

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF TED SMITH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ted Smith, a life-long resident of Chautauqua County and a truly remarkable man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED SMITH

(By Manley J. Anderson)

Two well-known local public figures have shared their thoughts about R. Theodore "Ted" Smith who was an integral part of their lives for several years. Those paying remembrance and tribute to their late, long-time colleague are Joseph Gerace Sr., New York State Supreme Court Justice now serving as a judicial hearing officer; and Dr. Gregory T. DeCinque, Jamestown Community College president speaking for the area's academic community.

Gerace said he and Smith campaigned together years ago for the Chautauqua County Legislature, representing the Busti/North Harmony area. "Ted in just about every respect was one of the most outstanding people I've ever met," the jurist said. "He was the kind of public official we wish we had in all positions: honest, straightforward and caring about the community."

"He was Mr. Environment," Gerace said, "and I feel we may still be waiting for the sewer districts except for Ted Smith, who also was known as Mr. Integrity. We campaigned together for the Chautauqua County Legislature, knocking on doors, and Ted took on a county-wide assignment with the landfill, closing open dumps and developing a solid waste plan that was the envy of the area and so effective the private sector wanted to buy it."

The jurist closed with, "He was an all-around guy with a great sense of humor. He was truly the Mark Twain of our era and he always used humor to make the best of a situation." "It is with deep sadness that I share with you that Ted Smith passed away late yesterday (Thursday) at Hamot Medical Center as the result of a heart attack he suffered Sunday evening," DeCinque said.

"Ted was among the early faculty who established JCC as the premiere community college in New York," he said. "Whether as a faculty member, founding dean of the Cattaraugus County Campus, dean of academic affairs, or retiree, Ted's contributions to JCC are legend."

DeCinque continued with, "Ted led JCC through the development phase of many academic programs as well as the growth of our Cattaraugus County Campus, our outreach into Pennsylvania, and our Dunkirk center."

The academician pointed out, "Ted was recognized with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1975 and the JCC Foundation's John D. Hamilton Award in 2001. He is among the select few to receive these highest honors associated with the college."

DeCinque went on with, "Ted was highly regarded throughout the state both as an educator and a political leader. His service on the Chautauqua County Legislature led to

many improvements within the county, and I know he will be remembered as one of the best legislators we have had in Chautauqua County."

He continued with, "Following Ted's retirement, he returned to the classroom and continued his love affair with teaching. I had the privilege of participating in many of Ted's Student Success Seminars where I witnessed the relationship he was able to develop with students. In addition to teaching in his retirement, Ted carries out a number of research assignments for us that resulted in establishment of several of our newest academic programs including professional piloting, occupational therapy, and dental hygiene."

DeCinque said, "On a personal note, Ted was always there to provide me with insight and wisdom, and he often would send me short notes from Busti or Florida that were always on target and helpful. I will miss that guidance." The college leader said, "JCC and our larger community have lost a dear friend and colleague, and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Pat and the entire Smith family." He closed with, "Information on services for Ted will be shared with you as it becomes available."

Ted was a man who fully understood how to live to its fullest and that, Mr. Speaker, is why I rise to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF CPT SANDOR L. GORDON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the death of CPT Sandor Lebron Gordon in a tragic car accident on Sunday, November 27, 2005, our State lost a true South Carolina hero.

Captain Gordon led a selfless life, demonstrated by his commitment to his family and his country. The son of Reverend and Mrs. Sammie L. Gordon of Orangeburg, SC, Gordon grew up in a home where love, hard work and concern for others were cherished and honored. It was these characteristics that made him successful in life.

As a husband, his wife and college sweetheart, the former Angela Nicole Strong called him her "very best friend." His son James praised his father for the love and concern he gave him and his little brother Simeon. My son Alan and the men of the 3d of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion who served with Captain Gordon in Iraq said of him "Sandor always had a smile to share, an ear to listen, and a hand to shake. He was a selfless humanitarian who volunteered to leave the safety of his base to take school supplies, clothes, food and water to the neediest Iraqi children living nearby."

Captain Gordon was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, the NAACP, and was voted "Top 20 under 40 Midlands Successful Businessmen" for the year 2005. A

respected small businessman, Captain Gordon made the financial sacrifice to answer his Nation's call to duty in December 2003, and upon returning from Iraq a year later was awarded the prestigious Bronze Star Medal.

His family, friends, and the Iraqi children he lovingly helped will remember Captain Gordon for his selfless dedication to them, our country, and a free Iraq. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.

The Wilson family extends its deepest sympathy to the Gordon family.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA: WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 7, I chaired a hearing on the current human rights situation in Burma, and what the U.S. and the international community can and must do to improve that situation.

After 40 years of brutal military dictatorships, the human rights situation in Burma is frightening. That nation's current military junta, in power for over 17 years, is an abysmal failure on every conceivable level.

It has ruined a beautiful and naturally rich land. According to the State Department's most recent Human Rights Country Report:

More than 4 decades of economic mismanagement and endemic corruption have resulted in widespread poverty, poor health care, declining education levels, poor infrastructure, and continuously deteriorating economic conditions. During the year, poor economic policymaking, lingering consequences of the 2003 private banking sector collapse, and the economic consequences of international sanctions further weakened the economy. The estimated annual per capita income was approximately \$225. Most of the population of more than 50 million live in rural areas at subsistence levels.

The Heritage Foundation ranked Iran and North Korea as the only countries with more restrictive economies than that of Burma.

But economic misery is probably the least of the problems faced by Burma's long-suffering people.

Citizens still did not have the right to criticize or change their government . . . Security forces continued to carry out extrajudicial killings. Disappearances continued, and security forces raped, tortured, beat, and otherwise abused prisoners and detainees. Citizens were subjected to arbitrary arrest without appeal.—2004 STATE DEPARTMENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.

There are more than 1,100 political prisoners in Burma, who are abused and tortured. Seven are reported to have died in custody last year, and just last month a 38-year-old democratic activist died in custody due to inadequate medical attention.

• 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.

Over 15 years ago the National League for Democracy, led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic forces, won an overwhelming victory in free elections, 82 percent. The junta refused to accept the results or to call Parliament into session. Instead it imprisoned many activists, including Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 years under house arrest. Her current house arrest is tantamount to solitary confinement. She has been cruelly kept away from her children, and her husband, who died abroad. For 15 years the junta has cynically proclaimed its intention to draft a new constitution via a national convention, with no participation by the people's democratic representatives. That national convention has again been adjourned, with no constitution, and no freedom, in sight.

Since 1999, the U.S. Secretary of State has designated Burma as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act for particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

According to the U.S. Department of State, Burma continues to be a Tier 3 Country for human trafficking, and "the junta's policy of using forced labor is a driving factor behind Burma's large trafficking problem." The ILO has condemned Burma's use of forced labor, and the ILO representative in Burma has received death threats. Burma has threatened to quit the ILO. Burma regularly prosecutes those who complain about forced labor. Last October, Burma sentenced a 34-year-old woman to 20 months in prison for "criminal intimidation" of local officials. Her offense? She had the temerity to initiate the first successful prosecution for use of forced labor in Burma. She had lodged a complaint in 2004 against local government officials over their use of forced labor on a road construction project. She exercised her right to do this under new regulations introduced by the government to appease the International Labor Organization, ILO. She is now in prison, and her appeal was summarily denied.

Burma is high on the list of uncooperative drug-producing or transiting countries, and there is evidence of military and government involvement in the narcotics traffic. Burma produces about 80 percent of Southeast Asia's heroin, and is one of the largest producers of methamphetamines in the world. It exports its illicit narcotics throughout China and Southeast and Central Asia.

And as Burma's heroin circulates through Asia, so does HIV/AIDS, which Burma refuses to take seriously as a domestic problem, although the U.N. estimated in 1999 that over half a million adults had HIV. According to one estimate, Burma spent only \$22,000 in 2004 to help AIDS victims. In 2005, the regime tightened restrictions on NGOs and U.N. agency staff providing humanitarian assistance in Burma. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced in August that it was terminating its \$98 million program on the ground that "its grants to the country cannot be managed in a way that ensures effective program implementation." The French contingent of medical aid group Medecin Sans Frontieres reportedly plans to withdraw from Burma because of restrictions imposed on access to villagers.

The military's self-justification for its decades of arbitrary rule is to protect Burma from "instability." Yet for 40 years it has waged endless war on the nation's ethnic minorities,

killing tens of thousands, driving hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of others into exile as refugees or within Burma as displaced persons. It has destroyed over 2,500 villages, and uses rape as an instrument of policy. And to wage these wars, it has resorted to conscription of children: more than 70,000 child soldiers may be serving, in horrible circumstances, in Burma's bloated army.

The U.N. Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Sergio Pinheiro, has not been allowed into Burma for 2 years. In January 2006, U.N. Special Envoy to Burma Razali Ismail resigned his post after nearly 5 years, since the junta has not allowed him into the country for 2 years.

With such a record, it is no wonder that the U.S. has a wide array of sanctions in place against Burma, many of which must be renewed this year. And many wonder, can any progress be made? Yet in the midst of so much darkness, there has been light this year.

In September 2005, Nobel Laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Czech President Vaclav Havel released a major report documenting Burma's human rights problems as a threat to regional peace and security.

In December, with the strong support of the United States, U.N. Undersecretary for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari, in the unusual but significant presence of Secretary General Kofi Annan, personally gave the Security Council its first-ever briefing on the situation in Burma, a possible first step towards tougher international action. He went on record that the Burmese junta imprisons dissidents, ignores basic human rights, and is steering the country "towards a humanitarian crisis."

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, which Burma joined in 1997, has finally moved from a posture of "constructive engagement," without sanctions or diplomatic pressure, to a more proactive approach to promote change.

But most of all, we owe this progress to this administration. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, and even more importantly, President George Bush, have been relentless in making the world face up to the appalling disaster in Burma. We have just begun, and we have a long way to go, but we in Congress are determined to support these efforts to bring peace and freedom to the heroic Burmese people, who, in the face of so much persecution and suffering, still persist in their resolute struggle for justice.

The next logical step to take is for the U.S., which is currently President of the Security Council, to introduce a Security Council Resolution calling on Burma, in the strongest possible terms: to release Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners; implement a program for national reconciliation that includes the National League for Democracy; and grant immediate and unhindered access to all parts of Burma for U.N. relief agencies and other international humanitarian organizations.

Such a resolution should include a timeline for compliance and punitive sanctions if the SPDC fails to comply.

We heard testimony from Assistant Secretary of State Barry Lowenkron, of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. It was Mr. Lowenkron's first time before this House, and we look forward to a very fruitful collaboration on the vital issues he promotes.

His Bureau has kept attention focused on Burma when most have forgotten it. We also heard testimony from Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who is the chief executor of our President's policy to change Burma. Additional witnesses included: Mr. Bo Kyi, of the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners, a former political prisoner himself, who described his own torments, and the ongoing struggles of democracy activists in Burma and in exile; Naw Win Yee, a leading member of the Shan Women's Action Network, an organization comprised of refugee women living in Thailand that works for human rights, freedom and democracy in Burma and also works to elevate the roles of women in Burmese politics and society. SWAN produced a ground breaking report on the military regime's use of rape as a weapon of war in Burma that was subsequently corroborated by the U.S. State Department; Mr. Tom Malinowski, the Washington Advocacy Director for Human Rights Watch, who urged the U.S. to keep the pressure on the Burmese regime; and Ms. Anastasia Brown, the Director of Refugee Programs, Migration and Refugee Services for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, who had just returned from a visit to the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand, and made an urgent and eloquent plea for quick action to resolve the problems of the resettlement of Burmese refugees. All the witnesses provided strong confirmation that Congress needs to stay closely involved in the ongoing human rights tragedy in Burma.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF ELI
SEGAL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Eli Segal. I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife of 40 years, Phyllis, his brother, Alan, and his children, Mora and Jonathan. We have lost a tremendous political mind, tireless social advocate, a loving husband and father, and a selfless friend who, as President and Senator CLINTON said, "lived his life as a man for others."

Eli was born in Brooklyn in 1942, headed to Massachusetts for undergraduate work at Brandeis University, and graduated from the University of Michigan's law school in 1967, making an impact at each stop along the way. Washington, DC, though, is where Eli's footprint is most clearly visible.

Eli's work as a campaign strategist is well documented, from his time on the late Eugene McCarthy's staff in 1968 through his work for General Wesley Clark during the 2004 election. It was during George McGovern's campaign, though, that Eli hired a young man named William Clinton to run the campaign's Texas operations, and I am extraordinarily thankful that Eli made that decision. If not for that particular hire, I probably would not have had the chance to work so closely with Eli during the Clinton administration, and I would not be fortunate enough to count myself as one of the thousands of people whose lives were touched by Eli. Then again, if President Clinton had not hired Eli to help run his campaign

in 1992, it is entirely possible that none of us would have worked in the White House anyway.

Following his work on the campaign trail for President Clinton, Eli became an incredible asset to the administration, creating the AmeriCorps program and heading the Welfare to Work Partnership. These and other accomplishments are why he received the Presidential Citizens Medal for service to the Nation in 2000 and the respect of his peers long before then.

It was during this time that I came to know Eli well. The common bond of working together in the White House was obviously a contributing factor, but Eli and I became friends not because of circumstances, but because of character. He truly was an incredible person, and I consider myself to be privileged to have worked with him in the Clinton Administration. I consider it to be an even greater honor that we continued to be friends after our time in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who knew Eli Segal will always remember his warmth, compassion, and insight. Eli was taken from us too early, and we surely will miss him, but we were fortunate to have him in our lives while we did. Neither he nor his impact will be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO EAST GARY MEMORIAL AMERICAN LEGION POST 100

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I wish to congratulate the members of the East Gary Memorial American Legion Post #100 as they celebrate their 75th Diamond Jubilee Birthday. To commemorate this special occasion, Post #100 will be having an anniversary dinner on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at the Post #100 American Legion Hall in Lake Station, Indiana.

The East Gary Memorial American Legion Post #100 was chartered in 1931. Since its inception, the members of Post #100 have dedicated themselves to the mission of serving veterans and the community. Post #100 members go above and beyond to serve veterans, as evidenced by their continued work with the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette, Indiana; the Knightstown Soldiers and Sailors Home in Knightstown, Indiana; and the Hines VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois, where they provide visitation and assistance to veterans in need. In addition, Post #100 has always been very active in various POW/MIA programs. Post #100 has also taken an active role in promoting local public service by sponsoring a law enforcement officer/firefighter/EMT competition, of which present Commander John Wrolen serves as District Chairman and State Co-Chairman.

Currently, Post #100 and its members also support the following youth programs: American Legion Baseball, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, the Special Olympics, and several programs that focus on patriotism and American government. In particular, they are active in Hoosier Boys' and Girls' State, a program that aims to educate high school jun-

iors on the structure of American government and its processes. Post #100 also provides flag etiquette classes for grade-school children and sponsors the Americanism in Government program, as well as oratorical programs. These competitions test the knowledge and public speaking abilities of tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students, allowing the winners to advance to compete at district, State, regional, and national levels.

Throughout the past 75 years, American Legion Post #100 has installed 37 commanders, 4 of which have gone on to serve as first district commanders. These men are: Ralph Beckett (1934), Jay Hott (1968), Hank Cook (1992), and John Wrolen (2001). At their 75th anniversary celebration, Post #100 will honor all living past commanders for their service. They are: Robert Pifferitti, Albert Kinsey, Alfred Hanson, Jr., Robert Wilson, John Wrolen, Terry Szostek, Richard Davies, Ronald Blaney, and Evin Eakins. All of these past commanders and district commanders should be honored for their service and dedication to veterans and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the members of the East Gary Memorial American Legion Post #100 on the 75th anniversary of their noble organization. These giving and selfless individuals continue to dedicate their time and unrelenting efforts to serve local veterans and their community. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA CARPENTER, EDEN'S "YOUTH OF THE YEAR"

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joshua Carpenter, a young man who was named town of Eden 2006 "Youth of the Year."

Josh has demonstrated leadership and outstanding service to his school, community, and at the Boys and Girls Club of Eden in particular. Joshua became an active member of the Boys and Girls Club the year of its inception in 2002. He and his peers benefited from the experiences they shared at the club; therefore, Joshua decided that he would like to work at the Boys and Girls Club to share these experiences with other young members. He brings energy and enthusiasm to each activity and acts as a mentor for others.

In addition to the work he does with the Boys and Girls Club, Carpenter is actively involved in the community where he lives. He participates in the ICC Church Youth group and volunteers at the PTA-sponsored festivals as well as at family events that are held at the school.

Joshua is an outstanding Eden High School senior. He has a keen interest in learning about other cultures and expands his awareness through his participation in the Model United Nations Club. He was named to the National Honor Society during his junior year and remains active in several NHS-sponsored programs. Additionally, Josh is a leading member of the tennis team.

I am proud to honor Joshua Carpenter today, an outstanding young man and an

emerging leader in the community. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to highlight the achievements of Joshua Carpenter and I am pleased to join with members of the community to congratulate him on being named the 2006 "Youth of the Year." I wish him continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF ELLA BRIDGES STEGMAIER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Paige and Christian Stegmaier of Chapin, SC, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Ella Bridges Stegmaier was born on February 16, 2006, at 3:10 p.m., weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces and measuring 20 inches. Ella 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.

THE INTERNET IN CHINA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing on the Internet in China regarding an issue that is deeply troubling to me, and I believe, to the American people: that American technology and know-how is substantially enabling repressive regimes in China and elsewhere in the world to cruelly exploit and abuse their own citizens.

Over the years, I have held 25 hearings on human rights abuses in China, and while China's economy has improved somewhat, the human rights situation remains abysmal. So-called economic reform has utterly failed to result in the protection of freedom of speech, expression, or assembly. The Laogai system of forced labor camps is still full with an estimated 6 million people; the Chinese government permits a horrifying trade in human organs; the PRC's draconian one-child-per-couple policy has made brothers and sisters illegal and coerced abortion commonplace; and political and religious dissidents are systematically persecuted and tortured.

Similarly, while the Internet has opened up commercial opportunities and provided access to vast amounts of information for people the world over, the Internet has also become a malicious tool: a cyber sledgehammer of repression of the government of China. As soon as the promise of the Internet began to be fulfilled—when brave Chinese began to e-mail each other and others about human rights issues and corruption by government leaders—the Party cracked down. To date, an estimated 49 cyber-dissidents and 32 journalists have been imprisoned by the PRC for merely posting information on the Internet critical of the regime. And that's likely to be only the tip of the iceberg.

Tragically, history shows us that American companies and their subsidiaries have provided the technology to crush human rights in

the past. Edwin Black's book *IBM and the Holocaust* reveals the dark story of IBM's strategic alliance with Nazi Germany. Thanks to IBM's enabling technologies, from programs for identification and cataloging to the use of IBM's punch card technology, Hitler and the Third Reich were able to automate the genocide of the Jews.

U.S. technology companies today are engaged in a similar sickening collaboration, decapitating the voice of the dissidents. In 2005, Yahoo's cooperation with Chinese secret police led to the imprisonment of the cyber-dissident Shi Tao. And this was not the first time. According to *Reporters Without Borders*, Yahoo also handed over data to Chinese authorities on another of its users, Li Zhi. Li Zhi was sentenced on December 10, 2003 to eight years in prison for "inciting subversion." His "crime" was to criticize in online discussion groups and articles the well-known corruption of local officials.

Women and men are going to the gulag and being tortured as a direct result of information handed over to Chinese officials. When Yahoo was asked to explain its actions, Yahoo said that it must adhere to local laws in all countries where it operates. But my response to that is: if the secret police a half century ago asked where Anne Frank was hiding, would the correct answer be to hand over the information in order to comply with local laws? These are not victimless crimes. We must stand with the oppressed, not the oppressors.

I was recently on a news show talking about Google and China. The question was asked, "Should it be business' concern to promote democracy in foreign nations?" That's not necessarily the right question. The more appropriate question today is, "Should business enable the continuation of repressive dictatorships by partnering with a corrupt and cruel secret police and by cooperating with laws that violate basic human rights?"

I believe that two of the most essential pillars that prop up totalitarian regimes are the secret police and propaganda. Yet for the sake of market share and profits, leading U.S. companies like Google, Yahoo, Cisco and Microsoft have compromised both the integrity of their product and their duties as responsible corporate citizens. They have aided and abetted the Chinese regime to prop up both of these pillars, propagating the message of the dictatorship unabated and supporting the secret police in a myriad of ways, including surveillance and invasion of privacy, in order to effectuate the massive crackdown on its citizens.

Through an approach that monitors, filters, and blocks content with the use of technology and human monitors, the Chinese people have little access to uncensored information about any political or human rights topic, unless of course, Big Brother wants them to see it. Google.cn, China's search engine, is guaranteed to take you to the virtual land of deceit, disinformation and the big lie. As such, the Chinese government utilizes the technology of U.S. IT companies combined with human censors—led by an estimated force of 30,000 cyber police—to control information in China. Web sites that provide the Chinese people news about their country and the world, such as BBC, much of CNN, as well as Voice of America and Radio Free Asia, are regularly blocked in China. In addition, when a user enters a forbidden word, such as "democracy,"

"China torture" or "Falun Gong," the search results are blocked, or you are redirected to a misleading site, and the user's computer can be frozen for unspecified periods of time.

Cisco has provided the Chinese government with the technology necessary to filter Internet content through its creation of Policenet, one of the tools the regime uses to control the Internet. Cisco holds 60 percent of the Chinese market for routers, switches, and other sophisticated networking gear, and its estimated revenue from China, according to Derek Bambauer of Legal Affairs, is estimated to be \$500 million annually. Yet Cisco has also done little creative thinking to try to minimize the likelihood that its products will be used repressively, such as limiting eavesdropping abilities to specific computer addresses.

Similarly, Google censors what are euphemistically called "politically sensitive" terms, such as "democracy," "China human rights," "China torture" and the like on its new Chinese search site, Google.cn. Let's take a look at what this means in practice. A search for terms such as "Tiananmen Square" produces two very different results. The one from Google.cn shows a picture of a smiling couple, but the results from Google.com show scores of photos depicting the mayhem and brutality of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Another example: let's look at "China and torture." Google has said that some information is better than nothing. But in this case, the limited information displayed amounts to disinformation. A half truth is not the truth—it is a lie. And a lie is worse than nothing. It is hard not to draw the conclusion that Google has seriously compromised its "Don't Be Evil" policy. It has become evil's accomplice.

Not surprisingly, Americans, not just Chinese, are also the victims of this censorship. On an informal request from the Chinese government, Microsoft on December 30, 2005 shut down the blog of Zhao Jing because the content of Zhao's blog on MSN Spaces was offensive to the PRC. Zhao had tried to organize a walk-off of journalists at the Beijing News after their editor was fired for reporting on clashes between Chinese citizens and police in southern China. However, Microsoft shut down the blog not only in China, but everywhere. It not only censored Chinese access to information, but American access to information, a step it has only recently pulled back from. Like Yahoo, MSN defended its decision by asserting that MSN is committed to complying with "local laws, norms, and industry practices in China." Regrettably, I haven't been able to find an MSN statement on its commitment to global laws, norms, and industry practices protecting human rights in China.

Standing for human rights has never been easy or without cost. It seems that companies have always resisted having to abide by ethical standards, yet we have seen the success of such agreements as the Sullivan principles in South Africa and MacBride principles in Northern Ireland. I, and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, would welcome leadership by the corporations to develop a code of conduct which would spell out how they could operate in China and other repressive countries while not harming citizens and respecting human rights. But I believe our government also has a major role to play in this critical area, and that a more comprehensive framework is needed to protect and pro-

mote human rights. This is why I have introduced HR 4780, the Global Online Freedom Act of 2006, to promote freedom of expression on the Internet.

There are some encouraging and innovative public and private efforts already underway in this area. Electronic Frontier Foundation, for instance, allows Windows-based computers to become proxies for Internet users, circumventing local Internet restrictions. Through the efforts of the U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors' fund of a mere \$100,000, VOA and Radio Free Asia's Web sites are accessible to Chinese Internet users through proxy servers because of the technology of Dynaweb and UltraReach.

Earlier this month, the technology firm Anonymizer announced that it is developing a new anti-censorship technology that will enable Chinese citizens to safely access the entire Internet filter-free. The solution will provide a regularly changing URL so that users can likely access the uncensored Internet. In addition, users' identities are apparently protected from online monitoring by the Chinese regime. Lance Cottrell of Anonymizer said it "is not willing to sit idly by while the freedom of the Internet is slowly crushed. We take pride in the fact that our online privacy and security solutions provide access to global information for those under the thumb of repressive regimes."

In conclusion, I am hopeful that the hearing was the beginning of a different sort of dialogue—a discussion on how American high-tech firms can partner with the U.S. government and human rights activists to bring down the Great Firewall of China, and on how America's greatest software engineers can use their intelligence to create innovative new products to protect dissidents and promote human rights.

I would also like to recognize and honor the work of Dr. John S. Aird, a distinguished American whose immeasurable contributions as a scholar, population expert, and defender of human rights have changed the lives of so many over the course of his career.

It was with great sadness that I learned of Dr. Aird's death last October. His passing represents a grave loss for all of us who are committed to ensuring human rights around the world, and his tremendous work in this and other fields will not be forgotten.

Dr. Aird, former Senior Research Specialist on China at the U.S. Census Bureau, served for 28 years as that organization's resident expert on the population of China. He was a forthright and vehement critic of the Chinese government's coercive one-child family planning policy.

During his retirement, Dr. Aird worked as a full-time volunteer. He provided expert testimony in immigration courts for 415 families, helping Chinese citizens fleeing their country's coercive family planning programming to secure asylum in the United States.

John S. Aird was truly one of the most informed and outspoken opponents of China's one-child policy. He testified before this and other Congressional committees on numerous occasions, and I believe my colleagues would join me in saying that his insights were consistently persuasive and well-considered, and proved invaluable to our work on human rights in China.

RECOGNIZING R.S. OWENS &
COMPANY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional craftsmanship of R.S. Owens & Company, the manufacturers of the Academy Awards for over 20 years. I am proud to have "Oscar" as a constituent, and I hope my colleagues will join me in watching the work of R.S. Owens & Company arrive in Hollywood from Chicago.

With the Oscars soon approaching, television sets around the Nation will be tuned in to watch movie stars as they stroll down the red carpet, hoping to receive the Academy Award, an internationally recognized symbol of excellence in film. While the main attraction of the night may be the directors, actors, and film makers receiving the awards, the 13½ inch, gold-plated statuettes hold an important place in the night's event and traditions.

R.S. Owens is the Chicago-based award-manufacturing company responsible for producing the world-renowned Academy Award. Since they were recommended for the manufacturing of the award in 1983, the academy has selected R.S. Owens to produce the statuettes year after year, in recognition of their fine work in the field of award design and production and of their exemplary dedication to the craft.

R.S. Owens has been involved in awards manufacturing since 1938. It began, as many great things do, as a small idea from an enterprising man, Owen Siegel. His idea has grown from a small dream into one of the most successful award manufacturing companies in the United States.

While so many companies in the manufacturing field have turned to automated machine work, R.S. Owens has remained grounded primarily in handwork. The company employs workers who are masters in their craft, and take great pride in their work—pride that is evident in the quality of award they continually produce in a field where the product is so closely scrutinized as to allow no errors in workmanship.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the excellent craftsmanship of R.S. Owens & Company in their production of the Academy Award. The company's fine work and dedication make it an excellent example of flourishing businesses throughout Chicago. It is an honor to know that such an innovative and responsible company calls Chicago its home. On behalf of the Fifth District of Illinois and the city of Chicago, I congratulate R.S. Owens on their continued excellence in their field, and look forward to the showcase of this year's batch of awards at the ceremony this March.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR CATO
BROOKS, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to honor

Pastor Cato Brooks, Jr. of the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, and his wife, Mrs. Bettye Brooks. The members of the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church will be honoring Pastor and Mrs. Brooks throughout the month of March for their many years of service to the congregation.

Pastor Brooks was born in Forrest City, Arkansas, where he attended Steward Elementary School and Lincoln High School. During high school, Pastor Brooks proved himself to be a stellar athlete, having been honored as an All-State football and basketball player. For his efforts in athletics, in 1999, Pastor Brooks was honored by his hometown and inducted into the Hall of Fame. Following high school, Pastor Brooks attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA and then answered the call to serve a tour of duty in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of his tour, he returned to school at the University of Kansas, seeking a degree in Sociology. Pastor Brooks has also attended the Mid-America Baptist Seminary, Ouachita Baptist University, and Indiana Christian University, where he earned a bachelor's and a master's Degree, as well as a doctorate of divinity. Pastor Brooks also received his Ph.D. in Communiology from California Western University of Palo Alto, CA.

Pastor Brooks began his ministry on January 26, 1969. He served as Pastor of the Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas from 1970 to 1977 before relocating to serve as Pastor of the First Baptist Church in East Chicago, Indiana; 18 months later, Pastor Brooks organized the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church, serving a congregation of only 26 members, where he continues to serve today as Senior Pastor. He is also the Chairman of the Tree of Life Community Development Corporation and Care Center and a former Chaplain for the Gary Police Department.

Pastor Brooks has also achieved many accolades and accomplishments throughout his lifetime. To name a few, Pastor Brooks has been recognized by the NAACP, A Walk Without Fear, for his efforts in the civil rights movement, and on May 23, 2004, he was elected Moderator of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist District Association. In addition, Pastor Brooks published his first book, *Studies in Ephesians*, in September 2003.

The youngest of 9 children, Bettye Brooks was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she attended the Little Rock public schools. She later attended Arkansas Baptist College, Henderson State Teachers' College, Philander Smith College, and Indiana University Northwest. Mrs. Brooks has a degree in Business Administration and is a certified Personnel Management Specialist, Housing Counselor, and Housing Development Professional.

Mrs. Brooks has held several positions in government and community service throughout her professional career. She has been a Grants Management Supervisor for the City of Little Rock, a State Planner for the State of Arkansas, serving under then-Governor Bill Clinton, a personnel director for Pulaski County, AR, a Regional Program Specialist for the National Urban League, and an Employment Specialist for the Lake County Job Training Corporation.

After coming to Tree of Life in 1991, Mrs. Brooks became the Executive Director of the

Tree of Life Community Development Corporation. In this capacity, she and her housing development partner have successfully rehabbed over 600 housing units in Gary, East Chicago, and South Bend, Indiana. In addition, Mrs. Brooks serves as the administrator for Treasure's Child Development Center and was recognized for her efforts in 1993 with the Athena Award by the Gary Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Brooks also serves in many other capacities within the church and the community. She is a Sunday School teacher, a trustee, Executive Director of Development and Training, Finance Coordinator, and First Cook at the church. She is also a past president of the Ernie Pyle PTA and the Inter-Denomination Association of Minister Wives' and Widows' of Gary and Vicinity.

Most impressively, the Brooks's never let their accomplishments get in the way of their family. Pastor and Mrs. Brooks are also the proud parents of 6 children and 13 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Pastor and Mrs. Cato Brooks, Jr. as they are honored for their service and ministry throughout the month of March. Their years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom they have served. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

HONORING DR. LILLIAN VITANZA
NEY FOR BEING AWARDED THE
PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lillian Vitanza Ney of Jamestown, NY, for being awarded the Paul Harris Fellow award, the Rotary Club's highest honor.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is given to show appreciation for contributions to the Rotary Club's charitable and education program. A contribution of \$1,000 was given on behalf of Dr. Ney.

Dr. Ney is a graduate of Jamestown High School and Wells College. She earned her medical degree from State University at Buffalo. She serves as wellness director, cardiology director, medical education director and vice president of medical affairs at WCA Hospital and is a member of several professional organizations.

Dr. Ney is also highly involved in the community she served as a city councilwoman including being the first female city council president. She was one of the founding members of the Jamestown Area Youth Orchestra and is a board member for several community organizations.

Dr. Ney has shown great dedication and excellence in her work and community. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
ELIZABETH CARROLL ESKEW

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Lisa and Tucker Eskew of Alexandria, VA, on the birth of their new baby daughter. Elizabeth Carroll Eskew was born on February 23, 2006, at 3:56 p.m., weighing 7 pounds and 1 ounce. Elizabeth 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.

ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF ELECTED AS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF INDEPENDENT AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on January 16, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was sworn in as the first elected female president in the history of independent Africa. Mrs. Sirleaf had run against Charles Taylor in 1997, but lost, at least partly due to the impression that Taylor would return to war if he failed to win the election. Following the election, Mrs. Sirleaf spent a great deal of time outside Liberia, and many observers felt her gender and her supposed lack of common touch would prevent her from ever being elected President.

In 2005, former international soccer star George Weah captured the imagination of many inside and outside Liberia, who felt that his connection with Liberia's youth made him an almost inevitable winner, despite his lack of education and political experience. However, in the run-off election between the two, Mrs. Sirleaf employed modern campaign techniques, including polling, message development and targeted campaigning to achieve a stunning victory. Her connection with women voters may have made not only the difference in her election, but also may pave the way for other female candidates throughout Africa.

Now that she is leading this West African nation, the question is: What can she do to turn it around from the chaos and poverty into which it had fallen? From its independence in 1847 until 1980, Liberia was ruled by the descendants of former slaves from the United States. They managed to turn this nation into an economic engine, using the country's wealth of natural resources. Abundant sources of water and fertile soil supported rubber, palm oil and tropical fruit plantations, as well as some of the richest timber supplies in Africa. Liberia's mountains contained some of the highest quality iron ore in the world, and there were significant deposits of diamonds and gold.

Unfortunately, the so-called Americo-Liberians denied the descendants of the indigenous people their benefit from Liberia's natural wealth and their fair share of political power. The 1980 coup by then-Sergeant Samuel Doe led to the ascendancy of indigenous ethnic groups, but it also led to a poisonous political

atmosphere and rampant official corruption. In late 1989, Charles Taylor, a former member of the Doe government and an escapee from a prison in America, began an insurgency that eventually toppled the Doe government in 1990. Several years of factional fighting devastated the capital city of Monrovia, as well as much of the country. Following a rather shaky cease-fire, a 1997 election brought Charles Taylor to power. By that time, more than 150,000 of his countrymen had died in the fighting, and more than half the population had been displaced.

The Taylor regime was a disaster for Liberia. Taylor and his government looted the treasury and Liberia's natural resources. Political opponents were jailed, or in the case of Sam Dokie and his family members, they were killed. However, Taylor also was a catastrophe for its West African neighbors. Rebels who had been supported by Taylor have destabilized Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

Taylor's crimes against his own people stimulated an insurgency that eventually led to his negotiated exile in Nigeria. His crimes against the region led first to United Nations sanctions in 2001 for his support of the Revolutionary United Front rebels in Sierra Leone and subsequently to an indictment for war crimes by the UN-sponsored war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone in 2003.

The issue of Taylor's extradition to the Sierra Leone Special Court remains high on the agenda of the U.S. Government. Nevertheless, there are internal issues facing the new government in Liberia that also are pressing, and that was the main focus of our hearing last week on Liberia and the impact of its election on West Africa.

During the Taylor regime, and apparently also during the transitional government headed by Gyude Bryant, corruption became a way of life in Liberia. Illegal logging and mining and just plain theft of government resources were commonplace. In fact, the transitional government officials reportedly took furniture, computers and even rugs and light fixtures when they left office just a couple of weeks ago. In one of her first acts as President, Mrs. Sirleaf fired the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for corruption and told the officials to stay in the country pending an audit. The ministry and the Central Bank significantly differ as to the amount of money on hand for government operations.

Those funds are desperately needed to repair Liberia's roads, water systems and power supply—all of which suffered from years of warfare and neglect. The Sirleaf government will have to examine all contracts to determine if they are in the best interest of the nation and rationally exploit Liberia's resources. Too many of the population of 3 million remain displaced, and 85 percent of Liberia's people are unemployed and 80 percent live below the poverty line. About 70 percent of the population survives on agriculture, which remains disrupted due to the lingering impact of the war.

If Liberia is to recover from its long nightmare, the United States will have to take the lead among the international community to assist in that restoration. That will require focus and consistency in America's engagement.

Liberians feel a kinship to America that Americans do not share with Liberia. Nevertheless, our country's relationship with Liberia

is quite real and very important for the welfare of its 3 neighbors. The Bush administration and Congress must take these facts into account in developing policies and programs to respond to Liberia's new, post-election realities.

IKE WEATHERLY ESSAY WINNERS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on the last day of Black History Month to congratulate Chandler Boys, Brynden Danner and Tristen Horton. These three fine students from Anderson, Indiana were recently named winners in the Ike Weatherly Essay Contest.

Ike Weatherly was a school board member and respected community leader in East Central Indiana. The Essay Contest held in his honor is part of the curriculum to help students better understand the achievements of African-Americans in our Nation's rich history.

Chandler, Brynden and Tristen wrote carefully crafted and insightful essays detailing the accomplishments of three of American history's Black leaders. I had the pleasure of speaking with each of them when they appeared on the "WHBU Morning Show with Leland Franklin and Bret Busby" last week.

Chandler Boys of Eastside Elementary wrote about Medgar Evers, a 1950s civil rights leader and Army veteran who taught the importance of education, religion and hard work.

Brynden Danner of Liberty Christian School wrote about the struggles faced by Charles Cooper, the first Black athlete drafted by the Boston Celtics.

And Tristen Horton of Erskine Elementary wrote about Lonnie G. Johnson, an Air Force veteran and NASA scientist who is noted as the inventor of the super soaker water gun.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Chandler, Brynden and Tristen for their fine work in honoring America's Black leaders and wish to submit their essays into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MEDGAR EVERS

(By Chandler Boys)

Medgar Evers was born on July 2, 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. Medgar would grow up in the Depression of the 1930's. His father worked in a sawmill. His mother was a laundress. He was the youngest of four children. In their home they believed in education, religion, and hard work. Medgar went to all black schools. Medgar and his siblings had to walk a long way to school. They did not have many school supplies. Their schools had few teachers, many students, small classrooms, and old books.

In 1942, Medgar joined the United States Army. He joined the Army to see the world. He was in World War II. He fought in France and Great Britain with a segregated group. When he returned home from the war he registered to vote. But angry whites wouldn't let him.

Evers returned to school on the G.I. bill. He finished high school and college. He met his wife, Myrlie Beasley, during this time. During school he was elected into many student offices and joined many sports teams.

In December 1954, he was elected to be the NAACP state field secretary. His family moved to Jackson. Myrlie was made the secretary. Evers faced many challenges. He investigated racial murders and cases of abuse

of black victims. He tried to convince local youth to get more involved. Statewide membership of the NAACP chapters almost doubled from 1956 to 1959.

On June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers was shot in the back in his driveway. He was coming home. He died later that night. On June 22, 1963 Byron Beckwith was arrested for shooting Evers. Beckwith had two trials with all-white juries. They ended with a hung jury. In February 1994, Beckwith was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Beckwith died there. Medgar Evers was a hard working man. He was loved very much by his family.

THE STAR WHO COULDN'T SHINE

(By Brynden Danner)

Charles H. Cooper was an N.B.A. basketball star who was never allowed to let his talent shine. On April 25, 1950, Cooper was the first black player to be drafted by the Boston Celtics. He played on a N.B.A. team for six hard years where race was more important than his skills.

Owners of white only hotels refused to rent a room to Cooper separating him from his teammates on long trips. When they played games in the southern states, the Celtics were told to leave Cooper behind. Cooper's teammates supported his right to play and that made the violence grow more and more.

Black players received very little national attention. Even though Cooper played four years for Boston, one year for the Milwaukee Hawks and one year for the Fort Wayne Pistons he was never recognized for his great athletic talent.

Cooper ended his career with a bad feeling about basketball. All of the racial teasing hurt him very deeply. He decided not to have bad feelings about people who treated him so badly. In 1961 Cooper got his masters degree in social work. Nine years later he was named the first black person to head a city government agency. He became the director of parks and recreation in Pittsburgh. At the time of his death in 1984, he was an officer of Pittsburgh National Bank.

Chuck Cooper is an inspiration to me because he suffered many hard times in his life but never gave up. His story will always be a great lesson for me to remember.

LONNIE G. JOHNSON, WATER GUN MAKER

(By Tristen Horton)

Lonnie G. Johnson invented the world famous water gun, the super soaker. For years Lonnie G. Johnson has been inventing things for NASA and other organizations; but he has achieved his greatest fame with his squirt gun, the super soaker.

Johnson started a childhood of creating with inventing things out of old appliances. In his senior year of high school, he won an around the world competition for a remote controlled robot he had built out of junkyard scraps. He went on to more formal training at Tuskegee University where he first earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and then M.S. in Nuclear Engineering. Soon after, Lonnie G. Johnson joined the U.S. Air Force. In the Air Force, he became advanced in space systems.

I am really happy he invented the super soaker water gun because it's just plain fun.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. RICH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor prominent Buffalo businessman Robert

E. Rich who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 15, 2006. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was an inspiring colleague and friend. He was an athletics enthusiast. He was an innovative and legendary entrepreneur and founder. And, he was a generous and compassionate community and industry advocate.

Mr. Rich began his path to frozen food industry fame in 1935 as owner and operator of Wilber Farms Dairy. In 1945, while serving as the war food Administrator in Michigan, he learned about successful research at the George Washington Carver Institute on the use of soybeans to create innovative food products. After investigating the use of soybeans, he developed the world's first non-dairy whipped topping. Rich's industry-leading reputation was as a family-owned business dedicated to treating customers around the world like family. He was also committed to continuing the company's aggressive worldwide growth while maintaining its headquarters in Buffalo, NY.

In 1965, Mr. Rich was a charter member of a group which attempted to bring a National Hockey League franchise to Buffalo. In 1972, through Rich Products, he purchased the naming rights of the new football stadium for the Buffalo Bills. In 1988, he authorized the purchase which kept the Buffalo Bisons, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, in town. Under his chairmanship of the Bisons, the city constructed Pilot Field, which is now Dunn Tire Park, which has become a source of city pride and national attention.

Rich founded and headed up the University at Buffalo's Christmas Scholarship Fund which made 30 annual scholarships available to outstanding scholar-athletes. In 1991, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Rich continued his commitment to his Buffalo home in 1989 with the decision to renovate and redevelop the historic 1200 Niagara Street complex on the banks of the Niagara River on the city's West Side. Today, the state-of-the-art facility is home to the Rich Research Center, hailed as the industry's finest, the Rich Renaissance Niagara Atrium and Conference Center, site of weddings, banquets and business meetings, the Rich Wellness Center, and the Rich's Family Center, Western New York's first on-site child daycare center which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1999.

In 2004, Rich's made a significant pledge to the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to establish the Robert E. Rich Aspiring Entrepreneurs Scholarship. Four scholarships each year support the continued education of undergraduate students pursuing careers in the restaurant and foodservice industry.

In 2005, Rich Products celebrated its 60th birthday posting annual sales in excess of \$2.5 billion. The company sells more than 2,300 products in more than 85 countries and employs more than 7,000 Associates worldwide, including more than 1,300 in its headquarters in Buffalo, NY.

Frozen food industry pioneer, architect of the nation's largest family-owned frozen foods manufacturer, sportsman, and community leader all describe Robert E. Rich. Rich Products will continue to grow and thrive as a family business under the ongoing leadership of

his son, Bob Rich Jr. But Western New York will sorely miss Robert E. Rich.

IN MEMORY OF CORRIN FITTS BOWERS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all South Carolinians mourn the loss of the late Corrin Fitts Bowers of Estill who was the devoted husband of the beloved Mary Eleanor Bowers who served with distinction as Office Manager in the Second Congressional District Office for ARTHUR RAVENEL, FLOYD SPENCE, and JOE WILSON.

The following obituary ran in The State newspaper on February 23, 2006:

Corrin Fitts Bowers, 77, died February 22, 2006, surrounded by his loving family. He was born July 5, 1928, in Luray, South Carolina, to Grover Ford Bowers and Corinne Fitts Bowers. He was the grandson of Louisa Johnston and Dr. Paul Ford Eve Bowers and Francis Gray and Eugene deTreville Fitts, all of Luray.

He attended school in Luray and Estill, where he finished high school in 1945. He attended both the University of South Carolina and Newberry College. He was the owner of the hat that became the Bronze Derby, Newberry and Presbyterian Colleges' much contended sports trophy.

He was a lifelong farmer who farmed the family land and grew cotton, corn, peaches and watermelons. He served for many years on the Production Credit Board in Walterboro. He served as a member of Hampton County's ASCA as well as the State Board under President Jimmy Carter. In Estill, Mr. Bowers was the Democratic Committee Chairman for 10 years. In 1960 he placed in the "Outstanding Young Farmers Award" and won the State Cotton—5 acre contest. He served for many years on the S.C. District Housing Committee #2 as the chairman. He served as the first President of the Estill Jaycees and Co-Chairman of the 1964 Watermelon Festival, which was held in Estill. Mr. Bowers was instrumental in bringing astronauts Gus Grissom and John Young to Estill on Mendel Rivers' Day. He was one of the founders of Patrick Henry Academy, serving as the first temporary chairman. He served on the board of Patrick Henry for many years and remained a Trustee until his death.

Corrin Bowers was a member of Lawtonville Baptist Church and served as an active and inactive deacon there for 50 years. He taught Sunday School, Training Union and was chairman of the Building Committee several times. Mr. Bowers served on one pastor search committee and sang bass in the church choir.

Corrin and his family were avid hunters who loved to entertain. He and his two brothers, Grover and "Det," were the Lowcountry jitterbuggers. A girl cousin once said, "You have not lived if you haven't been to a dance with one of the Bowers boys." Corrin was a charter member of the Monday Night Couple's Bridge Club for 56 years. He was also a member of Estill Supper Club as well as the Estill Lions Club.

Corrin Bowers is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Eleanor Wiggins Bowers; his brother, Grover Ford Bowers (Macie); a son Corrin Fitts Bowers, junior (Sallie) of Estill, daughters, Sharon Bowers Green (Roy) also of Estill, and "Liz" Bowers Palles (Mitch)

and Graham Bowers Solana (Mark) of Savannah, Georgia; three granddaughters, Mary Crane Palles of Columbia, Louisa Sims Bowers of Estill and Mary Tippins Solana of Savannah; eight grandsons, John C. Green (Deana) of Jacksonville, Florida, Corrin J. Green (Hanna) of Columbia, South Carolina, and Andrew N. Green, Mitchell D. Palles III, and Corrin Fitts Bowers III, all of Columbia; Joe, Henry and Gray Solana of Savannah; one guardian son, Thomas W. Folk, junior (Jan) of Barnwell; two great-grandsons, Patrick Bowers Green and William Fitts Green of Jacksonville, Florida; four nieces, Martha B. Simons (Paul) of Aiken, Laurie W. Hanna (Chris) of Estill, Stephanie W. Bates (Rob) of Chapin, and Tracy Wiggins of Columbia; seven nephews, deTreville Bowers (Polly) and Dr. Ford Bowers (Susan) both of Chapin, South Carolina, Ransley Bowers (Mary Wells) and Tison Bowers (Julie) of Columbia, Bill Bowers (Val) of Savannah, Georgia, Grover Bowers III (Derbi) of Okatie, South Carolina, and Bob Wiggins (Rachael) of Estill, South Carolina; one brother in law, R.G. "Bro" Wiggins (Kay) of Estill, South Carolina. First cousins, Betty Fitts, Cecilia Baker of Estill, Mary Eleanor Rouse, Robert and Mary Bowers of Luray; Paul Bowers of Allendale; Frances F. DeLoach of Beaufort; Deloris F. Jenkins of Barnwell, SC., Franklena Geiger of Atlanta, Georgia and Araminta E. Harris of Salisbury, N.C. He was predeceased by his brother, deTreville Bowers and survived by his wife, Evelyn Pendarvis Bowers Kuebler. The pallbearers for Corrin Bowers are his grandsons with his nephews standing nearby, in a group. The honorary pallbearers include: Harry Hanna, Montague Laffitte, Dr. Luke Laffitte, Clarke Baker, Paul Peeples, Dr. J.D. Rouse, junior, Ashley Bush, Dr. Harrison L. Peeples, Lester Cook, Richard Mixson, George Barber, Coy Johnston, Bill Ratcliff, Bill Stewart, Clyde Eltzroth, Harold Mack, Bill Sprague, Homer Peeples, Mendel Davis, Billy Wier, Billy Yonce, Bart Waller, Randolph Murdaugh III, Lee Bowers, Karl Bowers, Hughsie E. Long, Tony Reardon, Hugh T. Lightsey, Damian Centgraf, John D. Carswell, his faithful employees and his kind and loving caregiver Jerrod Steven Wilson. Visitation will begin at 3 p.m. Thursday, February 23, 2006, at 362 Wyman Blvd. in Estill, South Carolina and continue until 1 p.m. Friday when Mr. Bowers will be taken to the church.

Funeral is 3 p.m. Friday, February 24, 2006, at Lawtonville Baptist Church with Reverend Dr. James Norris, officiating.

Burial: Lawntonville Cemetery.
The family requests in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Lawntonville Baptist Church Parsonage Building Fund, P.O. Box 1057, Estill, SC 29918.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CERESE TEEL

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, last month, Ceres Teel retired as executive director of the Oktibbeha County chapter of the American Red Cross. Through 7 years of ice storms, wind storms and the mother of all storms—Hurricane Katrina—Ceres served her community with diligence and a noble spirit.

During her time as executive director, she oversaw the chapter's expansion as they moved into new headquarters and purchased and outfitted an emergency response vehicle.

She opened and operated emergency shelters and provided leadership to more than 1,300 volunteers from the area.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in recognizing the public service of Ceres Teel. The strength of our Nation dwells not in the halls of the Capitol but the hearts of our people. Ceres loved her neighbors and served them. Mississippi has been blessed by her work and we honor her for her dedication, vision and compassion.

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL B. WARD,
JR., LONGTIME CHESTER
HEIGHTS FIRE CHIEF WITH A
LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE,
COMPASSION, COURAGE, AND
DEDICATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Samuel B. Ward, a longtime Chester Heights Fire Chief, veteran, engineer and community leader. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Sam Ward, I want to take a few moments today to remember his work and the difference he made in the community he served so bravely and selflessly.

Mr. Ward was born in Chester, but grew up in Chester Heights, a community with whom he had a life-long affiliation. After enlisting at the end of World War II, he attended Pennsylvania Military College, now Widener University, where he played football and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Ordinance Corps, he was detailed to the Infantry and served in Korea as a Heavy Mortar Platoon Leader and Executive Officer, earning his Combat Infantry Badge. After returning from Korea, he was assigned to the Tank and Automotive Command in Michigan before leaving the military and returning to Chester Heights.

After his military service, he returned to the fledgling Chester Heights Volunteer Fire Company, and was elected to positions of increasing leadership including Engineer, Assistant Fire Chief, and finally Fire Chief, a position he held for 35 years.

Firefighting is a matter of life and death, and individuals like Sam Ward assume an enormous responsibility when they accept the job of running a fire department. They are responsible for the lives, homes, and livelihoods of thousands of citizens throughout their community. And on a day-to-day basis they become directly responsible for the health and welfare of all the men and women they supervise. Chief Ward discharged his enormous responsibilities with real distinction. During his 35 years as chief, a good department became even better. Chief Ward was respected for his commitment to public safety and his ability to get things done.

An innovator in the fire service, he developed the first workable portable Air Bank in the county, a system which recharges the air packs worn by firefighters. As chairman of the

Delaware County Radio Committee, his work laid the foundation for the county-wide fire response radio and the 911 service.

Within the community, Mr. Ward served the borough of Chester Heights in numerous capacities, including Fire Marshal, Council Member and President of Borough Council. In later years, he used his expertise from the fire service to serve as Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness.

Mr. Ward's service activities also included a very active role in the Boy Scouts of Troop 260, where as a boy he earned his Eagle Scout. His leadership on the troop committee provided opportunities for boys of the area to experience adventure activities and other projects to enhance their scouting life. His other community involvement included various service organizations, including the Lions, Jaycees, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Concordville Rotary.

Mr. Ward worked throughout his career as a metal fabricator, eventually founding his own business, which had a reputation for quality and innovation for more than 34 years.

He married the former Mary Frances Ahearn, his high school and college sweetheart, in 1951, who died in 1995. He is survived by one daughter, Joan and four sons, Steven, James, Lawrence and Joseph, and one sister, Polly (Madeline); and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the 7th Congressional District has lost an exceptional public servant, and I have lost a good friend. I wish Chief Ward's family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work. Chief Samuel B. Ward exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. This man was a genuine community leader. He not only did his job well, he loved it, and the community he served. We are safer because of his life and service. I am personally grateful to have known Chief Ward as a friend, and mourn his passing.

SUPPORT FOR JAVITS-WAGNER- O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a startling statistic—the 50 percent unemployment rate of people with disabilities in this country. For those with severe disabilities, the number is even graver at 70 percent.

It is easy to focus on the disability of a person, not the ability. But people with disabilities want to work, and can work. We must recognize the potential of all Americans, and provide the opportunities needed to allow people with disabilities to become self-sufficient, independent, tax-paying citizens.

To that end, I am proud to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day, JWOD, Program.

The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to

training and employing individuals with disabilities.

The people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities who work under the JWOD Program are given the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program allows people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs.

In the United States, the program serves 40,000 people with disabilities and generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, approximately 1,000 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do so on February 23, which is National Disability Day. More importantly, let us all remember everyday that every person has ability. Everyone has something to share for the greater good. America truly works best when all Americans work. I commend the JWOD Program, its supporters, and its participants for making a difference where it is needed most.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "JACK"
EMERSON

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to John "Jack" Emerson who passed away on December 29, 2005 at the age of 64. Jack was a loving father and husband, an outstanding public servant, and friend and mentor to many, including myself.

I ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy given by Jack's good friend Barry Balan on January 3, 2006.

Jack Emerson, a devoted husband, caring father, man of compassion, civic leader, mentor and colleague. A man I am proud to call my friend.

There are not enough words to describe this man, who has made such an impact on this community and all who met him. Knowing Jack for 26 years, I will give you a glimpse into the man who has made a difference in so many people's lives.

The Lowell Sun called Jack a man of vision, but I believe he was also a visionary. Webster defines a visionary as not founded on fact, imaginary, and impractical, having idealistic goals or aims incapable of realization.

He had the uncanny ability to take something that was idealistic and incapable of realization and make it real. Thus was born the Chelmsford Sewer Project. People told him that it was impractical, it would cost too much, and it would bring too much growth to this suburban community of Chelmsford. It would change life as people knew it. Jack, in his own inevitable way took up the challenge and for four long years he went on cable TV to every church, synagogue, civic group, or gathering of two or more people, to sell the town on the sewer project. In 1984, town meeting rewarded his efforts and appropriated the first funds for

the project by a unanimous vote then again in 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1996.

Jack, although small in stature, pursued this project with the vigor of a small army.

He had the boundless energy, as seen by the different positions he held throughout his political and non-political activities. Jack was elected to the Sewer Commission in 1980.

He became a selectman in 1982; his mom was so proud of him at that accomplishment that she would introduce Jack to everyone she met, this is my son "the selectman." He is and will continue to be Chairman of the Chelmsford Sewer Commission. He holds the distinction of being the longest continuous serving chairman of any board in the town of Chelmsford.

At one time in the mid eighties, Jack was the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman of the Sewer Commission, and Assistant Director of Public Health in the same year. You could say he had the whole town wrapped up in his hands. Jack was on the Board of Registrars, Dog Pound Committee, Town Meeting Representative, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board, and member of the Chelmsford Elks, Advisory Board of Camp Paul and Good Friends Incorporated, and Catholic Charities. How Jack did all this is beyond comprehension. The only solution I can find is it must have been his mom's chicken soup that kept him going. (She made the best.)

I first met John Patrick Emerson, Jr. (known affectionately by his friends as "the Flea") in Jack's Diner. I started going there when I first moved to town, (yes, I am a blow-in, but so was Jack—he moved here from Lowell in the fifties, so I feel I am in good company.) I would go in for my morning coffee and happen to sit next to this man who was holding court, discussing politics and this sewer project. It was Jack Emerson. He introduced himself, we talked, and the rest was history. We enjoyed each other's company and over the years we became best of friends.

I learned more about Jack's passion to establish a sewer program for the town of Chelmsford and how he felt the need to help people less fortunate than himself. Jack convinced me to run for the sewer commission in 1984 and we have been together since that first campaign.

Speaking of politics, some people may be surprised to know Jack Emerson was a Democrat (as was his Dad before him and presently his brothers Packy and Danny and his sister Ellen, although Jack would say Ellen's politics were even further to the left than his.) Jack was as passionate about his politics as he was about helping people. Jack would rather cast a ballot for a yellow dog before he would vote for anyone who was not a Democrat.

Although he was a Democrat, he did transcend party lines when it came to helping the people of Chelmsford.

He was a master at reading people and situations. Before going to town meetings for a crucial vote on the project, Jack would say "all we have to do is be up front with the voters, if we tell them the facts and are honest and tell the why, we should have no problem, they will give you the vote we need and you know they did. That philosophy has held fast throughout Jack's career and is still held by his friends on the commission.

In 1996, Jack walked up to the town meeting floor microphone and said he needed forty-nine million dollars to proceed with the project and that if need be, he was prepared to give a lengthy presentations to show them how it would be used. In three minutes the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. That was Jack; prepared, truthful, trustworthy.

In his earlier years, Jack was a mason or as he would say, a bricky. (Jack belonged to local 31 in Lowell) He was a strong union man (as was his dad). Whenever Jack ran for political office he would make sure that the union bugs would appear on all his literature and anyone he backed for political office must have the union bug on their literature as well or got his wrath.

Jack was a good listener, he read a lot, he always updated himself on current events, he was also, to say the least, an impatient driver.

When I say Jack was a good listener I mean he would evaluate the situation, ask the right questions and decide on the approach on how to handle the problem. As someone said to me the other day, if you called Jack Emerson with a problem, you knew he would take care of it.

Jack would read the papers and political journals and the project contracts. He would go over the contracts with a fine tooth comb and inevitably would find errors. Whether it was misspelled words, wrong sentence structure, or pricing errors. Jack was involved in all aspects of the project.

Wherever we went Jack had to drive, it was like his security blanket. If you have ever driven with him, you know it is quite an experience. No need to call it road rage, just "Jack" rage. Thankfully, we all survived.

I have given you some of the background of Jack Emerson the man, some of which you already know, some you might have read in the newspapers. Now I want to tell you about something you may not know about Jack Emerson the Person.

I had the privilege and honor of being his friend for 26 years; we talked or saw each other almost everyday. So I can talk from experience.

You know anyone that loved animals had to be a good person. Jack loved his dogs. Through the years he had 6 dogs, Cocoa, Cory, Courtney, Toto, Chelsea and Commish. He loved them, but his all time favorite was Cocoa. They were so close that when Jack developed Pancreatitis, so did Cocoa. Cocoa is the first dog in the country, or maybe even the world to have a pump station named after him. The Cocoa Emerson Pump Station located next to the town dog pound on Old North Road.

In 1959, Jack graduated Chelmsford High School where he had many friends, though none as close as Sam Parks, Paul Lehayes, and Bobby Hughes. They remain close friends to this day.

Jack's charity knew no bounds, whether it was giving to the Secret Santa Fund, or being his own Santa by adopting a family at Christmas, or Thanksgiving. His charity did not stop all year long; he was involved with Good Friends, Inc., Camp Paul and Catholic charities. He was most affected when children were involved. Jack was the most caring and giving person I have ever met.

He was a fun loving person with sharp wit and a keen sense of humor. He loved music from the fifties and sixties; it was one of his passions. On one occasion he had the radio on in the wagon playing "Tuti Fruti Alaroody". I asked him how he liked the type of music the kids of today enjoy. He said hard rock, rap, and heavy metal just don't make any sense, so I said Tuti Fruti Alaroody does, we both had a laugh over that.

Jack had many talents, one of them being dancing. I think if he had a second vocation, he would have been a dance instructor. He loved dancing. Once he got on the dance floor and started his feet moving, he would dance all night.

Jack was an avid golfer as are his two brothers. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Golf Club for over 30 years. He and his brothers would often play in tournaments. When

Jack, George and Danny were playing golf together, you might think World War III had broken out. Its amazing to me they all survived. On the golf course they were fierce competitors, but off they had each other's love and admiration. One year at Mt. Pleasant, Jack and Briana entered the father-daughter golf tournament and came in first. Jack thought he had another natural golfer in the Emerson family.

Briana breaking with Emerson tradition decided to take up dance instead of golf and Jack supported her in that endeavor.

He was devoted to his family, his mom Betty and his dad John Sr., he loved his brothers; Charlie, Packy and Danny (Dennis) and his sister Ellen. He loved all his nieces, nephews and cousins. If they needed a helping hand, Jack was there and they were there for Jack.

I mentioned how he loved children, well Briana, Joe Maher and I had the great honor of being with your father in the hospital when you were born, all you had to do was look at his face and you could see his excitement and energy. When the nurse came in and said "Mr. Emerson, you're a daddy" Jack jumped out of his chair and ran down the hall to see his beautiful baby daughter. Briana, you are the light of his life, he loved you so much. He would talk about your dance recitals and especially the last one he saw you perform. He was really not up to par that night, but he knew he wanted to see you dance again.

You have grown up to be a beautiful young lady with the compassion and love that was part of your father. You now carry the banner for dad. And as you grow up and have children of your own, I know the legacy he has left will be carried forward.

One evening Peggy's brother, Connie Stone, brought his friend home, by the name of John Emerson. Connie introduced his sister to John and it started a relationship that lasted 40 years. Peggy, what can I say, your devotion to Jack was unquestionable; you have been Jack's backbone. At times it was very difficult for you, through all his ups and downs with his health, but I know Jack loved you and adored you; you were his wife, his friend and his nurse. I often told Jack that he married a saint. He would retort, "Barry, what are you talking about." I would tell him "who else would put up with you but a saint." He would say "you know, you're right." Peggy, you have a beautiful daughter who you have nurtured into a wonderful young woman and I know you will look forward to the day that you tell your grandchildren all about your grandfather the selectman.

You cannot put down in words what Jack Emerson has meant to this community, his family, his friends and the people he has helped along the way. Jack Emerson leaves a legacy that few people can claim. He started a project that few people thought would succeed, and because of his tenacity, it has succeeded. And along the way his success was recognized at the local and national levels.

He was awarded the collection systems by the New England Environmental Association in 1994. In 1995 the national organization, Water Environmental Association presented him with the national award in New Orleans. He was voted man of the year for his accomplishments by the Chelmsford Chapter of the Elks. In 2000 he was voted into the Chelmsford Hall of Fame. On October thirtieth of this year, at an emotional ceremony, Jack had just been released from the hospital the day before; he was recognized by his fellow Democrats and received the Greater Lowell Area Distinguished Democrat award. His legacy lives on in his wife, daughter, friends and the people of Chelmsford.

If they gave out awards for Mr. Chelmsford it would be to Jack. If they had a hall of

fame for good people, Jack would be your first choice. If they gave out a friend of the year award, Jack's name would be on the plaque. And if they gave out awards for devoted husband and father, Jack would be the first in line.

Well my friend, you have come to the end of a long hard fought journey. You put up the good fight as always. It's time for us to say so long, but not goodbye. You will be able to rest knowing that what you started will be carried on. We, your community will watch over Peggy and Briana, as I am sure you will be watching over us. Say hello to your mom, dad, brother Charlie, and all your friends who are with you. I know if God needs a waste water system, you'll be the guy to start the project. So Mr. Chairman, you will be deeply missed by all who knew you. I love you. So long old friend.

Peggy has asked me to read a prayer that Jack liked. It was read at his dear friend Ira Park's mass:

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when
life is done
I'd like to leave an echo Whispering softly
down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and
bright sunny days
I'd like the tears of those who Grieve, to dry
before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave When life is
done.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY DICKEY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for medical research and health care innovation in this country, Dr. Nancy Dickey, president of the Texas A&M University Health Science Center. The principled work of Dr. Dickey is testament to excellence in medicine and scientific research that will undoubtedly save countless lives.

While the pursuit of excellence characterizes the mission of the students and faculty of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, it is their passionate commitment to the care of their fellow human beings that defines them and forges their vision for the future. There is no question that the architect of that vision is Dr. Nancy Dickey.

As a graduate of Texas A&M, it is my privilege to honor the work of Dr. Nancy Dickey and I personally want to thank her for the shining example to us all and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to enter into the RECORD a speech by Dr. Dickey that serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of vital medical research in this country and the groundbreaking work of the Texas A&M University Health Science Center.

TEXAS A&M INAUGURAL CONVOCATION SPEECH BY PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR DR. NANCY W. DICKEY

Today we are making history.

We are assembled at this convocation not only to celebrate our accomplishments and honor our outstanding faculty, but also to affirm the honorable principles that guide us toward our vision of excellence in medicine and the healthcare professions. Let this day forever be remembered as the day that the Texas A&M Health Science Center branded

upon the world's canvas our promise to change the lives of people around the globe with the most outstanding health education, compassionate care and superior science as we confidently fulfill the obligations of our sacred oaths.

Let no one doubt that our faculty is composed of men and women who are devoted healthcare professionals, educators and researchers of extraordinary competence and integrity. We believe that every human life is precious and that this great institution and its members are obligated and committed to providing everyone with the best care and leadership possible. Our care for the body is strengthened by our faith in the intrinsic worth of every human soul. Therefore, our current practices provide important and lifegiving care to individuals, insight and direction to communities, and research that provides the hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

Those of us who have dedicated our lives to the health professions, indeed our vocations, believe that we are making a difference. We all benefit from an understanding of the past, the experiences of the present and the intellectual curiosity that discovers and invents those things that will enrich and strengthen our future. We believe firmly in our mission, and we are convinced that our faculty, staff and students are transcending all expectations as they make the world a better place in which to work and live. Our efforts have just begun, and the fruits of our labor shall have no end.

What then are the guiding principles of our organization that lead us to distinction in education programs, prominence in scientific research, and innovation? And, what are the guiding principles that make our care of those who suffer illness more compassionate, comprehensive and successful?

We pursue excellence in all we do. We are committed to providing the best care imaginable for all Texans. We have a special calling and duty to serve with sincerity and compassion the rural and under-served populations in the great State of Texas. When one person in our state is without needed care, we all suffer. If we know anything from quantum physics, it is that everything in the universe is connected in one way or another. Therefore, we intend to see to it that our connections are cared for with expertise and excellence.

We are convinced that the myriad of multi-form fibers composing the human body make it stronger, just as the diverse population of our state make our mosaic stronger, better and more beautiful. We take pride in the cultural diversity found in Texas and we are privileged to serve with tenderness and understanding all people, regardless of race, religion, cultural heritage or gender. We do not limit our inquiries or services based upon preconceived ideas or outdated conceptions of who is and who is not worthy. Every person is worthy, and we are eternally invested in the solemn American promise of serving everyone fairly, equally and honorably.

We will never compromise our integrity or our academic freedom. We are steadfast in our enduring commitment to honor and decency in all we do. And, our good reputation is best assured by transparency and accountability in our every transaction and relationship. Our academic freedom fosters the necessary environment to promote lively discourse and scientific inquiry. We cherish the freedom to express informed viewpoints without fear, and we will never shrink from our duties and responsibilities to our colleagues and fellow citizens.

We trust in active collaboration and continued professional development. Our research, teaching and services are strengthened and enhanced by our relationships at

the personal and institutional levels. We take pride in our colleagues' work and we champion the growth and development of all those whose commitment to the health professions is intertwined with our enlightened vision and valorous mission.

Our principles of excellence, service to all, diversity, integrity, academic freedom, collaboration and lifelong learning form the foundation from which the high vision and important mission of Texas A&M's Health Science Center is to rise to even greater national importance. We are unshakable in our commitment to these principles because they define who we are.

And, let me speak for a moment about who we are. The Health Science Center has an outstanding faculty, including sixteen Regents' Professors and four Distinguished Professors. We have faculty who have received national and international awards and grants, faculty who represent the cutting edge in their areas of study, and faculty who serve on national boards and organizations, thereby influencing public policy in significant ways. And, we have, if I may say so in all modesty, the first woman President of The American Medical Association.

Our faculty does not have the advantages of organizations and institutions with long histories and traditions, but their genius, efforts and results demonstrate fully the wealth of talent and brains we possess and of which we are so very proud. In fact, I am humbled by the many gifts possessed by our faculty.

Our students are very special indeed. We graduate very bright healthcare professionals who are not only devoted to caring for their patients and communities, but who also see themselves as guardians of the public good. They embrace their destinies as leaders and gladly accept their important roles as citizens of a larger community.

We must never forget that professional, cultural and social competence go hand in hand. We teach our young people the values and behaviors that are consistent with their expectations and responsibilities in their professions. We seek and enroll students from all walks of life whose inherent compassion and desire to serve ensure that they will adopt the best, tryout the unusual, and leave our institution with mature confidence in their extraordinary abilities to meet the challenges and opportunities their professions present now and tomorrow. And, as a result of our commitment and our students' determination to be leaders, we are confidently and proudly producing tomorrow's leaders in the healthcare professions.

Texas A&M Health Science Center has adopted and published its vision, mission and principles, with the appropriate goals, objectives and strategies attached thereto in honor of this inaugural convocation. The Pathways to Excellence 2015 is our declaration of our belief in who we are and what we are to become. We take pride in its publication, we honor those who helped write it, and we are devoted to seeing it carried out.

In closing, let me state emphatically that I am merely one of many here today. I am humbled and inspired by your devotion, labor and dreams. Our future is joined, and we march forward individually and collectively toward a future that is based upon ethics and science with the care of others foremost in our hearts and minds.

In a world where business claims more and more of our professions, we must never forget that love and compassion must attend the care and service that we provide. Our doctors, scientists and educators must not live in sterile environments ignorant of the daily toils of those whom they serve. We are devoted to the precept that all people, regardless of geography, economic status or

cultural differences, deserve the benefits of compassionate care, superior science and exceptional education.

Our health care professionals must maintain and build upon their intellectual curiosity. The future belongs to those who are willing to be a part of the world, learn something new everyday, challenge the status quo, break down unethical barriers, demonstrate integrity at every juncture, and lead by supreme example.

Our faculty and students have a splendid destiny before them because they have the gifts and the will to forge a future in which they will make the world a better and more humane place. This is the future of which I dream, this is the future that is possible, and this is the future that you will bring about. This is our commitment to and our hope for the Texas A&M University's Health Science Center.

TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, Black History Month gives us an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the historical accomplishments of African Americans. This year's national theme—"Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civil Institutions"—reminds us that the strength of the African American community is rooted in its fraternal and civic organizations.

I have been privileged to have the opportunity to work with many of African American fraternal and social organizations that are active in my congressional district. They all do important work that makes a tangible difference to the quality of life in our community.

This year is the 100th anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight this fraternity's activities and initiatives in my district. Alpha Phi Alpha is dedicated to serving others and to inspiring and empowering people to achieve success in all aspects of their lives. One of its distinguishing achievements is the establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation Project, which will pay tribute to one of the most influential figures in American history who worked to lead our nation towards greater justice and unity. The group's deep commitment to community empowerment through its numerous programs supporting education—its scholarship and mentoring programs and its efforts to inspire and motivate black youth through its Career Fairs and Black Youth Achievement recognition programs—have made a difference to countless young people.

For many years, I have welcomed the opportunity to attend the Montgomery County Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast program. This event, the success of which is evident in the consistent growth in the number of attendees and the county-wide praise it receives, is a service to Montgomery County. This gathering provides an opportunity for our community to rededicate itself to achieving equality and justice for all.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's impressive list of members includes Justice Thurgood Marshall and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The im-

portant and productive work of Alpha Phi Alpha and other organizations began decades ago, yet there is still much work to be done. We must redouble our efforts to provide the African American community, and all of our communities, with the tools needed to ensure that each individual has the opportunity to achieve his or her full God-given potential. During Black History Month, we must recommit ourselves to supporting the ideals of Alpha Phi Alpha and other great institutions as we continue to strive for a better America."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 12 and 13. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 12 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 13.

NATIONAL DISABILITY DAY RECOGNITION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, recently we recognized National Disability Day. I'd like to share with my colleagues the many barriers to employment that people with disabilities face, such as transportation, environment, and stereotyping, though 11 years have passed since the landmark passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

People with disabilities continue to battle a 50 percent nationwide unemployment rate, and for those with severe disabilities, the rate is a shocking 70 percent. The key to changing this statistic is to focus on the ability of an individual, rather than the disability.

Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability is not a charity. It's a smart economic decision. When a person with a disability is employed, they are transformed from a welfare recipient to a tax payer, and that positive economic benefit ripples out to all tax-paying citizens.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program in particular has been a critical force in assisting people with disabilities and creating self-sufficient, independent productive members of society. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. The people employed on JWOD contracts acquire valuable job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide. Last year it generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, approximately 1,000 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

This is a program that truly makes a difference in the nation and in Georgia. I'm

proud to recognize its impact on National Disability Day.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON
JOINT RESOLUTION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week I stood at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the largest container port complex in the nation, with my good friend Senator SUSAN COLLINS, the chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

We both have championed the fight to strengthen security at our ports. As of last week, neither of us had been briefed on the review conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CFIUS, into the sale of stevedoring and terminal operations of many major eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast ports to a state-owned firm from Dubai. This sale would not only affect the six major US port terminal facility leases that have been reported, but additional operations in 15 other locations, including ports shipping military materiel.

Last week, we stated our concerns about the announced sale and our plan to issue a Joint Resolution of Disapproval.

Today, I am introducing in the House the Joint Resolution which Senator COLLINS introduced yesterday, S.J. Res. 32. This resolution would do three things. First, it officially disapproves of CFIUS's initial review of the Dubai Ports World deal. Second, it requires CFIUS to rescind its previous decision and conduct a formal 45-day investigation. Third, it requires that CFIUS brief the Congress before allowing the deal to proceed, if in fact that is the decision after a full, complete and proper evaluation of the national security risks posed by this arrangement.

Since Senator COLLINS and I announced our intentions last week, there has been some progress. Dubai Ports World has agreed to a secondary review, the Administration has agreed to a 45-day assessment of the sale, and, beginning this week, some committees of Congress will now be briefed.

But the bad news is that this process got as far as it did, and that it took deep bipartisan concern to have Congress brought into the loop. When our country considers these important deals, Congress should be on the front lines, not the back bench.

And as we heard yesterday from a Senate briefing, the U.S. Coast Guard cited their concerns over the deal at the time. The U.S. Coast Guard plays a critical role in ensuring the security of our ports, and their reservations make me question why this deal was approved as quickly as it was.

This issue has also served to highlight the fact that our Nation's ports remain inadequately protected.

As a member of both the House Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees, I have consistently worked to improve our national security, and believe much remains to be done. When we focus 9 out of 10 transportation security dollars on aviation security, we fall into the trap of fighting the last war instead

of the next one. Fighting terror requires that we look forward, and what keeps me up at night is the possibility of a radiological bomb or human terrorist entering our ports in an uninspected container.

When it comes to port security, we should have solid answers, not lingering questions. In this Era of Terror, there remains a constant threat to our homeland. We don't have the luxury of waiting to harden the obvious vulnerable targets.

I have visited the Los Angeles/Long Beach port complex many times. I have authored and co-authored bipartisan port security legislation. Representative DAN LUNGREN and I will introduce a comprehensive bill soon to ensure a coordinated approach to maritime and cargo security through the authorization of key security programs and initiatives, as well as a dedicated funding grant program to shore up security gaps that exist at our Nation's ports. Senators COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, and COLEMAN have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, and both bills will be the subject of hearings in this Congress.

This resolution on CFIUS is prudent; so are our efforts to legislate enhanced port security. I urge its support.

TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA STATE
REPRESENTATIVES NEVA WALKER
AND KEITH ELLISON

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate Black History Month by recognizing distinguished Minnesota legislators who are civil and human rights leaders: Minnesota State Representatives Neva Walker and Keith Ellison.

Representative Neva Walker was born and raised in Minneapolis, and attended the University of Minnesota. A "community baby," as referred to by elders, Walker comes from a family deeply involved in the community, especially the Sabathani Community Center which is a pillar of the community and a source of assistance to many. Walker grew up with this sort of activism, and she now embodies it herself.

Representative Walker was encouraged to run for office when lobbying Minneapolis City Hall on housing issues. When she learned that no African American woman had served in the Minnesota Legislature, this firmed her resolve to run for office. In 2000, Neva Walker was elected to the Minnesota House where she continues to address disparities of all kinds: health, poverty, racial profiling and out-of-home placement.

Representative Walker has a son, and is the youngest of seven children herself. In addition to her service in the State House, Rep. Walker contributes with many community involvements such as the Blaisdell YMCA board, the "GirlsBEST" initiative through the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board. She takes every opportunity reach out to people, speaking to groups that range from children in daycare to college students.

"I consider myself a seed planter," Walker said about her efforts. "I'm always trying to

educate and bring useful information to people, especially youth, people of color and women."

Representative Walker believes it critical to get civil rights issues back into the public's eye. Disparities in poverty and the justice system are too great to stand idly by, she said.

Representative Keith Ellison was born in Detroit, attended Wayne State University and then came to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota Law School. As a student, he first got involved in the anti-Apartheid movement. He and his wife have four children.

"I was raised in a household where I was encouraged to question things," he said. His grandfather had worked for voting rights, and Ellison grew up listening to stories of those experiences. Ellison's activism continued, and evolved into his profession as a trial lawyer, working on death penalty cases in Louisiana, as well as indigent defense work. Today at the Ellison Law Office, his legal work consists of criminal cases, civil rights cases and family law.

Ellison was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002. He said that instead of cajoling and persuading government leaders to pursue worthy programs, he was determined to work for change from inside the system.

"When you're a community activist, you propose change," he said. "But when you're in office as a public official, you make the change." As one of two black Representatives in Minnesota, Ellison believes he helps to improve the level of engagement for people of color in the state. "I think all people need to have equal access to their government."

He continues to work on issues of environmental justice, equal justice in the courts, voting rights, and public safety. He is also a co-founder of the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, which deals with environmental hazards posed by pollution.

Ellison believes that the civil rights movement forever changed America, but that Americans must still work for economic, health, educational and social equality for all people.

Mr. Speaker, Neva Walker and Keith Ellison are dedicated public servants who are making unique contributions to their communities, working for all people, but especially African Americans and other people of color, women, and the poor. They are committed to bringing the promise of America to all its people, and work day in and day out to achieve that ideal. I commend them for their activism and their service in the Minnesota Legislature, and their dedication to making their communities, our State, and our world a better place.

IN MEMORIAM THEODORE R.
"TED" SWEM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on February 7th, America lost one of its conservation leaders with the passing of Theodore R. Swem—known to everyone as "Ted"—whose long career was marked by the highest standards of dedication to the public interest.

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on December 6, 1917, he attended Coe College, in Iowa

and received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Iowa State University in Ames. After completing one year of graduate work at the Biology School at Harvard University, he went to work for the Colorado State Game and Fish Department, and eventually became the Coordinator for the Federal Aid to the Wildlife Restoration Program.

In 1946, he went to work at the Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, where he was responsible for wildlife, recreation, and land use planning in reclamation projects in a four state region.

During the 1950s, Ted worked with other conservationists to encourage Colorado legislators to enact legislation to establish a state park system. Thanks to the efforts of Ted and this group, today all Coloradans—and our visitors as well—can enjoy State Parks throughout Colorado.

In 1957, Ted joined the National Park Service and steadily ascended to various planning positions, eventually becoming the Assistant Director for Cooperative Activities in 1964. In this capacity, he was responsible for studying potential areas, and master planning existing areas of the National Park System, Wilderness, Federal Agency and State Assistance, Park Practice and the International Affairs Programs of the Service.

The large number of additions to the National Park System during the middle and late 1960s reflect the magnitude of this activity.

In September 1969, Ted became Superintendent of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. In March 1971, he became the Assistant Director to the Director.

From 1972 to 1976, Ted was responsible for the National Park Service program activity in Alaska as related to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and was key to development of National Park areas in Alaska.

During this period, he became Chairman of the Alaska Planning Group for the Department of Interior and coordinated the multi-agency effort that produced the 28 "Four System" legislative proposals and related Environmental Impact Statements as submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton, in December 1973. In February 1976, Ted retired from the National Park Service.

Ted's work thus set the stage for enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which was signed into law by President Carter on December 2, 1980. This Act is often called the most significant land conservation measure in the history of our nation. The statute protected over 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska, doubling the size of the country's national park and refuge system and tripling the amount of land designated as wilderness.

While with the National Park Service Ted was Chairman of the United States Section, Joint Japan-United States Panel on National Parks and Equivalent Reserves. He was also a member of the Canadian-United States Committee on National Parks; a Board Member of the Wilderness Society Governing Council; a member of the International Union Conservation of Nature; and Chairman of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas.

After his retirement he was president of the Wilderness Society Governing Council from 1978 to 1980; a Board Member of American Rivers, Inc.; and Management Consultant to Silvertip Consulting and the Defenders of Wildlife.

He was the recipient of the Meritorious and Distinguished Service Award of the Department of Interior, was recognized in 1981 by the Japanese Government by receiving the 50th Anniversary Award for his distinctive work in their behalf, and received the Robert Marshall Award from the Wilderness Society on their 50th Anniversary—the Society's highest award presented to a private citizen.

Ted also received the Alaska National Parks Conservation Leadership Award and recognition for his initial work on the making of the Klondike Goldrush an International Park between the United States and Canada.

At the time of his death, he was living in Colorado, where he had served on the Bureau of Land Management Land Disposal Committee for Clear Creek County, and performed work on the Task Force for Evergreen Lake, as well as on some of the Open Space areas in Jefferson County.

Ted and his wife Helen were married 57 years. Their four children now live in Denver, Alaska, and Brazil. I hope the sadness of their loss is tempered by pride in their father's record of achievement and the many lasting gifts he has left to our country and the world.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of February as National Marfan Awareness Month and to pay tribute the thousands of people across the nation who are living with the Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

The National Marfan Foundation is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary this year and continues to dedicate itself to saving lives, and improving the quality of life for individuals and families affected by Marfan syndrome and related disorders by raising awareness, providing support and fostering research.

This year marks the 15th annual National Marfan Awareness Month, a national awareness campaign which focuses on Marfan syndrome, a genetic disorder of the connective tissue that can affect the skeleton, eyes, heart and blood vessels. Because of the disorder, the aorta, the large artery that carries blood away from the heart is weakened and prone to enlargement and rupture, which is often fatal.

It is estimated that 200,000 people in the U.S. are affected by the Marfan syndrome or a related connective tissue disorder. Marfan syndrome is often hereditary, but 25 percent of affected people are the first in their family to have the disorder. It affects both male and females and all ethnicities. Thousands do not even know that they are affected and if left undiagnosed, it can result in an early sudden death from aortic dissection.

There is no cure for Marfan syndrome, but with an early diagnosis, proper treatment and careful management of the disorder, the life span can be extended into the 70s. Without a diagnosis and treatment, people may die as early as their 20s, 30s or 40s.

In addition, to National Heart Month, February was designated National Marfan Aware-

ness Month because of President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday. Lincoln is believed to have been affected by Marfan syndrome because of the many outward signs of the disorder he portrays. People with this condition are frequently taller than other non-affected members of their family with disproportionately long limbs, fingers and toes. They often have an indented or protruding chest bone, a curved spine, flat feet, a high arched palate and loose joints.

Other famous people with the Marfan syndrome include Jonathan Larson, the Tony Award-winning playwright of the Broadway musical *Rent*; Flo Hyman, captain of the U.S. Olympic Volleyball team who won a gold medal in 1984, Charles de Gaulle, Rachmaninoff, and Mary Queen of Scots.

Mr. Speaker, according to the National Marfan Foundation, in my district in Pennsylvania there are approximately 190 families that have to live with this disorder and the fear of dying at an early age.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 14,000 people die each year of aortic aneurysms and dissections, 20 percent of which can be contributed to those carrying a genetic disorder such as the Marfan syndrome.

Due to lack of medical awareness about the disorder, many people still die undiagnosed and untreated.

I rise today to commend those working in my district and State who work tirelessly on this issue in the hopes of one day finding a cure for Marfan syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me and the National Marfan Foundation in raising awareness of this potentially life threatening disorder. I look forward to working with members on both sides of the aisle to increase federal support for critical research and prevention programs aimed at improving the quality of life for Marfan syndrome patients and their families.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD R. CUMMINGS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Edward R. Cummings of Maryland and lament his untimely passing. Mr. Speaker, we all know of the many unsung heroes that make this great institution work, the staff and advisers who labor in obscurity but without whom we could not do our work to represent the American people. It is even more so in the Executive Branch, where an individual can spend a whole career and never be introduced to the wider public, laboring not for the recognition that drives so many in the public sphere but instead toiling to uphold the public interest to and to serve his country. Our government cannot function without such individuals and it is they who can bring order and sanity to an ever changing kaleidoscope of figures who pass through the United States Government as elections occur and administrations change.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday this Nation lost such a person, a remarkable public servant and a remarkable human being, Edward R.

Cummings. Mr. Cummings served his country for over 30 years, first with the U.S. Army and then with the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Cummings earned a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1972, and then became an active military officer in 1972, where he completed training to become an airborne ranger, one of this Nation's elite forces. Instead of what surely would have been a distinguished career in armed combat, Mr. Cummings took another path and with the support of the U.S. military, entered George Washington University Law School. He studied a variety of subjects that were directly relevant to legal work in the international sphere, such as international law, Chinese law, human rights law, diplomatic and consular law, and United Nations law, and served on the G.W. international law journal. In 1975, he graduated first in his class of 317 students.

Mr. Cummings was on active duty with the U.S. Army until 1979, graduating from judge advocate general's schools, and serving in the Office of the Judge Advocate General where he represented the Department of Defense at a number of international negotiations related to the Law of War. He remained in the Army Reserve from 1979 to 2000, assigned to the War Crimes and Prisoners of War Branch of the Office of the Judge Advocate General. He retired as a lieutenant colonel.

In 1979, because of his distinguished representation of the Defense Department and his exceptional contributions to the U.S. delegations in which he participated, Mr. Cummings was invited to join the Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State where, over the course of nearly twenty five years, he has served as an attorney and adviser to numerous U.S. officials throughout the Government. Among other positions, he has been the Assistant Legal Adviser for Politico-Military Affairs, Assistant Legal Adviser for Nonproliferation, Assistant Legal Adviser for Arms Control and Verification, and Counselor for Legal Affairs at the U.S. Mission in Geneva. From 2000 to the present, he has served as the U.S. Head of Delegation to negotiations relating to the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1987, Mr. Cummings has received numerous awards for superior service to the Department of State and has written on such subjects as the law of belligerent occupation, war crimes, arms control, international humanitarian law, and extradition.

But this description of his career does not do justice to his accomplishments. Last year, after he was diagnosed with the pancreatic cancer that killed him yesterday, George Washington University Law School organized a symposium entitled *Lawyers and War* in honor of Mr. Cummings, which was held on September 30, 2005. Mr. Cummings was fortunate not only to hear a set of knowledgeable remarks, but to hear the gratitude of his colleagues and proteges and to reflect on the amazing set of accomplishments that he participated in. Whether it was negotiating status of forces agreements to protect our troops abroad, helping draft the first set of comprehensive sanctions against South Africa during the apartheid era, supporting and then leading negotiations to control the use of conventional weapons that might cause unnecessary suffering, or aiding in the positive developments in international human rights and international humanitarian law, Mr. Cummings

made an invaluable contribution to this nation and to humankind.

Let me just cite three accomplishments that can be directly related to Mr. Cummings that may not be his most important but have special significance to some of my colleagues in this body. First, Mr. Cummings was instrumental in fashioning the compromise that allowed the United States to become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. For those who did not follow that debate, most countries around the world wanted to ban the recruitment of any individual under the age of 18. However, because the United States recruits students in high school, the U.S. military insisted that the age be reduced to 17. This position put the United States in the posture of preventing an international consensus and seeming to be in league with those who were not committed to banning this terrible abuse at all. It was Ed Cummings who originated the idea of allowing voluntary recruitment of 17 year olds but not allowing them in combat until they were 18, creating an international consensus that put the focus where it always should have been, on militias that conscript 12, 13 and 14 year olds.

Mr. Cummings also worked for decades on enhancing the substance and image of the laws of war. One life long accomplishment in this area was the recent decision by the countries that are party to the Geneva Conventions to create a new symbol in addition to the red cross and red crescent to allow the Israeli society, the Magen David Adom, to become an official member of the Red Cross community. This success, which will do much to erase a small but important irritant in this country's relation to the International Committee on the Red Cross, was due in large part to Mr. Cummings 20 year dedication to achieving this end.

Another of his major accomplishments was his success in persuading the international community to agree on the extension of the Conventional Weapons Convention to all forms of armed conflict, whether international or internal in character. It has been in the savage internal armed conflicts of past decades that the civilian population has suffered most from the indiscriminate use of conventional weapons, and Mr. Cummings efforts will help to mitigate and limit this lamentable carnage.

These three examples of a much deeper and richer career represent all that was exceptional about Mr. Cummings's service to this country. Using his full grasp of the complex issues he dealt with, his deft understanding of the U.S. military and the mechanisms of government, his keen eye for cutting through the issues to find a way through controversy, his strong personal relationships with individuals across our government and around the world, and his unwavering commitment to accomplish his mission, Mr. Cummings was able to accomplish these three difficult goals, thereby increasing both stature and national security of the United States. There are countless other successes of this sort which would take up pages of this record if they were described in full.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cummings was an extraordinary human being. His colleagues and friends speak personally and movingly about his commitment to others as individuals and as attorneys. If the law remains a place

where law school is but a starting point and it is the learning from one's colleagues that is the most important basis for success, Mr. Cummings has served as "master" to many "apprentices" who are now serving their own distinguished careers in many walks of life (although Mr. Cummings would have dismissed those terms, calling everyone "colleagues"). This is a legacy that will last beyond Mr. Cummings final horizon. And with his personal warmth and his many avocations such as opera, mountain climbing and skiing, Mr. Cummings was admired by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, it is tragic that just at a time when Mr. Cummings was considering moving on to a new stage in his career and life, he was diagnosed in December 2004 with an untreatable form of pancreatic cancer which took him from us just yesterday. From all reports, his efforts to combat this illness and to show grace in the face of death itself demonstrated once again why Mr. Cummings is respected and loved, and our heart goes out to his wife and life partner, Clair, during this difficult time.

While Mr. Cummings was a clear example to all of us of a life well-lived, his tragic end is still a loss for all of us. We can only be thankful that this fellow traveler was able to do so much for his friends and acquaintances and for his country while he was with us.

IN HONOR OF EARLINE MILES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who can only be described as truly American, Earline Miles.

Ms. Miles began her academic career by attending I.M. Terrell High School. From here, she graduated from Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas then obtained her law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. Ms. Miles then turned her sights to education by becoming an instructor at Tarrant County College teaching business law.

Ms. Miles was involved in the civil rights movement in which she was a strong advocate of equality for all people. During her employment in Fort Worth, Texas, she was a determined worker for minority hiring initiatives. It was through Ms. Miles' hard work that countless disadvantaged people were able to now find employment.

Ms. Miles' community has benefited a great deal through her involvement in many organizations. She has done extensive volunteer work through her community. Even though Ms. Miles is now retired, she still dutifully works for her community by collecting food, clothing, and essential supplies for the homeless.

Today, we honor Earline Miles for her commitment to education and her dedication to helping others. She will always be remembered for her kindness and generosity to others, and may she serve as a role model for others in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WEAVER—
HOLLYWOOD ACTOR AND AVID
ENVIRONMENTALIST

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Dennis Weaver, who have recently suffered the tragic loss of a great man. Mr. Weaver passed away on Friday, February 26th at his home in Ridgeway, Colorado.

Mr. Weaver was perhaps most famous for his role as Chester Good on "Gunsmoke" and for the T.V. series "McCloud," though he appeared in many T.V. movies, films, and even released his own country music album. As a fan of Western classics, I was continually impressed by Mr. Weaver's talent on screen and his ability to bring laughter and happiness to millions of Americans.

The passing of Mr. Weaver strikes a more personal chord because he was such an involved member of the Colorado community. In addition to his work as an actor, Mr. Weaver was also a dedicated activist for many environmental and humanitarian causes. He assisted in founding Love is Feeding Everyone, a program which currently helps to feed 150,000 hungry people a week in Los Angeles County. He has been honored by Haven Hills, a shelter for battered women, and the Pacific Lodge Boys' Home. In addition, he was on the Advisory Board of the "Center for Environmental Solutions," and even resided in his own environmentally friendly solar-powered house that he and his wife built in my Congressional District.

Though I only had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Weaver once, I was struck by his sincerity and his dedication. His talent as an actor is to be admired and his role in the community has been invaluable. He will be greatly missed, not only by his close friends and family, but also by the millions of lives he touched through his work onscreen and his role in the community.

HONORING CSEA ON ITS 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the California State Employees Association on the 75th anniversary of the organization's founding.

CSEA currently represents over 140,000 California state employees and retirees. Members include a wide variety of hardworking state employees, from front line service providers to university professors. California residents depend on CSEA members for a wide variety of state services, members ensure everything from a safe drinking water supply to the speedy processing of our tax returns. Without their hard work the business of the state would not get done.

It is a testament to the organization's importance and leadership that it continues to thrive

75 years after its formation. Since its inception, CSEA has been instrumental in making certain state workers have the protections and benefits they deserve. CSEA helped create the first retirement system for state workers, advocated for a mandated forty hour work-week and helped obtain voter approval of the Merit System for state service, all of which has contributed to a well qualified and motivated state workforce.

CSEA has also contributed to the health care of public sector employees. Since 1938, they have provided state workers with medical insurance, as the state did not provide such benefits until 1962. Today, CSEA serves its members by offering California state employees access to affordable homeowner's, life and dental insurance.

As an organization, CSEA has also played a pivotal role in ensuring state and university employees are entitled to collective bargaining. CSEA successfully lobbied for passage of the Dills Act and the Berman Act in the 1970s, both of which extended collective bargaining rights to public employees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate CSEA President J.J. Jelincic, as well as the association's thousands of members on CSEA's 75th anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me and honor CSEA, as well as the fine work that California state employees do everyday

TRIBUTE TO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE CITY OF FORTUNA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the city of Fortuna in Humboldt County, California.

Originally named Slide, later Springville, Fortuna, was incorporated on February 20, 1906. Meaning "good fortune," it is an appropriate name for this unique and vibrant community situated on the banks of the beautiful Eel River in the heart of the Eel River Valley.

After its incorporation the town became well established with a city council, a night watchman and a fire and water committee. The Eel River Valley Lumber Company and the Humboldt Milling Company were two of Fortuna's largest employers and in 1909 the prominent Rohner family donated land for the first city park. Fortuna became a regular railroad stop between Eureka and San Francisco in 1914. The railroad provided an important link to the rest of the world and allowed travelers easy access to this verdant region.

Fortuna was known for its agricultural excellence and fish from the Eel River, but timber was the proud and primary industry of the area. Logging and lumber mills provided many jobs and the area became more populated as the town became more prosperous. People moved to Fortuna with the prospect of good jobs and a pleasant town in which to raise their families.

Fortuna remains a family community with a rich cultural heritage, excellent schools and beautiful parks. The citizens are proud of their town and volunteer to enrich Fortuna's daily

life. Known as the "Friendly City," Fortuna is host to a wealth of events, including the annual Fortuna Rodeo, Auto Expo, Paddle to the Headwaters, a vibrant farmer's market and Daffodil Festival.

Fortuna contributes to the economic vitality of the region and is an important partner in Humboldt County. As Fortuna continues to grow and flourish it will certainly enjoy another one hundred years of prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the city of Fortuna on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON BIODESEL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER DALLAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Denton Biodiesel Industries of Greater Dallas and its achievement of being awarded the 2005 Project of the Year by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program. The award acknowledges outstanding landfill gas recovery projects that make energy out of this otherwise harmful air pollutant.

Biodiesel fuels are primarily composed of renewable and recycled vegetable oils. This project serves as an innovator since it is the nation's first public-private partnership of its kind for biodiesel production. This relatively new Biodiesel Industry has the largest network of company-owned and operated biodiesel production facilities in the world.

I am proud to represent a company that is so strongly committed to quality products and a positive work environment. I congratulate Denton Biodiesel Industries and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY: RESIGN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR COUNTRY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD an opinion piece by Bob Herbert in the February 16, 2006 edition of The New York Times entitled "Mr. Vice President, It's Time to Go."

Anyone who has been a long-time reader of Mr. Herbert's columns in the Times as I have knows Mr. Herbert has deplored the unshared sacrifice of this war, the fact that it is one small percentage of the people of this country who bear the burden of the war. He has been consistent in his criticism of the hubris of this administration and the secrecy surrounding everything it does. This is the most secretive administration in the Nation's history. Mr. CHENEY is if not the designer of this secrecy policy, is certainly the most prominent member of the administration using the policy which he clearly believes allows him to keep secrets not only from the Congress, but also from the President.

Before the hunting incident now before the public's very interested eye, there are many

examples of Mr. CHENEY's policy of not telling anyone anything. Going as far back as Mr. CHENEY's meetings with the Energy mogul's who helped him shape this country's lopsided energy policies in which Exxon Mobile posted the greatest profits ever made in the history of this country last year when energy prices were so high some of America's poor have to depend on the charity of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela to make it through the winter.

Mr. CHENEY is so secretive he implemented and managed a system of CIA prisons and torture cites in Europe called "black sites" which violated not only our laws and treaties but those of the European Union. And practically no one in the Congress of the United States knew anything about these prisons until the Washington Post disclosed their existence.

Mr. I. "Scooter" Libby just disclosed at his perjury trial that Mr. CHENEY gave him classified information to give to the press. That was classified information about an undercover secret service agent, Valerie Plame.

Since the Congress and the public know only egregious examples of what exposures by whistles blowers and the press has made in the interest of the public's greater good, we, the American people, know nothing of the Vice President's doings of the last 6 years. That is a scary thought.

This hunting accident, in which Mr. CHENEY defied all White House protocol by not informing the President, the White House Press Office, the Police or Sheriff until at least 24 hours after the shooting, has reinforced the opinion that Mr. CHENEY is out of control. That is, he is above the law, rules and regulations of ordinary mortals. He doesn't even have to do what the President wants him to do. He isn't just above the law; he is the law.

The story had many conflicting versions as they were told by the owner of the ranch, the doctors treating the shooting victim, Scott McClelland and finally, CHENEY himself. This has opened the White House to increasingly hard questions about the inconsistencies in these stories. The White House can't reconcile these differences because, it appears, Mr. CHENEY feels he doesn't have to explain anything to the President or the White House Press Secretary. Mr. CHENEY is an official who works for the people of the United States. But don't try to tell him that. It doesn't fit with his view of himself or the way he carries out his office of Vice President.

Mr. Herbert points out in his op-ed piece: "The shooting and Mr. Cheney's high-handed behavior in its immediate aftermath fit perfectly with the stereotype of him as a powerful but dangerous figure who is viewed by many as a dark force within the administration. He doesn't even give lip service to the idea of transparency in his private or public life . . ."

DICK CHENEY is a constant reminder of those things the White House would like most to forget: the bullying, the intelligence failures, the inability to pacify Iraq (Mr. CHENEY told Tim Russert: "I really do believe, that we will be greeted as liberators," he said) the misuse of classified information and the breathtaking incompetence that spread through the administration.

I agree with Mr. Herbert's conclusion: "Mr. Cheney would do his nation and his president a service by packing his bags and heading back to Wyoming. He's become a joke. But not a funny one."

[From the New York Times, Feb. 16, 2006]

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, IT'S TIME TO GO

(By Bob Herbert)

It's time for Dick Cheney to step down—for the sake of the country and for the sake of the Bush administration.

Mr. Cheney's bumbling conduct at the upscale Armstrong Ranch in South Texas seemed hilarious at first. But when we learned that Harry Whittington had suffered a mild heart attack after being shot by the vice president in a hunting accident, it became clear that a more sober assessment of the fiasco at the ranch and, inevitably, Mr. Cheney's controversial and even bizarre behavior as vice president was in order.

There's a reason Dick Cheney is obsessive about shunning the spotlight. His record is not the kind you want to hold up for intense scrutiny.

More than anyone else, he was fanatical about massaging and distorting the intelligence that plunged us into the flaming quagmire of Iraq. He insisted that Saddam Hussein had chemical and biological weapons and was hot on the trail of nukes. He pounded away at the false suggestion that Iraq was somehow linked to Al Qaeda. And he spread the word that the war he wanted so badly would be a cakewalk.

"I really do believe," he told Tim Russert, "that we will be greeted as liberators."

Well, he got his war. And while the nation's brave young soldiers and marines were bouncing around Iraq in shamefully vulnerable Humvees and other vehicles, dodging bullets, bombs and improvised explosive devices, Mr. Cheney (a gold-medal winner in the acquisition of wartime deferments) felt perfectly comfortable packing his fancy 28-gauge Perazzi shotgun and heading off to Texas with a covey of fat cats to shoot quail.

Matters went haywire, of course, when he shot Mr. Whittington instead.

That was the moment when the legend of the tough, hawkish, take-no-prisoners vice president began morphing into the less-than-heroic image of a reckless, scowling incompetent who mistook his buddy for a bird.

This story is never going away. Harry Whittington is Dick Cheney's Monica. When Mr. Whittington dies (hopefully many years from now, and from natural causes), he will be remembered as the hunting companion who was shot by the vice president of the United States. This tale will stick to Mr. Cheney like Crazy Glue, and that's bad news for the Bush administration.

The shooting and Mr. Cheney's highhanded behavior in its immediate aftermath fit perfectly with the stereotype of him as a powerful but dangerous figure who is viewed by many as a dark force within the administration. He doesn't even give lip service to the idea of transparency in his public or private life. This is the man who fought all the way to the Supreme Court to keep his White House meetings with energy industry honchos as secret as the Manhattan Project. (Along the way he went duck hunting at a private camp in rural Louisiana with Justice Antonin Scalia.)

This is also the man whose closest and most trusted aide, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, has been indicted for perjury and obstruction of justice as a result of the investigation into the outing of a C.I.A. undercover operative, Valerie Wilson.

Mr. Cheney is arrogant, defiant and at times blatantly vulgar. He once told Senator Patrick Leahy to perform a crude act upon himself.

A vice president who insists on writing his own rules, who shudders at the very idea of transparency in government, whose judgment on crucial policy issues has been as wildly off the mark (and infinitely more

tragic) as his actions in Texas over the weekend, and who has now become an object of relentless ridicule, cannot by any reasonable measure be thought of as an asset to the nation or to the president he serves.

The Bush administration would benefit from new thinking and new perspectives on the war in Iraq, the potential threat from Iran, the nation's readiness to cope with another terror attack, the development of a comprehensive energy policy and other important issues.

President Bush's approval ratings have dropped below 40 percent in recent polls. Even Republicans are openly criticizing the administration's conduct of the war, its response to Hurricane Katrina and assorted other failures and debacles.

Dick Cheney is a constant reminder of those things the White House would most like to forget: the bullying, the intelligence failures, the inability to pacify Iraq, the misuse of classified information and the breathtaking incompetence that seems to be spread throughout the administration.

Mr. Cheney would do his nation and his president a service by packing his bags and heading back to Wyoming. He's become a joke. But not a funny one.

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTEN-
NIAL OF THE SAN MATEO SHER-
IFF'S OFFICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department on their Sesquicentennial Anniversary. The Department is the oldest and largest law enforcement agency in San Mateo County, California, located in my Congressional District.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Department history begins with the formation of the County of San Mateo in 1856. Residents of the Peninsula watched as John W. Ackerson was sworn in as the first sheriff of San Mateo County. He had three total staff members, an Undersheriff, bailiff of the Courts and a jailer. There weren't even patrol duties for the office.

Mr. Speaker, today, from those humble beginnings, the San Mateo Sheriff's Office has grown to a force of 450 officers and is responsible for everything from patrolling the county to running the courts and the correctional facilities. They have exemplary task forces, specializing in narcotics, regional terrorist threat assessment and emergency services among others. Today, the Sheriff's Office is still the Chief Law Enforcement Agency of the County of San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, since 1993 the Sheriff's Office has been most ably led by Sheriff Don Horsley. In fact, Sheriff Horsley picked out the badge marking the 150th anniversary of the Sheriff's Office. The commemorative badge replicates the Old West style that Sheriff Ackerson would have worn. I dearly appreciate their extraordinary service that they provide to the County and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the San Mateo Sheriff's Office for the honorable duty they have performed for the last 150 years.

HONORING MICHEL A. LAJOIE
FIRE CHIEF, LEWISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Chief Michel A. Lajoie of the Lewiston Fire Department. Chief Lajoie began his career as a firefighter in the Lewiston Fire Department in 1970. After taking a short break to pursue a career in the automotive industry in 1972, Michel Lajoie returned to the Lewiston Fire Department in 1976 and rose through the ranks of lieutenant, captain, and deputy chief, before finally becoming chief in 1994. This year he retires, having served over 30 years in Lewiston.

Chief Lajoie exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. In addition to managing a department of 79 uniformed and civilian personnel, he has earned an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Southern Maine Community College and is a graduate of the Androscoggin Leadership Development Institute. Chief Lajoie is a member of a Standing Ad-Hoc Committee for the State of Maine Bureau of Labor Standards and has been instrumental in the continued review and updating of the standards and requirements governing the State of Maine's Fire Service.

His colleagues in Maine selected Chief Lajoie as Fire Chief of the Year in 2003 and also nominated him for Fire Chief of the Year in 2003 for the Fire Chiefs Magazine. Chief Lajoie has served as President of the New England Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, representing the fire service and the Fire Chiefs throughout the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. He also has served as President of the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, representing the fire service and Fire Chiefs throughout the State of Maine and he currently holds Board positions in several professional associations.

I am proud to honor Chief Lajoie as he embarks on a very well deserved retirement. The City of Lewiston and the State of Maine will miss him.

HONORING OPEN CITIES HEALTH
CENTER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ground-breaking work of the Open Cities Health Center. In a fitting celebration of African American History Month, Ms. Mary Stokes and Mrs. Timothy O. Vann will be remembered and celebrated at an awards ceremony on February 24, 2006. These two pioneering African-American women founded the center, providing the vision to provide culturally competent health care—a vision that has grown into a vital resource in the Twin Cities community for nearly four decades.

The Open Cities Health Center has become one of the largest nonprofit community health centers in the Twin Cities. The center was one of the first in the State of Minnesota to focus on providing health care to low-income residents, predominantly people of color. A group of Saint Paul residents began the center in a church basement in Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood in 1967. Stokes and Vann addressed the health needs of our most at-risk citizens when no one else would. The all-volunteer clinic started out by providing immunizations and basic health education to African-Americans.

Today, due in part to Federal and local government grants over the years, the center has greatly expanded its outreach and become a well-known, multi-lingual clinic that continues to serve the African-American community as well as members of the East African, Southeast Asian, and Caucasian communities. The center provides a wide array of important physical, mental health, and dental services to residents from all over the Twin Cities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the vital work of the Open Cities Health Center. We must all work together to increase access to screenings and preventive care treatment for all Americans. I commend the Open Cities Health Center for working to eliminate the damaging health disparities that continue to exist among racial and ethnic groups.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH E.
THIRIOT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph E. Thirirot for 33 years of teaching in Nevada and a lifetime full of goodwill and service to the community. Joseph is recognized today at the dedication of Joseph E. Thirirot Elementary School which opened September 19, 2005.

Joseph was born August 20, 1906, in Provo, UT. When he was 13 he moved to Nevada and graduated from a one-room schoolhouse in Pahrnagat Valley in Lincoln County. He earned a teaching degree from Brigham Young University in 1930 and a masters of arts from Northwestern University. He then taught school in Lincoln County from 1932 to 39. The following year, Joseph and his wife, Ellen, also a longtime Las Vegas High School teacher, moved to Las Vegas, where they raised three children, all Las Vegas High School graduates. He finished his teaching career in 1966, after 26 years at Las Vegas High School. Some of the subjects that Joseph taught include drama, english literature, grammar, stagecraft, play production, debate, public speaking, chorus and typing. He also headed the Debate team and the Glee Club.

Joseph's students remember him for the fun and exciting classes that he taught and the long hours he put in after school to direct large productions, have extra rehearsals for the next choir concert or to help prepare for an upcoming debate. During these long hours students not only received help for their respective activity but benefited from the exam-

ple he showed as an outstanding educator and citizen. He had a dedication to educate his students both in and out of the classroom that will not be forgotten.

Outside of school, Joseph is very active in the community. He and his wife were longtime costume and makeup directors for the Helldorado parade and other local events. He also cofounded the Las Vegas Little Theater in 1945, helped to form the Las Vegas Classroom Teacher Association, and championed the construction of the old Las Vegas High School auditorium in 1953, where the first classes of what is now University of Nevada, Las Vegas were held. Joseph long performed as a member of the Westerner Quartet and was, for 11 years, a member of the internationally renowned Desert Chorale. An avid collector of rocks and gems, even at the age of 99, when he visits area schools to talk to students on behalf of the Las Vegas Gem Club, he at times meets youngsters whose grandparents were his former students.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Joseph E. Thirirot. He has lived his life full of integrity, enthusiasm, and hard work, dedicating it to education, family, students, and the community. He has been a mentor and inspiration to hundreds of students and to his family and I congratulate him today at the dedication of Joseph E. Thirirot Elementary School.

HONORING OF FRANK STATON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who can only be described as truly American, Frank Staton.

Originally a California native, Mr. Staton moved to Fort Worth, Texas during his early childhood years. After graduating from I.M. Terrell High School and Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, Mr. Staton embarked on his career as an educator in Fort Worth. Mr. Staton worked for the Fort Worth Independent School District for more than 40 years. It was at this school district where he had served as a teacher, coach, and as a specialist on drug education for youths.

During Mr. Staton's tenure as an educator, he served as a board member of The Fort Worth Transportation Authority and was involved with United Community Centers, Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America, American Heart Association, Safe Haven, the Fort Worth Classroom Teachers Association, and other organizations.

Needless to say, Mr. Staton has touched the lives of countless individuals as well as the community at large through his tireless efforts to promote education. Mr. Staton is now retired, but he still remains active in Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church since 1939.

Today, we honor Frank Staton for his commitment to education. He will always be remembered for his kindness and generosity to others, and may he serve as a role model for others in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETES OF
THE XX WINTER OLYMPICS
FROM COLORADO'S THIRD CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the twelve Winter Olympic athletes from Colorado's Third District.

Their devotion to country and athletic excellence is truly exemplary and is deserving of our fullest respect and gratitude. And so, I honor the following persons as great athletes, great Coloradans, great Americans . . .

Gretchen Bleiler from Aspen, who competed in the Women's Snowboarding competition; Jason Smith from Basalt, who competed in the Men's Snowboarding competition; Lanny and Tracy Barnes from Durango, who competed in the Biathlon competition; Rebecca Dussault from Gunnison, who competed in the Cross-Country Skiing competition; Clint Jones from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Skiing Jump competition; Caroline Lavive from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Alpine Skiing competition; Todd Lodwick from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Nordic Combined Skiing competition; Travis Mayer from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Freestyle Skiing competition; Tommy Schwall from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Skiing Jump competition; Johnny Spillane from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Nordic Combined Skiing competition; and Ryan St. Onge also from Steamboat Springs, who competed in the Freestyle Skiing competition.

Their hard work and determination has earned them the title of Olympic athletes and sports heroes. They have made all of us in Colorado and the United States very proud. Once again, I would like to extend a hearty congratulations to all of them.

HONORING MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the congregation of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church on the 50th anniversary of their church. This congregation has served the Del Paso Heights neighborhood and Sacramento region since 1956. As members of the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist congregation gather to celebrate 50 years of community service, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding congregation.

The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church was founded in Del Paso Heights in February of 1956. The Church was established and organized by Reverend Je Petiway, Reverend Powell and Reverend Eddie Phillips. Reverend Mack Smith was the parish's first Pastor and the church became a member of the St. Johns District association. The church bought its cur-

rent facility in October 1956 and became incorporated in 1959.

Reverend White Henderson became Pastor in 1960 and took steps to greatly expand the church. Under his leadership a new edifice was constructed and a chapel was purchased and relocated to its current site. The church continued to expand in 1968 when Reverend Eugene Washington became Pastor. His leadership and guidance resulted in the construction of additional classrooms and a social hall.

Throughout the history of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, the congregation has been dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of Sacramento residents. The Church has always been a comforting place of refuge for people in need, providing assistance spiritually, mentally and physically. During the current tenure of Pastor Washington, the church has established numerous ministries in the Sacramento region. These outreach programs have included prison ministry, convalescent ministry, youth outreach and counseling programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly privileged to congratulate the congregation of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church as they gather to celebrate their 50th church anniversary. The Sacramento region has greatly benefited from having their strong community leadership and compassionate hearts. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in wishing Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church continued success and happiness in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AL AND KATHY
MAZZA OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary individuals who have jointly been named the City of Sonoma's 2006 Alcalde and Alcaldesa, or Honorary Mayors.

Al and Kathy Mazza are the ultimate power couple. Al was the Fire Chief for the City of Sonoma when he met and married Kathy, a city employee, 18 years ago. Between them, there has scarcely been a special event or project in which they have not been involved.

Al was born and raised in Sonoma. After he retired as Fire Chief, he was elected to the City Council, where he twice served as mayor.

He has been President of the Sonoma Fire Chief's Association and developed the Sonoma Valley Firedem System, which integrated existing emergency response agencies into one system.

His civic activities include membership in the Chamber of Commerce, the "Field of Dreams" Committee to build ball fields for city youth, the Sonoma Valley Athletic Club and Sonoma Valley Little League.

Kathy worked for the City of Sonoma for 17 years. Since her retirement, she has served as Vice President of the Sonoma Plaza Foundation's Red & White Ball, which has raised more than \$750,000 for downtown improvements and to local non-profit organizations.

Kathy has also been actively involved with the Valley of the Moon Teen Center and the Sonoma County Mental Health Clinic.

Both Al and Kathy were instrumental in leading the citizen's committee that successfully turned out voters to approve a parcel tax to help pay the operating expenses of the local hospital four years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Al and Kathy Mazza represent the character and spirit of the City of Sonoma and it is therefore appropriate that we honor them today as the 2006 Alcalde and Alcaldesa.

IN MEMORY OF DR. PHILLIP
O'BRYAN MONTGOMERY, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Dr. Phillip O'Bryan Montgomery, Jr. from Dallas, Texas in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to medicine. Dr. Montgomery passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2005.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Dr. Montgomery's life today. Dr. Montgomery graduated from Southern Methodist University with a BS in engineering in 1942 before attending medical school at Columbia University in 1945. Upon completing his internship at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Coopers-town, NY, Dr. Montgomery became a Captain in the Army Medical Corps.

When Dr. Montgomery returned to Dallas, he became a tenured professor of pathology in 1961 at UT Southwestern Medical School. From 1962-1963, he was President of the Dallas County Hospital District Medical Staff. In addition, Dr. Montgomery was the Executive Director of the Cancer Center and ultimately named the Ashbel Smith Professor of Pathology in 1991. During his time as Special Assistant to the Chancellor of the University of Texas, he was responsible for planning the campuses of UT Dallas, University of Houston Medical School, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and the expansion of UT Southwestern Medical School Campus.

Dr. Montgomery had published over 100 scholarly papers in the course of his prolific career. One of these published papers of his evolved out of an experiment on NASA's Skylab in which he himself was the principal investigator of living cells in zero gravity. Dr. Montgomery was an avid traveler who had a very devout love of nature. His magnetic and vivacious personality has allowed him to be sorely missed by friends and family.

I respected him as a fellow doctor and was honored to represent him here in Congress. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends.

CELEBRATION OF GRENADA'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the tri-island state of Grenada which celebrated its 32nd anniversary of independence Tuesday, February 7 and to enter

into the Record a Caribnews editorial celebrating how the country has overcome obstacles to persevere during its young existence.

Grenadians are resilient people who are dealing with trying times. As the editorial reads, "Like many of its neighbors in and out of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OECS, Grenada is facing some serious economic and social challenges. Crime has reared its ugly head and the galloping economic expectations of its young people are adding to the list of worries which need urgent attention." The editorial continues, "As if those weren't enough, it has a pile of debt on its books to manage and reduce it."

Despite these social issues and a violent political uprising in 1983 that subsequently led to a U.S. military presence and later the disastrous results of Hurricane Ivan, the people of Grenada have never faltered in showing the will to advance their country. Today, Grenadians continue to embrace their current stable parliamentary, democratic government and highly respect the civil liberties afforded to them. As the editorial explains, "Grenada, a nation, which has had more than its fair share of difficulties, has shown an amazing ability to see the glass as being half full when others looking on consider it half empty."

It is this glowing optimism and resolve that makes the island of "spice" such a treasured nation in our global community. Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Grenadians in the United States, abroad and in their native homeland on their thirty-second anniversary of their glorious independence.

MUCH TO CELEBRATE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

One of the most heart-warming scenes is that of a small country, rising from the ashes left behind by natural and national disasters, picking up the pieces, if you will, and showing neighbors, even the wider world the stuff of which resilience and legends are made.

Grenadians are one such people. After Hurricane Ivan struck in 2004 and devastated the land of "spice," killing 39 persons, leaving thousands homeless and wiping out almost all of its infrastructure while coming close to tearing out the soul of its inhabitants, a collective will emerge once again, determined to rebuild and make the country of 90,000 people even better than before.

Although Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, the tri-island state, is far from reaching its goal of a complete recovery, it is well on the way, so much so that Standard & Poor's, Wall Street's premiere credit rating firm, recently hailed the efforts to return the country's finances to a manageable and sound foundation.

That's quite an achievement in less than two years.

Aided by Caribbean help, international assistance and led by Dr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister, the government reached out to civil society, the trade unions, the church and other limbs of society. In the process, the administration marshaled the energy of the young and the middle-aged and the wisdom of the senior folk to chart a new course and write a new chapter in the nation's colorful history.

So, when it observed the 32nd anniversary of independence on February 7 with church services, military parades, special games and other activities, it was clear that Grenada had much to thank God for and to celebrate.

Grenada, the most southerly of the chain of Windward Islands, has traveled this road of disaster and rehabilitation before. Almost a quarter of a century ago, October 1983 to be

precise, the People's Revolutionary Government turned on itself, killing its leader, Maurice Bishop and several of his ministers and senior government officials. The resulting turmoil, including a dust-to-dawn curfew imposed by the military triggered an invasion or a U.S. "rescue mission," depending on your point of view. The country then set out to rebuild itself and by any measure, it had succeeded. Its housing stock improved by leaps and bounds; the infrastructure expanded and upgraded; the health and education profiles brightened; and the economy was on a growth path.

Then along came Ivan.

Like many of its neighbors in and out of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OECS, Grenada is facing some serious economic and social challenges. Crime has reared its ugly head and the galloping economic expectations of its young people are adding to the list of worries, which need urgent attention. As if those weren't enough, it has a pile of debt on its books to manage and reduce.

But it has many things going for it as well. The nation has a stable political environment that's based on the rule of law and parliamentary democracy. Its respect for people's civil liberties hasn't been tarnished by any abusive practices and the main opposition forces led by the National Democratic Congress are keeping Dr. Mitchell and his government on their toes.

As in the case of its OECS neighbors Grenada must make good on its pledge to join the Caribbean Single Market later this year. It should have come home to Grenadians by now that they can't afford to remain outside of the CSM and survive in a globalized world. It must also move to recognize the Caribbean Court of Justice, CCJ, as the judicial body of last resort, a move that would end its long-standing relationship with the Privy Council in London. Just as important, it must continue to place education high on its agenda. The investment in education, which got a major boost during the days of the People's Revolutionary Government, is paying off in the form of a strong human resource base.

Grenada, a nation, which has had more than its fair share of difficulties, has shown an amazing ability to see the glass as being half full when others looking on consider it half empty. That positive approach to life has worked well for its people in the past and we are confident that with more international and regional help it would do so again.

Grenadians abroad, whether in New York, Miami, London, Toronto, Birmingham or Port of Spain have been a well of support from which the country has drawn some of its succor. They too deserve praise at this time of celebrations.

Happy Independence anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE LINCOLNVILLE CENTRAL
SCHOOL AND THE RUFUS
KNIGHT BELL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, early in November I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Lincolnville Central School in Lincolnville, ME. In Lincolnville, as in so many small towns across this country, the local elementary school is an important part of the community.

As Lincolnville opens a modern new school building, it honors its past by displaying an old bell, formerly housed in the old school building. The old bell will be a reminder of the many teachers, staff, and students who were a part of the old school. It will challenge the Lincolnville community to continue its long tradition of quality education.

The school bell is named for Rufus Knight, a former teacher at the old Lincolnville school. The bell was honored in a poem by his great-grandson, John A. Knight, which was read at the school opening:

This is the bell that called to us to drink at springs of learning.

This is the voice of the silver tongue that satisfied our yearning.

The tocsin sound of wisdom this ancient bell awakened and horizons of us rural folks no longer were forsaken.

The light of education Our knowledge is expanding. This ancient bell awoke in us deep thoughts of understanding.

And, for many generations we did study and excel with the beauteous sounding of this old bell.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE JOHN
P. SALZBERG, PH.D.

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Salzberg, Ph.D., as he retires from his lifelong work of promoting human rights around the world.

Thousands of torture survivors and human rights advocates around the world are forever indebted to the tireless work of Mr. Salzberg throughout his 30-year career in the field of human rights. John Salzberg completed his doctoral dissertation in human rights in 1973 from New York University. Following his education, John spent several years working for former Congressman Don Fraser, D-MN, as staff on the House Subcommittee on International Organizations. In this capacity, John Salzberg aided in the groundbreaking work on human rights undertaken by Congressman Fraser, which led to the creation of a Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in the State Department in 1976. John traveled with Congressman Fraser on what was the first official human rights investigation mission to South Korea and Indonesia in the late 1970s. In addition, while working for Congressman Fraser, John assisted in the drafting of the legislation which mandated the annual human rights report now issued by the State Department each year.

After working for Congressman Fraser, John went on to work at that same Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs for 4 years, to ensure it fulfilled the mission intended by Congressman Fraser's legislation.

Most recently, John used his knowledge of the legislative and policy process, and his dedication to justice and equality, as an advocate for the Center for Victims of Torture. John began working for the Center for Victims of Torture in 1992, first as a volunteer and then as its representative on Capitol Hill. As an advocate for victims of torture, John was a major force behind the drafting, promotion and eventual passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act

in 1998, and its reauthorization in 2005. This legislation provides needed resources to centers and organizations around the world that work to assist victims of torture in their rehabilitation and in rebuilding their lives.

John is a soft-spoken, humble, and extremely effective man dedicated to seeing an end to human rights abuses in the world. In his retirement, the human rights community is losing a true champion. Thank you, John Salzberg, for your 30 years of service on behalf of the millions of victims of cruel and inhumane human rights abuses around the world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHANCELLOR
JAMES H. SHORE, M.D.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Shore for his devoted service as the first chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (UCDHSC). Dr. Shore has provided unwavering leadership to the UCDHSC campus through a period of significant transition.

Since 1985, Dr. Shore has committed his considerable skills, time and energy to the University of Colorado in a variety of leadership posts, including interim executive vice chancellor for the Health Sciences Center, interim director of the University of Colorado Hospital, superintendent of the Colorado Psychiatric Hospital, and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Shore has also served as chair of the University of Colorado Hospital Board, and is a member of the board of directors for the Children's Hospital and the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority.

I would like to recognize Dr. Shore for his tireless efforts to positively affect campus culture and environment, as well as for his significant influence on its current and future leaders by modeling management skill, civil discourse, active listening, time management and a keen sense of timing. As chancellor, he actively supported diversity by reorganizing the Health Sciences Center's Diversity Program, securing additional scholarship funds and encouraging all schools to increase the recruitment of a more diversified student body, faculty and staff. He also received the United States Public Health Service Commendation Medal for his work with American Indians.

Dr. Shore's contributions to the development and building of the formidable Fitzsimons campus cannot be overstated. He was instrumental in securing legislative authorization for \$202 million in certificates of participation, led the development of the initial Fitzsimons master plan, and has played a key role in accelerating the move process. Dr. Shore championed the raising of \$2.3 billion in capital resources from multiple sources, including State, Federal, gifts, campus cash, and partner allocations. He also worked tirelessly to secure the move of the Children's Hospital to Fitzsimons.

With Dr. Shore at the helm the growth of total institutional revenue of the Health Sciences Center increased from \$330 million

in fiscal year 1997 to more than \$602 million in fiscal year 2004. Most recently, his leadership in chairing the consolidation feasibility process has led to the establishment of the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, creating the leading research university in the Rocky Mountain region with over \$350 million in extramural funding.

Dr. Shore and his wife Chris truly believe in the role of the new Fitzsimons campus and generously contributed to the Fitzsimons Development, helping to build the Shore Family Forum, a state-of-the-art auditorium located in the Nighthorse Campbell Native Health Building.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. James H. Shore for his extraordinary leadership and distinguished service to the University of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING LORI WALKER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lori Walker for her commitment to the people and city of Flower Mound, TX. Mrs. Walker is a very active and respected member of her community who was recently selected as "Citizen of the Year."

The honor and dedication of Mrs. Walker to her community serves as an example to us all. Her service extends from volunteering on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to overseeing children's religious education as a Sunday school teacher for the Triesch United Methodist Church.

Additionally, Mrs. Walker's efforts extend to assisting government officials. She served as executive assistant for Congressman TOM DELAY in Washington, DC, and continued her political career by working in San Francisco as a field representative for U.S. Senator John Seymour and for our local Texas State Senator Jane Nelson as her district director and campaign manager.

It is the servant leadership of Mrs. Walker, and those like her, which truly makes our Nation great. Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Flower Mound's "Citizen of the Year," Lori Walker.

HONORING MR. PAUL COLLINS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the last day of Black History Month to commend the works of a great African-American artist, Mr. Paul Collins of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Collins has had a long and distinguished career painting portraits of individuals from all over the world. It has been said that Mr. Collins' work seeks to recognize and express the essential human dignity and worth of others.

Mr. Collins' talent has been awarded and recognized internationally on numerous occa-

sions, and he has been commissioned by several foreign governments as well as the U.S. to commemorate important people and events.

One of Paul Collins' most celebrated works is the 18-foot by 8-foot mural of Grand Rapids native, President Gerald R. Ford, displayed in the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. Mr. Collins was awarded the mural commission in 1975. His finished product captures the various facets of President Ford's life as a husband, father and athlete. Upon its unveiling, the mural attracted national attention and critical acclaim and was applauded by Newsweek Magazine for its strong and dignified presentation of Gerald R. Ford. Mr. Collins is believed to be the first African-American artist to paint the portrait of a sitting president.

In 1981, Mr. Collins created the Ford Museum Commemorative Poster which was copied from the mural to help raise funds for the Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. More than 1,000 posters were sold to help raise funds for the museum.

Also of note among Mr. Collins' lifetime achievements is the groundbreaking success and importance of his work, *The Voices of Israel*, conceived in the 1970s as a way to help renew the relationship between America's Black and Jewish communities during the civil rights movement. The work depicts the history of the people of Israel. This 25 piece collection has toured in Israel and all over the U.S.

Mr. Collins has also made good use of his excellent artistic skill to create symbols and designs, whose meanings and importance extend beyond his actual works. In this regard, Mr. Collins designed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize Medal, which is awarded yearly to an individual who has contributed to the cause of world peace. This important symbol has been awarded to such notable people as former President Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the late Rosa Parks. Similarly, Collins also created the American Woman Commemorative Plaque, honoring astronaut Sally Ride, the first woman in space.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, Mr. Paul Collins has deservedly received many awards and honors. A few of his many distinctions include the Tadlow Fine Art Award, the People's Choice Award in Paris, and his election as one of the top 20 painters in America as voted by the Watson and Guptill Publication.

It is right, then, that we continue to honor the artist and the individual, Paul Collins. Mr. Collins' works, in a nod to his skill and ability to capture the essence of human characteristics and spirit, have been commissioned to represent and symbolize some of the most important figures and events in this country. Mr. Collins' work as an artist is matched only by his contributions as a humanitarian, as evidenced through his continued service as a teacher and lecturer in Michigan area schools on the value of art and his life experiences, the establishment of his own scholarship programs, and the creation of the Paul Collins Humanitarian Award in 2000. Through his own merit, dedication and long and distinguished career of success, Paul Collins has assuredly gained a position of honor and distinction in our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS AND IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Peace Corps Week and to congratulate the 7,800 Peace Corp Volunteers—including 31 of my constituents—who are serving their country today in 72 countries around the world.

More than 182,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 138 countries since the organization's inception in 1961. Every year, thousands of selfless volunteers share their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agriculture workers.

In addition to serving countries around the globe, 272 Peace Corps' Crisis Corps Volunteers were deployed to the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. These volunteers assisted the Federal Emergency Management Agency with hurricane response efforts. The deployment of Peace Corps' Volunteers within the United States was a historic first, and a great help in managing this national disaster.

I praise our nation's Peace Corps volunteers who serve their country and the world as humanitarians, devoting themselves to transferring life-changing knowledge and skills to the people of other nations.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the hundreds of thousands of men and women of this nation who have selflessly served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers. On this 45th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, I am especially proud to represent 31 such volunteers and I offer them my sincere gratitude.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRI CITIES KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1098

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Tri Cities Knights of Columbus Council 1098.

In 1906, with an initial enrollment of 58 members, the Tri Cities Knights of Columbus Council 1098 was formed. The first Grand Knight was Mr. E. J. Sweeney and the early meetings were held in a hall in Madison, Illinois before moving to neighboring Granite City.

The years before World War I saw steady growth in membership and the establishment of the Knights of Columbus as a presence within the Tri Cities community. During the Great Depression and World War II, membership dwindled and it was only through the determination of the few dedicated members that the council survived. While most social activities for the members ceased during the war,

the council opened the doors of their facilities for the entertainment of the troops stationed at the Granite City Engineering Depot.

After World War II, membership grew rapidly. During the 1950's a circle of the Daughters of Isabella was established for the wives and daughters of members and a circle of the Columbian Squires was formed to promote youth activities.

Social and athletic activities for members and their families expanded and grew but service and acts of charity continued to be the cornerstones of the council. The first chairman of Catholic Charities in the Tri Cities area was a past Grand Knight and members continued to be driving forces in this organization.

Council 1098 has been a significant supporter of community, charitable and educational organizations. The Council has directly contributed in excess of \$100,000 annually in support of local Catholic education and provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships annually. They have also contributed more than \$15,000 a year to developmentally challenged service organizations.

While they have always focused on helping those within their community, Council 1098 has also extended its helping hands to those in need outside their boundaries. In response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, the Council raised \$50,000 in Katrina Relief and continues to provide on-going support to Brother Knights on the gulf coast.

Tri Cities Knights of Columbus Council 1098 has seen many changes through the last 100 years but they have always stayed true to the Knights of Columbus goals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Tri Cities Knights of Columbus Council 1098 and wish the best to them for continued service in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LARRY BLACK, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of a Miami native and a sports legend, sprint star Larry Black, who died last Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

Born on July 20, 1951 in Miami, Florida, Larry Black was an athlete of extraordinary ability and striking grace. He didn't run as fast as the wind; he was faster.

While still a student at North Carolina Central University, Larry Black won two medals at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. He won a gold medal for running the lead leg of Team USA's winning the 4x400 relay squad, and he also captured the silver medal in the 200 meters event, which he ran in 20.19 seconds.

Larry Black was an 11-time collegiate All-American who won four individual national championships and was a part of 3 national championship relay teams. He won NCAA outdoor titles in 1971 (220-yard) and 1972 (200m), and the NAIA indoor 60-yard dash crown in 1974. Black also set the NAIA Championship meet record in the 200m dash in 1972 (20.0 seconds) to help the Eagles win

the 1972 NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championship in Billings, Montana. His record still stands today.

As a relay team member, Black won national championships in the 1970 NCAA outdoor 440-yard relay and the 1972 NAIA 4x100m (39.5 seconds) and 4x400m (3:04.8 minutes) relays. Both of these relay times still stand as meet records for hand-timing. For his efforts, he was selected as the 1972 NAIA Championships Herbert B. Marett Outstanding Performer. For the last 10 years, Black has been a personal trainer in Coral Gables.

Larry Black is survived by his wife Cheresse, 4 daughters and 2 grandsons. I know that my colleagues join me in sending to Larry Black's family our deepest condolences for their loss, and in celebrating the life of a man of extraordinary ability who had the discipline and desire to hone his talents so finely that he became the best in the nation and in the world.

HONORING SANDRA MACKINNON COSENZA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends and colleagues who have gathered to honor a very special woman, and my dear friend, Sandra MacKinnon Cosenza, as she celebrates her retirement. After more than thirty-four years of dedicated service, Sandy will be leaving Area Cooperative Education Services, one of six educational service centers that were formed under Connecticut State Statute in 1970. A result of recognizing that school districts must work together to meet the ever-changing needs of local education systems, these centers provide an environment where quality programs can be planned, developed and implemented—giving our young people access to the best educational opportunities possible.

Education is the cornerstone of success and the most critical link between our young people and their futures. Throughout our country, we look to our towns and cities to provide these invaluable skills to our children. That is what ACES is all about and its success would not have been possible without Sandy. As former Executive Director Peter Young recently described, for the first twenty years of its existence, Sandy was the heart of the ACES Personnel office—advertising vacancies, processing applications, providing orientation for new hires and ensuring that staff not only received their benefits but also met their specific needs. Everyone consulted with Sandy and welcomed her advice and suggestions. In addition, she built and improved staff spirit by organizing social events and took special care to provide the Governing Board with all that they needed.

Beyond her administrative skills was her commitment to the students of ACES. Though many of them will never know, Sandy's genuine care and concern for their education both inside and outside the classroom made all the difference in their lives. She began a Jesse tree which allowed staff to contribute clothing

and other gifts at Christmas for students who came from families in need. She fostered the notion of Holiday cards for ACES—cards designed by students which were used as an outreach tool to the school districts which they serve. It is from these special contributions to the ACES students that Sandy was able to pass on a very unique lesson—they learned the value and reward of giving back to their community. It is easy to see why Sandy will be missed by staff and students alike.

In addition to her career at ACES, Sandy has been married to her wonderful husband, Henry, for forty-two years and has raised two exceptional daughters, Robyn and Jennifer. She has also recently become a grandmother—a role which no doubt she will happily dedicate more of her time to in her retirement. I could not speak about Sandy without also personally thanking her for her many years of special friendship. She is more than a friend—she is family. Words cannot begin to express my appreciation and gratitude for the tireless support she has shown to me and my family.

And so, it is with deep admiration and affection that I stand today to join her husband, Henry; her children, Robyn and Jennifer; her son-in-law, Kevin, her grandson, Ian; family, friends and colleagues in extending my sincere congratulations to Sandra Cosenza as she celebrates her retirement. Sandy is a remarkable woman whose generosity and compassion has left an indelible mark on the lives of all of those who know her and many that do not. Though she will be enjoying her retirement years, I am certain that Sandy will continue to touch the lives of others—her extraordinary warmth and kind heart making all the difference. I am happy to extend my very best wishes to her for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO MEIKLEJOHN CIVIL
LIBERTIES INSTITUTE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute (MCLI), a non-profit organization in my district. The MCLI, founded in 1965, is a think tank that works on national and international human rights issues as they relate to the U.S. In 1995, the Institute's Human Rights Reporting Project began using U.S. treaties as tools to work for human rights.

In 2005, the MCLI issued a report entitled Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11 in response to the failure of the U.S. government to submit timely and accurate reports to the United Nations (UN). According to 3 U.N. treaties ratified by the U.S. in 1992 and 1994, the U.S. is required to submit regular reports to U.N. oversight committees about human rights abuses and enforcement measures at the local, State, and Federal levels.

On March 15, 2005, the Berkeley City Council passed Resolution 62,841 in which the City Council resolved to submit a copy of Challenging to the U.S. State Department, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Human Rights Committee. On March 31, 2005, MCLI presented Challenging

to the U.S. State Department for use in the preparation of its late reports to the oversight committees.

Although the second and third reports for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) treaty were due in 1998 and 2003, the U.S. State Department did not file a report until October 21, 2005. According to the MCLI, this combined second and third report fails to contain various instances of U.S. human rights violations and lack of enforcement measures. The combined U.S. Report will be discussed by the U.N. Human Rights Committee in March 2006 in New York and will be examined in greater detail by the committee in the summer of 2006 in Geneva.

The Challenging report raises important enforcement and reporting violations committed by the U.S. I encourage my colleagues to read this report for more information. The U.S. must comply with the treaties it signed in order to protect the rights of individuals both domestically and abroad and to realign the U.S. with the principles it was founded on. I appreciate the work of MCLI to promote and protect human rights around the globe and congratulate them on this report.

HONORING CAROLYN MEEKER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolyn Meeker, a community champion whose activism has been missed by those in the small community for which she once fought.

Carolyn Meeker was a community treasure in the tiny town of Lutz, located in my congressional district. A native New Yorker, she moved to Lutz in the mid-1960s and quickly became immersed in issues affecting her and her neighbors. She led the charge against suburban sprawl and excessive development. She successfully restricted zoning laws and helped impose limitations on public well field pumping.

Mrs. Meeker became a regular at Hillsborough County Commission meetings. She firmly, but politely, shared her well-reasoned arguments with commissioners, many of whom favored that which she opposed. Her arguments often carried the day because, as a long-time friend once noted, she let facts, not emotion, guide her.

She eventually ran for the Commission herself, narrowly losing the election but nonetheless continuing her crusade to protect the rural lifestyle which so many in Lutz love. She subsequently served on many County-appointed boards working for better growth management. She also headed the Lutz Civic Association. She died in 2003 after a determined fight against cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Meeker was a shining example of what community service and citizenship is all about. Her life reminds me that we all share a responsibility to be civic-minded and to fight for that in which we believe. Many of my constituents are better off because she did.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RADNOR FIRE COMPANY, SERVING RADNOR AND PARTS OF DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY AND CHESTER COUNTY, PA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Radnor Fire Company for 100 years of dedicated service to the residents of Radnor, Tredyffrin and the surrounding communities in Pennsylvania.

On a historical note, after 30 years of service in 1904, the Wayne Hose Company & Wayne Chemical Company disbanded leaving no fire protection for the community. Following a devastating fire that completely destroyed the Wayne Suburban newspaper building in March of 1906, 24 men organized the Radnor Fire Company to protect the community and incorporated on March 15, 1906.

The Wayne steam plant agreed to sound the steam whistle if there was a fire and it sounded its first alarm on May 24, 1906 for a working house fire near Stafford train station. In that first year of existence the Radnor Fire Company responded to 13 fire calls.

In 1907, looking to improve the firefighting capabilities the members were tasked to find a motorized fire truck. Since none existed at that time they drew specifications and The Knox Company was hired to build the first motorized fire pump in the United States.

The firefighters of the Radnor Fire Company have an impressive record when it comes to firefighting. The fire company has fought such spectacular blazes including four at Villanova University, six at Valley Forge Military Academy, the Pennsylvania Fire Works Company explosion in Devon, the Wayne Opera House, Caley Nursing Home and crashes of P-40 fighter planes during World War II. During that time, the fire company manpower was augmented by a "school boy fireman"—Rick Taddeo, who is still a member today.

The first ambulance was purchased in 1947 with funds raised by the Rotary Club following the death of a Radnor firefighter. By the 1970's the fire company was responding to 390 fire and 890 ambulance calls annually. Today they answer nearly 800 fire and 4,000 ambulance calls annually.

From its beginning with a horse-drawn fire apparatus to the first motorized firefighting equipment to its modern new trucks of today, Radnor is a leader in firefighting capabilities and continues to protect the citizens of Radnor, portions of Tredyffrin and the surrounding communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their lives, to the safety of all Radnor residents as well as surrounding communities. As a former fire chief in Marcus Hook, I am aware of the risks firefighters face each day, under intense pressure, in life or death situations. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, courage and dedication of the Radnor Fire Company members who continue

to reflect the same spirit in which the department was established more than 100 years ago. I am honored to rise today to extend my thanks for what the members of the Radnor Fire Company do each day and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE WEST HAVEN
BLACK COALITION AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, in so many communities across this nation, civic organizations have been founded in an effort to advance the local African-American community. For the last twenty years, the City of West Haven, Connecticut has been home to the West Haven Black Coalition—an organization that has not only helped to promote African-American involvement in the community, but has also worked diligently to improve the community and quality of life for all West Haven residents.

We begin each year celebrating the life and lessons of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King followed by the celebration of Black History Month. It could not be more fitting that the West Haven Black Coalition's anniversary coincides with these festivities. In the last two decades, under the leadership of founder and president Carroll Brown, the West Haven Black Coalition has gone a long way in bringing life to the legacy of Dr. King and addressing social, political, and economic issues through active participation in the government and community. Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you going to do for others." Dr. King devoted his life—indeed gave his life—to working for others. Despite our best intentions, it is not always easy to find the time for community service. With so much going on in our daily lives it can be a challenge which is why I have a deep admiration for those among us who take the time to give something back and to share our talents with others. For 20 years, the West Haven Black Coalition has done just that.

It was not so long ago that minorities faced seemingly overwhelming obstacles to justice and equality. While our nation has taken great strides, there is still work to be done—this has become the mission of the West Haven Black Coalition. Actively encouraging African-Americans to not only run for public office but serve in city government, developing and implementing community enrichment projects throughout the city, and making opportunity real for our students by providing college scholarships—these are just some of the ways that the West Haven Black Coalition has made a difference.

Perhaps more important than the physical impact the West Haven Black Coalition has had on our community is the inspiring message that their good work has passed on to a new generation. Your participation, your service—in school, in government, or in the community—gives you a strong voice and empowers you to make a difference. In its first 20 years, the West Haven Black Coalition has left

an indelible mark on our community and I have no doubt that they will continue to have a positive impact on the city for many years to come. That is why I am pleased to stand today to join the many who have gathered to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carroll Brown and the West Haven Black Coalition for their invaluable contributions. My sincere and heart-felt congratulations as they celebrate this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DIMITRI
MUSCAT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from Aurora, Colorado, Sergeant Dimitri Muscat. Sergeant Muscat died on February 24 in Balad, Iraq. He was just 21 years old.

Sergeant Muscat was born in Russia and came to Colorado when he was only 12 years old. According to his stepfather, serving in the Army to defend America was something Dimitri had wanted to do since he was young—and he joined the Army at 17. Dimitri was serving as a gunner on his unit's tank when he died.

Dimitri is survived by his mother, stepfather and his sister.

Sergeant Muscat was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division based in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was in his second tour in Iraq when he died.

Dimitri served his adopted country with courage and valor, fighting for the cause of freedom.

The American and Iraqi people owe Dimitri and his family a great debt of gratitude for his service and his sacrifice.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to all who knew and loved Dimitri.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARINES OF
BULK FUEL COMPANY BRAVO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the five returning Marines of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo, based in Wilmington, Delaware. During the past seven months, the five Marines of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo answered the call to duty in a highly volatile and dangerous region of Iraq. Their efforts contributed to the safety and security of an emerging democracy and our own great nation. With this sacrifice they have inspired others—including their family, friends, and neighbors.

As Americans, we are mindful of what we have lost, but we are deeply grateful for all that cannot be destroyed. It is Marines like those of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo who sustain and invigorate the timeless values, principles, and extraordinary character that define our great nation.

Today, I am just one of many Delawareans who would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to them for their service and sacrifice on our behalf. When they were needed, they answered their country's call, proving once again that extraordinary individuals live within each generation of Americans.

THE "PORT OPERATIONS REQUIRE
TOUGH SCRUTINY" (PORTS) ACT
STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Port Operations Require Tough Scrutiny (PORTS) Act to ensure that decisions about the sale of critical U.S. infrastructure such as ports are thoroughly reviewed so that the homeland security consequences of these transactions are not brushed aside in favor of commercial interests.

The Bush Administration's recent decision to approve the sale of British port operator Pensions & Oriental Steam Navigation to Dubai Ports World, a company owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has raised significant homeland security concerns. This decision also has shined a light on a little-known committee at the Treasury Department and the secretive process it uses to make decisions that can have important consequences for the security of our Nation.

Clearly, the UAE port deal did not receive the scrutiny it deserved. The 9/11 Commission identified the government of the UAE—the same entity that would operate major functions at 6 U.S. ports—as a "persistent counterterrorism problem". Two of the 9/11 hijackers were from the UAE. The 9/11 Commission concluded that the UAE banking system was used as a conduit for funds for the September 11th attacks. The UAE was a key transfer point for illegal shipments of nuclear components to Iran, North Korea and Libya. The UAE was one of only three nations to recognize the legitimacy of the Taliban government and still does not recognize the State of Israel.

Despite all of these warning signs, the proposed port deal did not even trigger a 45-day investigation, which is provided in current law and should have been interpreted as being mandatory when foreign governments—whether involving the UAE, the UK, the Ukraine or any other nation—seek mergers, acquisitions or similar transactions that could affect U.S. national security. Nevertheless, when asked about the UAE port deal last week, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said, "I am reluctant to make judgments based on the minimal amount of information I have because I just heard about this over the weekend." (Defense Department news briefing, 2/21/06).

It is unacceptable that President Bush, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Treasury were not informed of the UAE port deal until after it was approved and had caused widespread public outrage. President Bush has repeatedly told the American people that 9/11 changed his thinking, and extraordinary measures, such as warrantless wiretapping of

American citizens, are required to keep America safe. How, then, could the Bush Administration have overlooked such an obvious homeland security threat?

My legislation would strengthen the process for assessing the national security impact of foreign ownership of critical U.S. infrastructure. Specifically, the legislation would:

Limit Takeovers of Critical Homeland Infrastructure. In cases where the purchaser is a government-owned company based in a foreign country, the transaction must be approved not only by CFIUS, but also by the President and be subject to congressional review.

If the purchaser is a foreign company, but not government-controlled, the transaction must undergo a 45-day investigation and be found to not undermine national security before it can be approved.

Increase the 30-day Evaluation Period. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), "Several officials [participating in the CFIUS process] commented that, in complex cases, it is difficult to complete analyses . . . within 23 days." CFIUS's guidance requires member agencies to determine if they are likely to object to the transaction by the 23rd day of the 30-day review period. The legislation would double this initial evaluation period to 60 days and permit any participant to be granted an automatic 10-day extension, separate from CFIUS's 45-day investigatory period.

Require Reports to Congress. According to Treasury Department regulations, CFIUS reviews of any proposed transactions are confidential, and there is no congressional oversight of CFIUS decisions. The legislation would require CFIUS to report annually to Congress on the number of notifications it received during the year and the action taken after each notification.

As security experts and the 9/11 Commission have pointed out, our ports are a vulnerable entry point that could be exploited by terrorists to strike our country. Almost none of the cargo that enters U.S. ports is ever inspected. While the federal government is ultimately responsible for security at ports, much of the day-to-day security responsibilities, such as hiring security guards and ensuring adequate access controls and fencing are in place, are delegated to the companies that operate at the port. The port operator also has access to real-time sensitive intelligence of the continuous movement of ships, their cargoes and the millions of containers they are stored in; the identity of their shippers and inside knowledge about the security in place at the ports.

While oversight of these private operators is the responsibility of the Department of Security, the Bush Administration is nickel and diming our port security by proposing a budget that eliminates millions in port security grants. This is a wrong-headed decision that only leaves our country vulnerable to a devastating attack, such as a nuclear weapon or dirty bomb being detonated in our country.

We know that terrorists are seeking to use U.S. ports as a route to launch a devastating nuclear attack on U.S. soil—one of the millennium bombers entered the United States through the Port of Boston in an attempt to bomb buildings on the West Coast. Cargo containers represent a cheap, deadly method for delivering bombs on U.S. soil—we cannot

afford to be lax in our oversight of the shipping and handling of these containers. This Administration's scrutiny of this UAE deal is just like their treatment of tons of cargos at our door: insufficient, incomplete and incomprehensible, given the security threats we face."

As the DP World decision illustrates, the CFIUS process urgently needs to be overhauled. I urge consideration of this legislation so that we can increase the scrutiny of transactions that could create serious homeland security risks. Commerce must not be permitted to trump common sense.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAY BARRETTO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sympathy that I rise today to say goodbye to a Latin Jazz legend and a wonderful man. Mr. Ray Barretto passed away on Friday, February 17, 2006 at the age of 76. Ray was the first Hispanic to record a Latin song which became a "hit" on the American Billboard Charts. Although he has gone, his musical influence will live on for generations to come. Surely that is a mark of a great life.

Like many Puerto Ricans, Ray's parents moved to New York in the early 1920's in search of a better life. Raised in Spanish Harlem, he was deeply influenced by his mother's love of music and by the jazz music of musicians such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie. In 1946 at the age of 17, he joined the Army and was stationed in Germany where he met Belgian musician Fats Sadi. However, it was not until he heard "Manteca" recorded by Dizzy Gillespie and Cuban percussionist, Chano Pozo, that he realized music was his true calling in life.

After returning to New York in 1949, Ray began to visit clubs where he participated in jam sessions and perfected his conga playing. It wasn't long before the likes of Charlie Parker, Jose Curbelo and Tito Puente began to ask him to play with their bands. Ray opened the door for other Latin percussionists to appear in jazz groups, creating a sound unlike any other.

Over the years Ray achieved international superstardom and released nearly 2 dozen albums with the Fania label from the late-60s until salsa's popularity peaked in the mid 1980's. In 1975 he was nominated for a Grammy Award for the song "Barretto," and in 1990, he finally won a Grammy for the album "Ritmo en el Corazón" (Rhythm in the Heart), which featured the vocals of the late great Celia Cruz. In 1999, Ray was inducted into the International Latin Music Hall of Fame and in January 2006 he was named one of the National Endowment for the Arts' Jazz Masters of 2006, the Nation's highest jazz honor.

Mr. Speaker, Rays fusing of Afro-Caribbean rhythms with jazz created a whole new genre of music that has not only entertained us but also helped to unite people from diverse backgrounds in a common love for the sound. The bonds that he worked to create over the years are, as one of his most popular tunes is entitled, "Indestructible." I thank him for having the courage to ask, "why not," when others asked "why."

For his masterful play and his genuine creativity I ask that my colleagues join me in giving a final farewell to the Godfather of Latin Jazz, Mr. Ray Barretto.

HONORING THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF ROBERT EASTERBROOK

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert Easterbrook for his contributions to wildlife conservation and protecting the freedom to hunt.

As a member of the Safari Club for over 20 years and as founding member of the Detroit Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI), Robert's passion for conservation education has been an invaluable resource to the state of Michigan. Mr. Easterbrook's nature study outdoor center and camp hosts over 4,200 underprivileged children every year. His work with troubled teenagers has been credited with changing many of their lives for the better. He also founded the "Great Lakes Bowfishing Championship," a fundraising event benefiting the children's camp that has been recognized as one of the largest of its kind.

Robert is also well-known for his commitment and dedication to sportsmen's issues. He has been honored by both the Michigan House and Senate for his input on bipartisan legislation. His Sportsmen Against Hunger program encourages hunters to donate their meat to the hungry and has been adopted by 4 other states.

Over the past 30 years Robert Easterbrook has been awarded Special Conservationist of the Year Award by the Michigan United Conservation Club, the Ted Nugent World Bowhunters Lifetime Representative Award and the Outstanding SCI member, among other awards. He has also served on various committees dedicated to conservation efforts, including the World Wildlife Foundation, the American Archery Council and the Michigan Involvement Committee.

Mr. Easterbrook's many accomplishments serve as a lasting example of excellence in conservationism. Michigan has been well-served by Robert Easterbrook. The residents of Michigan will appreciate Mr. Easterbrook's work to protect our great state for generations to come.

I would like to thank Robert for his dedicated service both to Safari Club International and to the State of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFIDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude to the YWCA USA and acclaimed performer Queen Latifah for their joint efforts to create National Women's Confidence Day this Spring. This day will help raise public awareness and celebrate the positive impact

of confidence in women's personal and professional lives.

The impact of cultivating confidence in the individual lives of women across America cannot be understated. Self-confidence, coupled with self-respect, are vitally important characteristics that empower women and help them to become successful in all areas of their lives.

When women are confident, society benefits. Our Nation's history has been shaped by women whose strong will, determination, and self-confidence has allowed them to break down barriers, speak their minds, and stand up for their beliefs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating National Women's Confidence Day on the first Tuesday in April. This momentous day will serve as a reminder for women to believe in themselves and remain confident every day; an opportunity for women to get involved in helping other women live more fulfilling lives and; a fitting tribute to women who contribute through education, self-empowerment, mentoring, and volunteer work to helping others gain confidence and self-esteem.

Again, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the YWCA USA, Queen Latifah, and others who support cultivating women's confidence. I invite everyone to join me in celebrating the positive impact confidence has on women's personal and professional lives this Spring, on National Women's Confidence Day.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization in Michigan that single-handedly brought dentistry from a journeyman's trade, as it was called, to a respected profession. The Michigan Dental Association, MDA, will celebrate 150 years of being the foundation for the education of dentists and professional development of their health care specialty on March 1 of this year. The MDA is the oldest continuous State dental society in the United States.

What began as 14 dentists venturing to Detroit on horseback through the harsh Michigan winter on January 8, 1856, would far surpass their dream of creating an association of dentists to elevate the significance of their medical profession. The MDA first pursued their dream by promoting education and professional standards by requiring all members to be graduates of dental school. Finding it difficult to demand such a requirement without a dental school in the State, they worked with the Michigan Legislature to appropriate funds to start a dental school at the University of Michigan.

In the MDA's endless quest to raise the reputation of the dental profession, they began working in 1867 toward legislation that would require dentists practicing in the State of Michigan to register with a State board of dentistry, weeding out those practicing unauthorized methods. In 1883, Governor Josiah W. Begole signed the first dental practice act to enact such requirements.

Membership of the MDA grew at rapid rates during the late 1800's and early 1900's due to annual meetings, the inclusion of local dental groups in the state and the publication of a monthly Journal, still in circulation today.

In the 1930's during the Great Depression, the dental industry was hit hard along with the entire economy. However, the MDA made a strong recovery by helping recruit dentists for military service as well as finding ways to ensure local communities had dental service. Throughout the 1940's and on into the 60's the MDA took up a number of causes including the promotion of community water fluoridation and promoting employer-paid dental coverage and third party plans, which eventually led to expanded dental coverage in Michigan.

The 1980's served as an opportunity to continue the MDA's pursuit of higher professional standards for their profession. A campaign began in 1984 to advocate the importance of dental care and to urge the public to visit their dentist every 6 months, a now widely accepted practice. The MDA worked to mandate continuing dental education for licensed dental professionals, further accomplishing their goal to promote education in the profession.

Mr. Speaker, the Michigan Dental Association has represented the profession of dentistry and the professionals it serves exceptionally well with foresight and vision over the last 150 years. They have successfully taught America that the importance of good oral health is key to overall health. With over 75 percent of Michigan dentists as members, the MDA continues to focus on their message of "Dental Care is Primary Care" and work with the State of Michigan to "promote professional ethics, dental coverage to the uninsured and disadvantaged, and to monitor in the disciplinary process." With those values in mind, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Michigan Dental Association and its 5,801 members—2005, on their sesquicentennial celebration of raising the standards of the profession of dentistry in Michigan and the United States. I wish them all the best in the future toward another successful 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX IZYKOWSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Alex Izykowski of Bay City, Michigan. Alex is a member of the Men's 5,000 Meter Short Track Relay Team that won the Bronze Medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy on February 25th.

Alex, nicknamed "Izy," started speed skating at the age of eleven after watching the 1994 Winter Olympics from Lillehammer, Norway. His first foray onto the ice was on borrowed skates. Determined to succeed and one day become an Olympian he continued to practice and entered his first competition in 1995. One year later he placed fifth at the junior nationals. Always striving to do better, he set three state juvenile outdoor records in 1997 and in 2001, Alex was named to the U.S. Junior Short Track team at the U.S. Championship held in Walpole, Massachu-

setts. Competing with the team in Italy that year, Alex won the 1,000 meter race.

The following year he became the Junior American record holder in the 1,500 meter and 3,000 meter competitions in Calgary. As a member of the U.S. Junior World Cup team Izy won a Silver Medal as a participant on the relay team in 2003. Two years later he won a Bronze Medal in Beijing as a member of the U.S. World Championships Relay Team. After finishing second overall in the lap time trials at the Marquette Training Center, Alex was given a slot on the U.S. Olympic Team fulfilling his 1994 dream to become an Olympian.

He competed twice in the 2006 Olympics, first in the Men's 1,500 meter race and the second time in the Men's Relay. As an integral part of the relay team, Alex was able to pull the team from fourth place to third place during one of his laps around the track. Along with fellow teammates, J.P. Kepka, Rusty Smith, and Apolo Anton Ohno, Alex was able to maintain momentum during the fast paced relay and win the Bronze Medal with a time of 6:47.990.

A 2002 graduate of Bay City Western High School, Alex credits his entire family as his strongest influence and support. Many of his relatives were able to travel to Turin to watch him compete. In tribute to his parents, Alan and JoAnn Izykowski, Alex presented the bouquet given to him during the medal ceremony to his mother. He remarked, "Just showing some respect."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise to their feet and join me, the Bay City community, and the State of Michigan in welcoming home a tremendous athlete, an inspirational role model, and a fierce competitor, Alex Izykowski. Please join me in applauding his achievements as he takes his place in the history of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE NATION'S EYE BANKS DURING NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to bring attention to the fact that March 2006 is National Eye Donor Month. As a Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health and a recipient of organ donation myself, I am firmly committed to promoting organ, eye, and tissue donation.

I have been blessed with the same gift thousands of transplant recipients have received: the gift of life. Sometimes that gift comes in the form of a longer life. Other times, in the case of cornea transplant recipients for example, the gift is one of enhanced life, or the simple ability to continue every day activities. The recipient is allowed the opportunity to enjoy one of the things so many of us take for granted—a chance to see the world around us. Few of us know personally the challenges associated with lost vision, but the fact that our Nation's eye banks exist and have helped so many Americans is a testament to their good work. As our Nation's seniors live longer and vision issues confront the baby boom generation in record numbers, the challenge will grow

and the work of our Nation's eye banks will prove even more important. I know they are up to this new challenge and Congress must stand behind them.

The first successful transplant of cornea tissue was made more than one hundred years ago. Since then, advancements in medical technology have been phenomenal. Cornea transplants are now among the most common and most successful transplant procedures. More than one million people, ranging in age from nine days to 107 years old, have received eye tissue transplants.

All eye banks are not-for-profit organizations that are community-based and work with local philanthropic organizations, such as Lions Clubs, to educate citizens on the importance of donation. The community-based reach helps contribute to their success. Eye banks facilitate approximately 46,000 sight-restoring transplants each year. In my home state of Georgia, over 1,000 Georgians have been given the gift of sight with the help of the Georgia Eye bank and our ocular transplant physicians. Their success is a testament to their hard work but it also indicates that Congress must join eye banks in the struggle they face everyday.

The Eye Bank Association of America has been vital in advancing the cause of eye donation for the past 45 years. Their efforts to raise awareness and support for eye donation have done wonders for the development of safe and effective transplants. This year marks the 23rd anniversary of Eye Donor Month.

If you are not yet an anatomical gift donor, I encourage you to become one. I know all too well what may seem like a simple check on a card can mean to those awaiting a life-saving or life-enhancing donation. I continue my call and challenge to all Americans to discuss this issue with their families and consider becoming an organ, eye, and tissue donor. Such conversations must take place around the kitchen table, not after a loved one is gone. The process of becoming a donor takes just a few minutes, but its impact can last a lifetime for recipients. I also hope that people consider the merits of donating not just solid organs, but tissue and corneas as well. As our eye banks have proven, being able to give the gift of sight is truly a testament to our medical advancement.

As this month goes on, I encourage my colleagues to recognize the success of eye banks across our Nation and work to increase local awareness about corneal transplants and the importance of donation. Transplants that give the gift of sight change Americans' lives every day, and we must do everything in our power to support this effort. I, for one, will do my part and hope you will join me in saluting our Nation's eye banks during Eye Donor Month.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FULL FISCAL YEAR 2007 FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM/RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in vehement opposition to the proposed elimination of National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) funding, contained in the President's Budget Request, for the second year in a row. I am concerned that some of my colleagues may not understand the severity of the situation that NYSP is facing. If Congress does not provide full FY07 funding for NYSP, the program will be forced to close its doors. This will result in 75,000 of our nation's most vulnerable youth, being left behind next summer.

NYSP uses sports instruction and competition, as a vehicle to enhance self-esteem and respect, among boys and girls from low-income households. Established in 1969, with a \$3 million funding commitment from the White House, NYSP has provided over 2 million participants with instruction in career and educational opportunities, and exposure to the college environment for nearly four decades.

Because I have witnessed, firsthand, the difference that the NYSP program has made in the lives of under served youth in my Congressional District I cannot, in good conscience, sit idly by as this essential program is dismantled. In my Congressional District, Morehouse College has done an outstanding job of running the NYSP program for nearly four decades, serving over 10,000 children throughout Atlanta. The Morehouse College NYSP program is unique, because it has taken great pains to maintain a balance between athletics and academics. Similar to NYSP programs throughout the nation, Morehouse College offers instruction focusing on sports. However, it also includes additional instruction in areas such as: nutrition, drug awareness and prevention, creative writing, and leadership development.

The NYSP program has a tremendous impact on the youth that it serves in my Congressional District. By placing NYSP participants in academic settings, where they receive hundreds of hours of exposure to the benefits of higher education, the participants begin to believe that they, too, can succeed in college and beyond. Furthermore, the mentoring relationships established between the teaching/coaching staff, college student volunteers, and NYSP participants, have resulted in hundreds of former NYSP participants returning to work in the program at Morehouse College as student volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, NYSP is not asking for a handout from Congress. In fact, in 2005 NYSP secured two-thirds of its operating expenses from other public and private sources, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the 202 selected institutions of higher education with which it partners. The Administration knows that NYSP works. Congress knows that NYSP works. Institutions of higher learning in 47 states and the District of Columbia know that NYSP works. Most impor-

tant, over 2 million NYSP participants, and their families, know that it works.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues, especially those serving on the budget and appropriations committees, to reject the President's proposed elimination of the NYSP program, and provide full funding for FY07.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA S. SMITH

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw our colleagues' attention to the pending retirement of Marcia S. Smith from the Congressional Research Service after over thirty years of service to Congress. Marcia is one of the preeminent and most highly respected policy analysts in her field, and while she will remain an active figure in space and telecommunications policy at the National Academy of Sciences, her intelligence, expertise, objectivity and balance will be greatly missed on both sides of Capitol Hill.

Marcia Smith began her career at the Congressional Research Service in 1975, after graduating from Syracuse University with a degree in political science. She quickly became an accomplished and adept analyst in space and aerospace policy, rising to Specialist in Aerospace and Telecommunications Policy, first in the Science Policy Research Division, and then in the Resources, Science and Industry Division, of CRS. In her service to Congress, she has provided background and analytic reports, memoranda, committee prints and expert testimony to Members of Congress and committees of the U.S. Congress on matters concerning U.S. and foreign military and civilian space activities, and on telecommunications issues (and formerly on nuclear energy).

Marcia has been a mentor and advisor to over a dozen CRS analysts and researchers during her time in that organization. She was Section Head for Space and Defense Technologies from 1987-1991, and Section Head for Energy, Aerospace and Transportation Technologies from 1984-1985.

To give my colleagues an idea of how prolific and proficient Marcia Smith has been during service to Congress, she has authored or coauthored over 160 reports and articles on space, nuclear energy, and telecommunications policies and issues. She has testified as an expert witness before House and Senate Committees nearly 20 times, a significant number of those times in front of the committee I chair, the Committee on Science.

I would like to point out 2 instances in which Marcia has served both Congress and her country in an exemplary manner. In both instances, these were circumstances marked by tragedy—when the Space Shuttle *Challenger* was lost at launch on January 28, 1986, and again when the Space Shuttle *Columbia* was lost during re-entry on February 1, 2003. Within hours of the *Challenger* disaster, Marcia was briefing congressional staff and talking to Members of Congress about the technical, policy, and human costs of this accident. She was widely interviewed and quoted by the national and international news media. And in the painful months following the accident,

Marcia worked with Congress to provide oversight, investigation, and new policy directions in our national space program.

In 2003, the unthinkable happened again—another shuttle disaster. And while this occurred on a Saturday, Marcia spent the entire weekend in her office, writing a report that detailed the Columbia program, what we knew then of the accident, and potential congressional outcomes for re-examining the purpose and scope of human space flight. This report was ready for Congress first thing the following Monday morning.

Let me also add that Marcia has helped Congress in so many other areas of space policy that has brought us as a nation forward. She has worked with us on the Mission to Planet Mars, international space policy and issues revolving around the International Space Station, and the President Bush's National Space Policy. She is an expert on the NASA budget, and has a working and encyclopedic knowledge of space launches and flights, going back to the Sputnik launches and the Mercury Program.

In addition, Marcia Smith has exemplified the type of professional growth and development that we in Congress have come to expect from senior-level policy experts at the Congressional Research Service. From 1985–1986, Ms. Smith took a leave of absence to serve as Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission on Space. The Commission, created by Congress and its members appointed by the President, developed long term (50 year) goals for the civilian space program under the chairmanship of (the late) former NASA Administrator Thomas Paine. The Commission published its results in the report *Pioneering the Space Frontier*.

Marcia Smith has continued her professional accomplishments even as she makes this transition in her career. She is a Trustee of the International Academy of Astronautics (and co-chairs the Space Activities and Society Committee, and is a member of the International Space Policies and Plans Committee and the Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee). She has been a member of the Committee on Human Exploration (CHEX) of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' Space Studies Board (1992–93, 1996–97). She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). She serves on AIAA's Ethical Conduct Panel, and the International Activities Committee; was a member of the International Space Year Committee (1989–1992), the Public Policy Committee (1982–1989) and the Space Systems Technical Committee (1986–1989); was an AIAA Distinguished Lecturer (1983–1988); and was a member of the Council of AIAA's National Capital Section (1994–1996). She is a member of the Kettering Group of space observers. She is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and of the Association of U.S. Members of the IISL. She was President of the American Astronautical Society (1985–1986), on its Board of Directors (1982–1985), and Executive Committee (1982–1987, 1988–1989). She is a Life Member of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Washington Academy of Sciences (Board of Directors, 1988–1989). She is a member of Sigma Xi (the honorary scientific research society). Ms. Smith serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Space*

and *Policy and Space Forum*, and is a contributing editor for the Smithsonian Institution's *Air & Space* magazine. She is listed in several "Who's Who" directories, including *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who of American Women*, and *American Men and Women of Science*.

Marcia Smith was also a founder of Women in Aerospace, was its President (1987) and member of its Board of Directors (1984–1990), and is an Emeritus Member. Women in Aerospace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the advancement of women in aerospace and recognizing their achievements. In September 2003, I had the honor of presenting Marcia with the Women in Aerospace Lifetime Achievement Award. In my remarks, I commented that her unselfishness and service to her country served as models for everyone who works for Congress and therefore their country. That holds true today as it did then. And, as a founding member of Women in Aerospace, Marcia has clearly made a mark on supporting the role of women professionals in the space community.

Marcia once said of her position at CRS, that working for Congress, she was extremely busy, put in long hours, often became exhausted—but never bored. Members of Congress and the Committees they serve on have been the beneficiaries of this work ethic, high levels of thoroughness and competence, and keen analytical skills. I would ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognize and thank Marcia Smith for the contributions she has made during her time with the Congressional Research Service, and her outstanding performance and service to Congress, and for the American people.

CONGRATULATING KRISTAL KOGA
ON BEING NAMED GUAM'S 2006
WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION
OF THE YEAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Ms. Kristal Koga, on being named 2006 Women in Business Champion of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office.

Ms. Koga is an accomplished designer and owns the "Kristal Kollection" clothing line. Her hard work and keen business sense has made her a well known and well established businesswoman on Guam. Her commitment to use her vast skills and knowledge to foster and mentor young women pursuing careers in business is what makes her especially deserving of this recognition as "Women in Business Champion."

Ms. Koga is serving, or has served in numerous organizations dedicated to improving the lives of women around the world, including the Soroptimist International of the Marianas, where she is a current member and served as the immediate past-president; the Federation of Asian Pacific Women's Association, where she is currently serving as treasurer; and the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, where she serves as the vice president.

I congratulate Kristal for being selected as the 2006 Women in Business Champion of the

Year. I join our island community in celebrating her distinction. Kristal, we are all proud of you and we wish you continued prosperity.

IN HONOR OF THE 890TH
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize before this House the courageous men and women of the 890th Transportation Company, who just days ago returned from their deployment overseas.

For nearly one year, the Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin-based 890th served under perilous conditions in Iraq, delivering vital supplies to their comrades throughout the country. The vast majority of their missions took place in the Sunni Triangle—home to some of the most intense violence in Iraq. However, despite the threat of roadside bombs and surprise attacks, the brave men and women of this unit faithfully and successfully executed their duties. And, although they encountered enemy engagement on nearly 40 percent of their missions, the unit suffered zero casualties.

Mr. Speaker, there's no question the 890th Transportation Company helped nourish the seeds of freedom and democracy in Iraq, and their service and sacrifice are to be commended. It is my honor to recognize their brave efforts today, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say thank you. They are our genuine heroes.

HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
SORORITY, INC. AND THE IMPORTANCE
OF BLACK FRATERNAL,
SOCIAL AND CIVIC INSTITUTIONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the importance of black fraternal, social and civic institutions to the African-American community and to America as a whole. 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first continuous, collegiate black Greek letter fraternity. This is remarkable when you think of the social and political climate of 1906—where we were almost 50 years away from *Brown v. Board of Education* or Rosa Parks refusing to give up her bus seat. During this era of Jim Crow, black fraternal, social and civic institutions refused to accept this imposed inferiority, and banded together to provide support and promote solutions.

I am a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the oldest black Greek letter fraternity founded by collegiate women. Founded in 1908 at Howard University, AKA was established in order to provide social and intellectual enrichment through member interactions.

Throughout the years, AKA's purpose has expanded as it strives to promote high scholastics and ethical standards, vocational and career guidance, health services and the advancement of human and civil rights. Led by national Basileus, Norma S. White, Alpha Kappa Alpha focuses on five national targets including: education, health, the black family, economics, and the arts. Most importantly the women of AKA seek to make a difference in our communities and to be of supreme service to all of mankind.

When you look at AKA's distinguished membership it is easy to see its impact on America. Amongst these women are: Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dr. Mae Jemison—just to name a few.

The impact of black fraternal, social and civic organization is truly immeasurable. They have brought together and inspired the leaders that have made America what it is today.

CONGRATULATING ALFRED K.Y. LAM ON BEING NAMED GUAM'S 2006 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Mr. Alfred K.Y. Lam, affectionately known to everyone on Guam as "Uncle Alfred," on being named the 2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office.

Alfred's entrepreneurial spirit, diligence, and perseverance have made him a successful businessman on Guam, but his commitment to the development and promotion of other minority businesses over the last 30 years makes him deserving of the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year award.

Since coming to Guam in 1972, Alfred has operated his own business, finding a wealth of business opportunity in Guam's burgeoning shipping industry. Even in those early days, Alfred saw the need to nurture other small businesses for the benefit of the entire community.

From 1974 to 1976, he served as the vice president of the United Chinese Association, and was the charter president of the Asian Pacific Lions Club in 1982. During this time, Alfred also helped form the Sea Transport Association, which was created to promote and stabilize the shipping market between Guam and the Far East for the benefit of Chinese merchants and Guam's economy as a whole.

For the last two years, Alfred has also served as president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, which has begun to form alliances with other Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Los Angeles.

Alfred is a proven business leader, and continues to be an inspiration to the next generation of businessmen on Guam, including the 2005 Small Business Person of the Year, George Lai of Quality Distributors.

I congratulate Alfred for being selected as the 2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for Guam. Our island celebrates

his recognition with his wife Kathy and his children. Uncle Alfred, we are all proud of you and we wish you continued prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF MILLER
ELECTRIC CREDIT UNION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House Miller Electric Credit Union, which was recently awarded the Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award for its extraordinary service to its members and the community of Appleton, Wisconsin.

Helping young people learn the value of money is one of the most significant social and economic challenges we face as a nation. Despite the principles of thrift and prudence embraced by our parents and grandparents, today the importance of saving is being overshadowed by the ease at which folks can spend. And, as a result millions of Americans have charged and financed their way into a life of debt and financial turmoil.

Fortunately, there are folks out there working to break the spending cycle. Miller Electric Credit Union spends hours upon hours teaching individuals lessons on financial education. They've created innovative programs to help their members, young and old, learn how to budget and save for important purchases down the road. One program in particular—the Undersea Saver's Club—gives prizes to kids who make a habit out of depositing, rather than withdrawing, money in their savings account.

Mr. Speaker, Miller Electric Credit Union has been a valued member of the Appleton community for nearly 60 years, and its 2,800 member-owners are a testament to its success. I congratulate them on receiving this outstanding honor, and wish them continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am most pleased to join my colleagues and millions of Americans in commemorating African-American History Month and particularly this year's theme "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions". This theme as announced by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) is most appropriate and timely as we enter a new millennium and hopefully a new and even brighter era of African-American progress.

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize February as Black History Month and to honor the rich cultural heritage of African-Americans in Dallas and my State of Texas. In the arts or letters, history, business, sport, or education, Greater Metroplex's African-American community has made a significant and lasting impact on our Nation's culture.

This evening, in honor of Black History Month, I would like to call the House's attention to four distinguished African-Americans entities that made major contributions to my congressional district, city of Dallas as well as the State and our country.

First, Mr. President, I would call your attention to Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates its 29th season as the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. The ensemble, a contemporary modern dance company, consists of 14 professional dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers which include: Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Alonzo King, Milton Myers, Elisa Monte, Donald McKayle, Kevin Jeff, Christopher Higgins, Jessica Lang, Bruce Wood, David Parsons and Darryl Sneed. The company and company's dancers have studied, trained and performed with some of the pre-eminent performers and teachers in the American dance world.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the African American Museum which has more than 25 years, has stood as a cultural beacon in Dallas and the Southwestern United States. Started in 1974 as a part of the Bishop College Special Collection, the Museum has operated independently since 1979.

The African American Museum is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials. It also has one of the largest African American folk art collections in the United States. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas.

The main objective of the Museum is the presentation of meaningful experiences for children and adults who would not ordinarily visit a museum. The rich heritage of black art and history is housed in four vaulted galleries, augmented by a research library. Living African American culture is experienced through entertaining and educational programs presented in the theater, studio arts area and classrooms. The Museum's permanent collections include African art; African American fine art; magazine, historical, political and community archives.

Third, I would like to recognize the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. (TBAAL) is a Dallas-based multi-disciplined cultural arts institution. TBAAL's primary objectives have been to stimulate an increased awareness of Black artistic accomplishments rooted in the African culture among the races; to honor those who have made significant and continuing contributions in the arts and letters of the past and present and; to identify, encourage and support young, promising talented artists and scholars in Black arts and letters.

After more than two decades of producing and presenting programs in music, theater, dance, film, television and video, literature and visual arts throughout the United States, TBAAL has continued to create strong ties among many emerging and well known artists and scholars. In the organization's early history (1977), it established a professional Resident Touring Company called the Third World Players. Renowned actress Regina Taylor was a member of that company in 1978 and other

artists such as Erykah Badu are a product of the Academy.

The 'cultural icon' of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, TBAAL presents and produces exciting cultural arts programs annually in dance, theatre, music, literary, fine, and visual arts. Local and emerging artists participate in TBAAL programs, and noted artists and celebrities have participated such as: Oleta Adams, Debbie Allen, Maya Angelou, Roy Ayers, Akin Babatunde, Obba Babatundé, Erykah Badu, Romare Bearden, The Barrett Sisters, Angela Bofill, Avery Brooks, Cab Calloway, Bill Cosby, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis*, Mari Evans, Antonio Fargas, Kim Fields, Lou Gossett, William Greaves, Alex Haley, Irma P. Hall, Tramaine Hawkins, Jennifer Holliday, Linda Hopkins, Kim Jordan, Ella Joyce, Eartha Kitt, Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, Les McCann, Barbara McNair, Garrett Morris, Roger Mosley, Tyler Perry, Florence Quivar, Phylcia Rashad, Dan Rather, Esther Rolle, Sonia Sanchez, Karen Clark-Sheard, KiKi Shephard, Carole Simpson, Mavis Staples, Glenn Turman, Cicely Tyson, Albertina Walker, Margaret Walker*, Dionne Warwick, Lillias White, Hal Williams, Nancy Wilson, Vickie Winans, the late James Cleveland and many more.

TBAAL is the only African-American multi-disciplined cultural arts organization in the country housed inside a major convention center, which increases the awareness of African American cultural history.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I like to recognize the Dallas Youth Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The purpose of the Youth Council is to inform youth of the problems affecting Black people and other minority groups as well as work towards those measures to advance the economic, educational, social, and political status of African Americans and other minority groups and to stimulate an appreciation of the African American contribution to civilization. I commend Boshia Jagers, President, Tayana White, 1st Vice President, Crystal Armstrong, 2nd Vice President; Danielle Whyte, Secretary; Nucleous Johnson, Treasurer and Linda Darden-Lydia, Youth Advisor for their hard work in my district towards betterment of younger generation.

Let me just say in closing, that Black History Month should be a time for reflection and appreciation; a time to reflect on the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout this country and throughout our history, accomplishments that often were made in the face of racism, of poverty, and unequal opportunity. It should be a time to increase our awareness and understanding of African-American history and culture, and a time to reaffirm our understanding of our rich cultural diversity, our commitment to social equality, and our support of racial justice.

COMMENDING JOSEPH CRISOSTOMO UPON HIS BEING NAMED GUAM'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2006

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Joseph

Crisostomo of Guam and to commend him on being honored as the 2006 Small Business Person of the Year. Each year the U.S. Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office solicits nominations from our community for this award. This year Mr. Crisostomo has earned this distinction and his nomination will go forward for national recognition as well.

Mr. Crisostomo, who family, friends, employees, and customers know as "Joey," is widely recognized and well respected within our island community as a formidable and successful business leader. His has an impressive record of experience in the sales and automotive industries and he has built a reputation of hard work and strong leadership.

The son of Jose R. and Rosario Sanchez Crisostomo, Joey grew up in a military family and developed an interest in cars and motorcycles at an early stage in life. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1977, and began working at a local company on the island stocking auto parts and assembling motorcycles. After spending several years in Idaho and Hawaii in the industry, he returned to his home island of Guam in 1992 to work in car sales and to serve as the sales manager for two local companies. In 1999, the local Chrysler dealership folded but Joey was instrumental in securing the parts and service agreement with Chrysler International to ensure the Chrysler name remained on Guam.

Despite weak economic conditions, Joey successfully took risk and opened Cars Plus, LLC. Joey demonstrated his ability to start up a new business from the bottom. Today, Cars Plus has grown from a service and parts company to a full line car dealership. Joey has guided the company over consecutive years of record growth, and the business has expanded in employees, size, and sales.

Joey is not only a strong and successful business leader on our island. He has contributed to our community in many ways with corporate sponsorships, board memberships, and his personal time. He is an active member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the Guam Visitor's Bureau Sports Tourism Committee. In particular, he has devoted his time to youth programs and youth organizations. Among the many organizations that have benefited from his contributions are Guam's Youth Life Program, the Guam Juvenile Drug Court Program, Operation Outreach USA, the Guam Football Association, the Global Young Leaders Conference, the Guam Girls Fast Pitch Softball League, the Boy Scouts of America, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society.

As an avid racer, Joey has also promoted Guam internationally having competed in many races. Today we take this occasion to recognize Joey's achievements and his contributions to our community. I join his wife, Joyce, his daughters, Lenora and Jennifer, and his son, Joey, in honoring his accomplishments and in commending him as the Small Business Person of the Year for 2006. Our community wishes him the best of success as he pursues future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the votes on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 10: I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4745, making supplemental appropriations for FY 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program.

Rollcall Vote 11: I would have voted in favor of S. Con. Res. 79, expressing the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

Had I been present for the votes on Thursday, February 16, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 12: I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 341, condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

Rollcall Vote 13: I would have voted against the ruling of the Chair tabling the privileged resolution by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi on the budget reconciliation spending cuts legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN LAVERY, WINNER OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Erin Lavery, of Huntington, WV for being named a top honoree in the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. I would like to congratulate and honor this innovative young woman who has shown exemplary volunteer service in her community.

Ms. Lavery is being recognized for organizing a monthlong nutrition and physical fitness education program that included the use of pedometers by all 1,600 students and faculty at Huntington High School. As an athlete and lifelong volunteer, Erin wanted to help classmates and staff members develop a commitment to healthy eating habits and physical activity. Motivated by the high rate of obesity that is prevalent in West Virginia, she states that she wanted to take a proactive stand to do something about the problem.

Erin had heard about a small pilot program using pedometers at a nearby school, and thought that idea could be of a comprehensive health education program for her entire school. She developed handouts and a video to introduce her program, and then recruited student volunteers to help her distribute pedometers donated by the county health department to all students and teachers, along with sheets for them to record the number of steps taken each week. To encourage participation, Erin publicized the program through

school and community media, and awarded random prizes for turning in completed record sheets. She also hung 252 large posters of nutrition and fitness information all over the school, and arranged for taste tests and fitness demonstrations during lunch. After she had collected and analyzed their data, Erin found that 35 percent of the participants had increased their activity level, and 62 percent said they were more motivated to live a healthier lifestyle.

The program that brought this innovative young woman to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to show youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example.

Ms. Lavery should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this years program. I fully applaud Ms. Lavery for her initiative in seeking to make her community, and West Virginia as a whole, a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
THE E. PAT LARKINS COMMUNITY
CENTER IN POMPANO
BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. E. Pat Larkins, Commissioner of the City of Pompano Beach, Florida, on the occasion of the dedication of the E. Pat Larkins Community Center. Commissioner Larkins has been a good friend to me and to the citizens of Pompano Beach for more than 20 years.

Born to a carpenter father and a mother who picked beans for a living, Pat has piled success on top of success throughout his life. In the process, he has made possible opportunities for African-Americans they would not have seen otherwise. In 1971, at a time when black-owned companies found it difficult to make headway in the construction industry, Pat Larkins helped start the Broward Minority Contractors' Association to promote the interests of African-American builders.

In 1985, Pat became the first black mayor of the City of Pompano Beach. In all, he has been elected 10 times, for a total of 20 years, during which he has also served three terms as Vice Mayor. Pat Larkins has been recognized numerous times as a fine citizen and an enormous credit to his city and to the people of Broward County, Florida. He is a great American, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Today's naming of the E. Pat Larkins Community Center is a fitting tribute to this excel-

lent man. On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives and all of the residents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District, I congratulate Pat for this honor and wish him health, happiness, and continued success in the future.

HONORING THE LIFETIME OF
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CHUCK WU

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of accomplishments of Mr. Wu Jia Chi, affectionately known to us on Guam as "Chuck Wu" and to recognize his humanitarianism. Mr. Wu was born in Taipei, Taiwan on February 21, 1921. He immigrated to Guam in 1971 and opened a small business in Harmon. His business was the first of many successful enterprises he has established on Guam during the last quarter century. Today Mr. Wu is a well respected resident on our island of Guam and in the Pacific Region. His entrepreneurial spirit, his commitment to his family, and his dedication to our community inspires us all.

Mr. Wu is a pioneer in the business community on Guam and is a leader within his own Chinese community. His vision and determination have contributed to his success, and he has used this success to help many nonprofit organizations and worthwhile causes. He is one who has given back to the community through his involvement and his time. He is a dynamic force and his efforts and volunteerism have helped civic organizations on our island on many occasions.

Mr. Wu has never lost his firm belief in the importance of preserving cultural traditions and customs. He established the Chinese School of Guam in 1978 and served as the school's principal for 7 years. He continues to advocate for the improvement of our schools and the development of our young students, both within the Chinese community and throughout our island.

Mr. Wu's commitment to serving and leading the Chinese community was recognized in his appointment as a commissioner for Overseas Chinese Affairs since 1991. He was also the president of the Chinese School Foundation of Guam from 1989 to 1993. Moreover, from 1985 to 1989, Mr. Wu was the president of the United Chinese Association of Guam. Mr. Wu also served as president of the Sea Transport Association of Guam from 1982 to 1985. In 1993 he was honored as the U.S. Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Wu has made a lasting impression on our island of Guam and his leadership in our community has improved our island significantly. I join his wife Shiu-Fong Lai-Wu, his sons, Fong, Albert, John, and Thomas, his daughters-in-law, Shaina, Sandra, and Janet, and his grandchildren, Vera, Valerie, Stefanie, Alexander, Sophia, Shaun, Chucky, Kaile, and Tommy, and all the people of Guam, in commending Chuck Wu for his lifetime of accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL J.
TENENBAUM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a man who has embraced God's admonition to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" as his personal motto. Samuel J. Tenenbaum has been honored as the United Way of the Midlands' Humanitarian of the Year, and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

Sam and I have been friends longer than I would like to remember. He has always been a loyal supporter and constant advisor, whether I seek his advice or not. He and his wife Inez are dear friends and true kindred spirits. So when the news images of the devastation in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina spurred me to call on Columbia Mayor Bob Coble to initiate an effort in South Carolina to welcome those displaced by this enormous tragedy, we both immediately asked Sam to lead the operation that became known as South Carolina—S.C.—Cares.

Under Sam's leadership, S.C. Cares became the model for an effective response to a natural disaster. He assembled thousands of volunteers, every service provider imaginable, and public and private sector organizations to be housed at a community center to provide a one-stop-shop to meet each and every need of our guests from the gulf coast. Sam's adherence to the golden rule meant our guests would stay in hotel rooms not shelters. He provided them with dignity, sustenance, and many times his own personal emotional or financial support. Sam worked around the clock, not because he had to, but because he couldn't sleep until he knew the needs of all our guests were met. Sam was the heart and soul of S.C. Cares, and he embodies the enormity of the compassion this community has to offer.

Although the S.C. Cares center closed its doors nearly 3 months ago, Sam is still involved with the gulf coast guests that remain in the Midlands. He is also taking the experience of S.C. Cares, and transforming it into an ongoing effort to address homelessness in South Carolina's capitol city. Sam knows that if our community could show such compassion for strangers from the gulf coast, we can extend the same graciousness to those who are homeless in our town. He is working with Mayor Coble to create an operation similar to the S.C. Cares center for Columbia's homeless that would provide social services, medical services, counseling, job training, and other programs in a one-stop-shop setting. Access to services and the support of a community can go a long way to transforming those who have been forgotten back into productive citizens. Sam's compassion is as limitless as his vision.

After working 33 years in his family's business, Chatham Steel Corporation, Sam retired in 2000 and dedicated himself to his community. Currently he serves on 19 boards and commissions, which demonstrate the diversity of his passions. His love of his faith manifests in his membership of the governing boards of the Columbia Jewish Federation and the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith, Southeast

Region. His devotion to animals is exemplified in his service as the development chair for Pet Project. His dedication to education is clear from his membership on the Allen University Presidential Advisory Board and Junior Achievement. His commitment to social causes runs the gamut from his chairmanship of the Alston Wilkes Foundation and membership on Habitat for Humanity's board. And these only touch the surface of his many current associations, and the 50 previous boards and commissions on which he has served.

Sam's list of awards is just as impressive. Back in 1978, the Columbia Record recognized him as one of 10 for the Future. Obviously that prophecy has been fulfilled. He has won numerous awards for his contributions to the arts, for his philanthropy, and for his community service. Governor Dick Riley bestowed South Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto, on Sam in 1985. More than two decades later, Sam is continuing his life-long dedication to his community and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Samuel Tenenbaum for his lifetime of service. As my father, a fundamentalist minister, once counseled me, "the world would much rather see a sermon than to hear one." Sam has been providing a living example of the Golden Rule his entire life, and his recognition as the Humanitarian of the Year is just another affirmation of his leadership and compassion.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR (RETIRED)
GEORGE SMALL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent of mine, Major, Retired, George Small. At 98 years of age, Major Small is the oldest living survivor of the Bataan Death March in the State of Nevada.

Major Small entered active duty for the U.S. Army on April 25, 1941 where he trained to be a Chemical Warfare Officer. He was assigned stateside until he was transferred to Manila, Philippines 6 weeks before the start of World War II and came to Bataan on December 24, 1941 where he was assigned to the 31st Infantry. The 31st was involved in the intense fighting until their surrender on April 9, 1942. After the Bataan Death march, Major Small spent 3 years and 5 months as a POW in five different camps until his liberation on September 10, 1945.

Major Small was discharged from the Army on November 26, 1946 and remained in the Army Reserve until his retirement on March 1, 1968. Major Small earned the American Defense Service Medal, with bronze star, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, with 2 bronze stars, the Distinguished Unit Badge, with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Combat Infantry Badge, The Philippine Liberation Ribbon, with bronze star, the WWII Victory Medal, and the POW Medal.

Please join me in congratulating this great Nevanadan for the sacrifices he has made for this country and to extend him our wishes for continued health and prosperity as he celebrates his 98th birthday. Congratulations, Major George Small.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA
MCGREGOR

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young constituent of mine, Alexandra McGregor, and to speak to her efforts to support our troops, both at home and aboard.

A few weeks ago I came across a story of a young girl starting a grassroots effort, for a "National Support the Troops Day." After watching a news report of a fallen soldier; Alexandra was inspired to contact her local, State, and Federal officials with her idea. I stand here today because of Alexandra and her efforts.

Throughout the calendar year Americans set aside days to honor great patriots, leaders, and fallen soldiers who have given their lives to defend the freedom that Americans cherish. These men and women should be honored and I, like all of my colleagues, honor their memory with my work in this great body. However, we as Americans do not have an official day to salute our active-duty soldiers. Today, there are over one million men and women who serve our country. These brave individuals deserve our respect and admiration for their courage to protect all Americans.

With Alexandra as my inspiration, today I am introducing a resolution that would mark March 26th, "Support The Troops Day." With this resolution I ask all Americans to participate in a moment of silence on March 26th to honor the hard work and accomplishments of our soldiers both at home and aboard.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, to honor the 100th anniversary of the Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, Massachusetts. The local Greek population, with St. Vasilios as one of its bedrock institutions, has been and continues to be a vital part of the Peabody community.

The first Greek immigrants arrived in Peabody at the turn of the last century. As their numbers increased, they pooled their resources to buy their first property, a simple wooden building on Walnut Street which they modeled into a house of worship. On February 26, 1906, they were incorporated and chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, naming their parish "St. Vasilios."

By 1912, the parish relocated to a larger property on what is now called Paleologos Street. There they built a new church, and soon after built a school for teaching their children Greek culture and language. This was only the sixth such school in the United

States, and it has operated without interruption ever since. The Byzantine style church which was completed on the site and dedicated in 1917 remains a house of worship to this day.

This week in my district, thousands of Hellenic American families will commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church with religious services and festivities. I congratulate the clergy and the congregation of St. Vasilios for reaching this noteworthy milestone. The church continues to be a vibrant part of the Greek community in Peabody, serving as a house of worship and a gathering place. The church provides a vital link to the past and to the Greek homeland, its culture and religion. Through its school and the celebration of the rich heritage and language of Greece, the people of St. Vasilios are ensuring that the values and traditions upon which the church was founded will live on for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 5, 6, 7, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support the Foreign Investment Security Improvement Act of 2006, a bill to make certain that there is a full and complete investigation into the national security implications of the proposed acquisition of U.S. port terminal operations by Dubai Ports (DP) World—and to ensure Congress' crucial oversight role with respect to this transaction. I introduce this legislation today with support of my Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, the Honorable BENNY THOMPSON, and 80 bipartisan colleagues.

This legislation, and the message it sends about the importance of the national security concerns with the proposed deal, is crucial given what appears to be the cursory review of the serious national security questions that exist regarding the acquisition of port terminal operations by a company that is wholly-owned by the Government of Dubai.

SERIOUS NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS EXIST OVER DP WORLD ACQUISITION

On February 13, 2006, shareholders from Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Co. (P&O) approved an acquisition proposal from DP World, a port operations company owned by the government of Dubai, a member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The deal would position DP World to conduct terminal operations at six U.S. ports: the Port of New York and New Jersey, the Port of New Orleans, the Port of Miami, the Port of Baltimore, the Port of Philadelphia, and the Port of New-ark.

I have serious concerns over the national security implications of the proposed takeover of U.S. port operations by a government who less than five years ago was documented as having significant ties to terrorism. As the 9/11 Commission reported, money used to carry out the September 11th attacks was funneled through UAE banks, many of the hijackers traveled to the U.S. from the UAE, at least one of the hijackers was born in the UAE, and the UAE was used as a crossroads for the shipment of nuclear material to Iran.

I recognize that the UAE has provided significant assistance to our efforts in the War on Terror since 9/11. I commend the UAE for its willingness to be an ally in the War on Terror, including military cooperation, intelligence sharing and money laundering prevention and I encourage its continued efforts in securing our world. However, these positive commitments do not mean that we should ignore the real security concerns that exist with respect to this transaction.

Late last year, DP World and P&O requested that the Committee for Financial Investment in the United States (CFIUS) review the transaction for national security concerns. CFIUS, an interagency committee chaired by the Department of Treasury and with members from twelve other agencies, was established by Executive Order in 1975 and assigned to carry out the national security reviews mandated under Section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950. Current law requires CFIUS to review proposed foreign acquisitions to evaluate national security concerns during a 30-day initial review period. If national security concerns remain after this initial review period, the statute requires a more thorough 45-day investigation, followed by a Presidential evaluation of the proposed transaction. In the case of DP World, the Committee incredibly raised no national security objections to the proposed deal after a 30-day review period, and the more detailed 45-day investigation was not triggered.

Members of Congress, state and local officials responsible for port security and the public at large were understandably shocked to first learn from press reports that this transaction had been approved in thirty days, without a formal investigation and without any attempt by the Administration to provide basic information on the deal in advance. I was also shocked to learn that the CFIUS approval was made by mid-level officials and that senior decision makers in the Administration—including the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Homeland Security and the President of the United States—were not informed until they became aware of the CFIUS approval via press reports. It also appears that state and local officials who oversee the affected ports were never consulted or otherwise informed of the DP World acquisition.

In response to considerable public pressure over the past few weeks, the Administration and DP World have come forward to offer only limited information on the details of the 30-day CFIUS review, the national security concerns examined, and the measures taken to address those concerns. For informed judgments to be made, significantly more information is needed.

DP World and the Administration recently announced an agreement to subject the DP World deal to a 45-day CFIUS investigation. While this announcement is a step in the right direction there remain a number of serious questions about the company and its security practices that must be answered before the deal can proceed. Congress must be made aware of the findings so that we can be certain our nation's homeland security is not being undermined.

As this 45-day investigation begins, more questions exist than answers. I stress that this 45-day investigation must not be viewed as a 45-day campaign to "educate" Congress on the limited work that has already been done by CFIUS. I am troubled by recent statements of senior administration officials that suggest that the focus of these 45 days should be on addressing so-called misconceptions of Congress. Rather, this 45-day review must be vigorously pursued by all relevant federal agencies to scrutinize the work that has been done on the proposed DP World transaction, conduct additional reviews where appropriate, and extract additional commitments from the company where necessary.

Consistent with the legislation I introduce today, I expect CFIUS to review U.S. Coast Guard assessments of foreign ports where DP World operates, perform background checks of DP World officers and security personnel, and to provide a thorough review of national security and port security impacts—in consultation with state and local officials responsible for port security. It is essential that CFIUS recognize the significant concerns that exist regarding U.S. critical infrastructure—an area of national security that has not traditionally been recognized in the CFIUS process. I expect CFIUS to fully investigate the financing and control of DP World, including the involvement of UAE and Dubai government officials in company operations particularly current and former government officials that may have ties to terrorist organizations and/or the Taliban. I expect that CFIUS will review the company structure and the potential for terrorist sympathizers to infiltrate company operations—including port operations in the U.S. We must take all appropriate steps to ensure that al-Qa'ida and other terrorist organizations are not learning about our vulnerabilities based on access to DP World operations.

Finally, I urge CFIUS to make clear that this 45-day investigation is a serious, thorough review that will address all relevant national security concerns and to assert the right of the President to block the deal or extract additional assurances should national security concerns require such actions. It is crucial that the President make clear that CFIUS will not prejudge the results of this investigation.

CONGRESS MUST STAND READY TO ACT

While I am encouraged by recent developments taken to voluntarily begin an investigation, I believe Congress must nonetheless stand ready to act pending the results of the 45-day investigation. The Foreign Investment Security Improvement Act of 2006 would impose an immediate suspension of existing CFIUS approval of the DP World transaction granted on January 17, 2006; require a 45-day CFIUS investigation of the DP World transaction, to include (1) a review of U.S. Coast

Guard assessments of foreign ports where DP World operates, (2) background checks of DP World officers and security personnel, (3) an evaluation of the impact of port security by DP World's control of U.S. port operations, and (4) consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Secretary of Homeland Security and State and local officials, an evaluation of the impact on national security of DP World operations at affected U.S. ports. Following the 45-day review, the bill would require, within fifteen days, a report to Congress providing the detailed findings of the investigation and the Presidential determination. Congress would then have 30 days to reverse an approval of the transaction through legislation.

At a minimum, CFIUS should use this legislation to inform its investigation and subsequent notification of Congress. As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I intend to work with my Committee Members to aggressively scrutinize the findings of CFIUS following its investigation, including a thorough review of the intelligence assessments utilized.

BROADER CONCERNS EXIST WITH THE CFIUS PROCESS

While the legislation introduced today only addresses the short-term concerns with the CFIUS review of the DP World transaction, I believe the current controversy has revealed that the larger CFIUS review framework is broken. Beyond the review of the proposed DP World transaction, I want to make clear that I intend to work with my colleagues in the Congress to conduct a comprehensive review of the CFIUS process and ensure that the Federal Government's review of foreign investments properly account for the security concerns of a post-9/11 world. I specifically note several concerns that I have with respect to the CFIUS process:

The current statute was enacted at the end of the cold war in the 1980s, when encouraging foreign investment was a priority. The 9/11 attacks changed our thinking and highlighted the need to more carefully scrutinize national security concerns.

Current CFIUS practices effectively nullify the statute's requirement for a more extensive investigation where national security concerns are raised with respect to a transaction involving a foreign government-controlled entity.

Current CFIUS practices create an incentive to avoid the formal 45-day investigation and subsequent Presidential decision because of a perceived negative impact on foreign investment and a conflict with the U.S. open investment policy.

The compressed 30-day initial review period effectively provides CFIUS with only 23 days to review all national security issues presented by a proposed transaction.

"National security" is defined narrowly under CFIUS regulations, and does not explicitly embrace concerns over U.S. critical infrastructure. While the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and Defense have moved to utilize an expanded view of national security, there is concern that many of the CFIUS members rely on an overly constrained "pre-9/11" view of national security.

From 1997 through 2004, CFIUS received notices for 451 proposed or completed acquisitions. The committee initiated only eight investigations during that period.

Enforcement of assurances provided during CFIUS review is the responsibility of the agency requesting those assurances. It is not clear whether sufficient resources are devoted to ensure parties to a transaction live up to their commitments.

Congress is only notified when a full 45-day investigation and Presidential decision are completed. The lack of notification has led to the situation where the concerns of senior Administration officials, Members of Congress and the general public cannot be expressed until after a deal is done. This lack of transparency must change.

Possible long-term CFIUS reforms to consider include the following:

Elevate the Secretary of Homeland Security to serve as co-chair of CFIUS (the Secretary of the Treasury is the current chair) to increase emphasis on security issues;

Abolish the current statutory interpretation by CFIUS by imposing a standard 75-day review, rather than the two-tiered 30/45 day structure, providing additional time for review and removing the negative stigma associated with an investigation;

Expand Congressional notification and oversight with respect to CFIUS reviews;

Revise the statutory factors to be considered in CFIUS national security reviews to include critical infrastructure concerns; and

Require vigorous agency oversight and enforcement of letters of assurance provided by parties to a transaction.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my Ranking Member, Mr. Thompson, for his support in developing this legislation, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that our national security is not undermined by the proposed DP World acquisition. I urge the Administration to be diligent in investigating this transaction and to recognize Congress' important role in safeguarding our national security.

HONORING AIRMAN ALECIA GOOD FOR HER AIR FORCE SERVICE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize Senior Airman Alecia Good for her bravery and heroism while serving to protect our freedoms. Airman Good was recently deployed from the 92nd Communication Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base to the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. On February 17, 2006, Airman Good gave her life with eight Marines and another Air Force Airman when two U.S. Marine Corps helicopters crashed into the Gulf of Aden off the coast of northern Djibouti.

Airman Good was known to her family and friends at Fairchild for her positive outlook on life. She loved her country and was proud to serve it. In December, she volunteered to deploy to Africa. Her mission was to provide satellite communication support for United States military personnel training allied countries how to defend themselves against terrorism. The Joint Task Force also worked with families in

humanitarian efforts such as drilling wells, vaccinating herds, or raising crops.

Today, her family, friends, and country say their final goodbye to Airman Good. She leaves a daughter, Tabitha, who has her mother's magnificent smile.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Senior Airman Alecia Good for fearlessly sacrificing her own life in order to protect our freedoms from the evils of terrorism. I invite my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence for Airman Good as well as all of the men and women who lost their lives in the recent helicopter crash while serving in the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa mission.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LIBBY JOHNSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Libby Johnson for her tremendous service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, D.C., office.

After serving as my executive assistant, the Sumner County native is moving on to greener pastures. Her last day is today, and although my staff and I are sad to see Libby go, we are glad she has taken a job that will further her career and is worthy of her incredible abilities.

Libby's conscientious work ethic and incomparable enthusiasm have served her well in the fast-paced world of Congress. Those same abilities also have gained her the respect of her colleagues. Now, she will share her tremendous abilities and experience with a new employer, who should be ecstatic over having found such a fine person.

As busy as she has been, Libby always took time to say a kind word to those around her. It seems she has never met a stranger during her time on the Hill. With her vivacious personality and contagious smile, she certainly has made a lasting impression on virtually everyone she has met.

Libby, you have endeared yourself to me and my staff. We will miss you and wish you well in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEKAHA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Kekaha Federal Credit Union on winning the 2005 Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award.

Chartered in 1938 to serve the employees of the Kekaha Sugar Company, the Kekaha Federal Credit Union has expanded its membership to include all businesses and individuals throughout the island of Kauai. It also acts as a Community Development Credit Union, catering to the financial needs of low-income individuals. The Kekaha Federal Credit Union has over 1,500 members.

In January 2004, the Kekaha Federal Credit Union initiated a partnership with the Kekaha

Elementary School to support and encourage student achievement and raise school-wide standardized test scores. Kekaha Elementary School serves a community of 3,700 residents, dominated by low-income, native Hawaiian and immigrant families. At the school, 11 percent of the student body speak English as a second language, 49 percent are Native Hawaiian (a historically disadvantaged group), and 62 percent qualify for free or reduced lunches due to low-income status. Many students live in single-parent homes or face situations that are not conducive to learning.

As part of their partnership, the credit union and the school established the Maximum Communication Journal program, also known as the MAX Program. The MAX Program has become the cornerstone to learning at the school, as students must keep a journal of class activities and homework, including notes and notices from teachers and the school. Each student is then required to have his/her parents or guardians read and sign the MAX notebook each week. This ensures communication between the students, parents, teachers, and the school.

With the incentive of prizes that include boogie boards, movie passes and bicycles, students are instructed to write in their MAX journals and have their parents read and sign it every week. In order to earn a chance to win a prize, students have to write in their MAX journals and have their parents read and sign it every week. Prizes were also given to the class with the highest percentage of completed and signed journals. Prizes are given at the school's monthly assembly. Often, parents and guardians attend these assemblies.

By all measures, this program has been a great success. The program's goal of 80 percent student participation has been achieved for the past four semesters and, more importantly, Kekaha Elementary School has achieved passing levels in the State of Hawaii standardized tests each of the last two times the tests have been administered.

Students and parents alike are excited and have a sense of accomplishment. Billy Smith, the principal of Kekaha Elementary School, explained: "The celebration assemblies are fun and crazy. Parents are invited to attend and the kids are happy and excited." Students have become more responsible as they see tangible results for their MAX participation.

Dora Maxwell is recognized as one of the original pioneers of the credit union movement. This award was created to promote social responsibility among credit unions by formally recognizing and celebrating their social achievements. The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Recognition Award is awarded to credit unions, based on seven asset-size categories, and to specific chapters for outstanding social responsibility projects in the community in which they are located.

I want to recognize and commend Kekaha Federal Credit Union not only for sponsoring this important and innovative program, but for receiving this national recognition by the Credit Union National Association. This award is just another example of the great work and strong personal relationships that our credit unions provide their respective communities, and represents a perfect union of the very best of credit unions and community service.