

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 Strafford 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