to reduce production, price, or revenue risk. This worthy program was established in 2000 to benefit states where participation in Federal crop insurance programs has been historically low.

Hawaii, which was not included among the fifteen initial states, certainly qualifies based on this criterion, as there are relatively few Federal crop insurance programs for the crops we grow in Hawaii and those we have are only a few years old. Additionally, the activities allowed under this program coincide very well with the real needs of farmers in Hawaii, especially in relation to water management and irrigation, soil erosion, pest management, organic farming, and value-added processing.

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized annual funding of \$20 million from FY2003 through FY2007. In FY2004, there were 723 active contracts and a total of \$10.2 million was spent.

There is clearly adequate room in this program for Hawaii, which is dead last among all

the 50 States in agricultural assistance received as a percentage of the value of its agricultural production. Hawaii receives less than 1 cent per dollar of agricultural value compared with the nationwide average of 6 cents.

I ask for my colleagues' support for including my state of Hawaii in this important program.

PRIVATE NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following speech for the RECORD:

I wish to welcome musicians Ani DiFranco and the Indigo Girls (Amy Ray and Emily Saliers), actor James Cromwell, actress Joan McIntosh, leading opponents to PFS from the Skull Valley Goshute Tribe—Margene Bullcreek and Lena Knight, and Winona LaDuke, program director at Honor the Earth.

Thank you everyone for being here today. Your presence means much to us. Perspectives from those not inside the beltway are essential if we are to make the best public policy choices.

Today we will hear from the Native Americans who will be living next to a radioactive waste dump if the powers that be have their way. Private Fuel Storage (PFS) is a consortium of nuclear utilities that desire to dump nuclear waste on sacred Native American grounds in Utah.

The proposal put forth by PFS would house 44,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste and is unjust, extremely dangerous, and unnecessary. Placing a giant nuclear waste dump on Native American land, against the consent of the tribe, violates Native American rights and raises environmental justice issues.

The PFS proposal puts the safety of the American people at risk. High-level irradiated waste would need to be transferred thousands of miles across the country in order to get to the facility. This creates the possibility of a potentially catastrophic radioactivity release during transportation due to an accident or terrorist attack. I represent Cleveland and my constituents are not happy about living on a transportation route.

This facility is not necessary because it does not reduce the risks posed by high-level radioactive waste, and would only exacerbate the problems currently facing nuclear power in the United States.

In response, 61 Members of Congress signed a letter that urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to deny the license for PFS. We are awaiting the NRC's response.

I urge all of you here today to demand accountability, responsibility, justice, and fairness. We cannot allow this trampling of Native American rights.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE PUBLICATION OF THE VIDEO GAME "GRAND THEFT AUTO: SAN ANDREAS"

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 376, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" to determine whether the publisher deceived the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to avoid an "Adults-Only" rating.

I believe that the government should always tread lightly and carefully in taking action that evaluates the content of video games, music, movies, books and similar materials.

I also believe that parents have the primary responsibility for evaluating and monitoring the content available to their children.

However, the content industry—movie studios, television networks, record labels, book publishers, and video game developers—also has a responsibility to accurately, honestly and responsibly label and market their products.

Thus, I believe it is appropriate and necessary for the Federal Trade Commission to inquire and investigate the development and marketing process for "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas."

There is no question that pornographic material was embedded in this video game, and that it has been marketed to teenagers and sold in stores in every community in America. The developers and publishers of this video game owe an explanation. Were they aware that the game contained embedded scenes that would inevitably be revealed? And, did they purposely pursue a rating from the Entertainment Software Rating Board of "Mature" rather than "Adults Only" to ensure that the game could be sold to teenagers and thus a broader market?

This is the purpose of this investigation and this bill. Intentional deception must not go unpunished.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF CONGRESSMAN KEVIN BRADY OF TEXAS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF DR-CAFTA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous efforts by my friend and Ways and Means colleague, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. KEVIN BRADY for the successful passage of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA).

Since his election to the United States House of Representatives, Representative Brady has envisioned the day when the United States would successfully negotiate a free

trade agreement with our Central American neighbors. After a number of years and some tense months, that vision has come a reality.

American farmers, manufacturers, businesses and consumers will now reap the benefits of duty-free access to the growing market of DR-CAFTA. For 20 years, these countries have benefitted from duty-free imports into the United States under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Today, thanks to the leadership of Representative BRADY, the United States will receive this same benefit.

Representative BRADY has become a fervent advocate of free trade as a member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. KEVIN has made strengthening trade between the United States and our global trading partners one of his top legislative priorities. As the world continues moving towards globalization, it is imperative that we support trade policy which protects American interests. I am proud to join my friend in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, a number of individuals played an important role in the passage of DR-CAFTA. However, my friend, Representative KEVIN BRADY went above and beyond to secure this historic agreement.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO INCLUDE MACADAMIA NUTS IN THE MANDATORY COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING PROGRAM

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to include macadamia nuts in the mandatory country-of-origin labeling program established in the 2002 Farm Bill. The provisions for macadamia nuts would be similar to those for peanuts whereby roasted and flavored nuts in cans or other packaging would be labeled, but not nuts that are used for candy or as ingredients in other foods.

Hawaii produces the highest quality macadamia nuts in the world. The premium macadamia nut product—and the one where the quality, of the nut is most apparent—is the roasted and flavored nuts in cans or other packaging. Using lower quality nuts for these types of products when the packaging implies a Hawaii origin damages Hawaii macadamia growers in two ways: by decreasing demand for Hawaiian nuts (and therefore prices), and by damaging the reputation of Hawaiian macadamia nuts.

Country-of-origin labeling will give my Hawaii growers a well-deserved competitive advantage based on the quality of their product. Hawaii was the pioneer in developing a national and international market for macadamia nuts and many producers in other countries trade upon Hawaii's reputation to market their nuts.

The long-term viability of Hawaii's agriculture is tied to our ability to distinguish our high-quality products from those produced in other countries. And the cachet of Hawaii origin is also a market advantage. I have no doubt in the superiority of Hawaiian papayas, pineapples, mangoes, bananas, and macadamia nuts. Country-of-origin labeling will make it easier for consumers to distinguish among different origins and will result in a market advantage for Hawaii farmers.

For all of these reasons, my bill is fully supported by the Hawaiian macadamia nut industry.

Currently, the mandatory country-of-origin labeling law applies to farm-raised and wild fish and shellfish; ground and muscle cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables; and peanuts. Country-of-origin labeling for fish and shellfish began on September 30, 2004; labeling for fresh produce, meats, and peanuts is currently mandated to begin on September 30, 2006.

I ask for my colleagues' support for adding macadamia nuts to the country-of-origin labeling law so that my macadamia nut farmers can enjoy the same marketing benefits as growers of American peanuts.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY M. BOGGS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember the life of Mary M. Boggs of Seaford, Delaware. Born 82 years ago to loving parents Linden E. Boggs, Sr., and Addie Phillips Marvel, Mary would go on to have a tremendous influence on not only the Seaford community, but also all of Delaware.

Upon graduation from Beacom Business College, Mary would embark on a distinguished career as the administrative service officer for the Department of Justice. After retiring, Mary would continue her service to the community with the Board of Directors for the Seaford Historical Society and as a member of the Acorn Club and VFW Post #4961 Auxiliary.

While very active in the community, Mary's impact was felt most by the local, county, and State branches of the Republican Party. The consummate volunteer, Mary was always willing to help and expected nothing more than a "thank you" in return. Her involvement with the party began in 1944 and she would eventually serve as the president of the Seaford Republican Women's Club and the Delaware Federation of Republican Women. Additionally, Mary was a devoted member of the Senior Citizen's Task Force for the National Federation of Republican Women.

On a personal note, Mary was instrumental in helping me throughout my political career, including my campaigns for Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and the United States House of Representatives. Many of us counted on Mary, and I can truly say she never let us down.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, all who knew Mary were lucky to have been graced by her presence. While I know she will be greatly missed by her family and friends, Mary Boggs will always be remembered for the work she has done throughout the State of Delaware and for the Republican Party.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 27, 2005, I had to travel to my congressional district to attend the Boy Scout Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill and the memorial service for the four fallen Boy Scout leaders who died there on Monday, July 25, 2005. Unfortunately the program was cancelled because of severe weather which also hindered my return.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the previous question on H. Res. 385. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the adoption of the resolution H. Res. 385. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the adoption of the resolution H. Res. 386. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 3045. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on adoption of H. Res. 308.

REMARKS ON THE HEPATITIS AWARENESS WEEK CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and report on last week's "Aim for the B" Congressional Briefing held on July 21st. Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious health concern that is finally receiving much needed attention. Almost 350 million people worldwide have been infected with the hepatitis B virus, with 75 percent of those infected living in Asia. In the United States, approximately 1.25 million people are chronically infected with this life-threatening disease. Asian Pacific Americans have the highest rate of chronic hepatitis B infection of all ethnic groups.

Chronic hepatitis B is extremely dangerous because it can lead to cirrhosis of the liver, liver failure and liver cancer. The hepatitis B virus is transmitted through blood and body fluids, unprotected sex, childbirth and unsterilized needles. Unfortunately, many of those who become infected with the disease do not recognize symptoms until after they have developed significant liver damage.

The "Aim for the B" campaign was launched during the week of May 9th of this year through the passage of House and Senate resolutions. I want to applaud my colleagues who supported this resolution for their understanding of the need to focus additional attention and increase awareness of this disease nationwide. Last week's Congressional briefing delved further into the issues of hepatitis B, including the efforts of the Federal Government to combat the spread of hepatitis B and treat those already affected with this disease.

The briefing featured many well-known researchers and advocates in the field. I was pleased to have the opportunity to sit on the panel with Dr. John Ward, the Division of Viral Hepatitis Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Jay

Hoofnagle, Director of the Liver Disease Research Branch at the National Institutes of Health. Their insight into the advances being made by the CDC and NIH painted a picture of a disease that is "on the run," but not yet eradicated. Attendees were also able to hear a personal testimonial from a hepatitis B patient, as well as advocacy efforts being undertaken by the Hepatitis B Foundation, American Liver Foundation, and the Hepatitis Foundation International.

We know that there is hope. We know that there are vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. We know that with treatment, patients have a better shot at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. We also know that there is much work that needs to be done. We need to increase public education about hepatitis B, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, raise awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic hepatitis B, and help increase the length and quality of life for those diagnosed with this life-threatening disease. We need to improve state-by-state tracking of trends, incidences and prevalence of chronic hepatitis B. Finally, we need to prioritize this disease as a major health issue in the United States, and to provide national agencies such as the CDC and NIH with the funding they need to increase research and education for chronic hepatitis B.

In closing, I would like to thank the organizers of last week's Congressional briefing for keeping this issue in the forefront of the medical discussion. And I especially want to thank the attendees of the briefing for showing the commitment to beating this disease through education and awareness. This is a call to action that I hope will produce the ultimate result of eradication.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCGILL MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the McGill Manufacturing Company will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on Friday, August 5, 2005, during an Open House and luncheon at the McGill Manufacturing Plant in Valparaiso, Indiana.

James H. McGill founded the Crescent Company in Chicago, Illinois. In 1905, he moved his company to Valparaiso, Indiana where it continued as the Crescent Company until December 1, 1910, when the name was changed to McGill Manufacturing. The first products produced by the company were for the electrical industry, and included wire guards for lamps, cord spools, socket handles, coloring fluid for incandescent light bulbs, Chatterton compound, and other specialty products.

The McGill Metal Company was then formed, and among other products, they developed a line of bronze retainers for ball bearings that were sold to the Strom Bearing Company in Chicago, Illinois. In 1924, a number of ex-Strom employees moved to

Valparaiso, Indiana and interested James McGill in producing bearings using the aluminum bronze retainers formerly sold through the Strom Company. The initial production was under the trademark of "Shubert," but in late 1926 all bearings were marked with the McGill name.

Hardwork and dedication led McGill to become a nationally-recognized leading source of precision bearings. After their incorporation, McGill expanded and built additional plants in Indiana, Texas, and Taiwan. In 1990, McGill was sold to Emerson and McGill/EPT in Valparaiso is the headquarters of the Emerson Power Transmission Division.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending McGill Manufacturing/EPT for their outstanding contributions. The proud history of this outstanding company deserves to be honored by Congress. This company has contributed to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to honor them in Washington, DC.

CFTC'S EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and a conferee on the energy bill, I want to make it clear that sections 316 and 1281 of the conference report dealing with Natural Gas and Electricity Market Transparency are quite important. Those provisions clearly affirm the long established legal foundation of the Commodity Exchange Act, specifically the exclusive jurisdiction of the CFTC over exchanges and trading of futures in this country. I applaud the work of the conferees in producing sections 316 and 1281, which directs the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, to complete a memorandum of understanding regarding information sharing between the commissions within 180 days of enactment, without affecting the exclusive jurisdiction of the CFTC with respect to markets under its jurisdiction.

The Conferees recognized that domestic energy markets involve activity in both the physical energy markets and in futures markets, and that the FERC and the CFTC have important oversight duties in these markets, respectively. In order to ensure effective and efficient oversight of these markets, the Conferees expect the FERC and the CFTC to use the memorandum of understanding as an opportunity to memorialize the good information sharing relationship that has developed between the two agencies over the past several years. The Conferees expect this agreement to accomplish 3 important goals: (1) avoid regulatory duplication of information reporting; (2) ensure appropriate protection of proprietary business information, including business transactions or market positions of any person and trade secrets or names of customer; and (3) acknowledge the respective jurisdictions of both agencies in order to avoid any jurisdictional overlap. Moreover, the Committee expects the memorandum of understanding to

insure that in creating an effective and efficient means for FERC to secure legitimately needed market trading information in the possession of the CFTC, FERC does not attempt to secure such information directly from CFTC-regulated futures exchanges. This would be contrary to the CFTC's exclusive jurisdiction over those futures exchanges and inconsistent with the longstanding process followed by all other Federal and State authorities. Sections 316 and 1281 do not give—and no other provisions of the NGA and FPA give—FERC such authority. Rather, these sections specifically intend for FERC to get such information but only through submitting its requests to CFTC.

I would further note that FERC will be subject to same restrictions on the use of such futures and options trading data information as the CFTC. Section 8(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act places restrictions on the public disclosure of futures and options trading data, as well as other sensitive CFTC information. If the CFTC provides futures and options trading data, or other materials identified in section 8, to FERC then FERC will be subject to the same restrictions as the CFTC, or any other Federal or State Agency which receives such information.

It is my understanding that the CFTC has a long history of sharing futures and options trading data as well as other confidential materials from their investigations with FERC and other Federal and State agencies who have a legitimate need for such information. Federal and State agencies not only recognize the exclusive jurisdiction of the CFTC but they also agree that they are subject to the section 8 restrictions on public disclosure of the information they receive. For these reasons it is my view that the MOD between the CFTC and FERC will merely formalize well established practices in this area.

BEST PRACTICES IN THE HEDGE FUND INDUSTRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, the hedge fund industry plays a critical and special role in our capital markets and is enormously important to helping institutional investors diversify their investment portfolios and meet their future funding needs.

While the numbers fluctuate some, there are believed to be close to 8,000 hedge funds that manage approximately \$1 trillion in assets. Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District, which I'm very proud to represent, is the home to several hundred of the most successful hedge funds.

Over the past few years, the industry has received increasing attention from the media, Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). I happen to believe that strong oversight of our financial markets is critical to our nation's economic well-being, but recognize that with sophisticated and knowledgeable investors, hedge funds do not require the same level of scrutiny as is paid to the mutual fund industry. Nevertheless, it seems to me that more transparency and better government and regulator understanding of

the industry will ultimately benefit investors and managers alike.

The Greenwich Roundtable is a not-for-profit organization, based in Greenwich, Connecticut with a mission to promote education in alternative investments. This thoroughly professional and thoughtful institution has produced a report entitled, "Best Practices in Hedge Fund Investing: Due Diligence for Equity Strategies," that I hope will serve as an important reference for this body, for investors and for others interested in our capital markets. The goal of the publication is to "help demystify a topic that has been shrouded in myth and, by doing so, help improve the level of education among those who wish to better understand the community of active hedge fund investors." It seems to me this is a very important document and would recommend it to any of my colleagues with an interest or concern about the industry to review it.

An abstract of this report is below, and I again would like to express my appreciation to the Greenwich Roundtable for this important and timely publication.

BEST PRACTICE IN HEDGE FUND INVESTING: DUE DILIGENCE

This publication is the first collaboration of its kind, between investors and managers. The goal of this publication is to help demystify a topic that has been shrouded in myth and, by doing so, help improve the level of education among those who wish to better understand the community of active hedge fund investors. This is the first issue of the planned series of Best Practices in Hedge Fund Investing.

Inside this first issue, you will be treated to an informed examination into the art of due diligence. The scope will be confined to examining equity-oriented strategies. The universe of hedge fund strategies is enormously broad and diverse. Any single method of inquiry applied to all due diligence would become generic. Future issues will cover strategies in other areas such as managed fixtures, fixed income and asset-backed markets.

The investors who created this publication are members of our Education Committee. Their backgrounds are broad and diverse. They hail from the family office, bank proprietary capital, or fund of funds communities. They are all seasoned investors in a broad range of strategies. For two years, our purpose has been to uncover "soft" aspects of performing hedge fund due diligence. Our emphasis is on developing an interpretative discussion whenever a flag is raised. There have been many generic investor questionnaires circulated. Most were focused on collecting quantitative data. Quantitative analysis is backward looking. Qualitative analysis is more useful as a forward looking tool.

SELECTED EXCERPTS

Strategy, Investment Process, and Market Opportunity—A critical first step in any evaluation of a hedge fund investment is the establishment of a proper context for the evaluation. Once the context for the evaluation is properly understood, it is possible to proceed with a more nuanced investigation of the investment strategy, the portfolio manager's edge, and other relevant fund particulars.

Team and Organization—The quality of a firm's human capital will contain, perhaps the strongest clues about its prospects for sustainable success. Moreover, the success of the organization requires both investment and business management acumen, skills that rarely reside in equal proportion in any single investment professional.

Fee Structure and Terms—The evaluation of a fund's fee structure and terms is essen-

tially an exercise in understanding the value proposition of a particular hedge fund investment. Much of this will depend on the circumstances and environment in which the investment opportunity is presented. In the end, an investor must ultimately determine whether the terms and conditions for this investment are reasonable and fair.

Management Company, Fund Structure and Asset Base—An evaluation of the hedge fund's management company should be focused on the question of what kind of business it is. In the final analysis, an investor needs to understand if there is a true alignment of incentives between the prospective investor and the portfolio manager in regards to their investment objective.

Quantitative Review—Many experienced hedge fund investors appear to view quantitative analysis as a valuable complement, rather than a substitute, for more qualitatively drawn judgments. Deployed intelligently, certain quantitative disciplines can help confirm the wisdom of more qualitatively drawn judgments and assist in highlighting aspects of the investment strategy that warrant further investigation.

Operations and Transparency—There is a big difference between portfolio transparency and translucency. Transparency implies a more substantially active role on the part of the manager in identifying and clarifying key risks for investors. Translucency implies a simple commitment to provide a clear view of the portfolio holdings and may not be very helpful in informing the investor.

Third Parties—Evaluating the quality of the third-party vendors, as well as understanding the intersection of in-house and third-party business management, is critical to understanding how disciplined the hedge fund business and investment processes truly are.

Intuition, Judgment, and Experience—No amount of due diligence can completely replace the importance of experience and intuition when investing with a hedge fund manager. Finally and most importantly, would you invest your own money or your family's money with this manager?

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE OWED TO PAUL LANKFORD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that veterans have been called on to give more for their country than most of us ever will. Paul Lankford, a survivor of the Bataan Death March and a resident of Maryville, Tennessee, is living proof of that.

Mr. Lankford was captured by the Japanese military on the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and was freed by Russian soldiers in July 1945. In those three years and three months in captivity, he survived horrific conditions.

At Bataan, Lankford was forced to march 65 miles in five days in unbearable heat, walk on human flesh, and bury his comrades. After the march, he was forced into slave labor.

When Lankford joined the Army Air Corps in 1941, his weight listed at 150 pounds. After being freed in 1945, he weighed 60 pounds.

After taking six months to recover from this terrible ordeal, Lankford continued his service to the Air Force, retiring in 1968 as chief master sergeant. A building at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base is named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, this Country owes a debt of gratitude to Paul Lankford. He is a fine man, and our Nation is a better place because of his service.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the following article from the July 17 edition of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, July 17, 2005]

MARCH OF DEATH, LIFE (By Fred Brown)

Paul Lankford slipped back through his memory, as if turning pages, recalling a scene, and then explaining details of what he saw. It was like a movie reeling off in front of him, frame by frame. A war movie. A war movie of hell.

Six decades ago in July 1945, Lankford was a prisoner of war, having been held by the Japanese military for three years and three months. He had been captured along with the rest of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's army April 9, 1942, on the Bataan Peninsula.

He was 23 years old the day of his capture and 26 upon release. In July 1945, Lankford still had one more month to go before being liberated by a wild Russian army.

With the arrival of the Russians, who went on a rampage, Lankford and other POWs were transformed from slave to master. The allied soldiers who had been POWs were now guarding their former masters. The situation was surreal in the extreme.

In fact, Russian soldiers instructed former American POWs, including Lankford, to pick out a guard they particularly disliked, and the Russians would politely shoot him for the Americans.

Lankford's ordeal began the day MacArthur deserted the Philippines, leaving the bruised, battered and beaten army to survive the best way they could. He sent a message from the safety of his headquarters in Australia that the army was to fight to the end.

The end came April 9, 1942, after three months of aerial and artillery bombardment, starvation and disease. Lankford and the soldiers were out of ammo and food, with no choice but to surrender.

With the surrender of the Philippines, Lankford and his 27th Bomb Group were corralled. There were perhaps 1,200 defenders on Bataan, but including all soldiers, allies and Filipinos, the number was around 70,000.

Of that number, maybe 8,000 would survive the next three years. Of the 1,200 of Lankford's group on Bataan, an estimated 200 are alive today.

There are few, if any, monuments to the soldiers and sailors of Bataan—those Battling Bastards of Bataan, as they were known.

Lankford was born near Gadsden, Ala., and joined the U.S. Army in 1939. He then made the transfer to the U.S. Air Force when it was formed in 1948.

Now 86, he lives in Maryville, having retired in 1968 as chief master sergeant. He became the first commandant of the Professional Military Education Center at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base until his final retirement in 1981.

But in 1945, he was one of the few who survived the Bataan Death March.

"I had one canteen of water for 10 days," Lankford began his story.

"There was one rice ball, about the size of my fist," he said, making a ball with his hand.

Lankford was, he said, among the lucky. He was marched 65 miles from one end of the peninsula to the other. He eventually was moved from the Philippines to Korea and then wound up in Mukden, Manchuria.

When he left Korea for Manchuria in December 1942, it was 30 below zero. He had little warm clothing for the trip.

"The Japanese needed slave labor," said Lankford. "I worked on farms, in steel mills, tool and dye plants, tanning plants, foundries."

The day his personal march into hell began, Lankford made a promise to himself: "I said I would never give up, I would survive," he said. "I would take whatever they threw at me."

That was a fairly easy deduction for a fellow who was already down to eating horse, iguana and mule meat to survive.

"When you get hungry," says Lankford, "you will eat anything."

The soldiers who had survived Japanese bombardment were already listless from four months of half rations, then no food at all. They suffered from malaria and dysentery. Lankford had a severe case of malaria and malnutrition with sores around his mouth, nose and eyes.

"Our fighting men were zombies," he said.

He marched from the south in Mariveles, at the very tip of Bataan Peninsula in the South China Sea, north to San Fernando and then to Camp O'Donnell, a former Philippine Army training camp.

Along the way, historians believe some 10,000 Filipino soldiers died at the hands of Japanese guards. About one of every six on the march would die from brutality, murder, dehydration, beatings, starvation or other atrocities.

Of the 70,000 who began the march, some figures cite that 54,000 reached O'Donnell.

Lankford was bayoneted in the right shoulder because he was not moving fast enough or had infuriated his Japanese guard. He never knew why he had been bayoneted. He just was.

Lankford marched 65 miles in five days in the broiling sun. The only time the prisoners were allowed to rest—standing, not sitting—was at a change of Japanese guards. They were allowed no food, no water. If they dropped to the ground, they were shot. If they fell behind, they were shot.

If they cried out in agony, they were shot—or worse.

"If they heard a soldier screaming, they would cut his head off," said Lankford.

"The first day, we lost maybe 50. The second day, we lost 200. The third day, we lost another 300," said Lankford.

"Shortly after we started the march, a truck would come through, and if you didn't get out of the way, it would just run over you. There were bodies all over the road.

"At times, you walked on human flesh. It was like walking on jelly," said Lankford.

"We marched day and night. What I tried to do was to stay as far to the right side of the road as I could. Trucks filled with Japanese soldiers would come by, and they would bayonet you or hit you with bamboo rods," he said.

"It never crossed my mind that I would die, but you never knew what was going to happen to you."

Like being stuffed into narrow French-made boxcars on a narrow-gauge railroad.

The boxcars were big enough for maybe 50 men. Hundreds were jammed inside. The steel cars had no windows, no ventilation. There was no air, and it was pitch dark. Lankford said they were fast using up what oxygen there was in the railcar.

"Some of the men who were claustrophobic went stark raving mad," said Lankford. "Others died standing up."

When the cars were unloaded at one of the designated stops before arriving at Camp O'Donnell, the dead fell out.

He was at Camp O'Donnell until he was moved to Manila in November 1942. While at O'Donnell, he was placed on burial detail, bringing bodies to graves that were dug by POWs from sunup to sundown.

He had to transport his best friend to a grave.

"He had just given up and passed away," said Lankford, as if talking about a wisp of air that passes by and is gone.

During the O'Donnell ordeal, if an escape was attempted, the guards would take prisoners out and execute them, Lankford said, as an example to the others.

After working at other camps, Lankford was eventually put aboard a ship.

He and 1,500 other prisoners were forced down into the ship's hold, which had been used to transport horses and cattle. Filthy straw, with scattered piles of manure and the strong stench of urine, was everywhere, he says.

"We were suffering from dysentery, and some men went mad."

Men began dying immediately. They were fed a thin gruel of fish-head soup and a handful of rice twice a day.

They were sailing from Manila to Korea. U.S. naval vessels and submarines were hunting Japanese ships. The POW ships were unmarked and were attacked by the American vessels of war with impunity, never knowing that U.S. POWs were aboard. Thousands of American POWs died an ignominious death below decks in horse manure, human waste, vomit and stacks of the already dead.

It took his ship one month to go from Manila to Pusan, Korea. When the ship arrived, Lankford was among the 175 men in the worst condition.

He was taken to a racing track being used for a hospital. The remainder of the men he had traveled with were sent to Mukden, Manchuria.

"Each morning I would wake up, and there would be dead men on my left and right," he said.

The day he arrived in Mukden, he was given a big bowl of stew. Being from Alabama, he loved beef stew.

"This was dog meat. It tasted mighty good," said Lankford.

"You didn't see many stray dogs around there."

When he arrived in the Army Air Corps back in 1941, he had weighed about 150 pounds. In Manchuria at liberation, he weighed 60 pounds.

The Russians arrived, he said, and things became rather chaotic.

"I'll never forget it. These Russians were front-line troops. They were plenty rough. The Russians would make raids every night.

"It was like the Fourth of July every night. Everybody was shooting at everybody else."

Lankford was set free of his Japanese ordeal Aug. 20, 1945. The Russians put the POWs aboard a train and sent them back toward American lines.

He arrived in Port Arthur, Manchuria, and ran into an old navy chief who asked him what he'd like to eat.

"I told him I wanted some ice cream," said Lankford. "But I couldn't eat it. The chief said he'd just put it up for me with my name on it. I could have all the ice cream I wanted."

Eventually he was returned to Manila, put aboard a Danish ship and sent home.

"We were heading home," said Lankford. "We were so happy."

In the state of Washington, he boarded a hospital train. There he was given slippers and pajamas for the first time in four years.

"We crossed the big, ol' U.S.A.," he said, his face beaming with pride.

He was able to meet his family in Atlanta and spent about an hour with them before leaving for Augusta, Ga. Unlike most, Lankford had been able to let his family know by 1944 that he was a POW. They just

didn't know where he was or under what conditions he had survived.

"I was lucky. Most of the POW families never knew their soldiers were alive until they got back to America."

He took six months to recover in an Augusta hospital. After a short time at home, Lankford decided to make the Air Force a career.

Today, a building at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base is named for Lankford. It houses all of his medals, and he plans to be buried there. The tombstone is already up.

But he is at peace now.

"For the first four or five years after I came home, I hated the Japanese," he said. "Then I got to thinking about it. Why should I hate them? It didn't have anything to do with the war."

He and his wife, Edna, of 59 years, returned to Japan in 2001.

"It was no problem, really," he said. "I feel very fortunate that I got to speak to the Japanese people again."

But that hasn't stopped the nightmares. He still sees the brutal guards and their nicknames in his dreams. "The Bull," was one, he said.

"We knew who to stay away from."

Some nights in the early months after his return, said Edna, her husband would scream out and grab her by the throat.

And then Paul Lankford would wake up. He was back home and not in Manchuria, dodging the Bull.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS IN WARSAW, POLAND

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of a Resolution which I cosponsored, and which was introduced today, recognizing the establishment of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland. This museum celebrates 900 years of Jewish life in Poland and commemorates the millions of Polish Jews killed during World War II.

The Holocaust proved to be one of the most horrendous offenses against humanity. In total, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews, more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe, were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators in Poland and throughout Europe.

As the epicenter for European Jewish culture and arts, Poland was home to 3.3 million Jews prior to World War II. The Nazis established their largest concentration camp in Poland at Auschwitz. At a minimum, 1.3 million people were deported to the camp between 1940 and 1945, and at least 1.1 million were murdered there.

I applaud and commend the Government of Poland's support of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, and its commitment to Holocaust education. In addition, the philanthropic efforts by a number of companies and organizations cannot be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, we must never forget the tragic events that led up to the Holocaust and we must urge all countries and all peoples to strengthen their efforts to fight against racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance around the globe.

If we do not remain committed to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations, then history will be doomed to repeat

itself. The Museum of the History of Polish Jews serves as an important element to ensure future generations will remember the 900 years of Jewish culture in Poland and their sacrifices.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NOURED-
DINE BOULOHA, NEW AMER-
ICAN CITIZEN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Noureddine Boulouha on becoming a U.S. citizen.

Mr. Boulouha, who took his citizenship oath on June 1, 2005, came to the United States from Morocco 6 years ago. He quickly established himself as a valuable member of the local community. In addition to pursuing academic studies, he holds the position of Senior Vice President for Marketing and Operations at Amena Consulting. His engaging personality and impressive knowledge of American politics make him a popular figure at the Monocle Restaurant on Capitol Hill. He and his wonderful wife, Catherine, have just purchased their first home.

Mr. Speaker, we are all fortunate to live in this land of opportunity, and Noureddine Boulouha embodies the qualities that have made our Nation great: a spirit of entrepreneurship, industriousness, devotion to family and love of country. It is a pleasure to welcome him as a fellow American citizen.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the commemoration of the 16th annual National Recovery Month this September. National Recovery Month serves as an important reminder of the benefits of treating alcohol and drug use. It promotes the message that recovery from alcohol and drug use disorder in all its forms is possible and lauds the collective effort that goes into achieving such recovery.

Substance abuse and substance dependence create substantial health risks not only to the individual, but also to other community members in that individual's life. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as many as 63 percent of Americans admit that addiction to alcohol or illicit drugs has had an impact on them at some point in their lives. This may include either their own personal addiction or that of a friend or family member. In 2003, an estimated 22.2 million Americans age 12 or older were considered in need of treatment for an alcohol or drug use disorder. Substance abuse is not only linked to chronic health problems, but also with other problems such as unemployment, crime, homelessness, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These disorders can be treated, and the treatments leading to recovery are as suc-

cessful as treatments to other medical conditions such as high blood pressure or asthma. Recovery, or the process of initiating and maintaining abstinence from drug use, requires persistent and often multiple courses of treatment, including behavior based therapies and for some, medication. Unfortunately, many people who are in need of treatment do not receive it.

National Recovery Month 2005 heightens awareness of the need to improve the process of assessing abuse problems and referring people to appropriate treatment. It is imperative that families are provided with the support services they need, that appropriate treatment is affordable, and that access to treatment options are more readily available.

Addiction is a real and complex disease, one which impacts the individual, family, and community. Our esteemed former colleague, Congressman Michael Forbes, was directly impacted by the substance abuse of a beloved family member, one of my constituents. Carri-Forbes of Hastings-on-Hudson is a courageous young woman who overcame her addiction problems and successfully rebuilt her life. Her recovery serves as an example of the importance of treatment and the need to support more programs and initiatives to help our friends, family, and members of our community.

HONORING DAVID J. RUDIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David J. Rudis on his being honored by the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago at their annual Hall of Fame Heritage Society Luncheon.

David Rudis is a distinguished resident of Glencoe and has contributed greatly to the Chicago area Jewish community through his entrepreneurship, energy, and warm heart. His ability to fulfill the dual role of business leader and philanthropist is truly remarkable, and he has worked tirelessly to enhance the effectiveness of local civic, educational, and cultural organizations.

As the president of Personal Financial Services at LaSalle Bank, David is highly regarded in Chicago's business community. He sits on a number of important committees for the bank, which is among the largest in the nation. He also oversees strategic growth and development for LaSalle Bank.

David's contributions extend far beyond his business acumen. He is tirelessly devoted to the future and vitality of his community and actively participates in many charitable organizations.

He has held leadership positions at a wide array of community organizations, from the Merit School of Music to the Standard Club of Chicago. David has always been a strong supporter of Chicago Public Radio. He is a former chairman of the Governing Board of WBEZ, and he is currently a member of the WBEZ Executive Board. He is also a well-respected and active member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois I thank David J. Rudis

for his many outstanding contributions to our community. His efforts have had a profound impact on the lives of his co-workers, friends, and family. I wish him continued success in his business and philanthropic endeavors.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Congress debated and passed H.R. 3045, the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). I voted in opposition to the trade agreement because of my concerns regarding the full ramifications of its passage and because I am a proponent of trade policies that enhance the welfare of participating countries. Any free trade agreement entered into by the United States should be fair. CAFTA, however, is neither free nor fair. CAFTA will cost American jobs, is unfair to American workers and exploits cheap foreign labor.

As we consider future trade agreements, I believe it is particularly relevant that we learn the lessons from NAFTA. We have learned that the promises of U.S. economic prosperity, curbed undocumented immigration, robust markets and massive job creation went unfulfilled. I fear that NAFTA is a precursor for what can be expected under CAFTA.

NAFTA promised millions of new jobs and a trade surplus for the United States that was never realized. Instead the U.S. has lost over one million jobs to Mexico and Canada. More specifically, the rise in the U.S. trade deficit with Canada and Mexico through 2004 has caused the displacement of production that supported over one million U.S. jobs since NAFTA was signed in 1993. Jobs have been displaced in most states and many industries in the United States. In my home state of Texas alone, more than 170,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost. The loss of these jobs has contributed significantly to the expanding burdens of unemployed workers in our state.

Why do these trade agreements cost us American jobs? Free trade agreements can create an environment that encourages corporations to relocate and take American jobs with them. By making it easier for the Central American countries to export certain products and because they have cheaper labor and weaker labor rights protections, CAFTA would encourage U.S. businesses to relocate. Though supporters tout Central America as a market for U.S. goods, it is not. CAFTA amounts to nothing more than an outsourcing agreement.

Adding insult to injury, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs designed to help those who lose their jobs due to trade agreements remain underfunded and ineffective. Congress has not provided adequate funding for this program to meet the needs of thousands upon thousands of workers who have been displaced by trade. You cannot have trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA that

displace American workers and yet do not provide them with any assistance when they need it.

Not only is CAFTA wrong for the U.S. economy and American workers, its exploitation of cheap foreign labor is morally deficient. CAFTA disbands internationally accepted labor standards and provides no repercussions or penalties for those that violate workers' rights. In fact, CAFTA does not require nations to bring their laws into compliance with International Labor Organization (ILO) core labor standards, even though the ILO and U.S. State Department have documented numerous areas where the CAFTA countries' laws fail to comply with even the most basic international norms. This trade agreement merely encourages nations to enforce their own labor laws, no matter how weak those laws may be.

I strongly believe that workers' rights are human rights. They are critical to improving living standards and quality of life both here and abroad. Unfortunately, CAFTA will demand an honest days work without guaranteeing an honest days pay. If we were serious about helping workers in CAFTA countries, we would have gone back to the drawing board, negotiated a better deal for American workers and improved CAFTA nations' labor standards.

WALLACE "MONK" SANFORD III,
2005 VIRGINIA FARMER OF THE
YEAR

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Wallace "Monk" Sanford III of Orange, Virginia, who has been selected as the 2005 Virginia Farmer of the Year and will compete in October to be named the Southeastern Farmer of the Year by the Lancaster/Sunbelt Expo.

Mr. Sanford is most deserving of this honor, as he not only runs a successful dairy and beef cattle operation, but he also proudly and honorably represents a way of life that has helped define Virginia for nearly 400 years. Fittingly, the image of the barn and silos of Mr. Sanford's farm, Kenwood, will appear on a new Virginia license plate that celebrates the rich agricultural heritage of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Sanford began farming full time at Kenwood when he graduated from high school in 1965, and in 1975 became a partner with his parents in the farm. Kenwood is now twice the size it was in 1975, and Mr. Sanford has plans to increase its operation further. But Mr. Sanford's success should not be measured by his farming operation alone.

He is also a tireless advocate for the agricultural community, participating in and serving on the boards of numerous local and statewide agricultural organizations, including the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, of which his farm was a founding member. Mr. Sanford also speaks up for standards and regulations that he believes will impact the survivability of agribusiness.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing Wallace "Monk" Sanford III—a man

whose dedication to honest, hard work and commitment to his community embodies not only Virginia's proud history, but also our American spirit.

HONORING DON RANDEL, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Michael Randel, President of the University of Chicago, on his recent acceptance to the appointment as the president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Under his leadership of Don Randel, the University of Chicago has undergone a major process of rejuvenation through one of the most successful fundraising ventures in the university's history. With new building additions and upgraded research facilities, the University of Chicago enhanced its reputation of being one of the leading research institutions in the world.

With over three decades of commitment to the arts and humanities, along with being the president of one of the top universities in the nation, Don Randel has made himself an outstanding candidate for the position to serve the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Before becoming president of the University of Chicago, Don Randel served the community of Cornell University for 32 years as a music professor, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and most prestigiously as the provost of Cornell University. For the past 5 years, Don Randel has served the University of Chicago, leading many efforts to improve and enhance the academics as well as the university's fundraising program.

The Mellon Foundation was established in 1969 through the consolidation of the Old Dominion Foundation and the Avalon Foundation. It makes grants principally in five core areas: higher education and scholarship, library and scholarly communications, conservation and the environment, museums and art conservation, and the performing arts.

It is my honor to recognize Don Michael Randel for his many achievements both within and outside of the academic community, fostering the growth of a leading research institution, and helping create change and promote progress in today's society.

REMARKS OF THE FIRST LADY,
LAURA BUSH, AT THE DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 5, 2005, the annual ceremony to observe Yom Hashoah, the Day of Remembrance for victims of the Holocaust, was held in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. This year's

theme, "From Liberation to the Pursuit of Justice," commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Allied liberation of the Nazi concentration camps as well as the beginning of the prosecution of war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany. Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials, and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the anniversary of this historical triumph.

This moving ceremony featured a stirring address by distinguished First Lady Laura Bush. As a proponent of tolerance and freedom, and the daughter of a liberator of the Nazi concentration camp at Nordhausen, Laura Bush champions the call to teach America's youth about the horrors of the Holocaust. She reminds us that we must honor the memory of the victims of Hitler's twisted tyranny so that current and future generations will always remember the dark atrocities of the Holocaust and never repeat them.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the outstanding address of First Lady Laura Bush be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to study and ponder her thoughtful remarks.

REMARKS AT THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
COMMEMORATION BY FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH

Thank you, Fred Zeidman and Ruth Mandel, for your leadership of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Thanks to the Members of Congress who are here with us, as well as the members of the diplomatic corps. Thank you, Susan Eisenhower, for representing your grandfather, who was a hero of freedom. I particularly want to express my gratitude to the survivors and the liberators who bear living witness to the Holocaust. Your presence is evidence that good will always triumph over evil.

Four years ago, I accompanied my husband here when he delivered remarks to observe the Day of Remembrance. My mother was with us that day, and neither of us knew when we came to this ceremony that the flags of the liberating units would be brought into the Rotunda. When we saw the Timberwolf on the 104th Infantry Division, we immediately recognized it as the symbol of my father's World War II unit. It was moving and it brought back a flood of memories. I'm honored to be here again today this year to see these proud flags of liberation.

The men and women of the Allied forces were fighting evil and cruelty. Six million Jews perished in the Holocaust. They were stripped of their dignity and robbed of their lives solely because of who they were and the faith they practiced. It was not the first time evil men had sought the destruction of the Jewish people. Even today, we see incidences of anti-Semitism around the world. The survivors of the Holocaust bear witness to the danger of what anti-Semitism can become, and their stories of survival remind us that when we are confronted by anti-Semitism, we must fight it.

The scope of the horror of the death camps emerged 60 years ago as Allied troops liberated the survivors. First Majdanek. Later Auschwitz, Birkenau, Buchenwald. One by one, the gates opened to reveal the horrors inside, and then to let in the light.

Survivors stepped forward to describe what had occurred, and then to carry forward the memory of mothers, fathers, children, and friends who were the victims. The liberated saw troops wearing the uniforms of many nations, and viewed them as "angels from heaven."

The liberators brought freedom. They also brought dignity. Men and women in the camps had been treated as less than human. They were given numbers for identification. They were deployed for slave labor and tossed aside when they could no longer work.

When the liberators came, simple acts gave rise to profound joy. A survivor named Gerda Weissman Klein recalled her liberation in an interview recorded in this Museum. An American soldier greeted Gerda and asked, "May I see the other ladies?" After six years of being addressed with insults and slurs, to be called a lady was an overwhelming courtesy. The soldier asked her to come with him, and Gerda said, "He held the door open for me and let me precede him, and in that gesture restored my humanity."

A survivor named Alan Zimm remembers the Allied soldiers who liberated him from Bergen-Belsen. They called to the people inside the camp in many different languages, each time with the same simple message: My dear friends, from now on, you are free.

The liberators themselves remember the scenes. They also became keepers of memories, witnesses to the evil. Few could comprehend what they saw. Young men, many in their teens, hardened by years of fighting their way across Europe, at the camps they wept for the people they met. One American who participated in the liberation of Dachau recalled that with just one look at the survivors, he quotes, "We realized what this war was all about."

Many of the soldiers returned home, unable to talk about their experiences at the camps. The emotions were too raw, the images too painful. Words could not fully convey what happened.

My father's unit, the 104th Infantry, helped to liberate the camp at Nordhausen. My father is no longer living, but when I used to ask him about that time, he couldn't bear to talk about it. I think in retrospect, he couldn't bear to tell his child that there could be such evil in the world.

As survivors and liberators leave us, the work of preserving their memories is all the more urgent. Staff and volunteers from the United States Holocaust Museum have conducted thousands of interviews to gather information from eyewitnesses. The information is available to all who seek it. Over the last 12 years, 22 million visitors have walked through the museum. Each year, 150,000 teachers receive training on how to educate children about the Holocaust. The museum has sent survivors to speak to more than 15,000 members of the armed forces at more than 40 military installations.

The museum is our national effort to honor the survivors, the liberators, the victims and the families affected by the Holocaust. It's fitting that it sits on the National Mall, near great monuments to democracy. The lessons of tyranny and liberty that lie at the heart of the Holocaust remind us that preserving freedom requires constant vigilance.

Other museums and memorials exist throughout America and around the world. Some are small and private, located in the hearts and homes of families who cherish their heritage. Others bring communities together to explore the impact of the Holocaust.

I learned of the efforts of a group of teachers and students in Whitwell, Tennessee. Whitwell is a rural town of about 1,600 people, most of them Christian. Students and staff at Whitwell Middle School began studying the Holocaust to explore, as one teacher described it, "what happens when intolerance reigns and when prejudice goes unchecked."

The students at Whitwell had trouble grasping the magnitude of the Holocaust.

When thinking about the Jews who lost their lives in the concentration camp, one student asked, "What is six million?"

In the course of their research, the students discovered that during World War II, the people of Norway wore paper clips on their clothing in silent resistance to the Nazi aggression. Whitwell's students decided to collect six million paper clips so that they could visualize what a staggering number six million really is.

They ultimately collected 30 million paper clips. The school acquired a World War II-era German railcar, one used to carry people to the camps. Today, the railcar sits on the grounds of Whitwell Middle School, holding 11 million paper clips, to represent the victims of Nazi persecution.

But of course, what's important about the paper clips are the stories that accompanied them. Eyewitness accounts poured in from survivors and liberators, from men and women who had never known their grandparents, or who had lost their siblings. Survivors visited Whitwell to relate their experiences, and to help ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust reached even a small Appalachian town.

A center of Holocaust awareness and memory now sits in one of the least likely places. A movie called "Paper Clips" was produced to document the Whitwell project. Students give tours of their railcar memorial and pass along the knowledge they've gained. Teachers from the Whitwell have spoken to students in German schools, and they visited concentration camps.

When President Bush and I visited Auschwitz, I realized that there are things textbooks can't teach. They can't teach you how to feel when you see prayer shawls or baby shoes left by children being torn from their mothers, or prison cells with the scratch marks of attempted escape. But what moved me the most were the thousands of eyeglasses, their lenses still smudged with tears and dirt. It struck me how vulnerable we are as humans, how many needed those glasses to see, and how many people living around the camps and around the world refused to see. We see today and we know what happened and we'll never forget.

Later this week, President Bush and I will visit the Rumbula Holocaust Memorial in Latvia—the site of the second-largest massacre of Jews perpetrated by the Nazis during World War II. Whenever and wherever we remember the victims of the Holocaust, we deepen our commitment to tolerance and freedom. In Whitwell, Tennessee, in Washington, DC, at Yad Vashem, at Auschwitz—new generations are honoring those ideals simply by looking and learning and listening. The voices of the survivors and liberators will one day be silent, but their testimony will be heard forever. Thank you, and may God bless you all.

MARCUS GARVEY—HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A LEGEND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on August 17th a very important occasion will be observed—the 118th birthday of Marcus Garvey. Marcus Garvey is widely considered a monumental figure in world and American history. In the 1920's, his message of unity, cultural pride, and self-sufficiency inspired millions of people around the world.

In this country, Garvey's message of pride in heritage and identification with African roots inspired African Americans at a time when we were oppressed by the impact of slavery and segregation. The Harlem based movement he started with the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) during the early 1900's is still the largest that the modern Black world has ever seen.

His efforts would be a major impetus in the later movements that would free black peoples from the shackles of colonization and legalized discrimination. Indeed, his life and philosophy were embraced by influential Black leaders of the 20th century such as Kwame Nkrumah, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King. He is a national hero of almost mythic proportions in his native Jamaica, and was an inspiration for the Rastafarian movement in Jamaica during the 20th century. Indeed, his praises have been sung in reggae songs up to the present day.

Despite his future impact, the America in which he lived was a much different place then it is today. African Americans did not have rights, and were expected to accept their inequitable position in society. Many became threatened by the size and implications of Marcus Garvey's movement, and he soon became the target of significant government harassment, led by a young J. Edgar Hoover. Eventually, Mr. Garvey was convicted on a single charge of mail fraud—a charge that experts agree was spurious.

Marcus Garvey has been an inspiration to me since I was a child. I was born, raised, and still live in Harlem, where Garvey established the Headquarters for the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Though I was born three years after Garvey was, deported from the United States, his imprint on Harlem was still evident throughout my childhood and adolescence. I often met followers of Garvey's movement, known as Garveyites, who would preach his philosophy. Their words encouraged me to do my own research. As I grew older, I came to fully understand the importance of Garvey and the injustice of his wrongful conviction.

Since 1987, I have endeavored to restore the good name of Marcus Garvey, and my effort is continuing in the 109th Congress. I now have the support of an ever-increasing number of individuals, organizations, constituencies and legislators. Cities from Hartford, Connecticut to Lauderhill, Florida have passed resolutions calling for Mr. Garvey's exoneration, and Rep. Rangel's current Marcus Garvey resolution, H. Con. Res. 57, has garnered the most House support since it was first introduced in 1987.

A Presidential pardon is the final and most important step in restoring the good name of Marcus Garvey and preserving his legacy for future generations. To that end, I sent an official request to President Bush this week urging the granting of a posthumous Presidential pardon to Marcus Garvey. It is my hope that President Bush will take the time to investigate the merits of my request, as such consideration on behalf of Marcus Garvey is long overdue. I will also attend a ceremony in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica—the birthplace of Marcus Garvey—in August, to commemorate the 118th anniversary of Mr. Garvey's birth.

We here in the House recently passed a resolution, H. Con. Res. 175, which acknowledged African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas and recommended that the United States and the

international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendants in our hemisphere. That was one of the goals of Marcus Garvey—the improvement of Afro-descendants. As we continue to make progress on that front, we must continue to remember Marcus Garvey, and restore to him the honor which he deserves.

RECOGNIZING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H. Con. Res. 216, which seeks to advance the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Ninety-five years after the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, African Americans in the South still faced tremendous obstacles to voting, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic restrictions designed to disenfranchise them. In addition, they risked harassment, intimidation, economic reprisals, and physical violence when they tried to register or vote. As a result, few African Americans were registered voters, and consequently wielded little, if any, local or national political power.

In the aftermath of "Bloody Sunday", where the rights of nonviolent civil rights marchers were brutally abridged, our nation recognized that democracy was not yet fulfilled for African-Americans. President Lyndon B. Johnson was then prompted to encourage Congress to draft a comprehensive voting rights bill. The outcome was the Voting Rights Bill of 1965, enacted on August 6, 1965. It took direct aim at black disenfranchisement in the South by targeting areas, such as Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, where fewer than 50 percent of eligible voters participated in the election. In these areas, the Federal Government was then authorized to appoint examiners to conduct the registration process, in the place of local officials. It has been argued, by the Department of Justice, that the influx of "federal registrars represented the ultimate triumph of national policy toward minorities over state and local policies." Mr. Speaker, I contend that it was the long overdue enforcement of the rights provided in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

It is clear that the effects of the voting rights law were immediate and extensive. By 1967 black voter registration in six southern states had increased from 30 percent to more than 50 percent. There was also a correspondingly sharp increase in the number of blacks elected to political office in the South. Furthermore, in 1976, when Democrat Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States by a narrow margin, the "newly-enfranchised southern blacks" were deemed to be largely responsible.

Although this legislation is of particular significance to African Americans, it is truly a landmark law, which secures the franchise for all Americans regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." As we approach the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, it is important that we remember to

uphold and strengthen the tenets of this Act and in doing so preserve our constitutional rights.

We should never forget the sacrifices made by the activists of the Civil Rights Movement, and therefore strive to continually advance their legacy in this era.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
MACPHERSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise to pay special tribute to the life and spirit of an outstanding community leader, Mr. Earl MacPherson. Earl passed away on July 10, 2005, at his home in Medford, Oregon. He is survived by his wife, Lyn; daughters, Laura and Adrienne; son, Ronald; and step-son, Robert. On behalf of the constituents of Oregon's Second Congressional District, my family, and myself, I offer deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

Earl's passing, after a life replete with civic accomplishments, concludes a remarkable string of military and volunteer service that set a commendable standard for other leaders and volunteers to follow. His legacy and contributions to southern Oregon veterans and seniors will live on for generations to come.

With service in the United States Marine Corps, the Oregon Army National Guard and the Oregon State Defense Force, Earl dedicated 50 years of service in defense of our Nation during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1944, following the Battle of Saipan, he received the Purple Heart medal for wounds sustained during an enemy grenade attack.

Ever the warrior, Earl spent the past 30 years championing the causes of, and lending his voice to, his fellow veterans. He was the founder and chairman of the Jackson County Allied Veterans Council, organized and started Medford's annual Veterans' Day parade and was instrumental in establishing the annual Southern Oregon Stand-down event to aid homeless veterans. In addition, Earl was an active member of some fifteen different veterans' organizations, including his beloved Marine Corps League. Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to list all of his accomplishments as a volunteer. In fact, I last had the pleasure of seeing Earl at the dedication of the Medford Veterans Park Memorial, a fitting final project for an unparalleled veterans' advocate.

Earl's focus on community involvement extended beyond veterans' concerns. Since 1991, he had served on the Board of Directors of the Medford Senior Center. Under his guidance, this vitally important facility became a well spring for the mental, physical, and social health of thousands of Jackson County seniors.

Samuel Logan Brengle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once spoke the following words that reflect Earl's character and life. He said, "The final estimate of men shows that history cares not an iota for the rank or title a man has borne, or the office he has held, but only the quality of his deeds and the character of his mind and heart." Indeed, Earl MacPherson has exemplified these ideals

through his service, sacrifice and commitment to his country and his community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

MEXICAN POSTAL SERVICE'S
ISSUANCE OF THE "MEMIN
PINGUIN" STAMPS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative CLEAVER and the Congressional Black Caucus for bringing focus to this sensitive issue.

The Mexican government's decision to release the "Memin Pinguin" stamp series has rekindled many memories of past racism in this Nation and abroad. I am outraged and disappointed that Mexico's President, Vicente Fox, has allowed such a negative racial depiction to circulate throughout Mexico.

Growing up during the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, I saw firsthand the struggles of my parents and many others more famous, like Representative JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and many others that fought for the equal and fair treatment for all people, not just African-Americans. To publish a stamp that celebrates a stereotypical image of people with African ancestry is offensive to those who have fought and to those who are still fighting for the equal treatment of all people.

The "Memin Pinguin" depicts a young boy with much exaggerated features including large lips and bulging eyes. These depictions have served as a source of distasteful comedy for far too many years. This Mexican stamp series does nothing but hinder the ongoing efforts to remove racial barriers worldwide. The ideology expressed in this stamp shows the world that it is okay to mimic and belittle people, which is something that I know this Congress and this country do not condone.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard for me to explain to the constituents of Maryland's 7th District, which includes a growing South American population, as well as a sizeable African-American population, how the Mexican government justifies the distribution of such a derogatory stamp—that could possibly be mailed worldwide.

Our own administration has stated that these racially insensitive stamps have no place in the modern world.

Conversely, Mexico's President Vicente Fox has stated that he does not feel that the stamps express racial stereotypes and has ignored all calls to pull them from circulation. Additionally, he has stated there is absolutely nothing discriminatory about this stamp collection.

In May 2005, President Fox said that, "Mexican migrants in the U.S. did jobs even blacks don't want." President Fox's comment was a slap in the face to all American citizens who believe in justice and equality worldwide. Today, as we face the new world on terror, people of all races, nationalities and backgrounds are forming powerful political and economic coalitions. The comments and actions of President Fox do nothing to strengthen the bonds in these communities.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, many civic organizations are disturbed by the release of the "Memin Pinguin" series and the subsequent comments made by the Mexican government. The NAACP has called the stamps "injurious to black people who live in the United States and Mexico." The Mexican Negro Association, which represents some 50,000 blacks, said "Memin Pinguin rewards, celebrates, typifies and cements the distorted, mocking, stereotypical and limited vision of black people in general."

These groups, in addition to various other civil rights groups have demanded, but to no avail, that President Fox apologize for his actions. I agree with these groups and support their efforts to not only have President Fox immediately cease the circulation and production of this stamp, but to also hold himself accountable for the inflammatory statements he has made against African-Americans.

In response to the public outcry, the Mexican Ambassador to the United States Carlos de Loaza released a letter. In the letter Ambassador de Loaza writes, "Mexico acknowledges and recognizes the relationship of mutual respect that it has with the African-American community, based on the struggle to protect our communities against discrimination and in the promotion of human rights and diversity."

While I appreciate the sentiments expressed in his letter, I believe that actions speak louder than words. If President Fox wants to show the level of respect that he has, for not only the African-American community, but for all people, I would request that he issue a formal apology and halt all sales and production of the "Memin Pinguin" stamps.

The insensitivity embedded in the circulation of the "Memin Pinguin" stamps are a clear indication that we still have a long way to go in improving race relations globally. It is truly disheartening when a world leader possesses apparent racial and cultural insensitivity and lacks the humility to apologize when there is nothing to lose.

The 750,000 stamps that were sold out after two days represent 750,000 symbols of ignorance and bigotry. Since the civil rights era, we have worked hard on healing as a Nation—we must not revert to the hatred and injustice of the past. These stamps are a haunting memory of America's iniquity that we should never revisit.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ELLIOTT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Shirley Elliott, an exceptional Kentuckian. Elliott, a 72-year-old deputy sheriff, has served and protected the people of Knox County with distinction for 35 years. A man this committed to the safety and well being of his community deserves our recognition.

Like many eastern Kentucky teenagers from his generation, Elliott was prepared to work in the dark coal mines of Appalachia. He began

helping his father haul coal out of the mines at the age of 15. In 1970, while he worked at a coal tippie in Knox County, he received an offer from then-Sheriff Jim Matt Mooneyham to become deputy sheriff. After a short time on duty, Elliott knew he had found his lifelong calling.

Thirty-five years later, Elliott is a pillar of the community that he serves and protects. The community and law enforcement officers in Knox County hold him in high regard, and he has earned a reputation as a mediator. Current Sheriff John Pickard recently told a Kentucky paper, "He's probably the best I've ever seen at calming a dangerous situation." Elliott says his strategy involves simply giving people time and space to cool off. During 35 years of service, he has never had to fire his .44-caliber Smith & Wesson during a potentially dangerous encounter.

Deputy Sheriff Elliott no longer works the night shift, which leaves more time for him to work in his garden and spend time with his wife Nikki and their children and grandchildren. He has considered retirement, but, for now, continues to proudly wear his badge.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank Deputy Sheriff Shirley Elliott for his sacrifice and service on behalf of the people of Knox County, Kentucky. His dedication and integrity are an inspiration to us all.

CARIBBEAN EMANCIPATION DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the Caribbean celebration of the 167th anniversary of their emancipation from slavery, which was achieved on August 1, 1838. This day of celebration and love for freedom is commemorated by the former British colonies in the Caribbean in appreciation of their collective independence. No longer were the inhabitants of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, or the rest of the West Indies held in bondage as slaves in their homeland. No longer were they unjustly enchained at the hands of the European colonists.

Emancipation Day in the Caribbean is akin to Juneteenth Day for African-Americans. It is a time to recognize and celebrate our independence and freedom. Emancipation Day provided the Caribbean people with opportunities to direct and control their daily lives and to live and strive for greater independence.

I have long believed that the struggles for freedom of African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans were connected. Slavery and injustice have been our common experience. Slavery drew lines between slaves and masters that would be difficult to break. We—African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans—still struggle with breaking those barriers, stereotypes, and misperceptions that are the vestiges of the transatlantic slave trade. The major difference is the history and mechanisms at our disposal for the erosion of these ill effects.

For Afro-Caribbeans, Emancipation Day has emerged as an important reminder of their

struggle and a significant enforcer of their dreams to be a better people. It is a reminder of their strength, determination, and willpower in fighting against their oppressor.

There is a famous story in the Caribbean that I like to tell around this time. It is about a young lady who was brought to the shores of Jamaica to work as a slave by the British in the early 1700s. Like the Caribbean countries themselves, her roots were African. Her name was likely Ashanti as she hailed from that great African kingdom, but upon arriving she was stripped of her given name and was known among her fellow slaves simply as "Nanny." The loss of name, heritage, and history is a practice that has long afflicted Africans in the Americas as a result of the brutal and tragic transatlantic slave trade.

While slavery existed outright in the Caribbean until 1834, and then under the name of "apprenticeship" until 1838, Nanny resisted it at every opportunity. Soon, after her arrival in Jamaica, she displayed that Caribbean proclivity for cutting her own path and escaped from her master's plantation with her five brothers. Granny Nanny of the Maroons, as she is popularly referred to today, traveled around the countryside organizing free Africans in the towns of Portland, St. James, and St. Elizabeth. She eventually established Nanny Town and based the community's governance on the Ashanti society. She held fast to her culture and incorporated into her new world.

Nanny was small and wiry, like many of the Caribbean nations. She was also singularly focused in her pursuit of self-determination. The vast British military presence on the island launched numerous attacks on Nanny and her comrades, hoping to force them back into slavery. For nearly 20 years, Nanny evaded the British and withstood their aggressions. She placed guards at lookout points, sent spies to live among the slave populations, and ordered her fighters to dress like trees and bushes to avoid detection. Slave resistance and rebellions were not just an American phenomenon.

In 1737, the British offered Nanny a truce. The maroons would be given land and rights as free men, but only if they promised to help capture and return runaway slaves, assist the government in putting down revolts, and cease their battles with the British. Their alternative would be to continue in their campaign against the massive British military, pitting 800 former slaves against the strongest army in the world at the time.

To proud, determined, and resourceful Nanny, this was an easy decision. She flatly turned down the British offer. Her freedom and the freedom of her people could not be bought. It would not be traded. It would not be negotiated away. She fought to her dying breath for that freedom and remains a powerful legend and force in the Caribbean today.

In that same vein, the nations of the Caribbean will not and have not wavered from their commitment to freedom. Go to Barbados, Nevis, the Bahamas, Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Grenada and St. Lucia. There you will find the tales of Granny Nanny and her fight for freedom.

For centuries, the people of these countries refused to accept colonialism and fought stubbornly for their freedom in hideaways in cities, mountains, and forests. In 1838, the British gave up and emancipated the peoples of the Caribbean. The love of the Caribbean people for their freedom and the strength of majesties, like Granny Nanny, was too much to overcome.

When I think of the importance of Caribbean Emancipation Day, I think of the struggle and actions of individuals like Granny Nanny of the Maroons, the hero who typifies the spirit of these great nations. They remind me of American warriors such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. Caribbean Emancipation Day belongs to the people of the Caribbean, but the celebration is truly an African celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARK'S COURAGEOUS OPPOSITION TO SEGREGATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H. Con. Res. 208, which recognizes the pivotal contribution of Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks. Mrs. Parks is best known as the seamstress who became a courageous activist and changed America forever with bold defiance of segregation. Although she has been portrayed as a quiet woman, her actions have spoken volumes. Her refusal, on December 1, 1955, to yield her seat to a white patron on a Montgomery, Alabama bus resulted in a charge of disorderly conduct. However, her action precipitated the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, which brought Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence and prompted the U.S. Supreme Court decision to rule that segregation in public transportation is unconstitutional.

As a result, many regard her as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement." But there is far more to the story of the icon, Mrs. Rosa Parks. She was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama and educated at the Alabama State Teacher's College. Mrs. Parks and her husband, Raymond Parks, were very active in their local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She, in particular, served both as secretary and youth leader. After the boycott, Mrs. Parks' civil rights advocacy did not end. In 1957, she moved to Detroit to continue her work through the Office of Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Jr. Then, in 1988, after leaving his office, she started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development to motivate youth to reach their highest potential.

During the past four decades, she has continued to remind Americans of the history of the civil rights struggle. As a pioneer in the struggle for racial equality, subsequent generations owe her the sincerest appreciation. Although she is the recipient of innumerable honors, including the NAACP's Springarn Medal (1979), the Martin Luther King Jr. Non-violent Peace Prize (1980), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1996), and the Congressional Gold Medal (1999), we recognize the

need for a national celebration of her contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Parks is a living symbol of courage and determination and an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere. Since 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of her act of civil disobedience and the beginning of desegregation efforts throughout America, Mr. Speaker, it behooves us to recognize her this year. It is my hope that in celebrating Mrs. Parks, this great Nation will continue to uphold her legacy.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BARBARA JOHNSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Johnson, a trusted and dedicated member of my staff who has served the U.S. House of Representatives and my constituents with distinction and an unswerving commitment to excellence.

Barbara keeps my district schedule in a meticulous fashion. Due to her efficient ways, I've never missed an official meeting on her scheduling watch. Every constituent seeking an appointment or my assistance receives a prompt and accurate response from Barbara, and visitors leave my office with a smile after dealing with her. Simply put, Barbara is a pleasure for people to work with and she's darn good at what she does.

In over three years of making district travel arrangements for me and my staff, there has never been a glitch. My colleagues can fully appreciate what a significant achievement that is. With a district larger than thirty-three states and my commuting back to my district every week, it is comforting to know that even the most ambitious travel schedule will go smoothly in Barbara's hands.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, many times our constituents receive their first impression of us when they visit our offices. Barbara greets every visitor with a friendly smile and a warm welcome. People walking into my District Office know immediately from Barbara's cheerful demeanor and hospitable nature that they are welcome and are going to receive the best service I can render.

Although I could list many more of her significant contributions to our enterprise, her greatest asset is her ability to work with the fellow members of the team. She is always of good cheer and considerate of her fellow staff members. She is the calming force in stressful times and the mature, steady hand in any crisis. We tease her about being the "Mom," but without a doubt, she demonstrates that quiet and loving leadership that is often associated with an outstanding mother.

Sadly for our office and the residents of southern, central and eastern Oregon, at the end of this month Barbara will be leaving her service post in the United States Congress. Fortunately, she is moving on to new opportunities and a new phase in her very productive life. Although I am very happy that Barbara and her husband, Jim, will be enjoying the many new adventures that lie ahead for them, there is no doubt that Barbara will be sorely missed.

She leaves with my deepest gratitude for her service and the enduring friendship of all

who have had the good fortune to work with her. She may be living in another city, but she will always be a member of our team.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, 2005, our Nation will commemorate a major milestone in our Nation's democracy: the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This bill, signed into law by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, ended an iniquitous era in our country that we should never revisit.

Mr. Speaker, we celebrate this bill because its mandate speaks to the most essential exercise of American citizenship—the right to vote.

If it were not for the Voting Rights Act, millions of Americans, particularly African Americans and other people of color, would not have access to this precious right.

I remember well the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as he and so many others sacrificed their lives for the creation of this bill: "The most revolutionary action our people can undertake is to assert the full measure of our citizenship."

His words ring with the same truth today.

As a result of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, States with a history of racial discrimination were forbidden from using illegal and biased tactics to determine an individual's eligibility to vote.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act also required these States to obtain Federal approval before enacting any election laws and assigned Federal officials to monitor the registration process in certain localities.

In the 40 years since the passage of this bill, the number of African American registered voters has increased dramatically.

Nationwide, the number of African American elected officials has grown from just a handful in the early 1960s to more than 9,000 today.

In addition, Americans of all ethnic backgrounds have found strength in the promise of the Voting Rights Act.

However, despite these accomplishments, it remains clear that America still has much work to do before the mandate of the 1965 Voting Rights Act is fully realized.

As we saw in the 2000 presidential election and as reported by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, there is a new brand of voter discrimination and intimidation.

As a result of inconsistent State voter registration laws, inefficient voter equipment and in many instances, subjective oversight at the polls, millions of Americans were denied their right to vote in 2000.

As recently as July 2004, it was revealed that Florida State officials were preparing to use an erroneous voter registration list for the November 2004 elections.

Although this voter list was abandoned, it reveals the gross inefficiency that continues to burden our elections process.

Today, we must not only celebrate the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, we must breathe new life into this bill.

As several provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 expire in 2007, namely the preclearance and bilingual provisions, I urge the President and this Congress to make certain reauthorization does not become a back burner issue.

Lastly, I applaud my colleagues of this body who are the stalwarts on the issues of civil rights and voting rights, particularly Representatives JOHN LEWIS, JOHN CONYERS and CHARLIE RANGEL. I also applaud Reverend Jesse Jackson and many other faith leaders who continue to stand up for civil rights and human rights.

Again, I say to my colleagues that we should use every resource in Congress, especially those resources encapsulated in the Help America Vote Act, to ensure that every vote that is cast is counted.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ELLIOTT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Shirley Elliott, an exceptional Kentuckian. Elliott, a 72-year-old deputy sheriff, has served and protected the people of Knox County with distinction for 35 years. A man this committed to the safety and well being of his community deserves our recognition.

Like many eastern Kentucky teenagers from his generation, Elliott was prepared to work in the dark coal mines of Appalachia. He began helping his father haul coal out of the mines at the age of 15. In 1970, while he worked at a coal tippie in Knox County, he received an offer from then-Sheriff Jim Matt Mooneyham to become deputy sheriff. After a short time on duty, Elliott knew he had found his lifelong calling.

Thirty-five years later, Elliott is a pillar of the community that he serves and protects. The community and law enforcement officers in Knox County hold him in high regard, and he has earned a reputation as a mediator. Current Sheriff John Pickard recently told a Kentucky paper, "He's probably the best I've ever seen at calming a dangerous situation." Elliott says his strategy involves simply giving people time and space to cool off. During 35 years of service, he has never had to fire his .44-caliber Smith & Wesson during a potentially dangerous encounter.

Deputy Sheriff Elliott no longer works the night shift, which leaves more time for him to work in his garden and spend time with his wife Nikki and their children and grandchildren. He has considered retirement, but, for now, continues to proudly wear his badge.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank Deputy Sheriff Shirley Elliott for his sacrifice and service on behalf of the people of Knox County, Kentucky. His dedication and integrity are an inspiration to us all.

THE CRISIS IN NIGER—WE STILL HAVE NOT LEARNED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the crisis taking place now in the nation of Niger. Niger is currently facing one of the worst hunger crises in its history following severe drought and the country's worst locust invasion in 15 years.

The World Food Program maintains that 3.6 million of Niger's 11.5 million people face food shortages, while 2.5 million are on the brink of starvation. Some families are trying to survive by eating leaves and wild roots. The most vulnerable are young children, with 800,000 "at risk", according to WFP. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) reports that 10–15 are dying every week.

The United Nations' initial efforts to address the food crisis have been severely hindered by the slow response of the international community. It first alerted the international community to Niger's food shortages in November 2004. Subsequent appeals in March and May were both left unfulfilled. By July 2005 its \$30.7 million appeal had still not been fully funded. Government officials in Niger and international aid workers say a slow response from donor countries to months of appeals has allowed the situation to spiral to emergency status.

Recent images coming from Niger over the last few days, along with increased calls from media and aid groups, has elicited an international response. Desperately needed food aid is now starting to get into the hands of the people, but more is needed. The U.S. announced on Tuesday, that it would be sending \$7 million of food related assistance to the region, in addition to \$1.6 million in emergency assistance it gave in May, and \$4.6 million in overall 2005 assistance.

While this is welcomed, the slow pace of the response is cause for concern, especially after the Bush Administration announced in June that it would allocate \$674.4 million in emergency food aid to Africa in 2005. Aid experts have asserted that the cost per person of addressing the Niger crisis has increased nearly 100 fold because of the delay in assistance.

Unfortunately, the situation in Niger had to deteriorate to a point where the world was again seeing emaciated children on the brink of death before it acted. This simply cannot continue to happen if we are to end the unnecessary occurrence of famine. Indeed, leaders in the field of humanitarian assistance are asking for a shift in the way that the world responds to such challenges.

A July 26th article in USA Today entitled "Aid Workers Say Niger Crisis Illustrates Need For Reform", includes the opinions of Clare Godfrey, head of humanitarian advocacy for the aid group Oxfam.

Ms. Godfrey argues that the United Nations should establish a \$1 billion emergency famine relief fund to quickly respond to potential famine crises at the very first signs of trouble. Such a system would be much more cost effective, and prevent the unnecessary loss of life that we have seen in Niger. Ms. Godfrey

further argues that such a mechanism could be agreed to at the upcoming U.N. Summit in September.

One could also argue that the famine fund approach may be a more efficient use of the \$674.4 million in African emergency food aid which President Bush pledged in June. All one can say for sure is that the current international response to famine crises is inadequate—the people of Niger can attest to that.

[From USA Today, July 26, 2005]

AID WORKERS SAY NIGER CRISIS ILLUSTRATES NEED FOR REFORM

(By Francis Temman)

LONDON—Repeated U.N. appeals for money for Niger to save starving children were not answered until the situation became desperate, showing why the world needs to change the way it responds to humanitarian crises, aid workers say.

Donations have jumped dramatically in the last week because of increased media attention and TV images of the famine, U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland has said.

Mike Kiernan, a spokesman for Save the Children USA, said children are especially vulnerable when food is in short supply, so the world must respond quickly.

"We believe that governments and the United Nations must and can do more to help protect children in every stage of a humanitarian response," Kiernan said Tuesday.

A key, he said, was mobilizing public opinion. He said Save the Children had seen an extraordinary response from Americans to appeals made on its behalf by actor Brad Pitt for another African country, Ethiopia.

John O'Shea, chief executive of the Irish aid agency Goal, said one way of shocking the world into action might be for the United Nations to declare itself incapable of responding.

He said the international community too often sits back and expects the United Nations to act as its "fire brigade"—which "it isn't."

"It's a collection of organizations, some good, some reasonably good, some bureaucratic, some full of corruption, some wasteful," O'Shea said. "The bottom line is they are not doing the job."

The United Nations first appealed for help for Niger in November and got almost no response. A March appeal for \$16 million got about \$1 million. A May 25 plea for \$30.7 million has received \$7.6 million—about 25 percent of the amount requested—U.N. officials say.

The British aid agency Oxfam said the United Nations should instead have a \$1 billion emergency fund to draw on when it sees situations like the one in Niger developing.

Oxfam said the emergency fund should be adopted at a summit in September at which U.N. states are to consider proposed reforms.

"It's a real opportunity to change things around . . . how the world responds to crises like Niger," Clare Godfrey, Oxfam's head of humanitarian advocacy, said in an interview.

If the fund had been in place in November when the U.N. first pleaded for help for Niger, the money could have been drawn from it immediately, Godfrey said.

Hilary Benn, Britain's Cabinet minister for international aid, proposed such a fund last year, Godfrey said.

"The Nigers of the world won't happen again if there's commitment behind the rhetoric," Godfrey said.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, landmark civil rights legislation—the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—was enacted to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we reaffirm the simple premise—and the law of the land—that every American has the right to live independently and to fully participate in all aspects of our society.

We also celebrate the hard-fought victories that have resulted in social inclusion so that individuals with disabilities will not be isolated and living separate lives. However, we would be remiss to think that all the barriers are behind us or that we are close to meeting the goals of the ADA.

Complete implementation of ADA policies is necessary, so that individuals with disabilities can obtain jobs for which they qualify. Full and equal access for individuals with disabilities in regards to education, governmental services, public accommodations, transportation, housing, and the right to vote must also be secured.

Let us remember, that this 15th commemoration of the ADA is our call to renew our efforts, to realize the promise of the ADA and to continue to work towards the restoration of full protections for disabled Americans.

SOLIDARITY ON 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which occurred this week, I would like to share the attached Statement of Solidarity, signed by 170 national organizations and numerous state and local organizations. This Statement of Solidarity demonstrates the strong commitment in our nation for building upon the progress achieved in the first fifteen years after passage of the ADA, and continuing to strive to improve the lives of all Americans with disabilities.

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY ON 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT—JULY 26, 2005

Fifteen years ago today, with bipartisan support in Congress and broad endorsements from the civil rights coalition, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), calling for the “shameful wall of exclusion” to come tumbling down. As we mark this significant anniversary, we celebrate improvements in access to polling places and the secret ballot, government services and programs, transportation, public places, communication and in-

formation technology. Parents pushing strollers, workers delivering packages, and travelers pulling roller bags have grown accustomed to curb cuts, ramps, and other accessibility features less common in 1990. Our country is more accessible today thanks to the ADA, and all Americans are better off.

Although substantial progress has been made, we are reminded every day of the significant remnants of the “shameful wall of exclusion” that continue to prevent this great country from realizing the full promise of the ADA. The majority of Americans with disabilities continue to live in poverty and unnecessary isolation. Most adults with disabilities are either not working or not working to their full potential, robbing the economy of the contributions of tens of millions of would-be workers. Children and youth in special education continue to drop out of school in alarming numbers before obtaining a regular high school diploma. The promises of higher education, accessible and affordable housing and transportation, quality affordable healthcare, and a living wage continue to elude many adults with disabilities and their families. The ADA is slowly driving policy changes that have enabled more people with significant mental and physical disabilities to live independently in the community, but the ongoing institutional bias in the Medicaid program keeps too many people trapped in nursing homes and other institutions, unable to enjoy the freedoms and personal choices about where and how to live that other Americans take for granted.

New technologies are increasing the independence and productivity of many Americans. Yet, advances in technology alone are not guaranteed to improve the lives of people with disabilities. As we develop applications like Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VOIP) telephony, wireless telecommunications, widespread broadband internet connectivity, new medical devices, new computer applications, and a plethora of new genetic tests, it is critical that these technologies be designed and used in a way that increases the inclusion, independence, and empowerment of Americans with disabilities as well as America's growing senior population.

The ADA has begun to change the landscape of our cities and towns, but a civil rights law alone does not create the kind of transformation of attitudes that Americans with disabilities, their families, and allies are fighting to achieve. This kind of change requires widespread discussion, education, and consciousness-raising.

In 2005, how do fears, myths, and stereotypes continue to artificially limit understanding and acceptance of disability as a form of human diversity? What role do the mass media and entertainment industries play in forming public perceptions of disability, and how can decision makers in these important fields be influenced to produce more content that depicts the actual life experience and first person perspectives of people with disabilities? What can be done to further improve accessibility at the design stage of new products and programs? How can disability awareness and disability-friendly practices create more productive places of business and learning? What concrete actions can worship communities and sports and recreation programs take to foster full participation of children, youth, and adults with disabilities in these activities?

Why do so many Americans continue to view disability as a fate worse than death, and how do these views affect surrogate medical decision making and the application of new genetic testing technologies?

These questions form the basis of an American conversation that still needs to take place.

Widespread social change cannot simply be legislated, and it will not

occur without bold leadership from all sectors of American society.

Public and private employers, in particular, must make a serious, concerted effort to recruit and advance qualified workers with disabilities within their labor force.

Election officials must take the necessary actions to ensure that every adult is able to enter his or her polling place and cast a secret and independent vote.

School administrators and university presidents must embrace their responsibility to deliver a worldclass education to all their students.

It is time for leaders across America—business owners, little league coaches, moms and dads, sheriffs and clergy—to reject exclusion, paternalism, and segregation and to take personal responsibility for removing barriers to full participation that still exist in every community in this country.

With the aim of making America work better for everyone, the undersigned organizations pledge to build on the progress of the last 15 years and join together to promote the full participation and self-determination of the more than 50 million U.S. children and adults with disabilities. We believe that disability is a natural part of the human experience that in no way should limit the right of all people to make choices, pursue meaningful careers, live independently, and participate fully in all aspects of society. We encourage every American to join us in this cause, so that our country may continue on the path that leads to liberty and justice for all.

Signed (as of July 25, 2005):

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AAPD (American Association of People with Disabilities); AARP; Abilities, Inc.; ABILITY Awareness/ABILITY Magazine; ADA Watch/National Coalition for Disability Rights; ADAPT; AFL-CIO; ALDA, Inc. (Association of Late-Deafened Adults); Alliance for Children and Families; Alliance for Public Technology (APT); Alliance for Retired Americans; American Academy of Audiology; American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; American Association for Active Lifestyles and Fitness; American Association of Leisure and Recreation; American Association of Mental Retardation; American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB); American Association of University Women; American Association on Health and Disability; American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services; American Council of the Blind; American Counseling Association; American Dance Therapy Association; American Diabetes Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Foundation for the Blind;

American Institute on Domestic Violence; American Medical Student Association; American Medical Women's Association (AMWA); American Music Therapy Association; American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR); American Occupational Therapy Association; American Psychological Association; American Public Health Association; American Therapeutic Recreation Association; Americans for Democratic Action (ADA); Amputee Coalition of America (ACA); APSE: The Network on Employment; Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA); Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

(ATAP); Association of State Independent Living Councils (ASILC); Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD); Brain Injury Association of America; Campaign for America's Future; Center for an Accessible Society; Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions (CDIHP); Center on Disability and Health; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Chemical Sensitivity Disorders Association; Child Care Law Center; Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation; Coalition of Religious Communities; Common Cause; Consumers Union; Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI); Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF); Disability Service Providers of America (DSPA); Easter Seals; EIN SOF Communications; Enable America; Epilepsy Foundation of America; Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation, Inc. (ELA); Exceptional Parent Magazine; Exploding Myths, Inc.; Family Voices; Fannie Lou Hamer Project; Federally Employed Women; Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; Friends Committee on National Legislation; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Gerontological Society of America; Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America; International Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation (I-NABIR); Judge David L.; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR); League for the Hard of Hearing; League of Women Voters of the United States; Legal Momentum; Lift, Inc.; Little People of America; Medicare Rights Center; MindFreedom Support Coalition International; Mobility Golf; Mobility International USA (MIUSA); NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.; National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC); National Association for Visually Handicapped; National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of State Head Injury Administrators; National Association of the Deaf (NAD); National Business & Disability Council (NBDC); National Center for Environmental Health Strategies; National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence; National Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Foundation (CFIDS), Inc.; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; National Congress of American Indians; National Consumers League (NCL); National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW); National Council of La Raza; National Council on Independent Living (NCIL); National Council on Rehabilitation Education; National Council on the Aging; National Disability Rights Network; National Down Syndrome Congress; National Down Syndrome Society; National Employment Lawyers Association; National Empowerment Center (NEC); National Federation of Temple Youth; National Federation of the Blind; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; National Health Law Program, Inc.; (NHeLP); National Home Visitation Organization; National Indian Telecommunication Institute; National Industries for the Blind (NIB); National Multiple Sclerosis Society; National Organization For Women; National Or-

ganization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND); National Organization on Disability; National Recreation and Park Association; National Rehabilitation Association; National Research Center for Women & Families.

National Spinal Cord Injury Association; National Women's Law Center; National Women's Health Network; 9to5, National Association of Working Women; NISH; Not Dead Yet; On a Roll Communications, LLC; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy; People for the American Way; People Who; People with Disabilities Broadcasting Corporation; Physically Challenged Bowhunters of America (PCBA); Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office; Progressive Coalition; Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas; RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America); Rock the Vote; Screen Actors Guild—Performers With Disabilities Committee.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH); Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF); Spina Bifida Association of America; Stop Family Violence; TASH; TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.); Telecommunication Services for the Deaf; The Arc of the United States; The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation; The National Coalition on Self Determination, Inc.; The National Coalition to Amend the Medicare Homebound Restriction; The National Women's Conference; The Rolling Rains Report; The Silent Witness Project; Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; United Cerebral Palsy; United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW); United Spinal Association; USAction; Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP); WGBH National Center for Accessible Media; Women In Media & News (WIMN); Women of Reform Judaism; Women's Committee of 100; Workplace Fairness; World Institute on Disability.

To see a listing of state and local organizations, please visit www.aapd.com.

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, August 31st marks the 43rd anniversary of the independence of Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean nation gained independence from Great Britain in 1962, and has since gone on to become prosperous and influential member of our hemisphere, and a loyal ally to the United States.

Trinidad is a country of immense ethnic diversity. People of African, East Indian, European, Chinese, and even Middle Eastern descent coexist peacefully on this island of over 1.3 million. Many of Trinidad's citizens have migrated to the United States over the years, and have established sizable communities in many cities around the country, especially in

the New York City area. This community has given much to our Nation by their presence.

Trinidad has also given much to the United States in other ways. The country hosted thousands of U.S. servicemen during World War II, and the immediate post-war years. Several U.S. bases were stationed on the island, and the U.S. presence left a deep imprint on the culture and character of Trinidad, which is still evident today. The era also exposed a generation of Americans to the beautiful island nation and its wonderful Calypso music. This exposure spurred an influx of American tourists to the island over the next half century. Today, Trinidad is major U.S. tourist destination, as are many other locales in the Caribbean.

In addition, Trinidad and Tobago has positioned itself as a significant component of America's energy supply over the last few years. Already an important regional exporter of crude oil, Trinidad is now the leading exporter of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in the Western Hemisphere. After 9–11, the U.S. sought to find energy sources beyond the Middle East and Persian Gulf. Additionally, rising gas prices, and increasing domestic shortages increased U.S. demand for LNG.

Trinidad has impressively stepped in to fill that demand. In 1999, Trinidad exported about 50 billion cubic feet of LNG to the U.S., accounting for only 31 percent of total U.S. LNG imports.

By 2003, Trinidad was the leading exporter of Liquid Natural Gas to the United States, totaling nearly 400 billion cubic feet, or 75 percent of all U.S. LNG imports. These numbers are projected to further increase over the next decade.

More than anything, however, the most important factor in the U.S./Trinidad relationship will be the genuine respect and admiration we hold for one another. As for Trinidad itself, the future looks bright. During his 1962 Independence Day Speech to the nation, Dr. Eric Williams, the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, asserted that the "strength of the Nation depends on the strength of its citizens". Based on that criteria Trinidad is a strong nation indeed, and I wish a Happy Independence Day to her and her citizens.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, the United States Congress passed, and President George H.W. Bush signed into law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—landmark civil rights legislation for people with disabilities. On this important anniversary, we must take the opportunity to reflect on the Act's successes and discuss the work left to be done.

The ADA declared that 54 million Americans with disabilities, including myself, had the right to reasonable accommodations in the workplace and access to public buildings. In doing so, society acknowledged for the first time the civil rights of these Americans to live independently and to fully participate in all aspects

of our society—our schools, our businesses, and our communities. At its core, the ADA was about empowerment—giving people the tools they need to pave their own way to success. For Americans with disabilities this can mean many things, from providing information and resources, to making public transportation and housing more accessible, to improving the healthcare system.

As a result of the ADA, Americans with disabilities have made significant progress in terms of inclusion since 1990. Students with disabilities no longer have to make choices about their education based on the number of ramps on a campus or the school's willingness to put Braille signs in their dorms. Many individuals with disabilities have achieved greater participation in their communities through increased access to public buildings, improved accommodations in the workplace and a heightened awareness of their needs and talents.

My own experiences and successes are, in many ways, a direct result of the ADA's intention. When I was first elected to Congress in 2000, infrastructure changes were necessary. For example, a chair was removed from the House floor to make space for my wheelchair, and an adjustable podium was built so that I could address my colleagues on the floor. The flexibility my colleagues have shown illustrates the tremendous advances America has made in accommodating disabled employees and it demonstrates how institutions, even those steeped in tradition, can adapt to assist people in special circumstances.

Not only does society look different to people with disabilities since the ADA, it looks differently at people with disabilities. It is no longer considered charity for businesses to install support beams in their restrooms or curb cuts in their parking lots. By declaring these legal responsibilities, Congress has significantly empowered Americans with disabilities. And in the course of living up to requirements of the ADA, many business owners have discovered loyal customers and employees who might otherwise have been unable to enter their doors. The most effective businesses are active participants in their communities, and in order to be an active part of the community, a business must reach out to all of its members.

Unfortunately, in many cases my success is still the exception rather than the rule. Barriers still exist. Although a major focus of the ADA was to improve employment opportunities, there has been little change in the employment rate of people with disabilities. Only 32 percent of people of working age who have a disability are employed. And today, people with disabilities are still three times more likely to live in poverty.

In many cases, we can make change by bringing the spirit of the ADA to other government-funded programs. For example, Medicare does not sufficiently cover certain mobility devices, such as power wheelchairs, and can even work against people, by refusing to cover wheelchairs for those who are able to leave their homes. Furthermore, many forms of public transportation still aren't accessible to people with disabilities, and accessible housing is often scarce and unaffordable. Too many Americans, all of whom have gifts and talents to contribute to our country, continue to be imprisoned by their disability.

Our work, as a nation, is far from finished. We have not yet met the goal of the ADA: "to

provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities." We must continue to strive for the day in our country when if you are qualified and you can do the job, you get that job—without regard to disability.

We must recommit to renewing our efforts to realize the promise of the ADA and working to restore its full protections. With thousands of severely injured soldiers returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq, we have a special responsibility to assure them that they will receive the fair treatment they deserve as they attempt to return to work and live in their communities.

We must bring our nation closer to the ideals of equality and opportunity that are both our heritage and our hope. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to continue to lead the way in our national effort to make those ideals a reality for all Americans and to support H. Res. 378.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. As the first declaration of its kind, it was a significant moment in the battle for equality among the disabled. It is essential that on the anniversary of the ADA, we take some time to seriously reflect on the impact it has had on the lives of the 14 percent of Americans who live with at least one disability.

As a result of this act, those with disabilities are now able to travel more freely, enjoy a greater range of recreational and employment opportunities, and ultimately enjoy a higher overall standard of living. Otherwise productive Americans are no longer ostracized from their social surroundings or forced to live their lives in nursing homes or similarly confining facilities.

While more work remains to be done to ensure full integration of the disabled population into American life, I would like to acknowledge the continued success of the ADA in reinforcing the American ideals of compassion and equality for all.

THE DOMINICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: INSPIRATION AND LESSONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues a wonderful meeting I had this morning with a group of bright, engaged, and active young Dominican Americans from the Dominican American National Roundtable, an organization which is becoming increas-

ingly recognized for its advocacy on behalf of the Dominican American community. Today, the inaugural group of its Dominican Leadership Institute—all young men and women attending some of the best colleges in this Nation—visited my office to discuss their views on a variety of important issues facing this country today. From immigration to education, we had a lively thoughtful exchange about the future and direction of this Nation and ways that they can get involved and make an impact on this country.

In 2005, the Dominican American National Roundtable joined with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company and the Bert Corona Leadership Institute to host the Dominican Leadership Institute. The program is designed to expose college students to the range of opportunities and skills needed for the next generation of Dominican American leaders. The Leadership Institute trains, empowers, and motivates these future leaders in the research, command and advocacy of important issues facing the Nation and, specifically, Dominican Americans.

This inaugural class of the Dominican Leadership Institute includes Edwin Zambrano, Nassar Fand Mufdi Ruiz, Pablo Rodriguez, Ysaira C. Paulino F., Bethsaida George John A. Meche, Amaris Guzman, Evelyn Ng Duran, Suhaly Bautista, Natalie C. Archibald, Karla Acevedo, and Arlenis Almonte. These students and future leaders have been exposed to the challenges of leadership, the need for innovation and creativity, and the importance of civil engagement in the political system.

During their visit to my office, we spoke about the need for a more humane and effective immigration policy, the challenges in integrating new citizens into the country, the problems of the modern family in major urban communities, and the need for a really fair trade policy. They were thoroughly knowledgeable of the topics and presented ideas and suggestions that would be quite useful to this chamber.

I was impressed by the civility, awareness and thoughtfulness of this group. They approach each issue with a determination for justice and an ear for understanding. They were articulate about their views and thoughts and shared with me their life experiences and their reasons for wanting change. While we seldom disagreed on the policy implications of the concerns they raised, I was also impressed by their willingness to hear and sympathetically comprehend all sides on each issue. This group clearly represents a promising future for the leadership of the Dominican American community and our Nation.

However, I was a bit disappointed to hear about a disturbing experience of these bright champions of change in the offices of the House. As intelligent young Americans of Dominican origin concerned about the welfare of their families and other citizens of the Dominican Republic, they rightfully were opposed to CAFTA and met another group of people who supported the bill in the Longworth Cafeteria where they were having lunch yesterday. When they initially asked the supporters about their support, they received information about the background of CAFTA. When they expressed their awareness of the trade bill and opposition to it, the supporters became rude and hostile to them and would no longer explain their rationale. This was a grand opportunity for an exchange of ideas, a meeting of the minds, but it failed, and it failed shamefully.

While unsettling, this experience did not deter these young Dominican Americans from their commitment to highlight the issues of importance to them. It is a shame, Mr. Speaker, when students cannot come to their House and freely, comfortably, debate the issues of the day. This should be a place for open debate, a free exchange of ideas, and a respect for different and diverse opinions. I am glad these young men and women were not deterred by this instance; this is another example of their considerable maturity, comprehension of the issues, and respect for their fellow Americans.

I am grateful to have had such an opportunity to exchange views with such young outstanding Americans. I encourage them to continue in their diligence, dedication, and search for the truth. I look forward to seeing them in the future and to knowing of their success and the great contributions they will make in their professional careers to this Nation. I urge my colleagues to find ways to reach out to the Dominican American National Roundtable and obtain information on how you can recruit members of this group for internships in your congressional office. These students are bright, motivated, and promising. All they need to reach their great potential is opportunities for exposure to the policymaking and legislative process. And you will find that your exposure to this fine group of Americans will be thoroughly rewarding and insightful.

I submit to the RECORD a copy of the statement that this group presented to me on their policy recommendations for this Congress. It is important that we carefully consider the thoughts of our young people.

We represent the Dominican community as members of the Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR), and we are before you today to discuss issues that affect our community and to propose a number of solutions.

EDUCATION

In order to allow the United States' economy to prosper, we propose that Congress pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act due to its potential to increase the country's economy by the work of those future taxpayers.

In order to decrease the poverty level, we propose that Congress pass the DREAM Act so that it may increase the quality of life for those who are young and undocumented in the United States.

In addition, we support the Equal and High Quality Educational Amendment to the Constitution because the law would create and sustain high standards in all the schools within the Nation.

HEALTH CARE

We propose that Congress provide programs and services that may educate people on obtaining healthcare and create reasonable qualifications for those who are underprivileged.

We recommend that Congress provide free, complete, and quality healthcare for children under the age of eighteen (18). Furthermore, we request that adequate health information be provided by local clinics and health professionals regarding issues of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases to their communities.

We propose that Congress internally restructure and organize Medicaid and Medicare so that private specialists will accept public healthcare.

QUALITY OF LIFE

We propose that Congress counter the inevitable effects of gentrification (i.e., displace-

ment due to the higher priced housing in our neighborhoods) by establishing Community Land Trusts, where the residents would own the buildings they live in and a non-profit neighborhood membership organization would own the land under the buildings. These Trusts would uphold living and maintenance standards and, more importantly, would safeguard low-income communities.

We propose that Congress provide ample funding to Community Centers within these neighborhoods in order to educate the residents as to this new protection, and to provide educational and extracurricular opportunities.

DR-CAFTA

We propose that Congress vote against the DR-CAFTA, because both countries' economies cannot collectively prosper under the current agreement and only big corporations will benefit.

DR-CAFTA will eliminate tariffs on imported goods forcing out local competition and increase prices on basic commodities, which will increase the percentage of poverty-stricken households.

DR-CAFTA was modeled after NAFTA, which did not accomplish its goals of decreasing poverty and immigration to the United States. Furthermore, like NAFTA, DR-CAFTA allows foreign companies to sue national governments, therefore having a negative financial impact on developing countries' economies.

We thank you on behalf of our community for giving us the opportunity to speak with you regarding these issues and our proposed solutions affecting its development. Please send a written response.

15TH ANNIVERSARY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 378, and to acknowledge the positive impact and historical importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Signed into law 15 years ago today by President George Herbert Walker Bush, this Act has become recognized as a landmark law for civil rights and represents one of the crowning achievements of Congress over the past two decades. Its impact is felt every day in every community across America. Wheelchair ramps, signs in Braille, and curb cuts are now common place in every corner of our lives. The law has truly forever changed the landscape of America.

Over these 15 years, the law has been challenged and debated, yet it has endured as a testament to those who desire to create an inclusive society where living with a disability does not mean disappearing into isolation. The law embodies everything that we in America should strive for; protecting the rights of all men and all women regardless of ability, mental capacity, or physicality. By removing barriers for peoples with disability, we also removed another barrier that prevented America from being a society where justice and equality prevail.

I remain committed to the Americans with Disabilities Act and supportive of efforts to improve our infrastructure and policies to enable equal access for all people. In Guam, our community has made great strides in uphold-

ing the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we will be celebrating its anniversary this week.

Our work in this area is not yet done, and we will strive to build upon the legacy that the Americans with Disabilities Act has created. I urge support for H. Res. 378.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALBERT CHARLES SMITH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Albert Charles Smith of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Smith is retiring from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after over 42 years of exemplary federal service.

Often in our deliberations in the United States Congress over budget and policy issues of the Federal Government we neglect to recognize the contributions of the thousands of hard working federal employees who serve our Nation. In particular, I would like to highlight the contributions of the employees of the Environmental Protection Agency. Charged with protecting our environment and human health, the EPA is charged with protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land and food we need for sustenance and our livelihoods. While it is easy and important to get caught up in human events, it is also vital that we revere our planet and its fragile environment. It is not often enough that we take the time to stop to thank and recognize the employees of the EPA for their unselfish and committed contribution to our nation and our environment.

Mr. Alfred Charles Smith is one such federal public servant deserving of our attention. In the early 1950's, Mr. Smith served honorably as a corporal with the United States Army in Korea and Japan. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Bacteriology from Ohio State University, a Masters of Science in Chemistry from John Carrol University in Ohio, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. His first federal agency position was with the U.S. Department of Interior from 1966 to 1970.

When President Richard M. Nixon established the EPA, Mr. Smith was one of its original employees—first as a chemist in EPA's Chicago regional office, and later as a supervisory attorney and Regional Judicial Officer in EPA's Denver regional office. Most notable of his many awards and recognitions were the Agency's Gold Medal in 1975 for work in EPA's oil and hazardous materials spill response program; and in 1988, he was awarded EPA's Silver Medal for innovative use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in resolving a public water system's supply and health problems.

Mr. Speaker it is my honor to recognize Mr. Smith and his commitment to our Nation and its natural resources. Mr. Smith's personal and professional contributions to the Environmental Protection Agency, to the Federal Government and to the people of the United States over the course of his varied and meritorious career have earned him great respect and appreciation from his friends and colleagues.

We will all miss his knowledge, expertise and commitment to public service.

IN PRAISE OF IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN SOCIETY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise the immigrant contribution to the United States. To say that immigration is a driving force in the American economy is to make an understatement. According to the 2005 Economic Report of the President immigration is shown as being a key to the growth of the labor force and has cemented the traditional belief that immigrants provide a positive net fiscal benefit to the American economy. Current governmental policies toward immigration, however, don't reflect the Report's findings.

Facts now point to the fact that today, 23 percent of the population is either foreign-born or children of someone who is. According to the most recent census, over 34 million people living in the U.S. were born outside of the U.S. with most of those coming from Latin America, about 25 percent hailing from Asia, nearly 15 percent from Europe and 8 percent coming from elsewhere including primarily Africa. Another 30 million are "second generation" Americans with one or both parents having been born elsewhere.

Immigrants play a vital role in American society. They are found in diverse occupations ranging from construction work and cooks to computer programmers and medical doctors. Their impact on American society can be seen in everything from musical icons such as Jennifer Lopez to our affinity for exotic cuisine.

It is the contributions of this wide and varying group that give America its diversity. Immigrants are our next-door neighbors, friends and colleagues. They are hardworking and diligent members of our society, who live, work, and pay U.S. taxes. In New York State alone, undocumented workers pay more than \$1 billion in taxes a year.

Although it is true that we have unemployment among American citizens, we also have labor shortages, for example agricultural workers. Immigrants generally fill those jobs, which American citizens simply do not want to take.

America's continued economic growth requires a steady flow of immigration. It almost always has and will in the future, perhaps more than at any time in the past. Therefore, rather than placing up barriers we should embrace and celebrate the contributions of immigrants to our society.

I introduce in the RECORD an article from July 19, NYCariB reporting on the economic benefits of immigrant labor.

IMMIGRANTS AND MELTING POT ECONOMICS—
THE FLOW OF FOREIGNERS INTO U.S. BOOST
BUT DON'T IMPERIL THE NATION

(By Tony Best)

Call it a lesson in "the melting pot economics 101," facts and figures that underscore an important reality of American society: immigration is a key element in the rejuvenation and the prosperity of the country.

Just as important, it's an essential cog in the economic wheel.

The latest data published by the U.S. Census Bureau not only showed that the United States is in the throes of what could be best

described as a significant transformation of its demographic profile but that many of the claims the nativists are erroneous and that if their goals became nation's policy, they would be imperiling America's economic vitality.

"For those of us who believe that the melting pot is a vital and unique feature of American society, this finding that the new immigrants are integrating into our modern economy is highly re-assuring," stated Stephen Moore, a member of the Wall Street Journal's editorial board.

"Even more encouraging is the knowledge that a generous immigration policy can co-exist with high rates of economic growth and low unemployment," he added in an OpEd commentary in the major business daily paper." The nativists have gotten this story wrong for at least the past 20 years; perhaps it would be wise to stop listening to them."

We couldn't agree.

But what do the Census figures and other data show us that we may not have known before?

Here are some of the numbers that support the above contention:

Between 1980 and 2002, about 20 million immigrants entered the United States, most of them coming from the Caribbean, Asia and Central America.

The foreign-born now account for about 12 percent of the country's population, up from 6.2 per cent in 1980.

Housing and financial assets have grown four-fold in the past two decades, a time of great expansion of wealth and skyrocketing immigration.

As more and more people arrived, the unemployment rate declined between 1980-82. Joblessness among Blacks dropped by six per cent and Hispanics almost four per cent in the last 20 years.

The U.S. has been a leader in the industrialized world when it came to immigration, integrating twice the number of immigrants than other wealthy nations.

Median real family income rose about a fifth, going to \$52,000 today. People at the bottom of the economic ladder have seen their median income jump as well between 1980-2000.

Immigrants in the U.S. for less than three years have a jobless rate of just eight percent but that rate fall to 6.7 percent after living here for a decade and 6 percent after 20 years.

The foreign born who recently landed on U.S. shores have a median family income of slightly less than \$32,000 while those persons who arrived in the 1990's have incomes that surpass \$38,000. If you had arrived in the early 1980's then chances are the income is in the vicinity of \$38,395.

According to Dr. Richard Vedde, a labor economist at Ohio University, the states with the highest levels of immigration had the lowest levels of unemployment.

What then do we learn from the data?

The lessons are obvious.

While it is true that immigrants go up against American workers for their jobs in certain industries, such as driving taxis, working in textile mills and serving as field hands in the agricultural sector, "there is no evidence," said Moore, that "on a macro-level," that immigrants suppress wages because native born Americans have left too many of those jobs for better paying tasks any how.

The numbers also allay the fears of Blacks and Hispanics that immigrants take away their jobs. For as the foreign born population expanded, the nation's unemployment rate fell from 7.3 percent to 5.1 percent over 20 years. Black unemployment also slumped as the immigrant numbers expanded.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHING A RESPONSIBLE ENERGY POLICY TOWARD THE GULF OF GUINEA REGION IN WESTERN AFRICA THAT ENCOURAGES LOCAL CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND GREATER GOVERNMENTAL TRANSPARENCY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting the goal of the United States establishing a responsible energy policy toward the Gulf of Guinea region in Western Africa that encourages local content development and greater governmental transparency.

The United States buys approximately 15 percent of its oil from the Gulf of Guinea region in Western Africa. Research indicates that in 10 years the United States will import 25 percent of its oil from the Gulf of Guinea region. The Gulf of Guinea region comprises the countries of Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With record-breaking prices for oil and gasoline products, reliance on a narrow range of the world to supply most of our oil has proven to be short-sighted as well as costly. We must now consider a broader range of fueling sources. By working as an active partner with the Gulf of Guinea region in Western Africa, the U.S. can positively guide changes that help develop West Africa's oil economy while securing economic growth, finding additional oil resources, and honoring human needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. As Members of Congress, it is our moral responsibility to ensure that we establish a responsible energy policy toward the Gulf of Guinea region that is mutually beneficial and responsible. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this promising resolution forward.

RECOGNIZING MS. ROBBIE JACKMON

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Robbie Jackmon, an individual whose continued commitment to public health has improved the lives of countless Tennesseans. Ms. Jackmon retires at the end of the year as the Executive Director of the Office of Minority Health for the Tennessee Department of Health.

Ms. Jackmon served communities within the state tirelessly for nearly 27 years. She has helped Tennesseans in every position she has held. As Director of Treatment Services for the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, she proposed and implemented state policy pertaining to alcohol and drug treatment. As assistant commissioner for the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, she directed

and oversaw a \$30 million budget. As Clinical Coordinator for Meharry Medical College she specialized in case management, where she continued to help Tennesseans recover from the ravages of addiction.

Her commitment to the improvement of Tennessee public health has led her to serve on a number of committees and boards of State and National review. Among them are the Advisory Group for the Congressional Office of Technological Assessment, as chair for the Southeastern School on Alcohol & Drug Abuse and the Advisory Board for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee.

In her position as Executive Director of the Office of Minority Health, she served with great stature as chief liaison between the state of Tennessee and the Department of Health and Human Services. She oversaw matters regarding health disparities and HIV/AIDS. In addition, she administered program design, project implementation, grant monitoring and evaluation, and health policy planning to ensure that effective measures are taken to provide Tennesseans with knowledge they need to develop healthier lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Tennesseans, I extend my deepest feelings of appreciation to Ms. Jackson. I commend her long outstanding career, service and commitment to improving the public health of her fellow Tennesseans. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the works of a distinguished woman, and a model citizen.

HEALTHCARE EQUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a critically important bill that is being introduced today: the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2005. Before I go into detail, I must profusely thank three people who were incredibly instrumental in helping us get this bill developed and introduced: Sharon Coleman of the Congressional Research Service, and Peter Goodloe and Warren Burke, of the House Legislative Counsel. Ms. Coleman, Mr. Goodloe and Mr. Burke, on behalf of the TriCaucus, I thank and applaud you for your efforts.

Over the last two decades, hundreds of studies—most which have been conducted by credible sources, like the Institutes of Medicine, academic institutions, including Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Morehouse College and University of California, in addition to non-partisan foundations and think tanks—have confirmed that racial and ethnic health disparities are a challenge to health care in this country. Here in America, the color of your skin, your ethnic background, and your geography can not only influence your health care access and quality; they can determine them.

We have all heard the numbers and statistics. We see grave racial and ethnic differences in health status and outcomes that are unacceptable in a country as wealthy as this one. For example:

African American and American Indian/Alaska Native infant mortality rates are more than two times higher than that for whites.

African American women are nearly four times more likely than white women to die during childbirth or from pregnancy complications.

The death rate from asthma is more than three times higher among African Americans than among whites.

The diabetes death rates among African Americans and Hispanics are about 2 times higher than that among whites.

The AIDS case rate among African Americans is more than ten times higher than that among whites. The AIDS case rate for Hispanics is more than four times higher than that among whites.

Until the conditions that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities are addressed and an emphasis is put on prevention, as well as treatment and care, then racial and ethnic disparities in health will continue to plague minority Americans.

Mr. Speaker, far too many people assume that racial and ethnic minorities have poorer health status and die prematurely because of bad health decisions. And, making healthy decisions is one part of the equation. However, it is difficult to make healthy decisions and to preserve good health when you are uninsured. And, uninsurance disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities.

In fact, racial and ethnic minorities comprise about one third of the total U.S. population, yet are represented in more than half of this country's uninsured population. Uninsurance, Mr. Speaker, is a major factor that exacerbates racial and ethnic health disparities, and reducing the numbers of the uninsured must be an integral part of any strategy to reduce—and ultimately eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

And then, Mr. Speaker, there is something else that happens too often when racial and ethnic minorities go to the doctor. Even when they have an insurance card from the best companies, the quality of their health care is less than that of whites and often does not meet medical standards. These disparities, Mr. Chairman, are the most egregious and disturbing because they serve as a reminder that more than four decades after the Civil Rights Movement, racial and ethnic minorities still are not treated equally and fairly.

When I first heard about these types of disparities, I was shocked. As a physician who practiced for more than two decades, I cannot fathom discriminating against a patient because of their skin color, their ethnic background or sexual orientation. But, the studies documenting these disparities are extensive and robust, and have found that:

Despite having heart disease and stroke rates that are disproportionately higher than whites, African American women with health insurance are 40% less likely than whites with health insurance to be recommended for cardiac catheterization.

African-American diabetics are more nearly 3.5 times more likely than white diabetics to have a lower limb amputation procedure performed.

African Americans are 3 times more likely than whites to be hospitalized for asthma and about 2½ times more likely to visit an emergency room with an asthma attack. This is significant because hospitalization for asthma is an avoidable admission if the condition is adequately managed.

Mr. Speaker, last Congress, my colleagues and I in the TriCaucus introduced a bill that

would reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health and in health care. This Congress, we decided to re-introduce that bill in a concerted effort to continue our commitment and work to ensure that racial and ethnic health disparities are eliminated from our health care system.

This bill, entitled the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2005, proposes solutions to the factors that exacerbate racial and ethnic health disparities by working to accomplish the following:

Remove barriers to health care access by expanding existing forms of health insurance coverage.

Improve cultural and linguistic competence in health care by removing language and cultural barriers to quality health care.

Improve the diversity of the health care workforce to reflect, understand and respect the backgrounds, experiences and perspectives of the people it serves.

Support and expand programs to reduce health disparities in diseases and conditions, especially diabetes, obesity, heart disease, asthma and HIV/AIDS.

Improve racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and language data collection to adequately identify, measure and find reasonable and innovative solutions for health disparities.

Ensure accountability of the Bush administration to ensure adequate funding of the Office of Minority Health, and the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities and the important work that they do.

Bolster the capacity of institutions that provide care in minority communities.

Mr. Speaker, these health disparities are not just minority issues. Because these health disparities often result in death, they are moral issues. Because these health disparities leave minorities with greater disease and disability burden, they are civil rights issues. Because these disparities burden the health care system, they are economic issues. And, because these disparities jeopardize the health and well being of the people in this country, they are an American issue.

I therefore urge my colleagues—on both sides of the fence—to support the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2005.

THE FINAL MISSION OF THE LATE OSSIE DAVIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding American actor, civil rights advocate, and highly regarded humanitarian—Ossie Davis. Throughout his distinguished career as an actor, he was simultaneously an activist who utilized the platform his celebrity status gave him to advocate for opportunity and justice for all Americans.

Ossie Davis passed away almost six months ago, leaving behind a legacy of determination, pride, and caring that will long be remembered and will continue to be an inspiration to all who were privileged to know him. Upon hearing of his death, I was deeply saddened but remembered his rich legacy of activism and leadership.

Ossie Davis fully participated in and led the great movements for civil rights and justice in

this nation in the 1960s. As the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and school desegregation threatened to divide our nation, Ossie stepped forward as a champion of integration, equality, and civil rights. From the Broadway stage to the motion picture screen to the streets where injustice lay, Ossie Davis was there to demand that each and every person be treated as an equal, as a brother. With his deep voice that spoke from wisdom and experience, he would discuss the challenges to the attainment of equal treatment and fairness that is the constitutionally mandated birthright of every citizen born in this great country. He would discuss how to achieve that level of equality and would challenge those around him to aid in his crusade.

Ossie Davis was selected to be the speaker at the first annual Congressional Black Caucus dinner, I recall, because we wanted to have someone who, as a celebrity and a highly respected civil rights leader, would be both entertaining and inspirational. Ossie, in a speech that is still remembered and quoted today, set us on a course to sustain the achievements of the civil rights era and to build upon them. He exceeded our collective expectations.

Ossie was one of the noblest individuals I knew. He lived a life of dignity and pride that was so exemplary that one wanted to emulate him. In his chosen profession of acting, he was a true legend that used his position to advance positive images of the Black male and to challenge those who would accept the subjugation of an entire group based on their race. He has a history of over one hundred films, plays, television series, and other productions that cover the range of experiences of the Black male in America today.

Ossie who was always working, always raising important issues, left us in the film on which he was working at the time of his death, an inspiring story that serves as a metaphor for the struggle by African-Americans for equality of opportunity and inclusion. We are fortunate in the Harlem community to have Ossie's film to screen as a highlight of our celebration of Harlem Week.

The movie *Proud*, which was released two months after his death, is a heroic story about an all-Black crew on the U.S. warship *Mason* during World War II. Ossie and his fellow cast members tell the important story of how the War and a segregated Navy changed them. True to his nature, Ossie Davis made this experience a personal investment in the struggle for justice and equality in Black America for his audience. This movie allows Ossie one last opportunity to tell the story of Black America in this country. It is also our last opportunity to witness this great man in action.

I submit for the RECORD the press release announcing the movie and describing how it came to be made. I look forward to attending the screening of *Proud* in my community next week and encourage everyone to take time out and see this wonderful film.

[From THEentertainment, April 18, 2005]

PRESS RELEASE "PROUD"

(Written/Directed by Mary Pat Kelly)

(Produced by Ally Hilfiger)

NEW YORK.—The late Ossie Davis completes a final mission when the THEentertainment film "Proud," which will screen at the Tribeca Film Festival, April 23rd, is released by Castle Hill Productions in the New York, Washington and Los Ange-

les Magic Johnson Theatres during Memorial Day weekend.

Ossie Davis, a WWII veteran himself, not only stars in the film, but had taken a personal interest since becoming aware of this true adventure of the USS *Mason* in 1995. The men of the USS *Mason* were the only African-American sailors to take a navy warship into combat in WWII. Like Ossie Davis, they served in a segregated military, but found strength in the midst of struggles against racism from their camaraderie and pride in their own excellence.

Ossie Davis' character, Lorenzo DuFau, passes the story of his time on the *Mason* on to his grandson (Albert Jones) and two friends, who then become the 1940's sailors in a dramatic movie that depicts the events of the men's service on the USS *Mason*. As a destroyer escort, the men shepherded convoys across a perilous Atlantic infested with Nazi U-boats. They faced the storm of the century and were instrumental in saving a convoy. In spite of enduring racist incidents in a segregated Navy, they found an unexpected welcome in Northern Ireland. In "Proud" Stephen Rea plays the Derry man who welcomes them and Darnell Williams is the war correspondent, Thomas Young, who traveled with the *Mason*.

Tommy Hilfiger's attention was first attracted by the book and documentary done by Mary Pat Kelly, but he felt the story should be a dramatic feature if it were to reach a wide audience.

The events of 9/11 convinced him to finance the film himself. "We need our heroes," he said.

Hilfiger's daughter, Ally, became the producer and Mary Pat Kelly the writer/director. Ossie Davis was the first to sign on. "He blessed the movie with his presence," said Kelly and Hilfiger.

Ossie Davis attended a test screening of "Proud" in Washington, DC, with his grandson, Jamal Day, who plays trumpet on the movie score. Davis wore his USS *Mason* ball cap and told the audience he wore it all the time so interviewers would ask about it and he could tell them about the film.

Davis died of natural causes in Miami Beach, Florida on February 4, 2005. He had intended to help promote the film.

"We're pleased that those who admired Ossie Davis will see him in a role that so embodies his own life as an artist and activist," said Kelly.

OSSIE DAVIS (LORENZO DUFAU)

As USS *Mason* veteran, Lorenzo DuFau, Ossie Davis, himself a WWII veteran, forms the head of the movie "Proud." He is the grandfather who passes the story of the "men of the *Mason*" on to his grandson and thus insures that his shipmates will live on. "I am a part of American history," he says. "Proudly we served and I want that acknowledged."

As an actor, writer, producer and director, Ossie Davis has himself shaped American history and insured that the richness of African-American experience is presented with artistry and joy.

Born in Cogdell, Georgia, Mr. Davis attended Howard University and began a career as an actor and writer with the Rose McClelland Players in Harlem in 1939. He joined the Army after Pearl Harbor and served with great distinction as a member of a medical team in West Africa.

In 1946, Mr. Davis made his Broadway debut in "Jeb," the first of many roles that included following Sydney Poitier into the lead of "Raisin in the Sun." Mr. Davis used his backstage waiting time to write "Purle Victorious" in which he starred in 1961. The artistically acclaimed play became the musi-

cal "Purle" and introduced Melba Moore and Cleavon Little.

The film career of Ossie Davis is legendary. Beginning with "No Way Out" in 1950 with Sydney Poitier, Davis has appeared in dozens of feature films from "The Cardinal," "The Hill," and "The Scalphunter" through recent movies such as "Dr. Doolittle," "Do the Right Thing," and "On the Bus." He directed "Cotton Comes to Harlem" in 1970 and continued to direct and produce movies and plays. Mr. Davis did not neglect television. Beginning in 1965 in the title role of "The Emperor Jones," he's given award-winning performances in "Teacher, Teacher, King," and "Miss Evers' Boys" to name a few. He's been a regular on "Evening Shade" with his friend Burt Reynolds.

Davis' partnership with his wife actress/writer Ruby Dee has produced such notable achievements as the television special "Today Is Ours," "Martin Luther King: The Dream and The Drum," "A Walk Through the 20th Century with Bill Moyers" and the series "With Ossie and Ruby."

Mr. Davis received many honors and citations including the New York Urban League Frederick Douglass Award and the NAACP Image Award. With Ruby Dee, he received The Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award and in 2002 The President's National Medal of Arts at the Kennedy Center.

Mr. Davis died of natural causes in Miami Beach, Florida on February 4, 2005.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Proud is a memory piece told by WWII vet, Lorenzo DuFau (Ossie Davis). As a sailor on the USS *Mason*, he was a member of the only African American crew to take a US Warship into combat. As DuFau tells his wartime experiences to his grandson and two college friends, the young men are transformed into USS *Mason* sailors. They fight for their country, but also have to battle the racism inherent in a segregated Navy. They perform heroically and receive an unexpectedly warm welcome in Ireland. The crew was recommended for commendations in 1944, but they were never awarded. The grandchildren take up the fight, and the long overdue commendation is awarded to the surviving crew members in 1995.

THE USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 3199)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act.

We live in a world in which vital issues of national security, homeland security and intelligence gathering need to be balanced with the most fundamental freedoms and civil liberties granted to the American people by our Constitution. Terrorism is a real threat to our security, but laws that empower over zealous government officials to enter the private lives of individuals and "sneak and peak" based on suspicion is also dangerous. There was an opportunity to find a common sense, bipartisan agreement on protecting our security and our liberties that has been ignored by this legislation.

There are sixteen provisions of The USA Patriot Act that the Bush Administration proposes to make permanent without sunsets.

The bill before the House made 14 of these provisions permanent with two of the provisions scheduled to sunset in ten years.

The purpose of a sunset is to allow Congress oversight over the implementation of the law. By making these fourteen provisions permanent, Congress abdicates its responsibility to review these provisions in favor of granting power to the executive branch. As co-equal branches of government, I strongly believe Congress has a responsibility to check the power of the executive branch, not cede authority that can threaten the civil liberties of our citizens today and tomorrow.

Provisions in the Patriot Act continue to allow for government access to business records, private e-mail accounts, library reading lists and the monitoring of Internet habits. Credit card information and other private records including medical, employment and personal financial records can also be monitored. Virtually every aspect of an individual's life can come under profound scrutiny by government officials based on suspicion. This to me is frightening and to millions of honest, hardworking Americans.

Fighting terrorism, organized crime and narco-terrorism is critical to keeping our communities and families safe. The men and women in law enforcement from local, state and Federal agencies—and throughout the criminal justice and counter-terrorism systems—have my deep admiration and respect. Their job is difficult, but this legislation fails to provide additional resources to confront threats and keep our communities safe. It instead creates endless opportunities for the violation of civil liberties and the freedoms we deeply cherish as a nation.

Many people speak of sacrificing some of our freedoms in the name of security. This is a formula that empowers terrorists and encourages the very enemies of freedom. It is the wrong approach. I applaud my Republican colleagues who have joined Democrats in working for a common-sense Patriot Act that protects our security and our liberties. It is my hope that as this bill moves to conference committee with the Senate that the extremes in this legislation are tempered by a wisdom that embraces the American people's respect for privacy and desire for freedom.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation was the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was the next step in the civil rights revolution that began with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA extended broad civil rights protections to America's 54 million citizens with a disability. To the over 97,000 working disabled Arkansans, this legislation has helped to establish greater options for individuals who are willing and able participants in our communities.

Among its key provisions, the ADA prohibits employers with 15 or more employees from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities. It calls for the removal of barriers to access for people with disabilities to a wide range of public accommodations, including restaurants, lodgings, places of entertainment, hospitals, doctors' offices, pharmacies, grocery stores, and all other retail and service establishments. It also requires the removal of barriers to access for people with disabilities to various public services, including public transportation. Additionally it mandates that telecommunications be made accessible to those with speech and hearing impairments through the use of special relay systems.

Over the last 15 years, there is no question that the ADA has ushered in significant change. One need only look around to see the signs of progress: curb cuts, wheelchair lifts, Braille signs, and assistive listening devices at movie theaters. The ADA has made transit systems and communications systems more accessible. And, perhaps most importantly, the ADA has begun to change society's attitudes toward people with disabilities.

Despite this important and widespread progress, the promise of the ADA remains unfulfilled for far too many. A major focus of the ADA, for example, was to improve employment opportunities. However, the evidence shows that there has been little change in the employment rate of people with disabilities. Only 32 percent of people of working age who have a disability are employed. And today, people with disabilities are still three times more likely to live in poverty.

Furthermore, we can still find disparities for the disabled in education, housing, and technology. It is for this reason that we need to take greater steps to ensure that the disabled community not only has access to, but is also participating in gainful elements of all programs and facets of society. I call on my fellow colleagues to join together in a bipartisan effort to find ways we can strengthen the ADA and fulfill our commitment to our disabled communities.

FREEDOM FOR RENE GÓMEZ MANZANO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rene Gómez Manzano, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gómez Manzano is a lawyer and a distinguished member of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba. Along with fellow Cuban patriots Martha Beatriz Roque and Felix Bonne Carcasses, he is a leader of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society. The Assembly is an umbrella organization of over 300 groups of Cubans who have asserted their independence from the totalitarian state. On May 20, 2005, the Assembly carried out a meeting of approximately 200 Cubans who publicly demonstrated their rejection of totalitarianism and their support for democracy and the rule of law in Havana. Mr. Gómez Manzano was one of the primary architects of that historic, admirable accomplishment. Accordingly, he has

been the constant target of Castro's machinery of repression. He has been harassed by the tyrant's thugs and, now, unjustly incarcerated as a political prisoner for his peaceful activities.

Eight years before, in 1997, after co-authoring the important and historic work "La Patria es de Todos" ("The Homeland Belongs to All") with Martha Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne Carcasses and another Cuban patriot, Vladimiro Roca, Mr. Gómez Manzano was arrested by the dictatorship and sentenced to various years in the gulag. During his unjust imprisonment, and after being released, Mr. Gómez Manzano never wavered in his commitment to bring freedom, democracy and human rights to the Cuban people. Unfortunately, in an additional act of extreme and despicable repression by the dictatorship, Mr. Gómez Manzano, along with dozens of others, was arrested once again on July 22, 2005, before he could attend a peaceful demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Havana to protest the resumption of the European Union's policy of so-called engagement with the terrorist regime in Havana.

I have never had the honor of personally meeting Mr. Gómez Manzano, but I can certainly say that I know him quite well. I have spoken to him by telephone during various Congressional hearings and other public events dedicated to highlighting the suffering and oppression of the Cuban people. He is a great patriot, a man of the law, a man of peace, and an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Mr. Gómez Manzano languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We cannot permit the brutal treatment by a demented and murderous tyrant of a man of peace like Mr. Gómez Manzano for simply supporting freedom for his people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rene Gómez Manzano and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXCLUDE SOLID WASTE DIS- POSAL FROM THE JURISDICTION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPOR- TATION BOARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be joined by a number of my New Jersey colleagues to introduce legislation that will close a glaring loophole in current law that allows railroads to brazenly flout the critical Federal, State, and local environmental protections that keep our rivers clean, our air clear, and our families healthy.

In my district, a small railroad has recently begun operation of a solid waste transfer facility for construction and demolition debris. These sites are open to the air, polluting the surrounding neighborhoods with wind-blown debris, and have extremely poor stormwater controls, if any at all, allowing rain to leach through the trash piles and into sensitive wetlands. I have seen video of these sites, which

sometimes reach the height of a 3-story building, and they are horrible eyesores that make you wonder how this can all be legal.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, it really isn't legal. At least, it's not legal according to the State, which recently fined the operator of these sites \$2.5 million, or the county and local planning boards, which have sent me impassioned pleas asking for help. But because of this loophole in Federal law, it may all be perfectly legitimate. The railroad claims that because of the exclusive jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board over railroad activities, they are exempt from all State and local regulations regarding the handling of solid waste. That is only partially true.

Mr. Speaker, when Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) Termination Act in 1995, it created the Surface Transportation Board (Board) and gave it broad authority over rail transportation issues. The jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board was deemed to be "exclusive" over activities that are integral to rail operations. The intent of this was to allow railroads, which cross State lines, to avoid having to deal with a patchwork of State economic regulations that might hinder interstate commerce. Subsequently, the courts have ruled that this exclusive jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board preempts State and local regulations when it comes to permitting requirements. Hence, railroads are exempt from having to comply with local land use plans when, for example, they decide to lay additional track, although they are still required to comply with Federal environmental statutes such as the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

However, despite the preemption of local regulations, Congressional intent was very clear at the time the ICC Termination Act was passed. The conference report states very clearly that the Board's exclusive jurisdiction does not generally preempt State and Federal law. The only restriction is that States do not attempt to economically regulate the railroads. The Surface Transportation Board concluded in 1999, in their decision in the dispute between the Borough of Riverdale and the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad, that "Congress did not intend to preempt Federal environmental statutes such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act." The U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont recently affirmed that statement in the case of Green Mountain Railroad Corporation v. State of Vermont.

I believe it is quite clear that these waste transfer stations are threats to the environment, and that the railroad's claim of Surface Transportation Board preemption to avoid compliance with any environmental regulations is wholly without merit. However, it could take years to put that issue to rest. Meanwhile, the people of New Jersey would continue to get exposed to fouled air and water as a result of unregulated and uncontrolled solid waste transfer sites, and more people would be put at risk as these sites multiply across the State.

But that is beside the point. Because I also believe that the operation of a solid waste transfer facility is in no way integral to the operation of a railroad. This question has not been settled by the courts or the Surface Transportation Board, but it can be settled unambiguously by Congress. The legislation we are introducing today would explicitly state that the Surface Transportation Board does not

have exclusive preemption over the operation of solid waste transfer facilities, and that these facilities would be subject to local zoning and environmental regulations. We can not stand idly by while some unscrupulous railroads exploit an unintended loophole in Federal law when the price is the health and well-being of our constituents and our environment. I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT 40th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting Rights Act marked a watershed moment in American history, and I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the many ways in which it has transformed our democracy.

On Monday night, it was my great honor to join Representative LEWIS; Wade Henderson, the Executive Director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; and hundreds of civil rights leaders at the commencement of the National Conference Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1965, one could not have imagined a room in Washington, DC, full of elected leaders from various racial, ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. Today there are 81 members of Congress that are of African-American, Latino, Asian, and Native American descent, as well as thousands of minorities in State and local elected offices across the Nation. Due in large part to the Voting Rights Act, America's leadership is a reflection of our diversity.

The struggle for enfranchisement has been fought by citizens themselves to obtain and protect their right to vote. Representative LEWIS and the hundreds of civil rights activists who joined him on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March 1965 showed courage and perseverance in the face of violent opposition. Unfortunately, they did not win the struggle for total voter enfranchisement on that fateful day in Alabama. The shocking and unconscionable murders of Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney—killed in June of 1964 for registering black voters in Mississippi—did not win that struggle. But the sacrifices of voting rights activists over the past century have paved the way for the enfranchisement that we all seek. The Voting Rights Act has made progress possible, but there is still more to be done.

When I speak with students, I often ask, "What is the greatest invention in history?" Knowing of my background in physics, they usually suggest some scientific invention. In fact, I believe the greatest invention is our system of Constitutional democracy. It has transformed not just America, but the world, demonstrating that peaceful and productive government with the consent of the governed is possible. That consent is given by the vote. Thomas Paine wrote that the right to vote is "the primary right by which other rights are protected." For that reason, assuring the continued effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act is of monumental importance.

Application of the Voting Rights Act faces challenges in the 21st century. The 2000 and 2004 presidential elections demonstrated that disenfranchisement, though legally abolished, still exists in practice. In order to preserve influence of the Voting Rights Act, key protections of which are scheduled to expire in 2007, we must address voting irregularities that occurred in recent elections.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work of the 89th Congress and honor the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. The work of voting activists has transformed America and helped advance the cause of universal suffrage. We must work to preserve and advance its legacy.

THE FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern with the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. While this bill authorizes I numerous commendable programs that strengthen U.S. efforts to advance foreign policy interests and America's role in the world, I am very concerned that this bill has become a vehicle for an extremist agenda which harms our Nation's global leadership role.

Having started working on this reauthorization in the International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman SMITH for accepting language to conduct a report on the issue of child marriage around the world. Child marriage, often involuntary and far too frequently intergenerational, puts girls as young as 8 and 9 years old at severe physical, emotional and health risk. The transmission of HIV, complications from early pregnancies and diminished economic and social power are common consequences of this harmful tradition practice that undermines U.S. development efforts in many African and Asian nations.

My principal opposition to the final version of this bill is the result of the inclusion of the Hyde amendment to impose an onerous set of mandates on the United Nations. This amendment will hold the U.N. hostage to the whims of Republicans in the U.S. Congress. The Hyde Amendment is virtually identical to the Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005 (HR. 2745) which I voted against on June 17, 2005. This legislation is opposed by the Bush Administration and eight former U.S. ambassadors to the U.N. Sadly, this amendment taints a bill that could have otherwise been generally acceptable.

Finally, I would like to comment the amendment offered by Representative TOM LANTOS, ranking member on the International Relations Committee, requiring the State Department to develop a strategy to counter perceptions among international students they are no longer welcome to study at our institutions of higher education. While national security is our top priority, if we are serious about reaching out to the international community and repairing damaged credibility in the world, we must be

open and accommodating to foreign scholars and people wishing to come to the United States to further their education and contribute to the great wealth of intellect in this country. I commend Ranking Member LANTOS for his efforts in this area.

The U.S. role in the world is critically important at a time in which we are confronting terrorism as well as the human challenges of extreme poverty and global pandemics like HIV. This re-authorization should provide an opportunity for the House to provide meaningful policy direction to the executive branch. Instead an all too familiar unilateral approach to foreign policy has reemerged by demanding the withholding of the United States' contribution to the U.N. If the intent is to create an expedited process to destroy the U.N. and diminish U.S. credibility in the world even beyond the extraordinary efforts of the Bush Administration, this bill has succeeded. I strongly oppose this abrasive, ineffective and counter-productive tactic.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the week of August 7–13, 2005, as "National Health Center Week."

Community Health Centers, CHCs, are a critical component of our health care infrastructure. These centers provide vital care to some of the neediest and disadvantaged people who have few places to turn. In 2004, 105,907 patients were served by CHCs in Arkansas; with a total of 435,211 patient encounters. Of this amount 52,794, 49 percent, were uninsured; 58 percent served lived below 200 percent of the poverty level; 12.9 percent were Medicare patients; and 18.9 percent were Medicaid patients.

CHCs help in lowering health care costs in our country. In Arkansas, CHCs help save the State 30 percent, or \$3 million, in Medicaid savings due to reduced hospital admissions, reduced specialty care referrals, and fewer emergency room visits. In 2003, 1.2 million emergency room outpatient hospital visits were made by Arkansans. This resulted in approximately 115,607 visits that could have been treated in a CHC. That was \$75 million in unnecessary care costs that would have been saved if CHCs had been accessed for these services.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of a House Resolution that recognizes the importance of the Medicaid reimbursement system in our Nation's CHCs. I call on my fellow colleagues to join together in a bipartisan effort to protect Medicaid funding in the fiscal year 2006 appropriations cycle for these entities, so that they can continue to serve our poor and uninsured populations, and continue to help bring savings to our health care system.

I commend the work and dedication of CHC staff and their substantial contribution to helping numerous needy Americans receive health care during the week of August 7–13, 2005.

WESTERN SAHARA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, recently, Moroccan police and security forces have arrested and tortured peaceful protestors. For example, as recently as July 20th, reports indicate that Moroccan security forces abducted five human rights activists: Mohamed Elmoutaouikil, Noumria Brahim, Elhoucine Lidri, Larbi Massoud, and Gaoudi Fdaili. According to the reports, all five of these people suffered psychological torture for long hours, humiliation, and threats of rape. Unfortunately, this was all done due to their opinion concerning the status of Western Sahara.

After this incident, reports indicate that both Noumria Brahim and Lhoucine Lidri were subjected to further torture including being burned, handcuffed and blindfolded, and being brutally beaten. The Moroccan officials that perpetrated these horrendous acts of torture are reported to be the Wali of Security in El Ayun, Brahim Bensami, and the Urban Security Group Chief Officer, Ichi Abou Hassan, and Abdelhapi Rabii, a security officer. When these torturers were finished, they locked their victims in the Black Jail in El Ayun on July 23, 2005. Reports indicate they are still being held captive.

Such acts of violence and abuse against peaceful protestors and human rights activists have escalated in the last few weeks in Morocco. Other reports indicate that on July 21, 2005, a group of six Saharawi political prisoners who were arrested during a protest in El Ayun were presented to the court of appeal in El Ayun. The report reveals the group was tried in a show trial on June 23, 2005. They were sentenced to up to 5 years imprisonment—one of the victims of this injustice is human rights activist Bougarfa Abderrahmane. Mr. Abderrahmane is 53 years old and a father to 10 children. The others were sentenced to 3 years in prison (Hamma Achrih, Chyahou Brahim) and 2 years in prison (Mohamed Salem Essallami, Azlai Abdellah).

Sources say the Court of Appeal in El Ayun was firmly controlled by the Moroccan security forces while the trial was taking place. Some Saharawi citizens were forbidden to enter the court room. In addition, a French journalist, Agata André, from the newspaper *Charle Hebdo*, who came to El Ayun to attend the trial of these political prisoners was put in a separate room until the Saharawi political prisoners' trial was over. Furthermore, it is reported that the families of the five activists arrested were banned from bringing food to their relatives as well as from seeing them. No telephone contact with them is possible. Unfortunately, these reports of torture and injustice are commonplace for the Saharawi people who are denied equal rights under the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara.

On one of Secretary Condoleezza Rice's trips overseas, Secretary Rice delivered a strong message to the King of Morocco, Mohamed VI, concerning the lack of civil liberties in the kingdom of Morocco. The Spanish newspaper, *La Razon*, reported on June 30th that Ms. Rice expressed her concerns regarding the Moroccan regime's continuous violations of freedom of press and of expression.

Amidst recent reports of escalating repression by Morocco's intelligence and security services against dissenting voices, and the repression perpetrated against Saharawis, Ms. Rice is reportedly urged the King to bring and end to the repression and allow progressive voices to be heard.

Other countries have expressed similar concerns about Morocco's human rights record regarding the Saharawis. Earlier this month in Spain, Spanish news sources reported that a Spanish delegation, composed of parliamentarians and representatives of the civil society of Aragon, was not allowed by Moroccan authorities to visit the occupied capital of Western Sahara, El Aaiun. The delegation planned to investigate allegations of human rights abuses by Moroccan forces. One of the delegates was quoted as saying Morocco's denial of the visit was absolutely unacceptable.

Morocco has been occupying Western Sahara for decades. The United Nations Security Council has continued to uphold the right of Western Sahara to self-determination. On April 29th, 2004, the Security Council adopted Resolution No. 1541 which reaffirmed support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara devised by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy, James Baker. Two years prior, the Security Council upheld the right to self-determination in a meeting to discuss the conflict over Western Sahara. In this 2002 meeting, the Security Council rejected other proposed options and clearly stated that the only viable resolution to this conflict must be based on the Saharawi people's right to self-determination.

There is a long history of international consensus that supports Western Sahara's right to self-determination. The International Court of Justice, issued on October 16, 1975 the following decision concerning the conflict over Western Sahara, "The Court's conclusion is that the materials and information presented to it do not establish any tie of territorial sovereignty between the territory of Western Sahara and the Kingdom of Morocco or the Mauritanian entity. Thus the Court has not found legal ties of such a nature as might affect the application of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) in the decolonization of Western Sahara, and in particular, of the principle of the self-determination through the free and genuine expression of the will of the peoples of the territory."

I agree with many of my colleagues that Morocco is an important partner to the United States in our War on Terror and in international trade. However, the examples of human rights abuses that Moroccan officials have exhibited against the Saharawi people and the peaceful protestors is not the type of behavior we expect from our friends.

A conclusion for the conflict over Western Sahara is long overdue. Both sides of the conflict need to come together and implement the Settlement Plan elaborated by Secretary James Baker. A great step towards a peaceful resolution would be for Morocco to release all their political prisoners, including Mr. Tamek and Mrs. Haidar, to stop detaining and torturing peaceful protestors and human rights activists, and to allow freedom of thought and expression both in Morocco and in occupied Western Sahara.

COMMEMORATING WCLO'S 75th
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements of my hometown radio station, WCLO, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. WCLO Radio, based in Janesville, Wisconsin, has served southern Wisconsin for three-quarters of a century through the broadcasting of news, weather, sports and community information.

Since 1930, WCLO has continuously been owned by the Bliss family, making it one of the Nation's oldest family-owned radio stations. It takes seriously its responsibility to its listeners. Despite major regulatory changes, the station has continued to operate as a public servant to its listening area, providing vital news and information to its audience. WCLO also takes an active role in supporting the community, through its continuing efforts on behalf of charities and the arts.

WCLO Radio has been consistently recognized for excellence in broadcasting by its peers and organizations including the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the Associated Press.

I'd like to extend congratulations to WCLO for 75 eventful years of serving southern Wisconsin.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. KEITH
QUERRY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lyle K. Querry, a political activist, humanitarian, and a man of faith, whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all Kansas Citizens. After 24 years of service, Keith, as he is known by all his friends, retired on June 30, 2005, as the Business Manager and Financial Secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW, Local 53. His dedication and commitment spanned 48 years as a member of IBEW and his service to the Kansas City community is the reason for this recognition and celebration.

Keith's reputation as a leader within the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the community, and political organizations extends beyond the borders of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri and even of our Nation. Among the many accolades Keith has received over the years was the prestigious Outstanding Leadership Award by the Heart of America United Way in 1988. In 1995, he received the distinguished Harry S. Truman Democratic Achievement Award, named in honor of a former Independence, Missouri, resident, and one of our country's most respected public servants, the 33rd President of the United States. Keith's steadfast commitment to and respect by the IBEW was rewarded when he was named to the Law Committee for their 33rd and 34th conventions held

in 1986 and in 1988, respectively. As of July 1 of this year and despite "retiring", Keith was appointed as an International Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Keith has not only been an active member of the IBEW and many political organizations, he has also contributed his time, energy, and expertise to numerous civic organizations in the metropolitan area. He has served as an executive board member of the Heart of America Central Labor Council, was a board member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and a board member of the Jackson County United Way. He is currently serving on the boards of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, the Labor Management Council of Greater Kansas City, as a member of the executive committee of the Missouri State Democratic Party, as a committeeman for the 8th Senatorial District, and as chairman of both the IBEW Outside Task Force and Local 53 Safety Committee. He also serves as chairman for both the Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training group as well as the Line Construction Benefit Fund.

Born in 1938, a graduate of Fort Osage High School and a member of St. Matthews Presbyterian Church, Keith and his lovely wife Sandy will celebrate their 45th anniversary in October of this year. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Ronda and Tricia, and grandparents to five grandchildren, Marissa, Robert, Allen, Shannon, and Tyler. Over the years, Keith and Sandy have been one of the most influential and respected couples within the Missouri Democratic Party and have regularly been delegates at Democratic National Conventions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Lyle Keith Querry, for his relentless efforts in protecting and assisting the rights of others, while extending the labor movement, not only within the boundaries of the Fifth Congressional District, but within the United States and the entire global community. He represents the best in all of us. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating Keith on his retirement from the 2,000 member Local 53 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Although we know that he has not completely retired, the desire of this body is that Keith Querry will enjoy the community he helped build.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fortieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. This historic piece of legislation has helped significantly to restore and secure the voting rights of all Americans.

The 40-year legacy of the Voting Rights Act, which will be celebrated in a major national march and demonstration in Atlanta in which I will participate, on August 6, 2005, stems from the hard-won victories of the non-violent Civil Rights Movement. During the modern Civil

Rights Movement, Blacks fought against the systematic and social oppressions of segregation. Many blacks, especially in the South, were denied the very rights and privileges given and implied by the Constitution. The right to vote was no exception.

Full participation in government and society has been a basic right of the country symbolizing the full citizenship and equal protection of all. The right to vote played an important role in ending the oppressive environment of segregation. Because of this, many Black Americans protested and died for full access to a government and a promise of equal treatment that had been denied to them. This was especially exemplified on March 7, 1965, known as "Bloody Sunday", which ushered in this enactment.

As with the brutal murder of Emmett Till, "Bloody Sunday" reinforced the new consciousness about the plight of Black Americans in this country, especially in the South. Six hundred Civil Rights marchers marched from Selma, Alabama heading east in protest for their rights as citizens to vote. Six blocks later they were met by awaiting law enforcement and were severely beaten with billy clubs and bombed with tear gas. They were subsequently pushed back into Selma. Although this was seemingly a defeat for the progression of the Movement, the incident caught national attention, including that of President Lyndon Johnson.

On August 6, 1965, President Johnson introduced legislation, giving rise to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In an address to Congress, President Johnson supported this Act by saying "At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom . . . about this there can be and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have the right to vote."

In subsequent years the VRA has been modified and evolved to include more and more disenfranchised groups. In 1970, Congress added provisions that extended the right to vote for 18 year olds. In 1975, provisions were added protecting the voting rights of citizens whose primary languages were of other languages. Lastly, the 1982 provisions created Congressional districts creating a more accessible minority voting pool. Through this, Congress has added amendments to the Act that support and secure the future of this most valuable tool for a true democracy.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was indeed a vital instrument of democracy, ensuring the integrity and reliability of a democratic process that we as a Country hold so dear.

As we shortly begin to rethink the questions of the previous provisions previously added to this Act in 2007, remember that our work does not end here. We must continue to uphold the basic principles and sentiments that created this most important and much needed body of legislation.

I submit this article from the current addition of the Carib News concerning the need and importance of securing further protections of the Voting Rights Act in 2007. It is evident, given the voting environment of the election of 2000, that there are still issues of denial that can compromise the voting rights of our constituents.

[From the Carib News]

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT—INSTRUMENT OF
DEMOCRACY

(By Marc H. Morial)

"While we have made progress and curtailed injustices thanks to the Voting Rights Act, our work is not yet complete. We cannot let discriminatory practices of the past resurface to threaten future gains. The Voting Rights Act must continue to exist in its current form."

So said Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Republican, of Wisconsin, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, in a recent speech to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its annual convention in Milwaukee.

We at the National Urban League couldn't agree more. We made the renewal and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which must be accomplished by 2007, a focus of our recent annual Legislative Policy Conference in Washington, and a top recommendation of our annual scholarly volume, *The State of Black America 2005*.

And we've got plenty of company among the broad coalition of civil rights groups—including the NAACP, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, RainbowPUSH, and such members of Congress as Rep. John Conyers, of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, and the Congressional Black Caucus—who've also long vigorously publicized the continuing need for voting rights protections.

So, we welcome Rep. Sensenbrenner's vigorous expression of support—which he said he'll soon back up with legislation—and his bringing word that Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, Republican, of Illinois, has put the renewal "high on list of issues the House will address this congress."

Such words are further evidence that it's impossible to overstate the Voting Rights Act's importance. For, by granting the Federal government specific powers to ensure that Americans of African descent in the South could register to vote and vote, the Voting Rights Act made the word "democracy" an accurate description of American Society.

Its enactment was a hard-won victory for the nonviolent Civil Rights Movement, one that had produced casualties in the South literally up to the moment (and beyond) President Lyndon Johnson personally introduced the legislation to Congress on March 15, 1965—against the backdrop of the "Bloody Sunday" beating of civil rights demonstrators in Selma, Alabama to previous week.

His words then were equal to the moment: "At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom," he said. "About this there can be and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have the right to vote."

With token opposition the law quickly passed the House and the Senate and President Johnson signed it on August 6, 1965.

The political impact was immediate, according to Dianne Pinderhughes, of the University of Illinois, who wrote about the Voting Rights Act in the *State of Black America 2005*. Within a year, more than 250,000 African Americans had registered in the thirteen states covered under the Act; and Mississippi, which had harbored the fiercest resistance to civil rights for blacks, recorded the nation's highest black voter turnout—74 percent.

A similar response in the other states ultimately produced enormous growth in the number of blacks holding elective office throughout the country—from about 350 in 1965 to more than 1,400 just five years later. Now, there are more than 9,000 black elected

officeholders, including 42 members of Congress, according to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

In the intervening four decades the Act has been extended three times, and new provisions added extending the right to vote to 18-year-olds (1970), protecting the voting rights of Spanish and other language speakers (1975), and most contentious of all, allowing the creation of Congressional districts in which the majority of voters would be members of a minority group (1982).

The consequences of these amendments underscore the powerful democratizing dynamic the Civil Rights Movement as a whole injected into American Society.

Now, as the date for renewal looms, it's clear the Act is still necessary. The vote-related controversies of the past two presidential elections, which led to some significant number of voters in some districts not being able to vote or not having their votes counted have made that clear—as have continuing debates regarding voter registration, the purging of voter rolls, access to the polls and reliability of election equipment, and the impact of state laws which bar ex-felons and those on probation from voting.

Thus, Professor Pinderhughes concluded in *The State of Black America 2005*, this new landscape "demands that the civil rights lobby educate its mass constituency and the broader American public about these issues which are now wreathed in complexity."

That's another reason the NAACP invitation to Representative Sensenbrenner and his speech to them are noteworthy: they move us further toward the renewal of that instrument of democracy, the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

HONORING MOLDED FIBER GLASS COMPANIES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Molded Fiber Glass Companies in Gainesville, Texas, located in my district, and to celebrate the passage of H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Molded Fiber Glass Companies had modest beginnings near Lake Erie in Ohio when they first opened their doors in 1948. Since then they have continued to push the limits of technology and have added offices and research facilities across the nation. In 2001, MFG began producing massive blades to harness the power of wind and open new doors in renewable energy. With this new bill, MFG will be able to provide more energy at a lower price to the surrounding communities.

A major component of The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extends the renewable electricity production credit through December 31, 2007 for wind, closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal, small irrigation power, landfill gas, and trash combustion. The provision will encourage the use of renewable energy, like wind energy, thereby increasing the demand for wind turbines such as those manufactured by MFG.

This company provides so much to our community, and I am proud to have them within the district I represent. I hope that their dedication to renewable energy and our environment continues well into the future.

IN HONOR OF DAVID J. MORALES,
MARCH 5, 1945–JULY 9, 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David J. Morales, a dear friend, loving family man and devoted civic leader who passed away Saturday, July 9, 2005 after a valiant struggle with leukemia. David was laid to rest on Friday, July 15, 2005 surrounded by those who loved and admired him. We are comforted knowing that today he rests in peace.

David Morales was living proof that adversity exists to be overcome. Born to Pablo Morales and Bernardina Diaz Morales in Salinas, California on March 5, 1945, David was the youngest of 13 children. Before he had reached his first birthday, David's mother had succumbed to breast cancer. Thus began his life in his beloved Los Angeles where he was raised in the San Fernando Valley by his godparents, Ventura and Felicitia Borbon.

Living modestly, David learned the lessons of life at an early age. He sold fruit and scrap metal that he found on his family farm. He began to nurture the strong entrepreneurial spirit that would guide his personal and career success that awaited. But before then, at the age of 14, David faced yet another tragedy—his beloved godmother Felicitia passed away.

To finish high school, David moved in with an older brother. His brother would teach him to be a commercial painter, the trade that would shape his future.

In 1975, risking everything he had in order to support his family, David created Borbon, Inc. Over the past 30 years, Borbon, Inc. has become one of the largest commercial painting contractors in the country. A union painting company based in Southern California, Borbon Inc. has been recognized numerous times by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of the most successful Latino-owned enterprises in the Nation.

But here I must pause, because those of us who knew him are very familiar with David's rags to riches story. David had the heart, the brains and the guts to succeed. But more importantly—and it's no secret—he had Celia Martinez Morales. Together David and Celia raised five accomplished children, David, Lisa, Melissa, Christina and Paul. They gave their children what a youthful David could only dream of, a solid education, a world of opportunity and a reputation stronger than steel. None of that expired on July 9, 2005.

David defied great odds to become an accomplished businessman and took it upon himself to provide opportunities to others. He was an anchor of support to the Boys and Girls Club of Buena Park, California and the University of Southern California Mexican-American Alumni Association. As a member of the Latin Business Association and the Buena Park Chamber of Commerce, David sought to open doors for America's next generation of entrepreneurs.

In an era where we cannot trust who boards our planes or enters our Capitol, David succeeded on a handshake. In a world marked by indifference and tumbling civility, David was a builder. And in a place we call the City of Angels, David belonged.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heart-felt sorrow, yet great admiration and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting David Morales, a wonderful husband and father, a cherished friend, and an inspirational example of America's dream come true. May his generosity and dedication to opening doors for others be remembered and carried on by his family and those of us who were fortunate enough to call him friend. David, you left us more than you could ever know.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC
EXCELLENCE OF MARIBEL ZURITA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the athletic excellence of Maribel Zurita.

Maribel Zurita made her pro boxing debut on July 31, 2001, in San Antonio, the city where she was born and raised. San Antonio still serves as her base, and she continues to train in the area. Maribel held the IFBA Flyweight title from 2004 to 2005.

Aptly nicknamed "Little Thunder," Zurita more than makes up for her smaller size through a fierce tenacity and effervescent energy in the ring. She possesses a unique combination of grace and toughness which, when complemented by her skill and agility, make her a formidable opponent.

Maribel has succeeded in raising the profile of an industry so often dominated by men through her charismatic style and charm. She wins over fans of all ages and nationalities with ease. Zurita brings a professional attitude and a commitment to sportsmanship, characteristics that are all too often absent in many aspects of today's professional athletics.

I am honored to recognize Maribel Zurita for her remarkable success in athletics and beyond. Her work ethic and dedication provide an outstanding example for any aspiring athlete.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE MESQUITE RE-
PUBLICAN WOMEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Mesquite Republican Women. On July 14, 1975, at the home of Mrs. Poppy Airhart, the Mesquite Republican Women were formed, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, "to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands."

For the past 30 years the Mesquite Republican Women has worked hard to promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and to elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House.

The Mesquite Republican Women are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. The Mesquite Republican Women continue to strengthen the Re-

publican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Today, I would like to honor the first officers of the Mesquite Republican Women. President Mrs. Kay Ballard, 1st Vice President Mrs. Poppy Airhart, 2nd Vice President Mrs. Janice Houston, 3rd Vice President Mrs. Elaine Bernhagen, Secretary Mrs. Jonette Thornhill, and Treasurer Mrs. Ginger Kraft. These strong Republican women embody the energy, visions and values of our party.

THE APOLLO THEATER PROVISION
CONTAINED IN THE HIGHWAY
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank all of my colleagues on the highway conference for including in the highway conference report a provision that would allow the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York, to apply for historic tax credits, notwithstanding their remaining two EDA grants from the Economic Development Administration.

As most of my colleagues know, the 1,500 seat Apollo Theater is truly "where stars are born and legends are made." A historic landmark building, the Apollo was responsible for launching the careers of artists including Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Ray Charles and Luther Vandross, just to name a few. The Apollo is also an economic engine for the community with annual audiences of over 400,000 which generates almost \$100 million annually to the local economy.

The 1914 Apollo building had begun to decay over the years and in the year 2000 the foundation began a capital campaign to make needed repairs and upgrades. The foundation has raised over \$35 million from the public and private sectors to date.

The language included in the conference report on H.R. 3, will allow the Apollo Theater to capture other fundraising venues, including historic tax credits, notwithstanding the EDA grants numbered 01-01-07308 and 01-01-07552. The language would release EDA from the perimeters of the two grants and thus allow the Apollo to complete the renovation.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their consideration and approval of this provision and I yield the floor.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CAREFLITE EMER-
GENCY RESCUE TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise so that I may celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CareFlite Emergency Rescue Team. This non-profit rescue organization provides a crucial service to north central Texas serving

nearly six million people in 100 counties and communities within a 150-mile radius of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Just this past year, CareFlite answered the call of duty 19,000 times with one of their six helicopters or one of their 21 ambulances. They are able to get a medical team to a site, stabilize the injured and transport them to the nearest medical facilities in a matter of minutes. Especially in situations where injuries affect several systems, this quick response time can make all the difference.

Beyond saving lives, CareFlite is very active in the communities which it serves. They offer the "Third Rider" and "Landing Zone" programs to educate other medical professionals about their area of expertise; and, perhaps most importantly, CareFlite works closely with the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission to put on their "Shattered Dreams" program to educate high school students about the dangers of underage drinking.

CareFlite provides an invaluable service to the Metroplex and it is imperative that we recognize that service. These men and women who dedicate their lives to saving others truly make every precious minute count.

H.R. 3199: USA PATRIOT AND TER-
RORISM PREVENTION REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the bill we consider today—H.R. 3199—which extends certain controversial provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, the PATRIOT Act is already the law of the land. However, what we consider today—and what I am opposing—are the extension of 16 sunsetted provisions that increase access to personal information. I voted to support the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001; I did so because there was a structured and reasonable limit to how long these questionable provisions would be in effect. In the bill we consider today, the sunsets have been either removed or extended to such unreasonable lengths that they are rendered pointless.

In the 4 years since the bill has passed, little effort has been expended to ensure that the civil liberties of the American people are not being violated. As such, I will oppose this bill today, but I do not foreclose supporting this bill in the future should it come back with improved and more acceptable language that provides for the strong oversight we need to effectively combat terrorism while at the same time maintaining our civil liberties.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSA PARKS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to Rosa Parks, considered to be the pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, who protested the discrimination of

Black bus riders by refusing to give her seat to a white man in 1955. Her subsequent arrest generated the Civil Rights Movement. She once said in regards to her protest, "I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move."

Her story is told to emphasize the power of one. One person can make a fleeting decision to impact the consciousness of society, by standing up for what they believe in. One person can cause the world to pay attention. One person can change the course of history.

Rosa Parks is one of many, and she is well deserving of this recognition.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this conference report—but only because it includes an essential immediate increase in funding for veterans health care.

This has been a long time coming. Last September, many of us sought to provide a \$2.5 billion increase over the Bush Administration's budget for veterans' health care. Earlier this year, Members on our side of the aisle made an unsuccessful effort to add \$1.2 billion for veterans' health care to the emergency supplemental appropriations for military activities in Afghanistan and Iraq. And over the last month, the Republican leadership led successful efforts to block consideration of amendments to add the needed funds for VA health care.

Things finally changed when the Bush Administration finally acknowledged a \$1 billion shortfall in veterans' health care for FY 2005, which had been well known since spring. When that happened, the Senate added \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding to this bill because it was the most convenient legislative vehicle—and the conferees wisely agreed to retain it in the conference report.

This additional \$1.5 billion is essential if we are to make any claim to meeting our moral obligation to America's veterans and returning soldiers. Because of its inclusion, I will vote for the conference report, even though the rest of the conference report does not deserve to pass.

Except for the veterans' health funding, this conference report falls short across the board.

It once again fails to provide the authorized funding for the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes program, shortchanging the counties and other local governments in Colorado and across the country for whom these "PILT" payments are so important.

It does not provide enough funds to enable the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, or the Forest Service to properly manage the federal lands for which they are responsible.

And it inadequately funds many other agencies as well, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency, which will be cut by about

3 percent from this fiscal year. I am particularly concerned about deep cuts to EPA's state grants (down nearly \$400 million from fiscal 2005), which support environmental protection programs through grants to State, local and tribal governments, and a \$24 million shortfall for EPA science and technology research.

Of course, Colorado will benefit from funding earmarked for projects in several parts of the state. But the needs of many communities will go unmet, and opportunities to acquire high-priority lands such as those in the Beaver Brook watershed in Clear Creek County will be missed.

Finally, the bill includes extensive legislative provisions authorizing the Forest Service to sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise convey lands that the Forest Service identifies as "administrative sites"—including forest headquarters, ranger stations, research stations, or laboratories, among many other kinds of sites.

Mr. Speaker, this part of the conference report originated in the Senate. Inclusion of such legislative provisions in a general appropriation bill is contrary to the House rules, because it properly should be handled by the authorizing committee—the Committee on Resources—in an orderly fashion that allows for hearings and the consideration of amendments.

It would have been far better for the House conferees to have rejected it and enabled our committee to consider it in that fashion. However, I want to express my appreciation for the fact that the conferees did make very important changes in the Senate-passed language.

In particular, I am glad that they included an explicit requirement for the Forest Service to consult with affected local governments and to provide public notice regarding their plans for disposing of properties covered by this part of the conference report. And I think that excluding visitor centers and potential inholdings as well as lands providing access to other lands or waters were valuable changes, as was the requirement that the Forest Service provide advance notice to Congress of planned disposals and the reaffirmation that environmental analysis of proposed disposals include consideration of the "no action" alternative as required by NEPA.

While this legislation will remain in effect only through fiscal 2008, the statement of managers clearly signals an expectation that Congress will be asked to renew it or perhaps even make it permanent. If that should occur, I will do all I can to make sure that the Resources Committee is responsible for considering such legislation and that it is not accomplished by inclusion of legislation in an appropriations measure.

STATES MUST LEAD IN PROTECTING
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the June 23rd decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Kelo v. New London* has raised concern about the potential abuse of the power of eminent domain by local governments.

I share that concern, which is why I voted for the resolution (H. Res. 340) expressing the House's disagreement with that decision.

Congress may consider proposals for even stronger legislative responses. I think that is completely appropriate, and well may support legislation on this subject.

At the same time, however, I think it is important to remember that the primary responsibility in this area rests with the States and their local governments.

As I said during debate on the resolution passed by the House, while (in the words of the resolution) "Congress maintains the prerogative and reserve the right to address through legislation any abuses of eminent domain by State and local government," Congress can only take such action in ways that are themselves consistent with the Constitution.

Further, I think we should be reluctant to take actions to curb what some—perhaps even a temporary majority—in Congress might consider improper actions by a State or local government.

Thy States, through their legislatures or in some cases by direct popular vote, can put limits on the use of eminent domain by their agencies or local governments. I think this would be the best way to address potential abuses, and I think we in Congress should consider taking action to impose our ideas of proper limits only as a last resort.

That point was well made in a recent column by State Senator Lois Tochtrop, with whom I had the honor to serve when I was in the Colorado legislature.

In that column, Senator Tochtrop writes "There's only one piece of 'good news' for Colorado citizens in the recent Supreme Court decision. The high court left it up to state legislatures to control city bureaucrats bent on turning your home or business into a new strip mall. Here in Colorado, legislators have lots to do. . . . I will reintroduce legislation in the upcoming session to stop cities from abusing the power of eminent domain by giving corporate welfare to retailers while the taxpayers pay the bills."

I commend Senator Tochtrop for her leadership on this important issue. For the information of our colleagues, here is the complete text of her recent column:

[From the (Boulder, Colorado) Daily
Camera—July 14, 2005]

STATE MUST PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS
(By Sen. Lois Tochtrop)

Founding father James Madison: "Government (is) instituted to protect property of every sort. That alone is a just government which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own."

United States Supreme Court: "Never mind!"

You've heard the bad news. If Wal-Mart or other big boxes want to take your home or business for a new store, that's OK by the U.S. Supreme Court. All big developers must do is convince property tax hungry city officials that the public will benefit. As we've seen in Colorado, that doesn't take much convincing.

Time was cities used eminent domain to condemn private property only for "public use" like roads, libraries or parks. Now, the Supreme Court says it's constitutional for government to take your property to build that Wal-Mart or Walgreen's, as long as there is some "public benefit." That promised benefit is the torrent of tax money that

will supposedly flow into city coffers from the new economic development.

Allowing municipalities to “take” private property and give it to another private entity is wrong and unjustified even with the recent Supreme Court ruling. The original intent of eminent domain was only to be used for public good, not to allow cities to condemn property to increase their tax base by putting in big boxes at the expense of mom-and-pop businesses, which are the backbone of America.

Retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote in her dissent that with “the banner of economic development . . . nothing is to prevent the state from replacing . . . any home with a shopping mall or any farm with a factory.” The bottom line: Your home isn't your castle anymore. It's prime development land for a Wal-Mart Super Center.

There's only one piece of “good news” for Colorado citizens in the recent Supreme Court decision. The high court left it up to state legislatures to control city bureaucrats bent on turning your home or business into a new strip mall. Here in Colorado, legislatures have lots to do.

From legislative hearing rooms to constituent living rooms, Colorado property owners are crying out for relief. I have heard testimony on the abuses of eminent domain from dozens of small businesses in Aurora whose property the city wants for “mixed use development” to complement the new medical complex at Fitzsimons. I listened to testimony from dozens of citizens who battled Arvada's plan to condemn a small lake for a Wal-Mart parking lot. I listened to a pioneer family in Westminster that is losing its homestead to make way for economic development.

The losers in the battle over eminent domain aren't only the folks you read about in the newspaper or see on TV trying valiantly to protect their private property. Colorado taxpayers are big losers too, because cities often grant developers a big property tax break called “tax increment financing.” Tax increment financing is given to developers to build big boxes after the municipalities “take” the property from rightful private owners under the guise of urban renewal.

Just last year, Colorado taxpayers had to “infill” more than \$18 million just to school districts because tax-increment financing robbed schools of tax money that the city gave away to developers. Who pays for that “infill”? Taxpayers, of course. Colorado taxpayers wind up subsidizing corporate giants like Wal-Mart after cities take private property from owners under the guise of urban renewal and economic development.

The only economic development is usually to the big box's bottom line. In 1999 the Legislature passed legislation which somewhat limits cities' power of eminent domain, but it does not go far enough to protect private property rights, as evidenced by local land grabs. Since then, I have introduced bills that removed “economic” from the definition of urban renewal and barred municipalities from declaring agricultural land “blighted.” Lobbyists for cities and powerful land developers stopped both of those bills.

The constitutional private property rights of Colorado citizens must be protected. I will reintroduce legislation in the upcoming session to stop cities from abusing the power of eminent domain by giving corporate welfare to retailers while the taxpayers pay the bills.

Protecting private property rights will take more than new legislation. Every citizen must help. If you don't like the idea of a city taking private property so Wal-Mart can put in a new Super-Center, tell your city council that's not the way your city should be doing business.

Lois Tochrop represents District 24 in the Colorado Senate.

GRENADA—THEY STILL NEED OUR HELP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the ongoing struggles of our neighbors on the Caribbean island-nation of Grenada. Hurricane Emily recently struck the island causing significant structural damage to homes, as well as public and private buildings—including two main hospitals. There was widespread flooding across the country, and many crops were destroyed. Damage from this storm alone is estimated at \$110 million.

This most recent disaster is especially saddening when we consider what Grenada has gone through over the last year. In September of 2004, Hurricane Ivan devastated Grenada, causing nearly 50 deaths and displacing thousands more. A staggering 90 percent of the country's buildings were destroyed by the hurricane, and the nutmeg crop, which accounts for the overwhelming bulk of the country's export earnings, was almost completely destroyed. Nutmeg is a very slow-growing crop which makes its destruction that much more tragic.

The damage to Grenada from Hurricane Ivan was easily in the billions of dollars—several times more than the country's Gross Domestic Product. A July 26th article in the publication *CaribNews* entitled “Grenada Needs All the Help It Can Get”, argues that the U.S. and the international community must do more to help Grenada. Indeed, Grenada has suffered serious economic repercussions following the destruction caused by Ivan.

Before Ivan, the economy of Grenada was projected to grow by 4.7 percent, but the island's economy instead contracted by nearly 3 percent in 2004. The economy was also projected to grow by at least 5 percent through 2007, but, as of 2005, that estimate had been lowered to less than 1 percent. The government of Grenada also has incurred an extremely high level of debt. While it is taking steps on its own to remedy the problem it will need help from the U.S. and organizations like the International Monetary Fund, IMF.

More than \$150 million in disaster and reconstruction aid was sent to Grenada in 2004, including nearly \$50 million from the United States, but the country is still in a very fragile state. The IMF reported that the economic situation could get much worse, due to deficiencies in donor financing and tax revenues, and the risk of increasing global oil prices.

With all that said, the U.S. must do all it can to help Grenada. The President was able to get Congress to pass the controversial CAFTA bill this week by arguing, among other things, that it would help the countries of Central America to develop. I hope that the President and this Congress will not forget our friends in the Caribbean, as they also need our assistance and attention. The plight of Grenada proves this, and calls out for our collective action.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 26, 2005]

GRENADA NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET

For the second time in less than a year Grenada, often called the “Spice Island” of the Caribbean and a “gem” in the region was hit hard by a devastating hurricane.

Thank God it wasn't as bad as last year's tragedy.

Although the damage wasn't nearly as severe as last year's havoc left in the wake of Hurricane Ivan, the pain and troubles inflicted on the people, the government, business, church and other institutions are much more than any single country should be asked to bear.

That's why we join in the appeal by Dr. Keith Mitchell, Grenada's Prime Minister for all the assistance, which the United States, the Caribbean, the broad international community, and the Caribbean Diaspora can offer.

When “Ivan the terrible” struck in 2004, it caused more than \$2 billion in damage, destroying about 90 percent of the homes, businesses and other structures, setting back the country for several years. After achieving significant gains in its quest to improve the quality of its people's lives in the 1980s and 1990s, Ivan struck with vengeance and halted that progress. Now Emily has added to the woes.

Dr. Mitchell met U.S. President George Bush over breakfast at the White House yesterday morning and laid out a strong case for more American assistance. He also appealed to the President to use his influence with the international community, especially the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American development Bank and United Nations development agencies to get them to provide even more help to Grenada.

President Bush should act decisively on Dr. Mitchell's request. Grenadians abroad should also heed his advice and unite behind the national efforts at reconstruction and development.

They should resist any attempts to resort to partisan politics or even to stay on the sidelines in these times of need.

Last year, Grenadians reacted with determination and generosity and they should do so again.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act. This bill would hurt patients who are harmed by medical malpractice by arbitrarily capping damages, denying justice to injured patients and their families.

This bill makes a number of changes to current law affecting medical malpractice lawsuits filed in Federal and State court, including limiting the amount of non-economic and punitive damages that could be awarded to a plaintiff, and restricting the contingency fees that can be charged by attorneys. The bill also pre-empts State laws that conflict with the enforcement of any of its provisions. The measure does not, however, pre-empt any State statutory limits on the amount of compensatory, punitive or total damages awarded in health care lawsuits. The provisions of the measure dealing with caps on awards would apply only to those States that have no statutory limits on damage awards in health care lawsuits.

The bill seriously restricts the rights of injured patients to be compensated for their injuries, while rewarding insurance companies for bad investment decisions and doctors for practicing bad medicine. In the 13th District of Michigan and in many districts across the country, physicians have either retired prematurely or relocated their practices. The supporters of this bill claim their proposal would reduce insurance costs for doctors. This bill does not lower premiums for doctors, contains no insurance reforms, and would not address the rising cost of health care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Democratic substitute, which would directly address rising premiums by reforming malpractice insurance and stopping frivolous lawsuits. The Democratic substitute does not restrict the rights of injured patients who file meritorious claims. It requires certification, with civil penalties, that a pleading is not frivolous, factually inaccurate or designed to harass. It includes a 3-year statute of limitation; establishes an alternative dispute resolution process; limits suits for punitive damages; and applies 50 percent of awards from any punitive damages to a patient safety fund at HHS. Finally, it requires insurance companies to develop a plan to give 50 percent of their savings to reductions in medical malpractice rates for doctors.

It is unfortunate the Democratic Substitute was not adopted. H.R. 5 in its present form does not address rising premiums and denies justice to injured patients and their families.

Vote against H.R. 5.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we need a fix for our healthcare system, but H.R. 5 is not it. Limiting patient's legal redress and compensation is not it. The punishment should fit the crime and if a doctor or drug company does harm knowingly or negligently to a patient they should be compensated to make them whole. That is the standard and it should be decided on a case by case basis according to the facts of each case. It makes me very uncomfortable to place a cap and effectively a dollar amount on what an impact an injury has on an individual's life.

The main group that benefits are big drug companies who will be able to evade their responsibilities injured parties.

The bill will seriously restrict the rights of injured patients to be compensated for their injuries, while rewarding insurance companies for bad investment decisions and doctors for practicing bad medicine. It will do almost nothing to make insurance more affordable or available for doctors. That is the bottom line. In a State like Florida where topic of healthcare is on the tip of every tongue it is important that we take the right steps to solve our mounting healthcare costs.

I am sensitive to the physicians and medical students who plead with me to make it afford-

able to practice. I know that physicians are now being forced to make specialty choices based on how much malpractice insurance costs, but let's be honest to our colleagues if not these poor students, the Republican leadership has trotted this bill out for purely political purposes—no hearings were held on the measure, nor did either committee with jurisdiction mark up the bill. This bill was only introduced last week.

If H.R. 5 becomes law, this bill would have serious consequences for sick and injured patients. The measure's \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages will hurt those at the bottom of the income scale the most. While corporate chief executive officers would receive economic damage awards that could easily reach into the millions of dollars, minimum-wage workers and stay-at-home moms would receive a pittance. The cap on punitive damages is similarly unjust. It imposes an impossibly high standard of proof, completely eviscerates the deterrent that effect punitive damages have on egregious misconduct of defendants, and would not affect how large drug companies test and market their products.

When investment income decreased because of stock market declines, insurance companies hiked premiums, reduced coverage and then blamed the legal system for a "liability insurance crisis." This bill also contorts the American legal system, first by taking the issue of tort litigation out of the hands of the states, where it has traditionally resided, and by severely limiting juries' abilities to adequately compensate victims of malpractice. We place our trust in juries every day to judge the facts and to decide what constitutes justice. If we can trust juries to make life and death decisions on death-penalty cases, we can surely trust them to decide the appropriate level of compensation for those injured by medical malpractice.

Our current tort system is the great equalizer in the civil justice system—it allows ordinary citizens to take on billion-dollar companies and millionaire doctors defended by \$500-an-hour lawyers so they can get the compensation they deserve. The contingency fee system also deters frivolous lawsuits—no lawyer would agree to take on a case he believed would result in no award for his client and no payment for himself.

Tort reformers often ridicule million-dollar jury awards, saying that the plaintiffs must feel like they have won the lottery. Tell that to the parents of the 17-year-old transplant patient who died after being given organs with the wrong blood type, or the Wisconsin woman who had a double mastectomy, only to discover after the operation that the lab had made a mistake and she did not have breast cancer after all. It is doubtful that any family that loses a loved one or suffers years of pain and suffering because of a medical error feels like celebrating after fighting their way through the court system and finally receiving compensation.

The Institute of Medicine estimated in 1999 that as many as 98,000 people are killed by medical errors every year—that is as many people as live in the president's old hometown of Midland, Texas. Instead of penalizing innocent victims of medical malpractice, Congress should be focusing on reducing the number of mistakes made. According to data from the National practitioner Database, 5 percent of all doctors are responsible for 54 percent of mal-

practice claims paid. The medical profession needs to crack down on these repeat offenders. It is disgraceful that the House leadership is using this bill as filler round out its "health care" theme for next week's floor schedule. Medical malpractice insurance rates and medical errors are important issues that reserve the full attention of Congress. These issues need to be studied by Congress in a bipartisan manner to address both problems and should not be used as political fundraising tools.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenth anniversary of the opening of Montgomery College, part of the North Harris Montgomery County Community College District, NHMCCD.

The beginnings of Montgomery College started long before August 14, 1995 when Governor George W. Bush presided over the grand opening of the 315,000-square-foot campus nestled in 100 acres of pine forest between The Woodlands and Conroe, TX.

Residents of Montgomery County who dreamed of having an institution of higher education in their midst had sought unsuccessfully in the 1970s and 1980s to establish a branch campus of an existing institution. But it was not until 1991 that voters approved a plan to join the nearest community college district, North Harris County, and to build Montgomery College.

Dr. Bill Law, the founding president of Montgomery College, led the college from its first days with a mere 1000 students meeting at local high schools. By the time the new campus opened in 1995, Dr. Law could say, "The sun is always shining at Montgomery College. It shines because we have the tremendous opportunity to help people improve their lives."

As Montgomery County experienced rapid population growth and business expansion during the 1990s, it found itself one of the fastest-growing community colleges in Texas, as well as the entire U.S. As the college grew, so did the number of programs and services that it offered. In spite of the rapid growth, the college maintained its focus on the hiring of excellent faculty members, ensuring that students' classroom experience would prepare them for the next level—whether it be a new career or transfer to a 4-year university.

During the college's third year, a partnership between NHMCCD and six area universities, The University Center, debuted, offering bachelor's and master's degrees to area residents who desired to pursue higher education closer to home. The University Center, located on the Montgomery College campus, only served to strengthen the college's role in providing an avenue toward a higher degree for its students.

The college enhanced its continuing education program during this time by kicking off an annual summer camp for youth and establishing the Academy for Lifelong Learning, which provides educational programs for the burgeoning senior population in the area.

In 1999 and 2000, the college was the recipient of several large Federal and State grants designed to move welfare recipients into the working world through a variety of career-oriented programs. By the fall of 2001, the college's enrollment approached 6,000 students and showed no signs of slowing down.

In early 2002, Dr. Tom Butler, a native Texan, took over the presidency of Montgomery College and put into place a strategic planning process to manage growth. This included a 72,000-square-foot library and classroom building. Program expansion included a tripling of the college's capacity for nursing students and other programs designed to meet the tremendous needs in the health care industry. Other new programs included teacher certification track as well as the opportunity for students to receive college credit for internships with elected officials, including my office in Conroe, TX.

The college also found new ways to engage the community through the Lyceum speaker's series, a classic/independent film series, and diverse artistic performances and shows.

The innovative style that characterized the early years of Montgomery College have continued to keep the college focused on providing students and the community with a world-class learning environment. By the fall of 2004, enrollment for credit stood at 7,400 students.

According to Dr. Butler, "a successful community college is always listening and responding—whether it be to its own students, the community, or the businesses in the area. That, more than anything else, provides us with unlimited potential for the future."

Mr. Speaker, it is institutions of higher education such as Montgomery College that make American communities strong while making the American dream of a higher education available to all. It is an honor to represent the citizens of Montgomery County, including the students at Montgomery College, in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in honoring the tenth anniversary of the College's campus.

EL CARNIVAL DEL BOULEVARD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important festival in my district this Sunday. On July 31, the Juan Pablo Duarte Foundation will be hosting the 6th anniversary of "El Carnival del Boulevard," the Carnival of the Boulevard.

"El Carnival" is an important celebration of the Dominican presence in the Washington Heights community. The festival will honor the memory of Juan Pablo Duarte who died July 15, 1844.

Juan Pablo Duarte is one of the founding fathers of the Dominican Republic. In resistance to the rule of the Haiti, Juan Pablo Duarte helped formed a secret dissident society, La Trinitaria, to support the Dominican demand for freedom and justice. Because of his heroism, the Dominican Republic was able to gain their independence from the Haitians on February 27, 1804. This year will mark the

161st anniversary of the independence of the Dominican Republic.

The pride and love of the Dominican people is alive and well in my district. This festival will celebrate and commemorate with honor and esteem the freedom and beauty of the Dominican Republic, its people, and its culture. I look forward to festivals as my district once again demonstrates its love and appreciation for our freedoms and its status as the soul of America.

HONORING PONDER MAYOR VIVIAN COCKBURN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my friend, Vivian Cockburn. The spirit, courage, and passion she exemplifies as mayor of Ponder, Texas, and in her fight against ovarian cancer and yearly participation in the Annual Ovarian Cancer Walk is inspirational.

Mayor Cockburn and her husband, Dan, have made Ponder, Texas, their home for the past 33 years. They were proud to raise their four children—Danny, Amanda, Christina, and Peter—in Ponder and are now blessed with seven grandchildren.

Prior to becoming mayor, she was licensed as a vocational nurse for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Justin in 1976. She then served as school nurse for the Ponder Independent School District in 1984 and for Brandenburg Elementary in Irving, Texas, in 1997. Before serving at Brandenburg, Mayor Cockburn returned to school and received her Registered Nurse's degree from Texas Women's University.

Mayor Cockburn served on Ponder's Planning and Zoning Commission before being appointed as mayor by the Town Council on November 2, 2000. Because of her outstanding leadership and commitment to the community, she was elected in May 2001 and reelected in May 2003 and again in 2005.

As mayor, she has played a key role in making a positive impact on the lives of the citizens of Ponder through her strong initiatives of repairing the streets and community for the children, handicapped, and the elderly. Among her accomplishments, the town, under her superior guidance, was able to remodel city offices to become handicap accessible, implement a recycling program for its residents, and communicate with the Texas Department of Transportation to push for the repairs of State Highway 156. With the passage of the Transportation Reauthorization Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives today, \$1.6 million will go for FM 156 between Ponder and Krum. It was Mayor Cockburn's determination and commitment that truly made the project a reality, and I was glad to work with her on making this a high priority in the final passage. She also hopes for a city park with a playground where children of the community can safely play.

It is my distinguished honor to recognize Mayor Cockburn for her outstanding service and commitment to the improvement and development of the Ponder community. Her leadership and devotion serves as an inspiration to myself and others.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA ARVI ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara Arvi, an outstanding educator and passionate advocate for American Indian culture in southern California. This year, Ms. Arvi retired after 22 years of commitment and exceptional service to the Southwest Museum of the American Indian in Los Angeles, California.

Barbara started as a docent with the Southwest Museum in 1983. She leaves now as the very accomplished Director of Education. During her tenure Barbara played an active and critical role in virtually every museum department. She served as curator and co-curator on several exhibits featuring the rich heritage of American Indian cultures. As director of the museum's Intertribal Marketplace, Barbara worked with countless artists from around the country to showcase the art, music and dance of native cultures. She understood so well the importance of infusing the Southwest Museum's programs and exhibits with a true native voice.

As a museum educator, Barbara made great strides in promoting accurate and respectful portrayals of American Indian culture and history in classrooms throughout California. She served as a Commissioner and Chair of the Curriculum Review and Salary Point Committee on the Los Angeles American Indian Education Commission of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Barbara partnered with the Arroyo Seco Museum Magnet School to create and implement the Junior Docent program to provide neighborhood youth with hands-on experience and curriculum in museum studies, as well as train students to become active, contributing docents at the Southwest Museum.

To Barbara, teaching involved more than the basics. As the founder of the museum's Ethno-botanical Garden, Barbara taught visitors about the importance of California's native plants and ecology. She established the innovative "Dig-It" program which provides young students with a simulated archaeological excavation project to teach history, archaeology and ecology. She also developed the American Indian Mentorship Program, which enabled American Indian artists to share their experiences with native youth to foster their skills and interest in the arts.

Since 1993 Barbara has played an instrumental role in the success of the nationally recognized Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery" open to students throughout the country, including students of the 31st Congressional District. Whatever was needed she was always there to lend a helping hand. From opening the doors of the Southwest Museum for the competition's awards ceremony for this congressional district to judging the student artwork, Barbara's participation was all-encompassing. The people of the 31st Congressional District and I are truly grateful to Barbara for her dedication and generosity to our annual student art competition.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute an exceptional woman. Barbara Arvi has made the Southwest Museum a meaningful, lasting, and vital cultural center for Southern California and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE HAYS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR
LEADERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT CAMPAIGN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheriff Don Montague and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their leadership in the National Night Out campaign.

Currently celebrating its 22nd Anniversary, the National Night Out (NNO) is a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 10,000 communities throughout the United States. In all, over 34 million people participated in 2004. This year's event will be held on August 2nd.

The key to combating crime is by getting neighbors to know their neighbors—this is one of the main reasons NNO has been so effective. NNO helps heighten awareness of the efforts in crime and drug prevention, while also increasing participation in local crime deterrence programs. NNO strengthens neighborhood spirit, and encourages law enforcement and community partnerships. Most importantly, NNO sends a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and ready to fighting back.

I am honored to recognize Sheriff Don Montague and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their leadership roles in supporting the National Night Out. I encourage all Hays County residents to join forces with the thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative crime prevention; your support is vital in the fight against crime.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF ALLEN CLARK

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Allen Clark for his distinguished military, business and public service careers, and thank him for his outstanding contributions to his community and his country.

This September will mark the end of Mr. Clark's service at the Veterans Administration North Texas Health Care System, bringing a close to his long and distinguished career as a spokesperson and representative for veterans in our community. Always keeping his fellow veterans at the heart of each of his decisions, Allen Clark has been a strong and

vocal advocate for the VA and veterans issues.

A graduate of the United States Military at West Point and decorated combat veteran, Allen Clark bravely served his country in the ranks of the U.S. Army, volunteering for service in Vietnam. As a Military Intelligence Officer assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group in South Vietnam, Allen Clark was seriously wounded. His injury required the amputation of both his legs below the knee. This life-altering experience may have taken his legs, but it did not take his spirit. For his distinguished service Clark received the Purple Heart, the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Army Airborne Wings, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with two battle stars.

After returning from Vietnam, Allen Clark built a successful business career, earning a Masters of Business Administration degree and later working in finance, investments, oil and gas exploration, real estate, marketing, and mortgage lending in Texas. He was president of three oil companies in Midland, Texas, as well as a co-founder of a real estate investment company in Austin, Texas. His career as a public servant is equally impressive. Allen Clark served as Special Assistant for Administration to Texas Governor William Clements and Assistant Secretary for Veterans Liaison in the Administration of President George H.W. Bush. In 1991, he was confirmed as the Director of the National Cemetery System. In 2001, he was appointed Public Affairs Officer at the Veterans Administration North Texas Health Care System after serving there as Administrative Officer for Spinal Cord Injury Service and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a combat veteran and as a public servant, Allen Clark understands that better than most Americans. Throughout his life he has done his very best to ensure that our nation never forgets the sacrifices that our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen made to defend our freedom.

Allen Clark is a dedicated public servant, a hero, and a true patriot. But I am most proud to call him my friend. His peers, his fellow veterans, and those like me who have had the privilege to know and work with Allen Clark, will greatly miss him. As the U.S. Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, today I would like to honor the service, sacrifice and bravery of Allen Clark, and thank him for the outstanding work he has done on behalf of our nation's veterans.

TEACHERS COLLEGE AT COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY: PUTTING THE
NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN FIRST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention a crisis which is before many of our public schools today—the shortage of highly skilled teachers in our city's worst schools. This problem has not only affected schools in my state of New York, but is nationwide.

Excellence should be expected of every child. And the opportunity to excel must be guaranteed to every child. The right to a free, world-class public education has been the birthright of Americans for well over a century. It is a moral imperative that forms the foundation of democracy, the underpinning of the economy, and the cornerstone of America's greatness.

To provide every child the opportunity to excel, America must ensure that qualified, caring teachers educate and inspire their students in an environment that supports a love of learning. That means a vibrant classroom in a safe, modern school building equipped with the best learning technologies; supported by active, involved parents; and driven by a collective passion for educational excellence.

This opportunity must be guaranteed within the Nation's public schools and these sentiments are echoed by the outstanding staff and leadership at Teachers College at Columbia University. I commend them for not only seeing that the problem exists, but in advocating that something be done to address it.

I'd like to take this opportunity to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an article written by Arthur Levine, President of Teachers College at Columbia University and Darlyne Bailey, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College which speaks to this issue and what our priorities should be.

BRINGING GREAT TEACHERS TO STRUGGLING
SCHOOLS: THE MOMENT IS NOW

(BY ARTHUR LEVINE AND DARLYNE BAILEY)

We live in a time when people rightfully have become skeptical about the political process and the possibilities for moving beyond rhetoric to action. Yet every now and then, like the inverse of a perfect storm, forces align themselves in ways that permit substantive change.

In New York City, we have just such a moment before us right now—an opportunity to dramatically improve our public school system by addressing the issue that, more than any other, has limited the hopes and prospects of vast numbers of low-income and disadvantaged children.

That issue is the dearth of highly skilled, experienced teachers where they are needed most: in the city's worst schools. Some 60 percent of our city's low-performing students are concentrated in just one-third of our schools, nearly all of them in high-poverty areas such as Bedford Stuyvesant, Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx. The prospect of failure in these schools is so overwhelming that teacher turnover is constant, with even the best and most dedicated decamping for districts where the pay is higher and working conditions allow them to be more effective.

Back in April, a special commission of the New York City Council outlined highly detailed recommendations for righting these wrongs. In addition to calling for system-wide caps and reductions in class sizes, the Commission recommended that all teachers to be awarded salary incentives of 3 percent (to be added to any negotiated increases) in order to align local salaries with the regional labor market. To increase the number of qualified teachers in low-performing, high need schools, teachers in the most challenging schools would receive as much as an additional 23 percent if they teach in target schools that adopt an extended-year (11-month) calendar. Teachers whose skills qualify them for a newly-instituted designation of "Master Teacher" would receive a further 10-percent increase, and Master Teachers who chose to work in targeted high-needs

schools would join the ranks of the most highly paid teachers in the state.

This is not a giveaway to teachers. To assure high quality, these changes would be directly tied to rigorous performance assessments. In fact, the entire structure of reform would be subject to ongoing review by an Independent Office for Research and Accountability that would identify target schools for augmented support and determine whether the Commission's intensified strategies are producing desired results.

What hope is there that these ideas will be acted upon? After all, similar proposals have been floated in the past.

The answer is that at this particular moment, we are blessed with a rare opportunity that combines a potential multi-billion dollar windfall for the city's school system with contract renewal negotiations between the United Federation of Teachers and the city and an upcoming Mayoral election.

Clearly the biggest barrier to school reform has been money. For decades, the city has been unable to offer the kind of teacher salaries found in the suburbs and upstate because it has not received a proportionate share of funding. More recently, under the provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, city schools have been asked to meet clear and specific targets for student achievement even as they have been denied the wherewithal to do so. Now the courts have recognized that this amounts to a violation of our children's Constitutional right to a sound, basic education. A panel of special judges has recommended that the state make amends by providing the city with an additional \$14 billion in operating and facilities funds over the next five years. That decision is being appealed, but many believe that within the next year, money will actually change hands.

That's a huge step, and certainly little else can happen without it. But it is only the beginning. Plaintiffs have won similar lawsuits in other states, gotten their money, and still were unable to enact meaningful reform. Usually this was because they failed to bring together all school stakeholders in a meaningful dialogue.

In New York City, the City Council commission began such a dialogue with the public hearings it held during this past year. But obstacles remain. One of the long-standing bones of contention has been the seniority system that allows the most experienced teachers to essentially choose their placements. Given the low pay and working conditions in struggling schools, most elect to work in higher-performing institutions where they can make a decent living and be effective. Not surprisingly, the union has fiercely defended this system.

The city government, for its part, has responded—with justification—that its hands are tied.

Lately, however, there have been encouraging signs. Both Randi Weingarten, the UFT president, and Joel Klein, the city schools chancellor, have said that in principle, they believe the key to turning around struggling schools is to populate them with excellent, experienced teachers. Mayor Bloomberg, who has made education reform the centerpiece of his first term, is running for a reelection. It is a moment, in short, when promises are being made; when compromise is in the air; and when unprecedented new financial resources seem likely to come our way.

That said, the beginning of the new school year is almost upon us. The teacher contract talks are at a critical point. So let's make the most of our opportunity. We have identified a clear priority—to put great teachers in the schools that need them most, as rapidly as possible. We have the political will to do

so, and soon we will have the money. If we fail to deliver, history—and our children—will judge us harshly indeed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on this 40th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, we must pause to recognize the importance of this legislation. A century before its passing, the 15th Amendment guaranteed the right for Black men to vote. In 1920, women were also granted that right. Despite these laws, minority men and women were still prevented from voting through discriminatory means common to Jim Crow, antebellum South including poll taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandering and language discrimination. Through the Voting Rights Act, considered one of the foremost pieces of Civil Rights legislation, Congress saw the discrimination and realized the critical need to protect the minority. We must continue to do so.

The most basic and fundamental principles of any democracy are equal opportunity, equal protection under the law and guarantee of the right to participate, to have that right protected and to have that participation count.

Unfortunately in the last two Presidential elections and in an increasing number of elections across the country are being marred with allegations of manipulation, chicanery, trickery, intimidation and outright illegal acts of fraud, thievery, and violence. All of these acts and actions have served to undermine confidence in our electoral system, disrupt the process of normalcy, and are beginning to shake the very foundation of our democracy. We must not waver in our commitment to our citizens and continue to ensure that their vote matters.

The face of America is changing every day. Diversity of race, ethnicity, language and other aspects of the American citizen are evident in our society. The need to protect the rights of the electorate despite these differences is a constant struggle. This 40-year-old legislation stood the test of time. It is our duty to continue to protect the right to vote, one of the most basic rights, for all Americans.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cannot support this legislation.

There is nothing I would rather vote for than a balanced energy bill that sets us on a forward-looking course—one that acknowledges that this country is overly dependent on a single energy source—fossil fuels—to the detriment of our environment, our national security, and our economy.

But at a time of sky-rocketing oil prices, this report doesn't do what it needs to do—help us

balance our energy portfolio and increase the contributions of alternative energy sources to our energy mix.

The process of developing the conference report is much improved from last year's contentious debate. Senate and House conferees worked together cooperatively and were able to compromise on a number of provisions and bridge difficult differences of opinion. I believe Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member DINGELL and on the Senate side, Chairman DOMENICI and Ranking Member BINGAMAN, have done a good job in this respect.

The conference report itself is also an improvement over the bill passed by the House earlier this year.

It includes an extension of the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit for another 2 years, which will take us through the end of 2007. This is very good news. The report also includes clean energy bonds provisions from the Senate bill which will enable electric cooperatives to invest in renewable generation.

It also removes the methyl bromide tertiary-butyl ether, MTBE, liability waiver that would have let industry off the hook. It's true that the conference report does provide a "backdoor immunity" that could derail many legal claims by denying communities and states the right to be heard in state forums. But I believe that the conferees took a big step forward by dropping the liability waiver.

On energy efficiency, the conference report goes beyond the House bill in establishing new energy efficiency standards for 15 products. It also includes numerous energy efficiency tax provisions for alternative fuel vehicles, energy efficient appliances and new and existing homes, among others, provisions contained in the Energy Efficiency Cornerstone Act that I introduced with my colleague Rep. ZACH WAMP and others.

Electricity provisions are strengthened—not only does the conference report include new standards for grid reliability, but it also includes consumer protections in electric markets, such as new merger review, a prohibition on market manipulation, improved market transparency, among others. These protections are especially important given that the bill repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, PUHCA, which restricts the ownership and operations of power companies and their ability to control energy prices.

Another way in which the conference report has improved on the House bill is its treatment of oil shale.

This is a subject of particular concern to Coloradans, because Colorado has the most significant amounts of oil shale—and also the most experience with oil shale fever. In Colorado, we have had several bouts of that syndrome. The last one started during the 1970s energy crisis and ended abruptly on "Black Sunday" in 1982. That was when Exxon announced it was pulling out of the Colony shale project, an event that left an impact crater from the Western Slope to downtown Denver. There followed an exodus of other companies that had been working on oil shale—which led to an echoing exodus of jobs and of Coloradans who had nowhere else to turn.

The House bill would have required the Interior Department to set up a new leasing program for commercial development of oil shale, with final regulations to be in place by the end of next year. In other words, it called for a crash program to meet a short, arbitrary deadline.

In the Resources Committee, I tried to change that. An amendment I offered would not have barred oil shale development. Instead, it would have said that before we leap again, we should take a look and have a clear idea of where we are apt to land. Under my amendment, the Department of the Interior would be told to prepare regulations for a new oil shale leasing program—and to get them finished “promptly” after finishing the analysis required by NEPA and the regular process for developing new federal regulations.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership of the Resources Committee opposed my amendment, and so it was not adopted. The result is that that part of the House bill was much uglier than it should have been.

The oil shale part of the conference report, while not necessarily a thing of real beauty, is definitely better. It calls for a programmatic environmental impact statement as the first step, and requires issuance of final regulations for a new commercial leasing program only after that statement has been completed. Further, it requires the Interior Department to consult with the Governor of Colorado (and the governors of other relevant states) and other interested parties in order to determine the level of support for development of oil shale (or tar sands) resources, and provides that leasing will then occur only if there is sufficient interest and support. This is a much better way to proceed than through the kind of crash program called for in the House-passed bill.

And, while I think the need for a new oil shale task force or a new office within DOE is doubtful at best, the conference report’s provisions related to experimental leases are sensible and worthwhile.

There were a few good things in the House bill that I am glad are retained in the conference report—after all, in a 1,725-page bill, there are bound to be some good provisions, but in this case they are far outweighed by the bad.

For example, I support most of the provisions developed by the Science Committee, and I commend Chairman BOEHLERT and Ranking Member GORDON for their bipartisan approach.

In particular, I’m pleased that the Science Committee bill included generous authorization levels for renewable energy and energy efficiency R&D. As Co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, this funding is very important to me.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes the Clean Green School Bus Act, a bill that Chairman BOEHLERT and I drafted that authorizes grants to help school districts replace aging diesel vehicles with clean, alternative fuel buses. H.R. 6 also includes provisions from legislation I introduced on distributed power, which would direct the Secretary of Energy to develop and implement a strategy for research, development, and demonstration of distributed power energy systems.

Unfortunately, though, as a whole this conference report—like the bills we’ve debated twice before—basically retains the status quo and does little to provide solutions to the real energy problems facing this country.

This conference report provides oil and gas companies massive forgiveness of royalty payments. It exempts industry from requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act when they inject harmful chemicals into the ground during

drilling. It exempts oil and gas construction sites from storm water runoff regulations under the Clean Water Act. It authorizes up to \$1.5 billion in new subsidies to the oil industry for ultra-deep oil drilling and exploration. It establishes an exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act for oil and gas development activities.

Of the bill’s total \$14.6 billion in tax incentives, \$9.3 billion (or 64 percent) is for traditional energy sources such as oil, natural gas, and nuclear power. The oil and gas industries are getting these massive subsidies from the taxpayer at the same time that their profits have never been higher. Meanwhile, renewables and energy efficiency technologies are allocated \$5.3 billion, or just 26 percent of the total incentives in the bill.

And then there are all the things the bill would not do. It would not increase vehicle fuel economy standards, which have been frozen since 1996. Raising CAFE standards is the single biggest step we can take to reduce oil consumption, since about half of the oil used in the U.S. goes into the gas tanks of our passenger vehicles.

This conference report avoids the whole question of mandatory action on climate change, excluding even the toothless Senate-passed resolution that recognized the need for immediate action by Congress to implement mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

It also does not include the Renewable Portfolio Standard, RPS, part of the Senate-passed bill, which would require utilities to generate 10 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020. Colorado is uniquely positioned to take advantage of alternative energy opportunities, such as wind and sun. Colorado’s voters approved Amendment 37 last year, a state RPS, which is making a difference in our energy supply.

But a Federal RPS would yield numerous rewards in the long-term for the whole country, including increased energy independence and security, economic development opportunities in depressed communities, maintaining a competitive advantage internationally, protecting our environment, and helping our farmers develop long-term income sources. The absence of an RPS in this conference report is a serious setback for forward-thinking energy policy.

Most importantly, according to analyses conducted by the Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration, this energy bill will neither lower gas prices nor reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, with foreign imports predicted to increase from 58 percent to 68 percent in the next 20 years. Coloradans on average are already on average \$2.25 for a gallon of regular gas. This bill will do nothing to bring those prices down.

I don’t always agree with President Bush. But I think he is absolutely right about one thing—at \$55 a barrel, we don’t need incentives to oil and gas companies to explore. Instead, we need a strategy to wean our Nation from its dependence on fossil fuels, especially foreign oil.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we need a plan in place to increase our energy security. Thirteen percent of the twenty million barrels of oil we consume each day comes from the Persian Gulf. In fact, fully 30 percent of the world’s oil supply comes from this same volatile and politically unstable region of the world. Yet with only 3 percent of the world’s known

oil reserves, we are not in a position to solve our energy vulnerability by drilling at home.

This bill does nothing to tackle this fundamental problem. For every step it takes to move us away from our oil/carbon-based economy, it takes two in the opposite direction. I only wish my colleagues in the House could understand that a vision of a clean energy future is not radical science fiction but is instead based on science and technology that exists today. Given the magnitude of the crisis ahead, we can surely put more public investment behind new energy sources that will free us from our dependence on oil.

Earlier this year, President Bush spoke at the opening of the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Illinois and attempted to draw parallels between his goal of expanding freedom in the world and Lincoln’s effort to expand freedom in the U.S. I have some questions about that comparison, but I do think it is good to consider Lincoln’s example when we debate public policy.

In fact, I wish President Bush and the Republicans would draw a few more parallels to Lincoln in their approach to energy policy—because, as that greatest of Republican Presidents said, “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate for the stormy present. Our present is piled high with difficulties. We must think anew and act anew—then we will save our country.”

And while we are not engaged in a civil war, our excessive dependence on fossil energy is a pressing matter of national security. We have an energy security crisis. We need to think anew to devise an energy security strategy that will give future generations of Americans an economy less dependent on oil and fossil fuels.

Unfortunately, too much of this bill reflects not just a failure but an absolute refusal to think anew. Provision after provision reflects a stubborn insistence on old ideas—more tax subsidies, more royalty giveaways, more restrictions on public participation, more limits on environmental reviews—and a hostility to the search for new approaches.

Maybe we could have afforded such a mistake in the past. But now the stakes are too high—because, as I said, energy policy isn’t just an economic issue, it’s a national security issue. America’s dependence on imported oil poses a risk to our homeland security and economic well-being.

Unfortunately, this conference report does not think anew and is not adequate to the challenges of this stormy present. For that reason, I cannot vote for it.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, despite the President’s oversell, this bill does nothing to improve our energy independence and does little to provide for a cleaner environment. The bill does nothing to lower gasoline prices, which are at an all-time high.

This bill is a corporate giveaway to the largest multinational oil companies, coal, utility

and other energy companies, who stand to receive a windfall of \$14.5 billion in tax breaks over 10 years. Taxpayers are going to subsidize billions in loan guarantees to these industries, so the energy industry can be free to fail without having to face little financial risk. That is a sweet deal.

With oil selling at \$60 a barrel, this bill provides royalty-free drilling rights to the multinational oil companies to drill on public lands. This is making a sweet deal even sweeter. When the American consumer fills his or her car with gasoline selling over \$2.30 a gallon, they will be secure in knowing that the record profits they are paying for big oil are being subsidized further at the expense of their tax dollars. Taxpayers are being asked to donate more than \$14 billion in tax breaks, most of them to the oil and gas companies, the utilities, the nuclear industry and the coal industry. That is sweet on top of a sweeter deal for Big Oil. The renewable energy and energy efficiency industries are left with little.

The bill preempts the ability of state and local governments to block the siting of Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in densely populated urban areas. It will weaken environmental protections with new loopholes for the oil and gas industry. It will allow the process of hydraulic fracturing, which involves injecting diesel fuel into groundwater supplied and exempt other industry practices from the Clean Water Act, exemptions and the National Environmental Policy Act.

This bill will authorize exploratory efforts to prepare for oil and gas drilling off the Outer Continental Shelf, including areas that are currently closed to drilling. One area that I am pleased to report is that the bill does ban drilling in the Great Lakes.

This exercise is an unfortunate one. It is short on helping the nation's energy needs and long on subsidizing the oil and gas, nuclear, utility, and coal industries. Americans pay more than their fair share to support the record profit margins of the energy industry and now they are being asked to subsidize those record profits even more. This is a bad deal for American consumers. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against the passage of this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the offshore drilling provisions included in this bill.

I am categorically opposed to this bill because of provisions which would increase pressure for oil drilling in the protected waters off Florida's coast. It would also give billions of dollars in tax breaks and other giveaways to traditional fossil-fuel producers.

Included in this bill is a requirement to conduct an offshore inventory of oil and gas reserves. An expensive and environmentally damaging inventory in the protected waters of the Gulf is likely to increase pressure to lift the drilling moratorium off Florida's coast.

Another provision is a reduction in royalty payments for deep gas wells leased in the

Gulf of Mexico. Any giveaway to the oil companies to reduce their costs will cause an increase in production. This will cause more exploration.

Florida is a beautiful state with miles of coastline. The Sunshine State economy depends heavily on tourism and the environment is the key factor in Florida's attractiveness to tourists. The tourism industry has an economic impact of \$57 billion on Florida's economy. Not inconsequential is the 770 miles of gulf coastline and 5,095 of gulf tidal shoreline, and the hundreds of miles of beaches.

Florida's coastline is a treasure not just for Floridians, but all Americans and the rest of the world. For years Florida's delegation has worked together to protect our coastline and natural resources. Even conducting an inventory of resources in the Gulf of Mexico will begin to destroy the efforts we have made as a state to preserve our sensitive lands. As long as there are rigs in the area, the potential for devastation to Florida's beaches persists. Florida's beaches are not something we can afford to compromise. This decision goes against everything that Floridians have worked for over so many years. Certainly, the people of Florida do not support this ill-advised decision.

The impact of offshore drilling threatens irreversible scarring to the landscape, affecting thousands of species, each critical to the ecosystem. The great weather, pristine beaches, and marine wildlife are the number one draws to our fine state. By moving forward with even a resources inventory, you risk a multi-billion dollar industry for only a few barrels of oil.

JOHN L. PROCOPE AND THE POWER OF THE BLACK PRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John L. Procope, who was my friend and an extraordinary African-American businessman, entrepreneur, and role model. His passing earlier this month is a source of great sadness to a community of colleagues and friends who will greatly miss him. I know that Riverside Church, where he is being memorialized this morning, is filled with many tears, but with many more memories.

When the Black newspaper, the Amsterdam News, faced financial troubles and was threatened with closure, John L. Procope stepped forward to ensure that the African-American community in New York continued to have a voice and reliable source of information on the day's news. Knowing the important and significance of the Amsterdam News and other Black newspapers, John ensured that there would continually be a voice for a community that had so long been limited in its advocacy, expression, and information.

For generations, the Black press had been the communication hub of the Black community. It had been the voice for the community to its leaders and to each other. It connected the individuals of the community to one another and told the news and events of the day from their perspectives. The Black press questioned and challenged the system of segregation, highlighted and pointed out the social,

political and economic inequalities of the community, and disputed and countered the official positions on issues of race and class. The Black press has historically been the pipeline of the concerns and issues of the Harlem community and other Black communities throughout the nation. It remains the compelling, focused, and thoughtful voice of the community and its residents, and it works against financial challenges, to maintain that role.

John recognized this important role of the black press as a voice to and of the community. He knew that for the community to flourish the press would have to remain strong. So, when John and his fellow investors saw the Amsterdam News faltering, they came to its rescue and the rescue of the community. John invested in and resurrected the paper. He ensured and maintained its role in Harlem and in Black communities throughout New York City. He continued the paper's important role as advocate, informer, and champion of the Black community.

The newspaper nonetheless was not John's only legacy. He ventured his business and economic skills into other arenas to become a successful entrepreneur and a powerful role model. He showed generations of African-Americans that to be successful, you had to be committed and dedicated, and that being successful did not mean forgetting your roots and your community.

I submit for the RECORD two articles from the July 26, 2005 edition of the *CaribNews* praising John's dedication and commitment to Harlem and the Black community. He will be missed in this community for all that he has done, but he may rest peacefully knowing that he has sowed the seeds for generations of progress.

[From the *CaribNews*; July 26, 2005]

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN PROCOPE

John L. Procope, an entrepreneur and former publisher of The New York Amsterdam News, died on Friday, July 15. He was 82 and lived in Queens. The cause was complications from pneumonia.

Mr. Procope, a graduate of Morgan State University, was a marketing and advertising executive at several companies before he joined a consortium that bought The Amsterdam News in 1971. He was one of six co-owners of the newspaper when he succeeded Clarence B. Jones as publisher in 1974.

Mr. Procope earned his bachelor's degree in business from Morgan State University, attended business school at New York University and began his career in advertising. A native New Yorker, he was a former president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. He was also a president of the Harlem Business Alliance and served as a trustee of Howard University for 15 years.

The Amsterdam News was founded by James Henry Anderson in 1909. W.E.B. Du Bois, Adam Clayton Powell and Malcolm X are among the famous black Americans who have written for the newspaper. Mr. Procope made waves in the Black community when he denounced the looting that took place after the 1977 blackout in New York by publishing a blistering editorial charging an apparent vacuum of leadership in the Black communities. Subsequently, he was appointed chairman of an Emergency Aid Commission which disbursed about \$3 million to grants to businesses hurt by the looting.

Mr. Procope left the newspaper in 1982 to focus on E. G. Bowman, an insurance company that had been founded by his wife, Ernesta G. Procope, that was one of the first major African-American-owned businesses

on Wall Street. The company's client list started with underserved Brooklyn homeowners but grew to include Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Procope and his wife were a driving force behind the creation of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 to help make insurance available to all residents of New York State. He and his wife were also highly visible in political and philanthropic circles.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Bloomfield, Conn. and Jonelle Terrell of Manhattan.

JOHN L. PROCOPE—THE PASSING OF A LEADER IN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING AND THE CONSUMMATE BUSINESS LEADER

When John L. Procope died last week in New York City at the age of 82, he left behind a number of things.

The first is a rich legacy as an entrepreneur who along with his wife made a success of a business in an area where few Blacks had dared to walk as owners: Wall Street, perhaps the world's most famous financial district.

Secondly, he also left behind a history of having stood on the shoulders of many 19th and 20th century Black newspaper publishers whose organs of information articulated the cause of Black people with verve and determination, during some of the most perilous of times, dating back to era of slavery, through reconstruction, the days of Jim Crow and into the civil rights struggle and right up to these days of immense challenges, successes and failures.

People like John Russwurm, who in 1827 was a recent graduate of Bowdoin College, and a young militant minister, the Rev. Samuel Cornish, who created and launched "Freedom's Journal," the first Black newspaper in the United States were the models for later Black publishers. The Freedom's Journal was the expression of a force and energy that paved the way for thousands of other Black newspapers which stood at the forefront of the battle for freedom, decency, human rights, civil liberties and respect for people of color.

The Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the New York Amsterdam News and more recent additions to the list of outstanding voices of Black people, including the CaribNews, have and are making names for themselves with their clarion calls for social and economic justice and racial equality in government, business, the church and other areas of life.

That Procope was able to lead the Amsterdam News with distinction in the 1970s and early 1980s before he left to devote his full energies to the family business is a measure of the man who like Russwurm traced the roots of his family tree to the Caribbean. His steady hand as the publisher of the Amsterdam News, one of the country's most important Black newspapers, contributed to its viability and while he may not have always pleased all sections of the Black community he certainly made his mark as a voice of reason and frankness, two highly cherished commodities which are often missing in our everyday lives.

As a co-owner and the publisher of the paper, Procope established a powerful presence and became a major asset as an advocate for Blacks. He routinely assumed that role with both dignity and clarity, never shrinking from the task at hand, even if it meant stating a fact of life that some Blacks found unpleasant to mention.

This sophisticated, business-like an elegant 20th century man recognized that the power of Black business, whether in newspaper publishing, insurance or in other ven-

tures could be magnified through firm but behind the scenes action or public steps grounded in principle but devoid of fear.

In his later years, after leaving the Amsterdam News in 1982, a decade after he had joined with a group of Blacks who acquired the paper, Procope, joined E. Bowman, an insurance company founded by his wife, Ernesta G. Procope. He served as Chairman of the Board of the company, which served not only poor Black homeowners of Brooklyn but Fortune 500 companies whose shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Both Mr. Procope and his wife were noted for their business acumen and their philanthropic impulses.

His passing due to complication from pneumonia leaves the City, the business community and the Caribbean much poorer.

His wife, two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Connecticut and Junelle Terrell of Manhattan and other relatives survive him.

HONORING SPECIALIST ERNEST W. DALLAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Specialist Ernest W. Dallas, Jr. of Denton, Texas. Specialist Dallas was killed in action on July 24, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Dallas died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle.

Specialist Dallas was assigned to K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Specialist Dallas' family resides in Denton, Texas. I would like to extend my most heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his family and friends who have suffered this loss.

CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE ACTION BEST ON EMINENT DOMAIN REFORMS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many of us have serious concerns about the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Kelo v. New London and the potential effects on private property owners from local governments' exercise of the power of eminent domain.

Because of those concerns, I joined in voting for H. Res. 340, expressing disapproval of that decision, which was passed by the House last month.

However, as I said then, although I agreed with the resolution's statement that Congress could seek to "address through legislation any abuses of eminent domain by State and local government," I think we should be reluctant to take actions to curb what some—perhaps even a temporary majority—in Congress might consider improper actions by a State or local government.

The States, through their legislatures or in some cases by direct popular vote, can put

limits on the use of eminent domain by their agencies or local governments. I think this would be the best way to address potential abuses, and I think we in Congress should consider taking action to impose our ideas of proper limits only as a last resort.

So, I am glad to note that in Colorado discussion is already underway regarding possible changes to our laws that would modify the scope of eminent domain authority available to local governments.

A good example of that discussion is a recent editorial in Grand Junction's Daily Sentinel, which notes with approval a proposal for an amendment to the Colorado constitution but points out that its proponents should be cautious in their approach.

I think the editorial's points are well taken. I attach its full text and commend it to the attention of all our colleagues.

[From Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel, July 21, 2005]

VOTERS COULD CHECK EMINENT-DOMAIN ABUSE

State Rep. Al White, R-Winter Park, is joining a host of state government officials around the country who want tougher state rules on government's use of eminent domain to condemn private property.

Efforts are being pushed in at least 25 states in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last month that said the city of New London, Conn., could condemn homes in an older middle-class neighborhood and turn them over to private developers for razing to build condos, a hotel, athletic clubs and other amenities.

Millions of Americans were understandably angered by the ruling. It opens the possibility that any home or small business can be condemned if some developer can demonstrate that his plans can produce more revenue for local government.

White says he intends to push a measure in the Legislature for a state constitutional amendment that would prohibit local government from taking land for private gain. If it doesn't pass the Legislature, he said he will mount a petition drive to get it on the 2006 ballot.

White's concerns for the rights of private property owners are well taken. But White should be cautious about overreaching. There are some cases where it may be legitimate for government to condemn private property and allow another private entity to benefit from it.

Even before this June's ruling, the Supreme Court had long held that governments can use eminent domain to condemn private property and turn it over to other private developers in order to eliminate blight.

Although "blight" may sometimes be poorly defined, eliminating health and safety issues associated with severely run-down or neglected properties meets a legitimate public need.

White's proposal or any other aimed at reducing the potential for eminent-domain abuse in Colorado must recognize that public need and provide clearly worded conditions under which it could be allowed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CORPORAL GEORGE ALLEN ALFORD, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Corporal

George Allen Alford, Jr., USMC, who was killed in action on July 31, 1968.

Corporal Alford joined the Marine Corps at age 18 in 1966 and served on the U.S.S. *Galveston* as a Captain's Orderly. He left the *Galveston* in May of 1968 after volunteering for active duty in Vietnam. By the time he was 20 years old, Corporal Alford was a Squad Leader of the 3rd Platoon of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division. He participated in numerous operations in Vietnam including Operation Houston III, Houston IV and Mameluke Thrust II. It was during Operation Mameluke Thrust II that Corporal Alford was killed in action on July 31, 1968.

In the words of his Commanding Officer, "George was a singularly fine Marine non-commissioned officer. His enthusiasm, courage and complete devotion to duty won for him the respect of all who knew him."

Corporal Alford's sister, Brenda (now Brenda Alford Kaiser), wrote the following poem at the time of her brother's death:

Late on a hot evening,
In a rice field in Viet Nam,
My brother gave his young life,
For the cause of liberty.

Marines like my brother are no cowards,
From their foes they do not hide,
For their courage always has been
America's cause to live or die.

They trudged the marshes of Viet Nam,
In the mud thick and black,
And never once did they complain,
When Charlie was on their backs.

America can be proud of those,
Who are United States Marines,
For they still die for us today,
Just to keep our Nation free.

Mr. Speaker, it is heroes like Corporal George Allen Alford, Jr., and the family members and colleagues keeping memories of him alive, who make America strong. It is an honor to represent his community in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in honoring his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the country he loved.

DRUG TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA—A GROWING SOURCE OF CONCERN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the G-8 summit, there has been much hope for the prospects of the African continent. While I too share in these hopeful sentiments I am well aware that we must remain vigilant in guarding against threats to the continent's development. A July 28th report from the San Diego Union Tribune entitled "South American drug cartels lured to West Africa," is one of a number of recent reports which detail the increasing presence of narco-traffic in West Africa.

Apparently, international drug cartels are increasingly using West Africa as a hub for drug shipments into Europe and North America. The political instability and inadequate government capacity which these countries experience provides the perfect environment for these cartels to operate. Even countries such as Ghana, which have been lauded for their

good governance, will be challenged to dedicate resources to stopping this activity, when they have so many other issues to address.

The increasing problem of African drug trafficking is just one more reason why the Bush Administration must keep its promise to significantly increase aid to Africa, as the stakes continue to grow.

[From the San Diego Union Tribune, July 28, 2005]

SOUTH AMERICAN DRUG CARTELS LURED TO WEST AFRICA

(By Nick Tattersall)

DAKAR.—South American drug cartels are moving their logistics bases to West Africa, lured by lax policing in an unstable region and the presence of small, underground criminal groups, United Nations experts say.

Drug cartels are increasingly using West Africa as a hub for smuggling, working with criminal networks from the region who market cannabis, cocaine and heroin in Europe and North America, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

"If you look at recent seizures of cocaine, the biggest are all linked to groups with operations on the West African coast," Antonio Mazzitelli, head of UNODC's regional office for West and Central Africa, told Reuters in an interview.

Consignments of cocaine would mainly come in from Latin America through the Cape Verde islands off the Atlantic coast, or through Ghana, Nigeria and Togo, from where they would be re-exported to markets including Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Spanish authorities seized nearly three tons of cocaine on a Ghana-registered vessel in international waters off the African coast just three days ago, arresting 12 Ghanaians, four Koreans and two Spaniards.

Spain said the traffickers had picked up the drugs in an unidentified South American country and refuelled along the African coast before setting off for Europe.

Major shipments of heroin produced in southern Asia were also transiting through West Africa, particularly Ivory Coast, after being flown by air couriers from Kenya and Ethiopia, UNODC said in a recent study on crime in Africa.

HARD TO CRACK

West Africa is seen as an attractive transit centre for international drug traffickers because the criminal networks already in place around the region have proven notoriously difficult for police and customs officers to break.

Operating as flexible networks of individuals rather than large-scale, hierarchical organizations, they can market illicit products to diaspora populations in drug consuming countries and recruit couriers among a cheap labor force available at home.

"One of the reasons these networks can abandon traditional command-and-control relations is that many of them are grounded in a common ethnicity," UNODC said in its study.

"Betraying compatriots is not only in violation of deeply ingrained values, it can result in exclusion from this vital support base," it said.

While war crimes prosecutors in Sierra Leone have said international terrorists have used the West African diamond trade to fund their operations, UNODC said no clear links had been established to the drugs trade, though that could change.

"This is the sort of environment within which organised criminal and terrorist groups can grow. There are many well-proven cases of terrorist groups going hand in hand with drug cartels," Mazzitelli said, tak-

ing Taliban fighters in Afghanistan and rebel groups in Colombia as examples.

"In Spain the terror attack was financed if not entirely then partially through drug trafficking," he said, referring to bomb attacks which killed 191 people in packed rush hour trains in Madrid in March 2004.

Mindful of the threat posed by criminal groups operating across borders, police forces around Africa have linked up to a global satellite communication system run by Interpol which is supposed to track fugitives and stolen goods.

Interpol Secretary-General Ronald Noble told reporters in Ghana this month that 31 African countries were now connected to the system.

HONORING ENTECH INC.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that I may recognize the contribution of ENTECH Inc., an energy company in my district, and to celebrate the passing of H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Located in Keller, Texas since 1995, ENTECH has created solar energy systems which are capable of providing renewable electrical power without emissions and at a reduced cost. ENTECH is the world's leading manufacturer of concentrating photovoltaic solar systems. In addition to electrical output, ENTECH systems can also produce hot water or other thermal energy outputs. ENTECH's "SunLine" technology is able to provide clean and quiet energy for plumbing and lighting systems for a variety of applications ranging from commercial establishments to, most recently, the space program.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 will provide tax relief to individuals and businesses investing in solar energy. It also creates a goal of instilling solar energy systems in 20,000 Federal building within the next 5 years.

ENTECH is having a significant impact on our community and our Nation, and I am proud to have them within the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

ON THE LIFE AND SUDDEN DEATH OF HONORABLE ARTHUR E. TEELE, JR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I stand today with a heavy heart following the sudden and tragic death of Mr. Arthur E. Teele, Jr.

On Wednesday, July 27, 2005 the State of Florida, this Nation, and I lost a great friend, patriot, and champion for the less fortunate. His death marks the end of a great career as a statesman, political leader, visionary, decorated veteran, attorney, newspaper publisher and family man.

Arthur Teele was an imposing figure, astute and sharp of mind and wit. He was as diverse as he was intuitive in matters of people, politics and the driving forces behind change.

Here was a man as complex in his thinking, as he was simple in his focus on bettering the lives of so many. He ably balanced political acumen with the ability to traverse and bridge party and ideological lines, bringing a voice to the voiceless, hope to the hopeless, and instilling a fighting spirit in those who felt lifeless and forgotten.

Arthur Teele was a skilled and brilliant strategist, who knew not only the pulse but felt the heart beat of his constituency; moreover, he moved deftly and with passion through all political and social ranks, regardless of political affiliations, to bring to many communities much needed services. As head of the U.S. Urban Mass Transportation Administration, he built bridges of influence that brought transportation, jobs, and much needed services to depressed minority communities and the urban core. He stood tall and strong as a champion of enterprise, and as an advocate for changing the social, economic, and political fabric of communities across Florida, and indeed the Nation.

Arthur Teele, was the consummate man against the odds, taking on the fight for social and economic parity. He made us feel we were important and necessary partners in the fight to make this region, this State, and this Nation honor its promises to all citizens.

His legacy may well be written from varying viewpoints, yet I remind you that in all things, the good that men and women do, will in the eyes of those who really care, outlive and outshine all the other utterances.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 6, the omnibus energy bill. H.R. 6 is an important step toward increasing our Nation's energy independence by investing in energy efficiency and alternative energy sources.

As a member of the House Renewable Energy Caucus, I support measures in H.R. 6 to encourage and increase the use of renewable and alternative energy sources. H.R. 6 includes important tax incentives for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar production. This measure also includes a tax credit of up to \$3,400 for certain hybrid cars and trucks. As a cochair of the House Biofuels Caucus, I also support raising the renewable fuels standard to 7.5 billion gallons by 2012, which is more than triple the current amount.

Over the past several Congresses, there have been several issues that have continually blocked congressional passage of comprehensive energy legislation, and I commend the conference committee on eliminating these controversial provisions from this final conference report. H.R. 6 does not include a provision providing for drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), which had been part of past energy legislation. This pristine 1.5 million acre coastal plain is often referred to as "America's Serengeti" because of the presence of caribou, polar bears, grizzly

bears, wolves, migratory birds, and many other species living in a nearly undisturbed state. While some consider this area to be one of the most promising U.S. onshore oil and gas prospects, studies indicate that this area could only provide 6 month's supply of oil, 10 years from now, and consequently have no significant effect on our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Past versions of the energy legislation have also contained a safe-harbor provision for producers of MTBE and other fuel oxygenates from product liability claims. Under previous energy bills, states and cities would have been prevented from bringing against potential offenders "defective product" lawsuits, which some cities have employed to recapture the cost of MTBE cleanups. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has stated that the cost of cleanup could run more than \$29 billion. If our states and localities were forced to pay these costs, the real costs would be borne by taxpayers. I commend the conference committee for eliminating this costly provision, and not making taxpayers responsible for the actions of a few MTBE producers.

While I voted for H.R. 6, there are several provisions that concern me. The conference agreement fails to adequately address climate change by not including even the modest proposal adopted by the Senate. This provision, authored by Senator CHUCK HAGEL, would use tax credits to encourage, but not require, industry reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide. Furthermore, the conference agreement also requires an inventory of oil and natural gas resources in offshore areas, including areas now closed to drilling. I am concerned about this provision, because it could lead to opening these environmentally sensitive areas to offshore drilling. In addition, I am also disappointed that the final conference report did not include a "renewable portfolio standard" that would have required utilities to get 10 percent of their electricity from alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power, by 2020.

While this is not a perfect bill, I believe it is an important first step in creating a comprehensive energy policy that invests in energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to develop and implement energy policies, which will decrease our dependence of foreign oil and that protect consumers, communities, and environmentally sensitive areas.

CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS FOR CARIBBEAN IMMIGRANTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD an article from the July 26, New York Carib News in support of citizen rights for Caribbean immigrants. Caribbean migrants have worked in the country for centuries. The Caribbean is the source of the U.S.'s earliest and largest Black immigrant group and the primary source of growth of the Black population in the U.S. The region has exported more of its people than any other region of the world since the abolition of slavery in 1834. The fact that there are close to 50

major Caribbean carnivals throughout North America attests to the permanence of the Caribbean immigration experience.

Caribbean music, such as soca, calypso, reggae, and now reggaeton, is having a profound impact on U.S. popular culture. Other Caribbean cultural expressions, like food, dance and art, are becoming established in mainstream America. The prominence of first- and second-generation Caribbean figures in U.S. labor and grassroots politics for many decades also testifies to the long tradition and established presence of the Caribbean population.

Today many Caribbean workers can be found in the hospital, construction, service and hotel industries, but there is also a growing professional sector. Estimates of the Caribbean population in the U.S. range upwards from 2.6 million, depending on how one defines the Caribbean.

While the largest Caribbean immigrant sources to the U.S. are from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Haiti, U.S.-citizen migrants also come from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Many of the undocumented immigrants from the Caribbean islands have been living, working and making vital contributions to our country for many years. In New York it is almost impossible to walk down the streets of Harlem or Brooklyn without hearing a Caribbean accent or coming across a Jamaican eatery.

The members of the Caribbean community are hard working, pay into our social security system and have U.S.-born children who do not know a home other than the United States.

In the great state of New York alone, undocumented workers pay more than \$1 billion in taxes a year.

I believe that members of the Caribbean community who have had a long working record and qualify for U.S. naturalized citizenship should apply. The United States is historically a nation of immigrants. Our ancestors all had the possibility to fulfill their American Dream and I think that the same opportunity should be given to hard working newcomers who came to this country from the Caribbean.

I introduce in the RECORD the article from the July 26 NYCarib.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CITIZENS—WE MUST HEAR IT OVER AND OVER

It may have not been a fresh bit of advice and it certainly wasn't an observation by an elected official that we hadn't heard before.

Still, when U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks, a democrat of New York City said it, his point resonated with a lot of us.

Yes, they should become citizens, it makes a lot of sense, said the member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Queens when asked about Caribbean immigrants becoming citizens of the United States.

"Too many people from the Caribbean are eligible for citizenship but they fail to step forward," he complained.

Perhaps, he needs to repeat it again and again so that more people in and out of his Sixth Congressional District and across the country would act.

People from the Caribbean, who have made the United States their home have every good reason to become naturalized American citizens. One is that it opens opportunities, such as jobs, scholarships and the like that are often reserved for citizens.

Another, it protects them from capricious actions by immigration authorities who would like to do nothing more than to "send

them back where they came from." Thirdly, it enables them to vote so they can make choices about who should run the country, state or city.

Voting is something that comes naturally to people from the English-speaking Caribbean where parliamentary democracy is taken seriously. People routinely join political parties, become candidates for elected office or campaign for persons they believe are best suited to serve in national parliaments or local government bodies.

That experience should prove to be a powerful magnet for citizenship and political participation.

That's why it is so baffling that so many of them fail to become citizens.

The reluctance can't be explained simply by a devotion to their original nationality. After all, almost every Caribbean state recognizes dual citizenship, meaning that naturalization adds to their life but doesn't detract from their standing as people from the Caribbean.

One possible explanation is that some can't be bothered to go through the process. The result is they often end up placing their children and themselves at a disadvantage.

That's a crying shame. It explains why Congressman Meeks' appeal was relevant and should be listened to.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the last time Congress enacted an energy bill was in 1992—13 years ago. Since that time, Republicans and Democrats alike have made clear that as a part of our national homeland security strategy, we must wean the country off of foreign oil. Yet, the bill before us would not achieve that goal. For that reason Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

There is no doubt that the final House-Senate energy bill is vastly better than the House-passed bill. It extends the renewable electricity production tax credit and provides tax credits for energy efficiency, which, together, will catalyze investment and usage of the next generation of energy technology. It also would re-fund the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which provided \$42 million to clean-up the Delaware River after the November 2004 oil spill and was on track to be depleted by 2009. I hope no other region in the country experiences a similar incident; we must be prepared to adequately respond if it does.

Additionally, the bill does not include unnecessary liability protections for the manufacturers of the gasoline additive known as MTBE or allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—authorities that would have put our precious natural resources at-risk while doing very little to reduce our dependence on imported oil.

While I am pleased with these improvements in the bill, I do not support investing \$14.6 billion in taxpayer funding on energy policies that ultimately will not reduce our dependence on and usage of foreign oil over the next 11 years.

My colleagues, the bill fails to include a renewable energy portfolio standard of 10 percent by 2020.

It fails to adequately invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies by only providing 26 percent of the bill's tax incentives for the development of cleaner, less expensive energy sources under our control; while allocating \$2.6 billion in tax benefits for oil and gas industry. Industries that are already profiting from record high oil prices, which are currently over \$60 per barrel.

It fails to increase to automotive efficiency standards—a policy that would save up to 67 billion barrels of oil over the next 40 years, which is 10 to 20 times greater than the potential oil supply that could be extracted from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, the bill fails to send us in a new direction, and that is unacceptable. We cannot leave ourselves positioned to return years from now and still be searching for ways to end our reliance on foreign oil.

With nations like India and China rapidly increasing their consumption of oil we must set the nation on a course to energy independence. That requires a balanced energy policy that aids domestic production but, more importantly, sends us in a new direction by investing in renewable and energy efficient technologies. This conference report failed to accomplish this goal.

I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 6.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Conference Report. Completion of this energy bill is yet another step forward in our struggle for energy security and independence. A reliable and affordable energy supply is crucial to America's economic vitality, security, and quality of life.

While this final conference report is not perfect, we continue to make progress towards promoting energy conservation and efficiency; increasing the use of all domestic energy resources, including coal; improving energy infrastructure; and promoting the development of advanced energy technologies.

The combustion of fossil fuels is essential to our energy policy and must continue to be a part of a balanced energy plan for this country. Coal is absolutely critical to our nation's economic health and global competitiveness. Coal accounts for more than 50 percent of U.S. electricity generation, far ahead of nuclear power, natural gas, hydroelectric power, petroleum and other sources. There is no present alternative to coal to meet our energy needs. New and improved technologies hold the promise of far greater emissions reductions and increased efficiency.

Clean coal provisions are included in the final conference report that would assist in burning coal more efficiently and cleanly. These clean coal technology initiatives encourage the development of new technologies for cleaner, higher efficiency coal combustion in new and established plants with the hope of achieving a healthier environment while maintaining jobs. Specifically, the conference

agreement includes a \$1.8 billion authorization for the Secretary of Energy to carry out the Clean Coal Power Initiative, which will provide funding to those projects that can demonstrate advanced coal-based power generating technologies that achieve significant reductions in emissions. Further, the bill authorizes \$1.14 billion for coal research and development. I fought hard for robust funding for coal within the fossil energy research and development budget and I was glad to see they were included in the final version.

Additionally, I authored two provisions which were retained in the final conference report and greatly benefit Southern Illinois. First, I secured \$75 million to create a program to develop advanced technologies to remove carbon dioxide from coal emissions and permanently sequester it below ground. Illinois is one of the leading states when it comes to research on carbon sequestration and Southern Illinois is listed as one of the prime spots for carbon sequestration, which is one of the technologies the FutureGen project is designed to use. Second, the bill authorizes the Clean Coal Centers of Excellence. Under this provision, the Secretary of Energy will award competitive, merit-based grants to universities that show the greatest potential for advancing new clean coal technologies. Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), which I represent, continues to be a leader in clean coal technology research, doing extensive work at its Coal Research Center. With funding and collaborative support from industry and government, SIUC has conducted long-term projects relating to surface mine reclamation, coal subsidence, coal desulfurization, coal characterization and combustion, coal residue management and utilization, coal market modeling, and environmental policy. Faculty, staff, and students in fields as diverse as engineering, science, business, education, law, and agriculture have contributed to the University's international reputation in coal research. The past two energy conference reports named Southern Illinois University as a "Clean Coal Center of Excellence" and the school is well-positioned to be a potential recipient of the award again this year. It is a testament to SIUC's high caliber research program that it was also named as a university to study and commercially deploy transportation fuel technology using Illinois coal. Finally, I am pleased this legislation promotes clean fuels by providing tax incentives for clean coal technology. This will greater enhance our ability to use Illinois basin coal.

In addition to the clean coal provisions, the energy conference agreement contains provisions instrumental in helping increase conservation and lowering consumption. Included in this are ethanol provisions that are used as a replacement and additive for gasoline consumption. Illinois currently produces 800 million gallons of ethanol per year. Under this legislation, ethanol use would increase, nearly doubling the current production level. The renewable fuel standard (RFS) in the bill is expected to increase the average price of corn paid to farmers 6.6 percent, or 16 cents per bushel and increase average net cash income to farmers by \$3.3 billion over the next decade, or more than six percent. Increased production of ethanol will greatly benefit the agricultural industry in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, this energy bill will shape energy policy for the next decade and beyond. I

am glad coal and ethanol remain an integral part of our energy future and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUPPORT EXTENDING THE CANCER CARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I praise my colleague Mr. HALL of Texas for introducing a resolution to get a sense of the Congress on the issue of extending the CMS quality of cancer care demonstration project. I recently authored a bipartisan letter to the President along with close to 100 of my colleagues, including Mr. HALL, asking the President to extend the demonstration project at the current \$300 million funding level.

I would like to note that extending the demonstration project is only treating the symptom and not curing the actual problem with the new Medicare payment system introduced this year. The old system overpaid for cancer drugs, which subsidized non-payment and under-payment of essential cancer care services provided by community cancer clinics. However, under the new system, which pays for drugs closer to market rates, certain essential services like treatment cancer planning are not paid for by Medicare.

I urge my colleagues in supporting the extension of the cancer care demonstration project and directing CMS to work with community cancer care on permanent solutions. We have to ensure the viability of our Nation's cancer care delivery system and America's access to quality, affordable, and accessible cancer treatment.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN TWOHEY OF SAINT HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin Twohey from my hometown of Saint Helena, California, as he is honored with the 2005 Saint Helena Citizen of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, born in Ohio, Kevin joined our unique community more than 18 years ago. Since that time, Kevin has devoted his life to serving the people of Saint Helena. Kevin is not only a driven, hard working man who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty, but he is also selfless and has remained steadfast in his commitment to bettering our town.

Shortly after settling in California, Kevin, an avid and astute horticulturalist, purchased the locally owned Whiting's Nursery which has been a part of our community for nearly 60 years.

For the past 17 years, Kevin has served as a volunteer firefighter for the St. Helena Fire Department and has held the position of fire chief for 11 years. An integral and highly revered member of this team, Kevin has be-

come a mentor to his fellow firefighters, helping them and guiding them through fires and life. What Kevin enjoys most about volunteering is the camaraderie and the ability to positively affect people's lives every single day.

When not fighting fires or running the nursery, Kevin can be found at the Saint Helena public pool coaching the Waves, Saint Helena's Swim Team. Kevin is also a passionate fly fisherman and fitness guru.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure Kevin's wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Kathleen, are extremely proud of him. I believe I speak for Kevin's family, friends, and community when I say Kevin Twohey is an exemplary citizen and an inspiration to all of us. My fellow colleagues, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Kevin Twohey for his numerous, invaluable contributions to Saint Helena.

IN RECOGNITION OF H.R. 3199: USA PATRIOT ACT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this measure which expands expiring provisions of the Patriot Act by granting unlimited investigative powers to our government. This bill gives the government broad powers to secretly collect personal information on medical, library and business and financial records of our Nation's citizens. Additionally, this legislation sunsets provisions that are not about combating terrorism or making us safer, but about intruding upon our privacy and infringing upon our civil liberties.

Mr. Chairman, there is no limit to these surveillance and intelligence powers once they are given to our government. There are no guarantees to the American people that our Nation will be more stable and secure by enforcing these policies, which allow the government to conduct secret searches of your home or office—the so-called sneak and peek warrant—for an indefinite period of time. Our country takes great pride in upholding the true values of our constitution and freedom. However, these provisions certainly contradict these beliefs and, more importantly, the checks and balances intended to safeguard our liberty.

We must understand that neither the original U.S. Patriot Act, nor this legislation, have been subject to the proper oversight. We have evidence that the repercussions of the original Patriot Act has led to abusive powers by this Administration. Since the September 11th attacks, our government has detained and verbally and physically abused thousands of immigrants, without time limits, for unknown and unspecified reasons, and targeted the Arab-American community for intensive interrogations and immigration screenings.

A clear example of this happened in my Congressional district at the Metropolitan Detention Center where 84 detainees where mistreated under the conditions of confinement. This mistreatment was reported and documented by the Department of Justice where it

has acknowledged the abuses which were documented by the Inspector General. I clearly recognize the outrage of terrorist attacks and the need to heighten our Nation's security—but not at the expense of undermining our freedom and our democratic values and ideals.

We have not been given the actual facts or had the time to accurately evaluate the ramifications of many of these provisions. Reauthorizing a bill which lacks oversight and expands provisions that violate the privacy of our citizens is undermining the American public's civil rights and misleading our Nation.

This bill fails to protect our Nation and, our civil liberties. It strikes the essence of our checks and balances, subjects individuals to repeated abuse and violates the confidentiality of our personal records. This is plain wrong. If we want to fight terrorism, let's do it the right way, by providing the adequate resources and funding to our homeland security and our local enforcement, by being consistent with our democracy and our true values and principles, I urge my colleagues to vote no on the underlying bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Senate passed amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill to include \$1.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding to the veterans budget.

However, this funding comes more than a month late. We had a chance to get this emergency spending to the people who need the funding before we left for the July Fourth recess.

After the budget shortfall was announced, both sides of the aisle in the Senate came together to take immediate action to address this issue. They passed a \$1.5 billion emergency funding amendment to immediately get the funds to the people who need it, our veterans, those who have defended this Nation against its enemies.

As we have seen by the slow movement of these badly needed funds, all Republicans do is talk, when it comes to a veteran in need.

The Republican Leadership in the House decided to sit on their hands and wait for President Bush to pull a number out of the air. That number was \$975 million.

However, it turns out that the Bush level was \$300 million short to fund veterans health.

This would be a good start to resolving the funding crisis in veterans healthcare, but I know this administration will continue to try to balance the budget on the backs of the men and women who have sacrificed to defend this great Nation of ours.

The Fiscal Year 2006 budget is short, and the FY 2007 budget is being calculated as we stand here.

Let this be the beginning of full funding for veterans healthcare, now and in the future.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
JASON MONTEFERING

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of Staff Sergeant Jason Montefering of Parkston, South Dakota. He was killed, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Jason's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Jason, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Staff Sergeant Jason Montefering lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of Staff Sergeant Jason Montefering. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
DEVON BROWN—2005 BEST IN
THE BUSINESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor an extraordinary public servant, Commissioner Devon Brown, as he receives the "2005 Best in the Business" from the American Correctional Association. Mr. Brown has held the position of Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Corrections since January 2002. His accomplishments in the field have not only shown his dedication but also have proven revolutionary.

He once stated that, "... criminal justice is in my blood." Hailing from a family replete of judges, lawyers and police and correctional officers, Commissioner Brown was, to some extent, destined to follow in his family's legacy. After obtaining a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University, he went on to earn two master's degrees in psychology and public administration. As another testament to his commitment, Mr. Brown earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland.

Sometimes considered a maverick in the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Commissioner Brown has led in the implementation of programming that focused on educational enrichment and social responsibility. For example, he instituted the "Stock Market Game", which introduces inmates to the world of Wall Street and its role in the U.S. economy. By

learning about financial markets and the management of one's investments, prisoners discover new methods of analysis and decision-making. In addition, inmates have had the opportunity to further their deductive reasoning by becoming champion chess players. In fact, many prisoners have competed and won against top collegiate teams. He has also introduced "Shakespeare Behind Bars" to the New Jersey Department of Corrections. This program, also used throughout the Nation's prison systems, allows the inmates to delve into relevant personal and social issues through art.

Richard Stalder, President of the Association of State Correctional Administrators stated that, "Despite highly formidable and oftentimes less than ideal circumstances, Commissioner Brown has remained focused, showing integrity, resourceful ingenuity and uncompromising commitment to excellence no matter how daunting the presenting challenge. Though his inspiration and unwavering resolve, he has advanced the profession and earned the New Jersey Department of Corrections a place among the most improved, progressively oriented, penal systems in the land." Therefore it is no surprise that Mr. Brown has also garnered many other awards besides the "2005 Best in the Business. In 2004, the College of New Jersey honored him with the "Gene Carte Memorial Award" for his exemplary correctional leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Commissioner Devon Brown, for being the recipient of the "2005 Best in the Business" as well as for his overall excellence and dedication to the field of corrections. A man who is not afraid to make the hard decisions or to stand up for the truth, Commissioner Brown exemplifies vision, professionalism and integrity. I am proud to have him as a dear friend and wish him never-ending success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK EL MONTE GARMENT SLAVERY CASE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the landmark El Monte garment worker slavery case.

In 1995, I was shocked to learn one of the worst sweatshops in recent U.S. history was operating in the city of El Monte, California—in my congressional district. Seventy-two Thai workers lived and worked in substandard conditions. Sixty-seven of them were women. Most of these workers had been held in slavery for up to 17 years at an apartment complex and were made to sew clothes for some of the Nation's top manufacturers and retailers. The workers labored over 18 hours a day in a compound enclosed by barbed wire and armed guards. They had left their homes in Thailand in search of a better life and wound up enslaved just outside Los Angeles.

While the El Monte sweatshop is a terrible example of substandard working conditions and human trafficking, it is not uncommon. Ap-

proximately 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation. When including the number of victims who are trafficked within borders, the total number rises to between 2 and 4 million.

Approximately 50,000 people are trafficked to the United States each year. Los Angeles is one of three major ports of entry for human trafficking. Most come from Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. About half of those are forced into sweatshop labor and domestic servitude similar to the El Monte sweatshop. The rest are forced into prostitution and the sex industry, or in the case of young children, kidnapped and sold for adoption. While many victims come willingly, they are not aware of the untenable terms and inhumane conditions they will face.

I have worked very hard—in the California state legislature and now in Congress—to support efforts to eliminate this inhumane and criminal activity. Beginning with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act passed in 2000, the United States began a concerted effort to combat human trafficking into the United States and around the world.

Established under this law, the "T" visa has been critical to combating trafficking in the U.S. These visas allow victims of trafficking, who would face retribution if they were sent back to their home country, to remain in the U.S. for 3 years, and then apply for permanent residency. The "T" visa has allowed many victims of trafficking realize their dream of living in the U.S.

In 2003, Congress renewed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and increased funding for anti-trafficking programs by more than \$100 million for each fiscal year. The act also refined and expanded on the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking that governments must meet. The legislation created a yearly "special watch list" of countries that the Secretary of State determined were not taking action to combat human trafficking.

In 2005, Congress will again renew the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation, which will close loopholes and increase assistance to victims of trafficking. The bill also addresses the needs of child victims of trafficking and directs relevant government agencies to develop anti-trafficking strategies for post-conflict situations and humanitarian emergencies abroad.

We have made progress since 1995 when the El Monte slavery case thrust the issue of human trafficking into the national spotlight. We must continue our work to eliminate trafficking within the United States. We must also work with foreign governments and non-governmental organizations abroad to end human trafficking and eliminate the conditions that foster trafficking, such as widespread poverty, crisis and warfare.

I am proud to join the Thai Community Development Center to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the Landmark El Monte Garment Slavery Case. This organization has been an amazing force working to raise awareness and efforts in eliminating slavery and trafficking. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Thai community and to honor the Thai workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 2005, I was present and did vote "aye" on rollcall vote No. 448, but was recorded as "not voting". I respectfully ask that the record show I did vote "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5, the HEALTH Act of 2005, but was not recorded.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed a landmark piece of legislation, a turning point in our Nation's continuing struggle for equality, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I rise today in honor of that momentous occasion.

Aristotle once wrote that "if liberty and equality . . . are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." More than 2,000 years after Aristotle's death, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that "all men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality." In 1965, this Congress passed the Voting Rights Act to ensure that all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity, would be able to share in our government, to mutually enjoy the blessings of liberty and democracy.

Nevertheless, despite a constitutional guarantee of the right to vote, before the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became the law of the land, African Americans and other minority citizens were often forced to take a literacy test, pay a poll tax or overcome other often insurmountable barriers before they could vote. Those who could not pass the tests—which were, for the most part, absurdly unfair—or were too poor to pay the poll tax were denied the most basic right of all Americans: the right to take part in the selection of their Nation's leaders. President John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

It was the hope of the Johnson administration and this body that the Voting Rights Act would be a solution and bring to an end these and other measures that compromised the legitimacy of our democracy. President Johnson told his Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, that he wanted for all citizens "the right to vote with no ifs, ands, or buts—that's the key." It was his dream—and that of American men and women from every walk of life—to unquestionably ensure the benefits and responsibilities of citizenship to all Americans.

For the most part, the bill has been successful. Under Section 2 of the Act, for example, Congress prohibited the use of literacy tests throughout the country. They also identified those parts of the Nation with the greatest

potential for discriminatory activity and mandated Federal oversight of these locations. With these measures and others, the Voting Rights Act became perhaps the most effective piece of civil rights legislation in history.

In my home state of Louisiana, 31.6 percent of African Americans were registered to vote in 1965, compared to 80.5 percent of whites. A little more than 30 years later, registration rates among African Americans climbed to 77.1 percent in the State, a jump of almost 50 percent and fully 2 percent higher than the rate of registration for whites. Such change in a comparatively short period is remarkable by a number of measures, not only making our democracy more inclusive, but also changing the face of our government.

The legislation also brought to fruition a government that more closely resembles the makeup of our population. The Civil Rights Coalition reports that "in 1964, there were only approximately 300 African Americans in public office nationwide, including just three in Congress. There are now more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 43 members of Congress, the largest number ever."

Despite these encouraging numbers, the VRA remains necessary to the continuing struggle to truly open our great experiment in Democracy to all. The results of the 2000 election proved to our country that we have yet to achieve the equality and democracy necessary, as Dr. King put it, to "live out the true meaning of our creed." Every American citizen who wishes to do so is entitled to have their voice heard and their vote counted—when that right is so blatantly ignored, we appear to regress to a time when the decision making process was reserved for the few and the powerful.

The passage of the Voting Rights Act 40 years ago today was a milestone in legislative history. This Congress defended the civil liberties of every American citizen, regardless of race or ethnicity. However, we cannot let our progress overshadow the very hard work that remains. Forty years on, every election still brings stories of voter intimidation, suppression and discrimination. It is incumbent upon us to secure the franchise, the most fundamental right of every American, and its exercise. Accordingly, we must continue to build on the sacrifices of ordinary men and women who became the heroes of equality and to uphold our promise to guarantee voting rights to every American citizen and ensure that it is carried out to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I urge my colleagues to renew our collective commitment to the fundamental American principles that underlie the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

WISHING A HAPPY 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY TO BENJAMIN
AND MARSHA EMANUEL**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the lives of my parents, Benjamin and Marsha Emanuel. On August 21, 2005, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. On behalf of their four children and eleven grandchildren, I'd like to

take this opportunity to wish them a very happy golden anniversary.

My father, Dr. Benjamin Emanuel, was born in Israel and moved to Chicago. While he was completing his medical residency he met my mother Marsha Smulevitz, a nurse in the same hospital. They were married on August 21, 1955, and settled in Chicago's North Andersonville neighborhood where they went on to raise four children in a loving home where we learned the values of public service and compassion which continue to guide me to this day.

My mother is a loving and caring person with a remarkable history of serving the greater good. In the early 1960's, she served 4 years on the Congress of Racial Equality, founded by students at the University of Chicago, and participated in Freedom Marches in the South. She went on to earn an advanced degree in social work from Northeastern Illinois University. For over 20 years, my mother has maintained her commitment to public service by working as a social worker and counselor to local children and adults.

My father was a practicing pediatrician on Chicago's North Side for over 40 years and continues to volunteer at Children's Memorial Hospital. My constituents in the Illinois Fifth District include many former patients of my father, and people often tell me of how much his life's work has meant to them.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be the son of Benjamin and Marsha Emanuel, and I want to thank them for all of their love and support through the years. I ask that my colleagues please join me in wishing these two extraordinary people a very happy 50th wedding anniversary.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, DR-CAFTA, as it will level the playing field for American manufacturers and farmers. The six DR-CAFTA countries, which include the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, have had preferential access to U.S. markets for approximately 20 years as a result of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, CBI, and the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, program. Consequently, DR-CAFTA countries have enjoyed a "one-way street" of market access where by 80 percent of goods and almost 99 percent of agricultural products enter duty free. Conversely, American exporters have faced tariffs on almost all of the goods exported to the region.

It is vital to my home State of Missouri that we continue to expand and open new markets for American farm products. In 2003, 25 percent of Missouri's \$5 billion farm cash receipts were attributable to foreign trade. Half of all soybeans and 1 in 5 rows of corn grown in Missouri are destined for foreign markets. Absent DR-CAFTA, American farm exports will

continue being subject to tariffs ranging from 35 percent to 60 percent. This puts our farmers and ranchers at a significant competitive disadvantage with our international competitors in these growing markets. It would be foolish to turn our backs on an agreement that removes these sort of punitive barriers to our products. If we pass DR-CAFTA, we will open the doors to six countries where the potential U.S. gain for all agricultural exports is expected to reach \$1.5 billion. Put another way, this would mean a near doubling of the U.S. agricultural sales to the region when compared to 2003 levels.

It is for this reason that DR-CAFTA enjoys the strong support of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Soybean Association, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Pork Producers Council, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the USA Rice Federation, the National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Milk Producers Federation, just to name a few. To borrow from Farm Bureau, a vote for DR-CAFTA is a vote for agriculture.

There are many critics who erroneously believe that by ratifying DR-CAFTA, the United States is relinquishing our national sovereignty and opening our borders to floods of immigrants. On the contrary, nothing in the DR-CAFTA will preempt the Constitution, current U.S. laws and our sovereignty. Should a contradiction arise between the terms of DR-CAFTA and U.S. law, the U.S. will maintain its right to change domestic laws as it sees fit.

Moreover, enactment of DR-CAFTA will have no effect on current immigration laws. Congress will maintain its role in crafting U.S. immigration policy. And in fact, DR-CAFTA will help reduce illegal immigration. As the economic opportunities that accompany free market reforms take a stronger hold in Central America, residents of these nations will have a stake in their future and a strong fiscal incentive to remain in their native country.

DR-CAFTA is in our national security interests. Our foreign policy must promote stability and prosperity in Central America. As we saw in the 1980's, instability can give nations who do not share our interests an opportunity to expand their influence in our hemisphere. To promote stability, we should reward democracies that respect human rights and encourage free market economic principles. DR-CAFTA is consistent with this goal. As these evolving democracies continue to grow, we will see their economic viability strengthened, thereby creating jobs and reducing poverty.

Some have expressed concern that DR-CAFTA will weaken labor laws, leaving workers in this region without basic protections. This is simply not true. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has reviewed the labor laws and practices of the six DR-CAFTA countries and found them largely in compliance with the ILO's eight core conventions. With the exception of El Salvador—which has ratified six—every other nation covered by DR-CAFTA has enacted the eight core conventions. In fact, if you look at the labor provisions of other recently enacted free trade agreements, such as the Jordan and Morocco agreements, you will find that the DR-CAFTA labor provisions are more stringent and ensure greater protections for workers.

Over 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside our borders, and it is in our best

interests to pursue a policy that opens these markets to American products. If we fail, we forfeit these markets—both from an economic and national security standpoint—to our international competitors in Asia and Europe.

DR-CAFTA will level the playing field for American farmers and manufacturers and help address an important national security goal. This is a win-win situation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital agreement.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER J. TAYLOR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Christopher J. Taylor, 22, of Opelika, Alabama, died on July 24, 2005, in Iraq. Sergeant Taylor was assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and according to initial reports died when he was struck by indirect fire on a Coalition forces base. His survivors include his wife Janina, his son Xavier; and his daughter Aaliyah.

Christopher Taylor was proud to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He was a graduate of Opelika High School and was known in the community as a loving friend and father. Like every soldier, he dutifully left behind his young family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sergeant Taylor died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the energy bill conference report, but I do so with very strong reservations. Although I believe we missed many opportunities to make this energy bill truly comprehensive, I also believe that the conference report is an improvement over the House-passed energy bill.

It is a sad indictment of the way the Majority is running this Congress that it has taken us 5 years to pass an energy bill and the final product falls far short of what I believe the American public wants. I will vote for this conference report, but this bill lacks boldness and vision. There is more we can and must do to

reduce our dependence on foreign oil, lower skyrocketing gas prices, protect our environment, and steer our country in a more forward-thinking direction on energy policy. I am pleased, however, that the bill makes strides in encouraging alternative energy research and production. Specifically, \$3.2 billion is included for renewable energy production incentives and \$1.3 billion is allotted for energy efficiency and conservation.

I was disappointed to see that a Renewable Portfolio Standard, RPS, was not included in the bill. The Senate-passed bill included an RPS that would have required utilities to generate 10 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal, by the year 2020. Studies conducted by the Energy Information Administration illustrate that a federal RPS could save consumers \$19 billion. Moreover, 20 States have already enacted RPS requirement, many of which go beyond the Senate-passed provision. A federal RPS would have established a nationwide market-based trading system to ensure that renewables are developed at the lowest possible price. I strongly supported this provision, and over 70 of my colleagues signed onto a letter with me to conferees urging them to keep the RPS in the bill. The Senate conferees voted in a bipartisan manner to keep the RPS in the bill, but the House conferees stripped the provision. I hope that my colleagues will work with me in the future to support H.R. 983, a bill with bipartisan support that I introduced to create a federal RPS of 20 percent by 2027. The time for a federal RPS has come.

We also missed an opportunity to address the serious problem of global warming. I believe that the amendment Senator BINGAMAN offered, and that passed, expressing the sense of the Senate that mandatory action on climate change should be enacted was an important step towards congressional action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While I am disappointed that we could not do more, and that this sense of the Senate amendment was stripped from the conference report, I am pleased that the conference report includes a provision to establish a new cabinet-level advisory committee, charged with developing a national policy to address climate change and to promote technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the provision allows the Energy Department to authorize demonstration projects designed to test technologies that limit harmful emissions. The long-term solution to solving the global warming problem lies in the creation of new technologies and the Federal Government has a key role to play in promoting technological innovations. I believe we should have done more, something along the lines of the recommendations made recently by the National Commission on Energy Policy, but it is critical that we do something, and this climate change provision is the least we can do to begin the process of slowing global warming.

I am very pleased that a provision included in the House-passed bill, giving \$30 million to uranium mining companies, was stripped from the bill. If enacted, this provision would have posed a grave threat to the water resources of two Navajo communities in northwestern New Mexico where four uranium in-situ leach mines have been granted conditional licenses by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The proposed ISL mining—which could still happen

even without the \$30 million subsidy—would leach uranium from an aquifer that provides high-quality groundwater to municipal wells in and near these communities—an aquifer that is the sole source of drinking water for an estimated 15,000 Navajos. I thank the conferees for heeding the wishes of over 200 members of the House—as well as the Navajo Nation Council—to strip this provision from the bill.

The liability waiver for oil companies who used methyl tertiary-butyl ether, MTBE, which has contaminated 1,861 water systems serving 45 million Americans in 29 States, including New Mexico, was also changed in the final bill. I strongly opposed that provision, which would have placed the coffers of oil companies ahead of Americans whose lives have been adversely affected by this negligence.

Finally, one of my great concerns with the House-passed bill was a provision allowing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). I am glad this provision was stripped in conference, and I will continue to oppose efforts by the oil industry to drill in ANWR. I have witnessed first-hand the tremendously diverse wildlife that will be hurt if drilling occurs in the area. The small benefits are simply not worth the cost.

I would like to commend my home State Senators—DOMENICI and BINGAMAN—who worked together in a very bipartisan manner to write this bill. I know it was a difficult task. I look forward to working with them and with their counterparts here in the House, to continue work on energy policy issues such as global warming, fuel efficiency standards, and further reducing our energy dependence.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 6. This comprehensive energy plan will help America become more energy self-sufficient, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and spur innovation for accessing new energy sources.

Nearly every sector of our economy is affected by high energy prices. Manufacturing facilities, the transportation industry and agricultural businesses all depend on affordable and reliable supplies of electricity, fuel and fertilizers to thrive in today's international economy.

All Americans, directly and indirectly, pay for the price of products or services that depend on various forms of energy. No one is immune from rising energy costs, and I am pleased the House has taken the lead in passing this long-term energy plan to help address energy reliability, supply and prices.

The Conference Report provides tax incentives within five main categories to improve energy production, transportation and efficiency. This balanced approach helps ensure we are taking care of current energy needs while also planning for future demand.

If America wants an internationally competitive economy that can fully contend with emerging economic superpowers of the 21st

century, we must take actions now to reduce barriers to competitiveness. Having a secure and reliable source of energy is vital to keeping and creating high-quality, high-paying jobs in America. The provisions contained in this energy conference agreement are reliable options the private sector can use to make us more competitive.

Other countries have been more pro-active than we have in preparing for future energy needs. Brazil is projected to be completely energy self-sufficient within a few years. What once was considered an illusory dream may now become reality because Brazil recognized a problem and committed to a long-term solution. It may have taken them years to develop renewable energy sources, but Brazil is now a leader in ethanol production. As a result, its economy has been able to curb costs associated with higher crude oil prices.

H.R. 6 provides a renewable fuel standard that requires 7.5 billion gallons to be used annually by 2012. This provision will help increase our ethanol and biodiesel production at a time when alternatives to foreign oil are greatly needed. By ramping up the production of alternative fuel sources, we are going to take positive steps toward more secure and reliable means of meeting our energy demands into the 21st century.

Kansas' agriculture economy will also reap the benefits of increased uses for crops. We are learning more and more that today's farmers not only put food on our tables but they also play an important role in reducing emissions and helping us become less dependent on Middle East oil for our fuel needs. By expanding markets for agriculture commodities, producers and rural communities will see new sources of revenue.

Another conservation provision in the energy bill is the 4-week extension of Daylight Savings Time. By simply extending Daylight Savings Time 3 weeks in the spring and 1 week in the fall, we will reduce energy consumption equal to about 100,000 barrels of oil per day for four weeks. This energy saving time provision will also contribute to lower crime and fewer traffic fatalities.

As we look toward the future, we also need to be realistic about current energy demands. That is why the energy bill helps oil and gas producers increase domestic production, expand distribution capabilities and increase refining capacity. H.R. 6 provides \$2.6 billion in tax incentives to accomplish these goals. Currently, small refiners are eligible for percentage depletion deductions if their refinery runs do not exceed 50,000 barrels on any day of the year. The energy bill increases that barrel limit to 75,000 barrels, which will encourage greater production by America's smaller refiners.

The energy Conference agreement contains just over \$3 billion in tax incentives that will bolster our electricity infrastructure. Measures such as reducing the depreciation period for assets used in the transmission and distribution of electricity from 20 years to 15 years will encourage more upgrades to the system. And tax credits, such as the one for new nuclear power facilities, will help investors and utilities take risks needed to create clean, reliable sources of electricity.

Three separate tax credits were established for investments in clean coal facilities that produce electricity, and power plants will be able to amortize the cost of air pollution con-

trol facilities over 84 months. These incentives help energy producers meet stringent air quality standards. By rewarding power plants that accelerate implementation of pollution controls, we are helping create a cleaner environment.

Kansas is known for many wonderful things; one trait not so popular is our abundant source of wind. But as we find better ways to harness this natural Kansas resource, Kansas' abundant supply of wind may prove invaluable. The energy bill contains numerous tax incentives aimed at helping expand alternative sources of energy such as wind. Many Kansas landowners have also expressed strong support for expanded use of wind energy. Small wind farms can provide increases in the local tax base while creating additional revenue for the landowners.

Hydrogen fuel cell technology continues to improve, and I am pleased the final energy bill included many options for integration of this emerging technology into the marketplace. I am hopeful we will see more and more public marketplace uses for hydrogen fuel cells. The fuel cell provisions in H.R. 6 help take us in that direction.

This is a good plan that House Republicans and the Bush Administration have been working on non-stop for more than 4 years. I am very pleased we are finally successful in sending a national energy plan to the President's desk.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Conference Report to H.R. 6, the so-called comprehensive energy bill before us today. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation, which represents bad energy policy, bad environmental policy, bad fiscal policy, and bad nonproliferation policy.

H.R. 6 does nothing to address the issue of America's continuing dependency on imported oil. It does nothing to require more fuel efficient vehicles. It does nothing to reduce pump prices now or in the future, but it does shower wealthy oil and natural gas companies with unneeded tax breaks, royalty-free drilling on public lands, and exemptions from environmental laws.

We can and must do better if we are to seriously address the energy needs of our Nation. We should strike a sound policy balance by pursuing improvements in fuel technology and energy efficiency, maintaining a clean environment, and preserving our wilderness areas and public lands.

Frankly, this bill is an embarrassment—after six years of discussion and negotiation, the best we have to offer is a bill that in effect preserves the status quo? Instead of providing forward-looking policy ideas for a sound energy future, H.R. 6 is content to drive us into the future by looking through the rearview mirror with its heavily weighted dependence on fossil fuels.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of subsidies in H.R. 6 go to the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries, leading to more pollution, more oil

drilling and more radioactive-waste-producing nuclear power.

By contrast, only a small percentage of the tax breaks would go to energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives that could actually save consumers money and reduce our dependence on dirty energy sources.

By refusing to commit to improving and investing in sustainable fuel technology, we are putting our technology and manufacturing industries at a competitive disadvantage at a time when the rest of the planet is searching for alternatives to fossil fuels.

American consumers are being squeezed at the pump while the big oil companies are reaping record profits and the Republican Leadership is passing an energy bill that will further raise gas prices.

How in good faith can we go back to our constituents with a national energy policy that does not address the future, does not address short term fixes or long term solutions?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation so we can develop a comprehensive energy policy that looks to the future and doesn't rely on repackaged out-dated technologies from the past.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act that the House passed yesterday includes a commitment by Congress to make a significant investment for research and development into renewable and alternative sources of energy. As demand for clean and reliable energy increases, it is imperative that America's young people be introduced and educated in conservation and alternative energy. To decrease foreign dependence, we must increase our knowledge and ability to foster our own forms of energy. With that in mind, it is with great pleasure that I inform this body of some recent educational achievements in alternative energy sources.

The Dell-Winston Solar Challenge is an educational competition among high school teams from across our Nation using solar powered cars. The competition began ten years ago at the Winston School in Dallas, Texas, to promote science and engineering to high school students. This unique competition has grown significantly since its inception. Technology and Learning magazine has named this Solar Race Challenge as one of the 10 Most Innovative Projects in Education.

In an effort to produce a competitive solar-powered vehicle, teams spent up to eighteen months designing and building the sun-fueled racers. The nine teams crossed the finish line at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, after an eight-day race that began in Round Rock, Texas. The 1600-mile competition concluded this year as the winning team set a new race record with a top speed of 57 miles per hour. I am immensely proud that the winner of this race is located in my district, from the city of Houston, Mississippi.

This race team from a town with about 4,000 people consistently dominates the com-

petition from much larger cities and schools. This remarkable team from the Houston Vocational Center is under the guidance of adviser and race coach Keith Reese. The team includes: captain Katie Weaver and members Tyler Davis, Austin Jordan, Stefanie Barkley, Brister Bishop, Matt Jernigan, David Peel, Leign Anna Springer, Mason Faulkner, Quinton Grice, Callie Weaver, Katie Weaver, Jesse Lal, Roderick Wiley, and Andrea Westmoreland. I am proud of each one these individuals. Their hard work and dedication is evident in the finished product.

The winning tradition of this team includes more than the aforementioned teachers and students. This project has grown into a community event. Support from the City of Houston is as consistent as the team's success. It is evident that these constituents have recognized the positive impact projects like these provide.

Year after year dedicated students and teachers build and race these advanced solar powered machines. This year marks the fifth consecutive time the Houston Race Team has won the coveted title. To quote Bubba Weir, the Executive Director of The Mississippi Alternative Energy Enterprise, "The Program integrates classroom principles in a real-life situation that fosters learning and encourages the students to work to the best of their ability."

This team brings much more than a trophy back to Mississippi; they bring a renewed emphasis and excitement to the fields of science and energy research. As the number of students studying math and science decreases nationwide, programs such as these pay dividends in increased interest in these fields. Dr. Lehman Marks, the founder and director of the Dell-Winston Race described it as "A Challenge that helps teach high school students the 21st century skills they need to be successful in the future, whether it's to become the scientists and engineers of tomorrow or wherever their paths may lead."

I am encouraged when I see future leaders taking the initiative to compete and excel in this demanding contest. Programs like this demonstrate the importance of implementing new education techniques. Projects outside the classroom environment generate learning that enhances knowledge students receive from traditional instruction. The challenges in the fields of math and science are changing, and I am proud that Mississippi's educators are training students to meet these challenges head on.

The success of the Houston solar race team has spread statewide, and many other Mississippi schools are beginning to experiment in alternative energy education programs. It is good to see young Mississippians leading the way through these innovative projects. Congratulations to the Houston Solar Race Team for an extraordinary performance and a job well done. The city of Houston, Chickasaw County, the entire State of Mississippi, and the United States of America are very proud of you.

THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL 2005 MATH, ENGINEERING, AND SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT COMPETITION

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the winners of the national 2005 Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement Competition held in Anaheim, California.

Johnnie Gasper, Rosie Mankel, Esther Blue, and Darryl Davis-Rosas, from Tucson, Arizona's Pueblo High Magnet School took first place at the national competition.

The Math, Engineering, Science Achievement Competition, otherwise known as MESA, is a college preparation program founded in 1970 and launched in Arizona in 1983. Students from middle and high schools throughout southern Arizona participate in hands-on activities related to math, engineering, and science and college preparation workshops.

Over 60 schools in Arizona participate in MESA. A total of eight States competed in the competition—California, Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

These Pueblo High students were challenged to build a vehicle out of a mousetrap that could drive 10 meters, up a 30 degree incline, and stop accurately after traveling another five meters. The students had trouble with the original vehicle design, which tested their commitment and determination. Johnnie, Rosie, Esther and Darryl redesigned and built a new vehicle that led them to success. The competition also required them to write a 15-page essay and complete an academic presentation on their work. The students received high marks on all parts of the competition.

I would like to commend these young men and women for their incredible accomplishments in math and science; and to recognize the faculty of Pueblo High School for their guidance of these fine students. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring them today.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that this House approved the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement last evening. As I listened to my colleagues who voted for this bill, I could not help but wonder if we were voting on the same piece of legislation.

Contrary to what many of my colleagues have said, the CAFTA will not help American workers and will not save American jobs. Also, our exports to DR-CAFTA countries are already at full capacity for what those countries can consume. Therefore, talk of spurring U.S. exports to the region is empty rhetoric designed to deceive the uninformed person. Instead, DR-CAFTA will increase off-shore production and services and will continue to

cause a decline in the standard of living among the American working class.

Under this Agreement, our Central American neighbors will have restricted access to generic pharmaceuticals. This will increase drug prices, including lifesaving HIV/AIDS drugs and medicines putting their health and lives at risk. Surely, Mr. Speaker, you have heard the anguish of Americans who cannot afford basic prescription drugs in this prosperous land of ours. Can you imagine what it will be like for our neighbors who subsist on wages of less than \$2 per day to pay for higher drug prices? Where is the humanity in this?

Our Central American neighbors are poor—forty percent of them earn less than \$2 per day. The vast majority of them are forced to work under harsh labor conditions. Many women suffer from sexual harassment and discrimination at the work place. Employment places lack basic hygienic facilities, especially for women. In fact, it is fair to say that the Agreement lacks meaningful incentives for employers to uphold, enforce or comply even with current labor standards.

Let us not fool ourselves—this Agreement will not lift our neighbors out of poverty, will not improve their working conditions, and will not help the ordinary worker, whether in Central America or here at home. Instead, this Agreement will displace family farmers, harm small business and force these workers into lower paying jobs.

I wish I could have voted for the DR-CAFTA because I believe trade is a way to lift people out of poverty. But it must be fair trade that also respects labor standards, the environment and allows human dignity. Fair trade must be fair for both America's families and families of other countries with fair living wages while protecting the environment.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that this was not and balanced trade agreement. I hope that Americans will take a good look at where our country is headed. I feel for my countrymen and I feel for the people of the DR-CAFTA region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS STEINER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of Thomas Steiner, a five year veteran of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). On April 21, 2004, he was the victim of a senseless hate crime committed in front of the Los Angeles County Municipal Court in the city of Pomona. As he was walking to his car following traffic court testimony, a 16-year-old "wannabe" gang member pulled his car in front of Mr. Steiner, stepped out and opened fire, killing the officer. The California State Senate will soon consider a bill that would rename the interchange of State Highways 60 and 71—Thomas's favorite region to patrol—in his honor.

Tom was born February 14, 1969, and spent his childhood in Virginia and Ohio, before his parents settled in Long Beach in 1984. He graduated from Millikan High School in Long Beach and then pursued several dif-

ferent majors at Cal Poly Pomona. When he heard that the CHP was looking for accounting majors, he chose to study accounting. Tom always had been both attentive to details and desirous of being in law enforcement. He was not a perfectionist. He was just particular. Even as a child playing pick-up baseball, he never allowed cheating. He also loved helping people. Tom knew that being a CHP officer was the right career for him.

Tom's passion was fatherhood. He loved his stepson Justin, whom he called J.T., and his son Bryan, with whom he would walk home from preschool every Friday afternoon, holding hands. He converted his garage into a pool hall, with walls adorned with old Sports Illustrated covers, for both boys to enjoy. Also on the garage wall was Tom's collection of shot glasses from the different cities his father, Ron, had visited during his many business trips. It was a reminder that his father had valued his son Tom, and that now Tom valued his sons.

Tom is survived by his wife Heidi who will now raise 5-year-old Bryan and 14-year-old Justin. He is also survived by his parents, Ron and Carol, and his sister Julie.

Our country owes a great debt of gratitude to Tom. He died doing the job he loved, a victim of perhaps the ultimate hate crime: the assassination of a law enforcement officer solely based on the victim's status in the community, the uniform worn and what it represented. I met his father and with fellow CHP officers at the dedication of a memorial worthy of Tom's commitment to the safety of others. Join me in wishing our sincere sympathy to his family. We and the entire law enforcement community, especially the California Highway Patrol, mourn for a lost brother. I ask that all of my colleagues join me to honor this fallen hero who has made the ultimate sacrifice.

EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT WAS PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great disappointment that I submitted a statement for the RECORD yesterday, instead of going to the floor, as originally scheduled, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The Republican Leadership has decided that the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act is less important than leaving a day early for the Congressional August Recess.

I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 216 with my bipartisan colleagues from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CHABOT and Mr. NADLER. On Wednesday, I had planned to join my colleagues in debating the resolution on the floor, but at the last moment, the Republican Leadership decided to pull the solution from consideration in order to consider CAFTA. Thursday morning, the resolution was listed for consideration, but by late morning, it was brought to my attention that the Republican Leadership

had decided to reduce debate on this resolution to a mere 5 minutes, down from the customary 40 minutes allotted to consideration of resolutions under suspension of the rules. Furthermore, they planned to package the suspensions together under condensed time and they were also adding to that package an additional controversial suspension bill without allowing any debate. This important resolution was being treated as insignificant. The Minority Leader opposed giving this important resolution such short shrift, and in response, the Republican leadership pulled the legislation from consideration all together.

Today was the last opportunity for us to celebrate this important Act before the anniversary on August 6. This has become an unacceptable pattern for the Republican Leadership. The Republican majority promised after the 1994 elections to manage the House in a way that fostered "deliberative democracy," which they defined as the "full and free airing of conflicting opinions through hearings, debates, and amendments." They also pledged in their Contract with America to "restore accountability to Congress." Instead of sticking to their word, they have broken their promises, and flaunted and abused their power. They have abandoned the principle of procedural fairness or democratic accountability.

There is no reason that we could not debate this resolution this week, particularly when the Republicans will conclude business early in the day today. I am disappointed in my Republican colleagues for again derailing debate, particularly when it comes to issues related to voting and the Voting Rights Act.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is one of the major civil rights victories of the past half-century. The ADA ensures that governments and businesses cannot discriminate against individuals with disabilities in employment.

Passage of the ADA has widened access, deepened involvement, and raised the level of engagement for people with disabilities at every level of society.

This is particularly true in the government, where the voices of disabled Americans are heard and help shape new policies and laws.

We're not there yet—with hard work and diligence, we'll continue to move our country toward being a place where disabled individuals are treated like every other American.

But we're making some progress.

I believe the federal government should take a leadership role in advocating on behalf of disabled Americans. Social Security's disability insurance program is one important aspect of that leadership role.

Here in Ohio and nationwide, Americans seeking Social Security disability benefits wait more than 3 years on average for final decisions on their appeals. In some cases, they are losing their family car, their savings, and

even their homes—while they wait for their government to act.

I support responsible proposals to reform the disability appeals processing system. I have urged congressional appropriators to provide appropriate funding to help the Social Security Administration reduce the appeals backlog and reduce the wait for disabled Americans.

Disabled Americans have a huge stake in the fight to strengthen Social Security's solvency. Plans to privatize Social Security put the income security of American workers at risk—especially workers whose careers are cut short by a disabling illness or injury.

With more than 230,000 Ohioans currently receiving Social Security disability benefits, there is too much at stake to play games with Social Security's future.

It's appropriate for us to gather to celebrate the ADA—an important first step. Working together, we can fix these and other roadblocks for the millions of Americans who live full lives every day with disabilities.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE 22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stupak/Brady resolution. Our resolution will commemorate the 22nd annual National Night Out event which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

I would like to thank my friend Congressman BRADY for cosponsoring this legislation with me once again this year. This bipartisan resolution has been supported by dozen of House Members for several years running and I am pleased we have another opportunity to highlight this important event again this year.

National Night Out, a nationwide grassroots crime prevention event, will take place on Tuesday, August 2. The event brings together involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, and civic groups throughout the U.S. to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

This has been a key part of America's community crime prevention success over the past two decades.

Community crime prevention is one of the most proven and effective ways to help law enforcement officials win the battle against crime. Whether it is stopping illegal drug sales, making schools safer, locating missing children, or remaining vigilant against terrorism, local law enforcement officials depend on the support of community networks to succeed.

The active involvement of citizens and the presence of local law enforcement in communities is a winning combination that makes and keeps neighborhoods safe.

Our resolution expresses Congress' support for community crime prevention and asks that the President focus Federal attention on the issue.

With this in mind, we hope that you will show your support for the community crime prevention efforts of citizens and police in your district and across the nation. Vote for the Stupak/Brady National Night Out Resolution.

COMMENDING PROGRESS IN LEBANON

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for her visit to Lebanon last week, which recently held elections for a new Parliament. During her brief stay, Secretary Rice asserted the necessity for the uninhibited growth of democracy in that region and demanded the complete removal of foreign occupiers.

Lebanon carries in its history a long tradition of foreign occupation. After plunging into civil war in 1975, Syrian troops forcefully occupied Lebanon. Throughout subsequent decades, the Syrian military unjustly held Beirut, with their tenure characterized by violent bombings and raids on the Lebanese people. The United States has long opposed this occupation of Lebanon, and Congress has continually insisted on their removal.

Syrian and Iranian sponsorship of terrorist ally Hezbollah threatens the emerging Lebanese democracy. I praise the heroic Lebanese citizens on their insistence for the Syrian exodus in early 2005, despite the Hezbollah security threats. I also laud them on their fair elections for their first National Assembly after the termination of the Syrian presence. Accordingly, this provides an opportune time for self-determination and democratic changes in the region.

It is imperative that the U.S. continues to support Lebanon's desire for full security control and territorial autonomy so this budding democracy can materialize. Yet as Lebanon gains control over their country, they should simultaneously avoid isolating themselves from their neighbors. Israel and Lebanon share a number of parallel interests and could markedly benefit from stronger relations with the other. Syria has strangled trade with Lebanon since their withdrawal; additionally, trade between all three nations has essentially come to a standstill recently. There should be a push for increased commercial exchanges between Israel and Lebanon, especially with the United States through the Qualifying Industrial Zone. I recommend that as Lebanon stabilizes and secures itself as a viable democracy, we consider their addition to the QIZ, which would encourage the Middle East peace process via economic integration.

Assuring that emerging democracies in the Middle East are safe and stable should be a top priority of the U.S. With respect to Iraq, much work still remains. This administration, through Operation Iraqi Freedom, has presented a poorly executed plan to instill democracy in Iraq. I believe that what America, Iraq, and the Middle East at large need is a plan for success. My amendment to the State Department Authorization Act called for a plan for a success in Iraq, this accepted bipartisan amendment calls on the President to present a strategy indicating how we would provide for a stable Iraqi government and strong Iraqi police force, hence allowing for a lessened US presence there. This could be done by mobilizing an international effort through increased presence of NATO forces in Iraq. NATO participation in Iraq would open up the doors for other non-NATO countries to share the burden

of the war. Furthermore, we should also better train the Iraqi military police, hence providing real security to the communities of Iraq.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR EDWARD BROWN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Major Edward Brown, Jr., who has distinguished himself with extraordinarily meritorious service during his 30-year career in the United States Army, leading up to a commendable tenure at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. A long-standing track record of superior and dedicated leadership proves that Sergeant Major Brown is the kind of leader that other soldiers try to emulate and that the Army recognizes as the exemplary soldier.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Brown has been an exceptional, active, and inspiring leader. His positions of leadership include those of squad leader, platoon sergeant, battalion motor sergeant and maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge, multiple tours as company sergeant, and most recently Sergeant Major at Letterkenny Army Depot.

In the past 10 years Sergeant Brown has served in extraordinary places, such as Germany, Bosnia, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Huachuca, and Letterkenny, and has made significant contributions to each. In each location he held positions of leadership, with a responsibility for the welfare of soldiers, units, installations, and civilian members of the defense workforce.

Notable in Sergeant Major Brown's career is his tour of duty at Letterkenny Army Depot. He served 4 years there, and personally made tremendous and direct contributions and changes to the Depot. When Sergeant Major Brown arrived on July 1, 2001, the Depot was in a state of decline and malaise due to the fact that it had already undergone three rounds of the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) process. Sergeant Major Brown was instrumental in the mission of turning the depot around, bringing renewed vigor and a sense of purpose into the workplace.

Sergeant Major Brown began his tenure at Letterkenny at a most inauspicious time, just prior to the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. He immediately increased the Force Protection posture required by the attacks on the United States. Because of the open terrain and layout that characterize the Depot, the task of securing the mission and personnel at Letterkenny was made even more difficult. However, Sergeant Major Brown worked tirelessly with the organic guard assets of the Depot and with newly assigned troops from the National Guard and Reserve to ensure that Letterkenny remained secure until all immediate danger had passed.

Sergeant Major Brown, working as part of the Command Team, inspired and moved the workforce forward through post-modernization and beautification programs, LEAN implementation, and proactive leadership. As a result of his guidance, Letterkenny improved so much that the Depot has been selected to grow in the next BRAC round, an accomplishment that may be traced directly to his personal efforts.

During Sergeant Major Brown's career he has participated in Operation Desert Storm and Shield, Operation Joint Endeavor, and the global war on terrorism. Sergeant Major Brown has also been recognized by his peers for exceptional service and dedication, and has been awarded the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharp Medal; he is also a member of the Audie Murphy Club. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Edward Brown, Jr. has played a crucial role in the defense of the United States and in the service of other citizens. It is because of this that I wish to acknowledge him today.

IN HONOR OF MS. WANDA MADGE JONES, THE 2004 MS. TEXAS SENIOR AMERICA

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Wanda Madge Jones, the 2004 Ms. Texas Senior America. The Ms. Senior America pageant is aimed at enriching the lives of senior citizens by raising social awareness through education and community service, while promoting the dignity and value of America's seniors.

Ms. Jones has taught dance for over 50 years to over 50,000 students as the owner of the Arabesque Studio of Dance in Dallas, Texas. As a performer, Ms. Jones has been in over 10,000 productions, showcasing her talent by entertaining our troops with the USO during both WWII and the Korean War, including a one time performance for Franklin Roosevelt.

Ms. Jones is active in multiple organizations where she strives to celebrate senior women and their accomplishments, while cultivating her own personal growth through community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing the many achievements of Ms. Jones, an entrepreneur and true patriot whose hard work and commitment has inspired those around her to achieve great feats in the face of adversity.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, nearly 5 years in the making, the energy bill passed by the House should have provided a vision for addressing our long term energy needs.

Instead, the bill sacrifices our long term economic, national, and environmental security for the short term advantage of oil companies and other energy producers.

Thankfully, some of the most extreme provisions were deleted from the final bill. The provision to give oil refiners liability protection for the damage done to drinking water supplies by the gasoline additive MTBE was removed from the bill. If this provision had been adopted, local communities would be responsible for \$29 to \$85 billion in cleanup costs resulting from MTBE contamination.

The provision opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drilling was also dropped, but the Majority leadership has promised to pass it in separate legislation.

Despite these omissions, the bill remains deeply flawed. New provisions were added and key policy challenges were not addressed.

The bill fails to address our growing dependence on foreign oil. Today we import more than half of the oil we use, and in 20 years, nearly 70 percent of our oil will come from overseas—whether or not this bill is signed into law.

By doing little to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we're making ourselves dependent on OPEC and countries that might not share our interests.

This is a concern shared by a number of national security experts of diverse political viewpoints. In a letter to the President sent on March 24th of this year, the Energy Future Coalition (which includes former Reagan Administration National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, former CIA Director James Woolsey, former Reagan Administration Assistant Defense Secretary Frank Gaffney, and former President George H.W. Bush's Counsel C. Boyden Gray) stated:

The United States' dependence on imported petroleum poses a risk to our homeland security and economic well-being.

With only two percent of the world's oil reserves but 25 percent of current world consumption, the United States cannot eliminate its need for imports through increased domestic production alone.

Since 40 percent of the 20 million barrels of oil we burn every day is used in passenger automobiles, we should be increasing automobile fuel economy requirements, but efforts to add those requirements to this bill were rejected.

Compounding the problem, the bill doesn't invest sufficiently in renewable alternatives. Only about 20 percent of the bill's \$11 billion in tax incentives will go toward developing renewable energy resources which can replace fossil fuels.

The bill fails to address high gasoline prices. Rather than reducing gas prices, the bill guarantees that they'll go up by requiring that at least 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol be blended into gasoline by 2012—triple the current level. According to the Energy Information Administration, the independent forecasting agency within the Department of Energy, this mandate could force consumers to pay an extra \$1.7 billion per year once it's fully implemented.

The bill weakens coastal protections and threatens the environment.

The bill requires an inventory of oil and natural gas resources in offshore areas where drilling is now prohibited, allowing pre-drilling activities in these areas. This includes Coastal California.

The bill undermines the ability of states to ensure that liquefied natural gas, LNG, terminals are properly sited and operate safely.

The bill provides oil and gas drilling operations exemptions under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bill fails to address global climate change.

The bill fails to compensate Western consumers for overcharges by electricity generators. The National Energy Policy developed by

Vice President CHENEY was billed in part as a response to the Western "energy crisis" of 2000 and 2001, but there was never an effort to compensate consumers for the market manipulation that occurred in California and the western U.S. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission arbitrarily limited the amount of refunds consumers could receive. My repeated efforts to add language to fully compensate consumers were rejected.

Conclusion. Energy touches all aspects of public policy: Public health, the environment, the economy, and national security. In the coming years and decades, the global competition for non-renewable energy resources will become more frantic. The bill passed by the Congress does not respond to that challenge, and it is comprehensive only in the sense that it contains a hodge-podge of special interest provisions that will benefit each segment of the energy production industry. Supporters of the bill have said that after 5 years we can't afford to kick the can down the road. With this bill, that's exactly what's happened.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, as a general principle, removing trade barriers and creating new opportunities for the export of American manufactured goods and services in today's global economy should be one of the highest priorities for those of us involved in setting national policy.

Economically, politically and strategically, our nation is better and stronger when there is a free flow of commerce, accompanied by the free exchange of ideas and information between the United States and the major economies of the world. Of course we benefit from the growth of potential markets for U.S. goods, but there is also an enormous mutual benefit when the people of other nations are exposed to the shining example of our democratic system of governance and the merits of a free market economy. Just look at the nations who trade freely and compare them—and the conditions their people endure—with the nations whose economies are essentially closed to external commerce such as North Korea. Just last week in this Chamber during the Joint Session of Congress we witnessed a major address by the Prime Minister of India, a nation whose relatively swift progression to an open economy has lifted millions of people in India out of poverty as they have become a major trading partner of the United States. Not only are we selling more and more U.S. goods to India today, but because of our enhanced economic influence in this area of South Asia, the strategic interests of the United States have been strengthened at a critical time in this region.

We have before us in the House today an opportunity to take another major step forward in promoting free trade and democracy: the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America

Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). It represents an opportunity to expand our trading relationships, to promote the spread of democracy and to reinforce the stability of the entire Central American region. In reviewing the specific provisions of this trade agreement, as well as the promise of expanding democratic influences in the region, my colleagues and I must consider what is best for our constituents, for American workers, and for workers and their families in the Central American nations affected by this agreement. I know there is opposition here in the House to this agreement, much of it from members of my own party. I respectfully disagree with them because I see the enormous positive mutual benefits of this agreement, and because I am convinced that rejecting DR-CAFTA would hurt our nation and our workers, as well as the people in these Central American nations. And I am convinced that rejecting DR-CAFTA will leave our hemisphere less secure.

Certainly for my constituents and my home state of Washington, this agreement will mean more and better paying jobs. Washington continues to be the most trade-dependent State per capita in the country, with more than one in four jobs dependent on trade. And CAFTA markets are becoming more important to producers in my State. Since 2000, trade with these countries has grown more than 250 percent, with Washington State exports exceeding \$110 million last year. Reducing tariff barriers in these countries will significantly boost the attractiveness of Washington State exports to these countries, which includes high tech products, machinery, agriculture, and paper products.

But the benefits of DR-CAFTA do not accrue solely to the workers in my State. There will be positive benefits for working people all across America. While these six nations alone—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic—may not be huge markets, the DR-CAFTA countries make up America's 12th-largest export market worldwide, importing about \$15 billion in U.S. goods and services last year. Together, these countries represent a larger U.S. export market than Russia, India and Indonesia combined. Because of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, these nations already have preferential treatment in our markets; it is time for us to gain the same benefits in their markets. According to an analysis conducted by the Progressive Policy Institute, textile firms, high-tech companies, and many service industries stand to gain immediate benefits from the approval of the agreement.

The benefits for workers from these Central American countries will be more pronounced. Competition from Chinese and Indian garment manufacturers is already intense and is growing. There are provinces in China and India that have greater populations than all six CAFTA nations combined. Currently, the temporary duty-free treatment CAFTA nations enjoy under CBI—nations that use U.S. textiles in their garment production—is keeping these Central American countries competitive. Without CAFTA, this treatment will expire, likely devastating the garment industry in Central America, potentially throwing half a million people out of work. With CAFTA, exports of garments from Central America, using American-made materials, is expected to increase, building jobs on both sides.

The economic arguments for the agreement are strong. But in my opinion, CAFTA is more

critical for promoting regional stability. Over the last 20 years, these nations have struggled out of chaos and civil war to establish fragile democracies, developing critical institutions designed to safeguard freedom and to promote the rule of law. But the ultimate success of these governments is predicated upon economic security. I believe that CAFTA will help to do just that, spurring U.S. investment and promoting the growth of a middle class in each of these nations.

The failure of CAFTA would mean just the opposite, in my judgment. Competition—particularly from China and other Asian nations—is fierce and growing. Without CAFTA, the largest manufacturing sector in Central America may fail, leading to a significant rise in unemployment, economic stagnation, and potentially civil unrest. It is certainly in our nation's best strategic interests to assure that this does not happen. With greater economic stability promoted through increased trade and investment, I believe that the nascent institutions of democracy in these nations will thrive and flourish. I am not alone in believing that freer trade will help the workers in Central America. Former President Jimmy Carter and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias—whose dedication to the people of Central America and to alleviating the plight of the poor is unquestioned—strongly support the agreement. In the words of President Arias, "CAFTA would allow Central America to thrive by exporting goods through trade rather than exporting people through migration. Opportunities would open for consumers to acquire better and cheaper goods; for small and medium businesses to expand and diversify; for more private investment, access to new technologies and educational opportunities; for a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the job market; and for higher economic growth, government revenue and increased social spending."

I also understand the concerns of those of my colleagues here in the House who have joined together with our friends in organized labor in opposition to this agreement. I share their mistrust and disdain for the domestic labor policies implemented by the administration that negotiated this agreement. In the end, however, I believe that our shared cause will be furthered, not hindered, by the labor provisions of this agreement.

The editorial board of The News Tribune in Tacoma, the largest newspaper in my congressional district, summarized the view I have held in a recent editorial in support of the agreement. The editorial said: "CAFTA is probably the single best thing this country could do for those workers (in Central America). If markets were to expand for Central American goods, Central American labor would be worth more, paid more and treated better. Workers would gain more leverage and find it easier to unionize. . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this agreement is good for the country, good for the state of Washington, good for workers in all the participating countries, and good for the security of the Western Hemisphere. I intend to support the agreement. I would like to thank the gentleman again for yielding to me.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL
GREGORY "SPEEDY" MARTIN

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to pay tribute to United States Air Force General Gregory S. "Speedy" Martin for his 35 years of distinguished and honorable service in the United States Air Force and to our Nation.

General Martin has had a distinguished career, beginning with his graduation from the Air Force Academy in 1970 with a commission as a second lieutenant. While at the academy, he became the National Collegiate Parachuting Champion; but jumping out of planes only begins to define his courage. He became a fighter pilot and flew 161 combat missions in Vietnam. He served as the mission commander for Operation Linebacker I and Operation Linebacker II during the Vietnam conflict and secured the release of American POWs.

Prior to serving as Commander of AFMC, General Martin served as Commander of United States Air Forces in Europe and Commander of Allied Forces Northern Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. During Operation Enduring Freedom he directed airdrop support for American forces assisting Afghanistan refugees. During Operation Iraqi Freedom he provided deployment support, combat airdrop operations, and all air delivered sustainment support. In Europe, General Martin was awarded the Order of the Sword, the highest tribute the Air Force enlisted corps can pay to a commander.

As Commander of AFMC, General Martin led the development of a new Air Force Science and Technology vision which will guide critical research and development work to ensure the U.S. Air Force remains superior on the battlefields of tomorrow. He strengthened, unified, and streamlined the Air Force Program Executive Office to ensure more effective acquisition support for current and future Air Force weapon systems. General Martin created the Continuous Process Improvement initiatives in the air logistic centers which allowed AFMC to return \$570 million in savings last year to the Department of Defense to support the Global War on Terror. General Martin has often referred to his assignment at AFMC as "The most satisfying assignment in my career."

He received numerous military awards for his service including: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, and the NATO Meritorious Service Medal. Allied nations also recognized General Martin for his service by bestowing on him the following awards: the Medal of Commander of Order and Valor, Cameroon; the Medal of Merit—Gold, The Netherlands; the Legion of Honor, France; and the Cross of Merit, First Class, of the Minister of Defense, Czech Republic. General Martin is also a command pilot with over 4,600 flight hours in various aircraft, including the F-4, F-15, C-20 and C-21 and is a master parachutist.

I have known General Martin since he took command of AFMC in August 2003. I have received briefings from him and can assure you he is an authoritative and powerful speaker. General Martin is a man who is honest, provides a straight assessment and has the highest degree of ethics. His service honors the Air Force and our country. In providing an assessment of the need to transform the Air Force acquisition process, in classic style, he declared, in a delivery that would shame Jack Nicholson, the problem is: "some people can't handle the truth."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss funding for veterans' healthcare. As the son, grandson, and brother of veterans, I understand just how important this funding is to our brave men and women who have answered the call of duty to serve their country. Since coming to Congress, it has been one of my greatest pleasures to be able to provide our veterans with the care and the treatment they deserve.

Since 1995, Congress has increased spending on veterans by more than 59 percent—an average increase of 6.9 percent per year. During this Congress alone we have increased the death benefits and life insurance coverage of our Armed Services personnel. We have also provided funding for specialty mental health care for the first time ever, increased funding for the treatment of conditions like Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and doubled funding for mental health care issues. This is indeed a record to which we can all be proud.

I was also proud to cosponsor H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act, in the 108th Congress. With the agreement of the House and Senate, another version of this bill was passed and signed by President Bush in order to allow certain military retirees to receive both their longevity retired pay and veterans disability compensation. As Speaker of the House J. DENNIS HASTERT noted, "Congressman HENSARLING's strong support for our nation's veterans and concurrent receipt legislation was critical to ensuring that we achieved the most significant, positive step forward for veterans in our nation's history."

Unfortunately, sometimes Congress can fall short. For instance, the Fiscal Year 2004 Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, fell \$1.8 billion short of what was agreed to in that year's budget resolution. This inadequate level for funding for veterans healthcare greatly concerned me, and that is why I voted against the bill. When thousands of veterans were waiting 6 months or longer for healthcare, I did not believe that it was the time to skimp on needed resources.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives voted on the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of the Interior, Environment, and

Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Included as part of this legislation was \$1.5 billion in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover an anticipated budgetary shortfall for the current fiscal year. I am very pleased that the House of Representatives has approved the funding necessary to ensure that they receive the medical care they deserve. However, because the underlying legislation to which we attached this important provision violated the budget we agree to abide by earlier this year, I found myself in the difficult position of having to vote against this legislation.

There were a number of alternative methods that could have been used to alleviate this problem—methods that would not have violated the budget. Most notably, we could have amended H.R. 3130, which was approved unanimously by the House of Representatives on June 30, 2005, to provide the necessary funding levels. This broadly supported measure would have demonstrated our firm commitment to our veterans, and it is unfortunate this alternative was not utilized.

Mr. Speaker, in the end the greatest threat to adequately funding the needs of our veterans is Congress' seemingly inherent inability to control runaway wasteful spending in our budget. Each and every time we spend another dollar on wasteful measures like bullet-proof vests for K-9s, bridges to nowhere, or an underground cafeteria in the Carlsbad Caverns, is a dollar that is not available for our veterans.

One of Congress's most solemn obligations is to care for our veterans. I remain committed to funding 100 percent of the benefits veterans have earned through their service and sacrifice to our country. I will continue to work with Members of Congress to explore ways to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs gets the money they need within the rules of our budget agreement. I will not however, support legislation to grow the budget of another department, such as this bill would have done with the Department of the Interior, at the expense of our veteran's and our children's future.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Cooperative Development Program, CDP, of USAID serves an important role in America's international development assistance. For a modest annual investment, credit unions and cooperatives can have a greater opportunity to flourish through the work of the World Council of Credit Unions and other non-governmental cooperative development organizations.

In a world where three billion people live on less than \$2 a day, access to safe and sound financial services is essential to helping people build better lives for themselves. The World Council of Credit Unions, WOCCU, works to strengthen credit unions implementing technical assistance programs to improve credit union performance so that these non-for-profit cooperative financial institutions can offer an array of client-responsive services, extend their geographic coverage, and harness technology.

Created by the vision of the U.S. credit union movement, WOCCU has been implementing their technical assistance programs for over 30 years. Prior to WOCCU's formation in 1970, the Credit Union National Association, CUNA, had an international division called CUNA Global Projects dedicated to overseas credit union activities. Today, CUNA and their state league system, representing 86 million credit union members in the U.S., work with WOCCU to promote credit union growth in developing countries.

Through the current funding cycle of USAID's CDP, WOCCU will spend the next 4 years working with credit unions around the world and focused in Afghanistan, Kenya, the Philippines, Ecuador and Nicaragua to build networks—expanding low-cost transaction services for members, including remittances; creating enabling environments; training credit union managers and board members; and extending credit union operations to difficult operating environments, including HIV/AIDS-affected communities, conflict-prone zones and poverty-entrenched rural areas.

Credit unions and cooperatives provide hope for economic prosperity through grassroots businesses that provide jobs, income, basic education and democratic experience. I will continue to support the USAID Cooperative Development Program to sustain overseas cooperative development in developing countries and emerging democracies.

MEDICAID IS IMPORTANT FOR
PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WITH
SERIOUS ILLNESSES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 40th anniversary of Medicaid on July 30, I want to underscore the importance of Medicaid to children and adults with serious illnesses. Medicaid is a public health insurance program that helps 52 million low-income and disabled Americans, including 540,000 Virginians, stay healthy. Nationally, half of Medicaid enrollees are children.

Medicaid is particularly important to people with serious illnesses. Medicaid can be the only way to pay for care.

Many people with serious illnesses must turn to Medicaid for several reasons. Many insurance policies have a lifetime upper limit of \$1 or \$2 million. Approximately 51 percent or 87.5 million people with employer-based insurance have a lifetime cap, according to a 2004 Kaiser Family Foundation survey. Many private insurance plans impose pre-existing condition and other exclusions and refuse to insure people with serious illnesses and disabilities. Many working Americans do not have job-based health insurance because their employers do not offer it. The cost of individual health insurance policies is often out of reach. And most Americans are too young for Medicare.

A serious, chronic illness can be emotionally and financially devastating. While we have made great strides in treating cancer today, everyone fears cancer. In 2004, 1.4 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed. In 2005, 34,000 Virginians will have cancer, says the

American Cancer Society. Since 1990, over 18 million new cancer cases have been diagnosed nationwide and 9.6 million Americans are alive today with a history of cancer. Some cancer drugs can reach \$300,000 a year. Hospitalization, chemotherapy, bone marrow transplants, and other treatments can be very expensive and people with insurance can reach the lifetime limit of their policy quickly.

Consider also the example of hemophilia. For the typical hemophilia patient, clotting factor to prevent bleeding, needed for a lifetime, can cost \$250,000 each year, according to the National Hemophilia Foundation. Look at cystic fibrosis. The care for a person with moderate cystic fibrosis can climb to \$70,000 a year. The average cost of care for all people with cystic fibrosis is \$58,000 a year, reports the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Drugs for rare genetic diseases can reach \$200,000 a year, says the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

Caring for a person with spinal cord injury can be beyond almost anyone's ability to pay and it can be for a lifetime because spinal cord injury is most common among teenagers. The Spinal Cord Injury Information Network estimates that the average yearly expenses (health care and living expenses), for severe injury (high tetraplegia, C1–C4), the first-year cost would be \$683,000; each subsequent year, \$122,000. As for lifetime costs, for someone who is severely injured at age 25, costs could reach \$2.7 million. If one is severely injured at age 50, can be \$1.6 million.

Most American families cannot handle costs like those. This is why Medicaid is called "America's safety net"; it is often the only way to pay for care.

I'd also like to focus also on the importance of Medicaid to children. Over 25 million American children, one-fourth of all children, are enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid is the largest public provider of health insurance for youngsters.

In Virginia, 23 percent of our children are Medicaid enrollees. Sadly, 8.6 percent or 163,501 of Virginia's children have no insurance. Insured children are more likely to get health care. Insured children are healthier, happier children.

We also need to understand how important Medicaid is to children's hospitals, where very sick children are often treated. In 2003, Medicaid-covered children were 47 percent of all discharges and 50 percent of all inpatient days of care at children's hospitals. According to the National Association of Children's Hospitals, children covered by Medicaid tend to need more care than other children's hospital patients. Children's hospitals provide 40 percent of the hospital care required by children on Medicaid. Children with particularly complex and life-threatening illnesses are frequently treated by children's hospitals and without Medicaid, these special institutions could not survive.

Medicaid has played a vital role in our country these last 40 years. I call on my colleagues to join me in working to strengthen Medicaid. It is truly a lifeline, especially for those unfortunate children and adults with serious illnesses.

THE CREDIT CARD MESS— CONGRESS MUST ACT

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 3501, the "Consumer Access Rights Defense Act (CARD) of 2005". My bill is in response to the disastrous breach of credit card information and data privacy and continuous exposure of fraud suffered by millions of credit card consumers across the country.

My CARD ACT would require any data processing, credit or debit card businesses or other financial institutions to notify individuals when there has been a security breach compromising anyone's sensitive personal data, including Social Security numbers, driver's license or state identification numbers, credit or debit cards, or other financial account information.

Should any financial data be compromised, the bill will require notices be sent out by mail or e-mail without unreasonable delay. The bill will allow impose civil remedies for failure to notify; \$1,000 per individual whose personal information was comprised or not more than \$50,000 per day while failure to notify continues. The bill allows persons to sue for damages resulting from a data breach. The bill permits the placement of extended fraud alerts on credit reports. Finally, the bill will allow the Attorney General of every state to protect the interests of residents of their States when the federal government or businesses fail to notify individuals of a breach.

The bill covers both electronic and non-electronic data as well as encrypted and non-encrypted data. Furthermore, the bill sets a national standard so that individuals across the country have the same protections.

The law would be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission or other relevant regulator, or by a State attorney general who could file a civil suit. Individuals could sue for actual damages.

Like most Americans, I was shocked to learn that the names, bank account and credit card details of possibly 40 million credit card holders have been exposed to fraud. Forty million accounts were exposed, and records pertaining to at least 200,000 admittedly were stolen, primarily MasterCard and Visa cards. Undoubtedly many people I represent could be affected by this disastrous breach of what credit companies and banks repeatedly have assured the public is a secure credit card system.

It is true that credit card holders are protected under Federal laws, including the Truth in Lending Act, which makes it illegal for banks to charge victims of credit card theft more than \$50, despite the cost of purchases made on the card. And most banks have zero-liability policies, removing any financial responsibility of credit card theft from the cardholder. While the compromised data is said not to include addresses or Social Security numbers, the stolen information potentially can be used in turn to steal individual citizen's credit identity. Nearly 10 million people are victim of identity theft each year, costing consumers \$5 billion in out-of-pocket losses and businesses \$48 billion, according to the Fed-

eral Trade Commission. And that counts only the money loss. The Identity Theft Resource Center, a non-profit group based in San Diego, estimates the average victim spends about 600 hours trying to clear up credit problems after an ID theft.

Within days after this massive card data theft, some of that data was being bought and sold brazenly on the Internet by thieves who broker such information worldwide operating out of Russia and other Eastern European nations.

The irony of why and how the American people learned that 40 million of them, as well as others, had their financial privacy invaded should not be lost on my colleagues in this House.

We found out about this only because the State of California has a law which forces credit card companies to notify consumers when such theft happens. The Federal government has no such law, although those of us concerned about consumers rights are going to do our best to see that one is adopted quickly. At the very least, I believe, a person whose credit card information has been stolen or otherwise compromised has a right to swift and accurate notice from the issuing company or bank. For consumers fast notice of such a breach is the first, and sometimes, the only defense they have.

As member of the House Committee on Financial Services and of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, I am very much aware of the many credit information breaches that have occurred recently and over many months before. So many incidents like this have taken place, that I hope that this finally will spur the Congress to enact legislation to curb these frauds and protect consumers in the future.

While huge in numbers, the breach disclosed at CardSystems Solutions Inc. in California was not the first such attack on a card processor. In 2003, a Nebraska company called Data Processors International Inc., part of TransFirst Holdings Inc. had a similar breach and as many as 8 million account numbers were vulnerable. Earlier this month, Citigroup Inc. said UPS lost computer tapes with sensitive information from 3.9 million customers of CitiFinancial, which provides loans. Other companies, including Bank of America Corp., DSW Shoe Warehouse and BJ's Wholesale Club Inc., and CVS Drug Stores have also suffered extensive data theft.

While banks and credit card companies may have tighten their own security, they obviously have failed to force payment processors to meet similar high standards. Companies such as J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc., American Express Co. and MBNA Corp. said that they were not automatically alerting their customers that their information may have been exposed, but that they were "more closely monitoring the accounts" that may have been affected.

That simply is not good enough.

What happened in California has placed a needed spotlight on a little known, but highly sensitive part of the financial services industry; the hundreds of companies that process transactions between merchants and card issuers.

Edmund Mierzwinski, consumer program director at U.S. Public Interest Research Group, says that in his opinion "information travels through the credit system and stops in so many places where it could be illegally used

that consumers have no idea what a hodgepodge of a system the credit card companies have created." He pointed out that the system is mainly designed to extract fees from consumers and businesses, "but very little of it is designed for security."

Even though many states are following California and adopting new laws, we in Congress should not drag our feet on this national issue anymore. We need federal protection for our people, at the very least, consumers have the right to know quickly when their private information is compromised.

In my view, here are the basic elements any protective legislation should include:

(1) Immediate notice of a breach by the card issuer to the card holder.

(2) A reasonable definition of when a "breach" occurs.

(3) Imposition of liability on third party card processors when at fault.

(4) A simple method of immediate assistance by the card issuer to the affected card holder to correct the problem as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am assured that the CARD Act will be an important consumer law with teeth to rectify and strengthen consumer credit rights. I hope that this legislation will lessen the injurious liability that many of them face with no compassion from credit card companies, corporations, or the credit rating agencies, due to no fault of their own. I sincerely hope that the financial services industry will not oppose reasonable legislation to correct what is a very real and expanding national problem affecting millions of Americans.

I know some in the industry are saying that the cost of such notification is too great. But that statement flies in the face of the numbers. The Wall Street Journal reports that the nation's largest banks profit each year by more than \$20 billion in transaction fees they charge merchants on every credit card purchase made through MasterCard International Inc. or Visa USA Inc.

Surely some of that huge profit can be used for better and greater credit card security.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on the occasion of his First Anniversary in office. He was elected to a second presidential term last year.

For more than 50 years, Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a close relationship with each other economically and politically. Taiwan is our 8th largest trading partner and we are Taiwan's largest trading partner. We look forward to continuing this mutually beneficial relationship. Further, we are committed to the Taiwan Relations Act and believe in a peaceful resolution to the Taiwan issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that in recent days, Taiwan's two major opposition leaders visited China and were well received by Chinese leaders. I am pleased to see that

Taiwan President Chen has been deft in his handling of the current cross-strait relations. Continued peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is in every nation's best interest.

I join many of my colleagues in thanking Taiwan President Chen and his people for their total support of the United States, especially in the area of combating global terrorism. In the wake of 9/11, the government of Taiwan gave a million dollars to the Twin Towers Fund of New York. Two months ago, Taiwan gave another million dollars to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. To help fight terrorism, Taiwan has joined the United States and other international organizations through participation in anti-money laundering campaigns, the proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and the Container Security Initiative (CSI). Taiwan Representative David Tawei Lee said it well, "Only by standing together will we succeed in making the world a safer place."

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan Representative David Tawei Lee came to Washington, DC, last July, and since then he has made many friends on the Hill. We are very impressed with his intelligence and industry. Taiwan couldn't find a better diplomat than Dr. David Tawei Lee in representing Taiwan's interest in the United States.

I wish to express my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their President's First Anniversary in office. I hope that high ranking officials from Taiwan, such as President of Taiwan, the Foreign Minister, and the Defense Minister will be able to come to Washington, DC, to communicate directly with members and administration officials on issues of mutual concern.

TRIBUTE TO DON BARBER

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Barber of Memphis, Tennessee who recently retired as Senior Vice President of Air Operations at FedEx Corporation. Don has had an extraordinary career with a remarkable company. Beginning in 1976 as an aircraft mechanic, his career trajectory tracked the success of FedEx Corporation. For 29 years, Don rose through the ranks of the company. He was promoted from mechanic to Managing Director of Engineering in 1982, to Managing Director of Power Plants in 1988, to Managing Director of Airframe Maintenance in 1989, to Vice President of Base Maintenance in 1992 and finally to Senior Vice President of Air Operations in 1998.

Frederick W. Smith, FedEx Corporation's founder, Chairman and CEO put it best when he said, "Don's retirement marks the end of a career that exemplifies FedEx in so many ways, namely that there's little time for the status quo in a company moving at the pace of opportunity around the world."

Don also received accolades from former Federal Aviation Administrator Jane Garvey for his vision and drive and has been praised by his colleagues for his pivotal roles in the company's most important turning points such as the acquisition of Flying Tiger line and the purchase of the A380 Airbus, the world's largest commercial airplane.

FedEx Corporation is an organization known for its effective use of technology, aircraft, efficiency and commitment to customer service, however it is the company's people—individuals like Don Barber—who have made the company a success story that is known throughout the world. Mr. Speaker I ask that an article on Mr. Barber be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his service to our community.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commemorate 40 years of Medicare. This birthday represents 40 years of dignity for the elderly and individuals with disabilities who depend on this program for their health care. No one in this great Nation should have to suffer because of lack of medical care or become impoverished due to the high costs of that care. On July 30, 1965, Medicare and Medicaid were enacted as part of the Social Security Act to take care of our most vulnerable and needy citizens. On that historic day, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a law that gave millions of Americans the ability to seek treatment from doctors and in hospitals without fear of destitution.

Today, Medicare provides health insurance security for nearly 42 million Americans, including more than 35 million senior citizens and 6 million individuals with disabilities under the age of 65. Over the past 40 years, 105 million Americans have enjoyed better health and received higher quality care as a result of Medicare.

Who depends on Medicare today? The men and women who served our Nation in time of war; widows and widowers; those Americans who have worked a lifetime to build this Nation and who now live in retirement; the former police officers and fire fighters, nurses, doctors, teachers, lawyers, and small business owners who were the backbone of our communities; our aging parents and grandparents, and in some instances, their disabled children. Medicare is a program that touches all of us.

Medicare is not just another health insurance program, but one of the leading insurers in our Nation. Private health plans have modeled their benefits after Medicare, from quality requirements to payments and reimbursements, to standards for certification. The Medicare program has not only greatly improved the quality and safety of health care for all Americans, but it has proven to be a remarkably efficient program, with administrative costs less than those in private plans.

Last year Congress added prescription drug coverage to round out the services provided by Medicare. Coverage of prescription medications was clearly a needed addition. I believe, however, that the design of the new program may keep beneficiaries from getting what they need. I have deep concerns over the unnecessary complexities of this law and whether it will truly provide affordable access to prescription drugs. I also appreciate that we must update Medicare to meet the changing landscape of health care, but not at the expense

of those who depend upon it. I plan to continue to work hard to ensure that the Medicare program continues to provide Americans with the health care they both need and deserve.

On a personal note, this 40th anniversary makes me think of my dad, John Dingell, Sr., who fought throughout his 22 years in Congress for health programs that helped those with the greatest needs. He fought long and hard to enact the Social Security program, which he sponsored and which made such a difference to Americans who are retired or disabled. He also helped plant the seeds of compassion in Congress that eventually led to the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid. Were he here today, I know he would take up the battle to preserve and improve Medicare—a program that has served so many and improved the health of the Nation—as well as Medicaid, which serves those whose voices are rarely heard in the halls of power.

H. CON. RES. 216: COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 216, a resolution commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which was signed into law on August 6, 1965.

Forty years ago, in many parts of the American South, it was almost impossible for people of color to register to vote. African Americans had to pay a poll tax and pass a so-called literacy test in some States in the South. There were black men and women who were professors in colleges and universities, black lawyers and black doctors who were told that they could not read or write well enough to register to vote. People were turned away from the courthouse when they attempted to register. Some were jailed.

The turning point came 40 years ago, on March 7, 1965, when about 600 men and women, and a few young children attempted to peacefully march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, the State Capitol, to dramatize to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. And the world watched as they were met with night sticks, bull whips; they were trampled by horses, and tear gassed. One of the historic marchers is now a member of Congress, our colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS.

In the wake of what is now known as Bloody Sunday, under the leadership of President Johnson, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and on August 6, 1965, it was signed into law. This was a nonviolent revolution in America, a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas. The passage of the Voting Rights Act helped expand our democracy to let in millions of our citizens. We are a better country because of it.

Before we move toward reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, we must take notice of

how far we have come and where we now stand, so that we can move together to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act. Today many, including elderly adults, persons with disabilities, and people of color, continue to fight for the right to have their vote count while our nation's election system has yet to catch up and meet the needs of all of America's voters.

Today, we remember the people who fought to expand democracy 40 years ago. But we must do more than just remember; we must use their example to continue the struggle today until the dreams of those who fought for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 become a reality for all Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DR.
MARVIN J. BENTLEY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rev. Dr. Marvin J. Bentley, a model community leader.

Rev. Bentley was born in Brooklyn, New York. He received his basic religious training at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, and under the tutelage of the late Dr. Sandy F. Ray was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Bentley was educated within the New York City public school system; he attained his Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Stonybrook, majoring in health science and social welfare. He obtained his seminary education at Union Theological Seminary, NYC, securing a Master in Divinity Degree. Drew University, Madison, NJ conferred his Doctor of Ministry Degree upon him, and he recently received an Associates Degree from Nassau Community College, L.I., N.Y., in Applied Sciences (Mortuary Science).

Dr. Bentley was ordained at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York, where he served as the Assistant Minister under the mentorship of Dr. Samuel D. Proctor, and Dr. Calvin Butts III.

Dr. Bentley is active in many civic and community activities. He serves on numerous boards and committees and is the former president of American Baptist Churches of Metro New York. He is a former Naval Chaplain in the United States Naval Reserves. He has served as President and Vice-President of Community School Board 30, former member of Community Board 3, and past president of the Corona-East Elmhurst Clergy Association. Dr. Bentley has received many civic and religious awards and honors.

As pastor, Dr. Bentley has been serving the Antioch Baptist Church of Corona for 24 years, enjoying a blessed ministry. During his tenure at the church, it has relocated into a beautiful, gothic style new church home on the corner of Northern Blvd and 103rd in Corona, Queens, New York. It has grown to numerous ministries that include male and female

“Rights of Passage” ministries (GEM and GAAYAW), The Antioch Bible Institute, Christian Bookstore, Video Ministry, Credit Union and Athletic Ministry.

In addition to the aforementioned ministries, under Pastor Bentley's leadership, the Antioch Baptist Church of Corona has embarked upon a ministry to liquidate the credit card debt of their congregation. This ministry has caused the congregation to take a look at their finances, spending, and saving habits.

HONORING JOHN GURSKI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of John Gurski. John was an outstanding father, teacher, and football coach who touched countless lives throughout his impressive career.

Coach Gurski began his career as a teacher and coach in the fall of 1964. He immediately established himself as one of the most well-liked and dedicated faculty members. During his first season coaching the football team, Coach Gurski took great interest in instilling drive, dedication, and spirit in the athletes he coached. Coach Gurski was often known to get on the football field with his team to teach the players particular tackling and blocking techniques. He was never afraid to get his hands dirty and be directly involved with his players and the coaching process. The football team took to his style of coaching and his personality immediately. They saw him not only as a great coach who could push them beyond their limits, but also as a dignified role model on which to base their own lives.

Coach Gurski had an impressive career at Wilson High School in Reading, Pennsylvania. He holds the Wilson High School coaching career record of 151–44–4 and a lifetime career record of 198–57–6. It is particularly impressive to note Coach Gurski's dedication to the sport of football and to touching the lives of students and athletes. He gave up a promising business career after graduating from the prestigious Wharton School of Business to coach football and he made an indelible impression on his athletes throughout his many years at Wilson High School.

The Wilson School District honored Coach Gurski on October 21, 1998, when the Wilson School Board of Education unanimously voted to rename its stadium the “John Gurski Stadium.” It was also decided that a monument would be erected inside the stadium in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Coach Gurski's leadership and coaching ability that positively shaped the lives of hundreds of young men that came through the Wilson High School. Unfortunately, Coach Gurski passed away on February 28, 2005. Nonetheless, his spirit and influence will be felt for generations to come.