two stints as Chairman, for a total of six and one-half years as Chairman, which is the longest total amount of service as Chairman of the Erie County Legislature.

There is one other aspect of Chuck Swanick's life that I cannot fail to mention—and that is his family. Chuck's wife Shelly may well be the most patient and understanding spouse of an elected official in the United States, given Chuck's seemingly non-stop campaign schedule. Chuck is also the father of two children, Maverick and Charlie.

Chuck Swanick's record in the Erie County Legislature is an impressive one. Chuck was the author of dozens of local laws and thousands of legislative resolutions. As a member of the Legislature, Chuck served with four county executives, six legislative chairs (excluding himself), ten majority leaders and eleven minority leaders (excluding himself). Over the Legislature's thirty-seven year history, one hundred and three people have served as members of the Erie County Legislature; at one time or another, Chuck Swanick served with 57 of those people.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, there will be a lot of things said about Chuck Swanick and about his 26 years of service in the Erie County Legislature. To me, Mr. Speaker, I will always remember the sincere concern that Chuck had for his constituents, and the earnestness with which he served those constituents. Chuck's legacy of twenty-six years of service will mark an important chapter in the history of county government, and I am proud to honor his service today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MERCER COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Mercer County Head Start Program. This week the program, created in 1965, celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Over the past 40 years this non-profit organization has been committed to improving the lives of low-income families and their children. The organization brings together parents, staff and administrators to enhance the future for children and families.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary there will be a ceremony held on October 24, 2005 in Farrell, Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 40th anniversary of the Mercer County Head Start program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Mercer County Head Start.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL, JR. FOR FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of our friend and colleague the distinguished Honorable JOHN DINGELL, Jr. for his fifty years of service to the people of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan and our nation, in the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman DINGELL's unwavering integrity, strong work ethic, and commitment to the service of others have made him a highly respected and distinguished member of the House. His tenure on Capitol Hill is marked by several achievements including developing legislation to protect our nation's health, environment, and wildlife, pursuing justice for participants in corporate corruption, and working diligently to protect Federal road funds for his home State of Michigan.

Congressman DINGELL was born on July 8, 1926, to the distinguished Congressman John Dingell, Sr., who represented the very same 15th district of Michigan Congressman DINGELL represents today. At the age of 18, John joined the U.S. Army and later rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He finished his military service in the fall of 1946, and then attended Georgetown University where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He then continued his studies at Georgetown Law School, graduating in 1952. Congressman DINGELL then worked as a forest ranger and a prosecuting attorney before he began running his own private law office. In 1955, Congressman DINGELL's father passed away while he was still a Member of the House of Representatives. Congressman DINGELL stepped in to fill his father's position, beginning his career on Capitol Hill at the age of 29.

As anyone who has spent some time on Capitol Hill during the past fifty years already knows, Congressman DINGELL has been a leader of not only the Democratic voice in the House, but has been a beacon of light guiding his fellow Members from both sides of the aisle to strive for what is just and in the best interest of the citizens of this nation. During my tenure in Congress we have worked on several bills together and from these experiences, I have learned that Congressman DINGELL is a man that leads by example and is always a champion of causes that help those who embody the heart and soul of this nation, the working class.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the most distinguished Honorable JOHN DINGELL, Jr., for his fifty-year commitment to serving this nation and improving the lives of Americans all across the country.

H. RES. 220, RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of America's Blood Centers and especially the center in the 16th District of Texas, which I represent.

For more than a half a century, United Blood Services of El Paso and Southern New Mexico has been serving our community as the sole source of blood supplies for blood transfusions and trauma surgeries. The United Blood Services has a staff of over 90 handling more than 30,000 donations a year.

When a fire destroyed our local United Blood Services facilities in 2003, there was a serious shortage of blood supply not only for my district, but also for the Southern New Mexico region. The fire destroyed close to 500 units of blood.

Fortunately, an emergency blood drive was quickly organized to obtain enough supply to serve those in need without having to rely on surrounding areas. I applaud not only the efforts of the center, but also those of my constituents who came out to donate during the time of critical need. The incident was incredibly unfortunate, but it did remind us all of what our blood center means to El Paso, and what the community means to the blood center.

Mr. Speaker, with the life-saving services that the center in my district and those around the country provide, it is only appropriate to recognize the important work of America's Blood Centers today. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthwhile resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2005, I was unable to vote on Agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006 (rollcall vote No. 569). Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY BURFORD

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have known Dorothy Burford for over 25 years, and I loved her drive and spunk from the very first moment I met her. Although life left her blind and deaf in recent years, she never lost that spunk. I have never known anyone with such energy and enthusiasm for life. I certainly do not know anyone who lived a fuller life than Dorothy. She was an active political mind and