

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO INSURE ME

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the achievement of a financial and insurance company in my district. InsureMe of Englewood, Colorado was recognized as one of the "Best Small & Medium Companies to Work for in America" by the Society for Human Resource Management.

This award was given to InsureMe for their open communication between senior managers and company employees, generous salaries and benefits, and their dedication to high profits and low turnover. I would also like to add that the employees of InsureMe volunteer monthly to serve dinner to the homeless and some have even traveled to Ghana to build an orphanage. InsureMe's commitment to their community and successful business is clear.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor InsureMe of Englewood and their achievements here today, and wish them the best in the future.

### HONORING DOCTOR PATRICK MAXWELL

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dr. Patrick Maxwell for his service to others.

In 2005, Dr. Maxwell received the American Society of Plastic Surgeons' Presidential Award for excellence in his field. While Dr. Maxwell is regarded as one of the premier surgeons in his field, he's also known for his charity.

Patrick is co-founder of the Tennessee-Kentucky chapter of Operation Smile, past president of the Nashville Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Founding Member of the Aspen Center for Integrative Medicine, and he actively supports his alma mater, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

We appreciate Dr. Maxwell's dedication to giving back to our community and I hope you'll join me in thanking him today.

### TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MESFIN WOLDE MARIAM

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in August 2006, I visited Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam in

Kaliti prison in Ethiopia. Though it was sad to see him in that kind of situation, I was nevertheless thrilled to have had the opportunity to pay my respect to a man I have known for over a decade. Professor Mesfin is one of the most dedicated and true champions of human rights. He chose to dedicate his life to studying famine and food security, writing about and promoting human rights and bringing to light issues often ignored and forgotten by many.

I first met Mesfin in the early 1990s, shortly after he founded the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, EHRCO, the most effective human rights organization in Ethiopia. I was with several Members of Congress on an official visit to Ethiopia. We decided to go to EHRCO's office and hold our meeting with Professor Mesfin in order to show our support for EHRCO and to underscore the significance of their valuable work. It was a memorable meeting and the opportunity to learn of their monumental undertaking was very valuable.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time Mesfin is in prison. He has paid dearly over the decades for standing up for what he believes in and for exposing systematic abuses and sometimes neglect as the case may be over a period of several decades. What is amazing about this incredible human being is his sharpness and focus even in prison. This is a dedicated human being who chose to stay in his native Ethiopia to stand up for, and educate the helpless and the neglected, even though he had plenty of opportunity and offers to live comfortably elsewhere.

In April 2006, his three children wrote about their father stating: "Many months have passed since Mesfin Wolde Mariam, the father of all three of us, and grandfather of Semra, Kristos, Kokeb, Tinsae and Oscar has been incarcerated. We miss him terribly and would love to see him home. No less important is our utmost respect, concern and commitment for the principles he has so staunchly promoted for longer than anyone of us has been around."

I was thrilled to learn that the New York Academy of Sciences decided to recognize Professor Mesfin for "his leadership in advocating for the disadvantage and in promoting human rights, civil society, and a peaceful transition to democracy." Professor Mesfin deserves this recognition and I thank the New York Academy of Science for its leadership and efforts.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE CITY YOUTH VIOLENCE RECOVERY ACT OF 2006

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the distinguished gentleman

from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, to introduce the City Youth Violence Recovery Act. I want to thank Congressman LEWIS for his work on this bill and for his lifelong work to unite every community into what he calls The Beloved Community.

As the media reports daily about the loss of life in the war in Iraq, we often ignore the war being fought at home in city streets across this country. After a decadelong decline of violent crime, it is again on the rise. In Hartford, for example, there have been 140 shooting victims since the beginning of 2006—this is an 18.6% increase over last year's city reports. And again, just over the weekend, gun violence claimed another young life. It was the city's 19th homicide this year. He was 19.

The challenges facing the city of Hartford are not unique. This violence, perpetrated both by and against young people, has devastated urban communities in cities both large and small. In a disturbing trend, our city children and teenagers are losing their lives, losing their friends, losing their family members, and losing their youth. They feel fear, helplessness, horror and the sense that life and safety are in danger. Tragically, many have grown numb to the violence around them.

Since community violence is caused by many things, there is no simple, single solution to eradicate it from our neighborhoods. We must address employment, housing, education, transportation, law enforcement, and other quality of life issues. Until we address these issues, we must do something to help the youth in our cities overcome the long-term emotional harm of witnessing this community violence.

In July, I was honored to have Mr. LEWIS come to Connecticut to talk with local leaders and children in the Hartford community. It was clear that the community's young people require more than physical security to keep them safe from harm. They need a network of support to treat the emotional, mental and developmental harms associated with community violence. Today, I am proud to be joined by Congressman LEWIS and 27 of my distinguished colleagues to introduce the City Youth Violence Recovery Act of 2006. This bill is a step in the right direction in healing the youth of Hartford and the youth in cities devastated by violence throughout the United States. Specifically, this bill would create a Department of Health and Human Services grant program to provide urban communities with funding for counseling, mental health services, post-traumatic stress type services, and violence prevention and conflict mediation for city youth.

We can no longer remain indifferent to the needs of our urban youth. As Members of Congress, as Americans, and as fathers and mothers, we cannot allow any more young lives to be lost in this war at home. Our cities' children deserve better; they deserve a future.

• 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.

HONORING BRENTWOOD MIDDLE  
SCHOOL AND FRANKLIN ELE-  
MENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

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

Both Brentwood Middle School and Franklin Elementary School have earned recognition from the U.S. Department of Education as 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools.

The schools qualified for this distinction by scoring in the top 10 percent in State assessments. While only six schools in Tennessee achieved this distinction, our community has been blessed with two.

Mr. Speaker, the students, parents, teachers, and administrators at Brentwood Middle and Franklin Elementary deserve our congratulations for their commitment to excellence. Our students are gaining skills that will make them lifelong learners, and that's a real credit to the community.

I would especially like to thank Brentwood Middle Principal Kay Kendrick and Franklin Elementary Principal Mark Tornow for their hard work and dedication.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
AZERBAIJAN'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Azerbaijan's 15th anniversary of its re-independence on October 18. In the current global political climate, Azerbaijan is unique among democracies as the world's first Muslim democratic republic.

Azerbaijan is one of the United States' most important friends and supporters. We share important political, economic and security interests.

Azerbaijan was the first among nations to offer the United States unconditional support in the war against terrorism, providing airspace and airport use for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including U.N., Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—OSCE, and NATO's Partnership for Peace program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a standout nation among the South Caucasus countries,

with a population of 8 million people and an ambitious economic policy. During the last decade Azerbaijan has been implementing structural reforms and adopting numerous laws and legislative changes, paving the way toward further integration within the global economy. The Nation has been moving toward a more diversified economy to achieve sustainable growth and to meet the social and development needs of its population. As reported by the International Monetary Fund, IMF, Azerbaijan's macroeconomic performance "has been impressive with strong growth, low inflation, and a stable exchange rate." Real GDP grew by an annual average of over 10 percent during the last 6 years and build up to 34.4 percent in the first 8 months of 2006, driven by investments in the energy sector, followed by growth in the construction and transportation sectors, and agriculture.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994, Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated.

Diversification of the economy and ensuring the development of non-oil sectors is a priority for the government. This policy includes implementation of projects and programs that create favorable conditions for development of private entrepreneurship, attracting investment in non-oil sector, creating new jobs, evaluation of potential industries and markets and development of infrastructure in the regions.

A democratic, prosperous, and peaceful Azerbaijan will be a strong partner and ally for the United States. I look forward to working with the Azerbaijani Government and people to develop this relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives today in commemorating Azerbaijan's independence. I look forward to the bonds of friendship between the United States and Azerbaijan becoming even stronger in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY L.  
MAAS

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of retiring Littleton Police Chief Gary Maas. Chief Maas, a constituent of mine, was able to reorganize and improve the Littleton Police Department since the beginning of his term in 1996.

During his tenure, Chief Maas focused on developing a community outreach program to provide services to neighborhoods across divisional lines. Along with this success, Maas oversaw the initiation of community surveys in order to determine the priorities of the citizens. A caring and committed individual, Mr. Maas restored confidence and strength in the Littleton Police Department through his implementation of educational requirements on entry level positions and his work with the union to establish the Master Police Officer program.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Gary Maas and his achievements here today, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL  
TIMOTHY CREAGER

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today in honor of Marine LCpl Timothy Creager.

Timothy is one of America's fallen heroes. He was one of our best and brightest, and he had the courage to put himself in harm's way for our country.

On July 1, 2004, Lance Corporal Creager was killed in action while on patrol near Fallujah, in the Al-Anbar Province in Iraq, surrounded by his fellow marines of 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. His sacrifice shows us how precious freedom is—that a man would give his life to preserve it for his family and fellow Americans.

We Tennesseans knew Tim as an outstanding student, Eagle Scout, and battalion commander in the Civil Air Patrol at Craigmont High School. In 2003, he gave up his scholarship to the Citadel after his sophomore year because he felt it was his duty to enlist in the Marines. Timothy chose this path because he believed in America.

On Veterans Day this November 11, 2006, the Bartlett community will hold a 5K race to honor Timothy. The community will also be dedicating an expanded Bartlett Veterans Memorial to honor Timothy and all those who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, nothing can replace Timothy and no words can express our gratitude to his friends and family for raising the kind of young man who would give his all for America. We can only honor his life and always remember his courage.

Our thoughts are with his mom and dad, Kay and Mike. I want them to know their country is grateful and we won't forget what their son did for us all.

TRIBUTE TO GREGORY AND DR.  
NIKOLAOS STAVROU

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, we all remember the heady days when the Communist bloc collapsed on its own weight and the peoples of Eastern Europe came out of the dark days of totalitarianism and into the light of freedom. The collapse was so abrupt and so spontaneous that few people had the luxury of taking stock of the heroic efforts made by so many people over a period of 70 years that preceded the days of freedom; and there were heroes in every country of Eastern Europe throughout the dark days of communist terror.

From all countries of Eastern Europe none was so isolated and its people more oppressed than Albania. The Enver Hoxha regime was the last one to collapse, and just a few days after its demise, over one million Albanians crossed the borders of neighboring countries in search of food and freedom. This particular regime thrived in its splendid isolation and the knowledge that if no one was allowed to enter or leave the country, then no

one would tell the true story of a suffering people. But there were idealists who never forgot the Albanian people and found ways to expose the regimes' sins. I rise today to pay tribute to two such idealists who have been ignored in our hastiness to absolve all former communists if they would just declare themselves democrats, no questions asked. I must refer to two such individuals with unbound idealism, one whom lives among us, the other made the ultimate sacrifice. They are the Stavrou brothers, Gregory and Nikolaos.

Gregory, at age 23 assumed risky intelligence missions into Albania for the Greek service. In his last mission, aimed at restoring a vital network that the British traitor Kim Philby betrayed he, too, was betrayed, captured, tortured, tried before a military tribunal and executed on September 3, 1953. It appears he was Philby's last victim in Albania. I am told that Gregory's last words to the military judges were, "I will do it again, if I have another chance." His heroism gave hope to the Albanian people that they were not forgotten. For his bravery, Gregory was posthumously decorated by Decree of the Greek Government on September 19, 1991 with the Medal of Exceptional Deeds for his courage and unparalleled heroism."

Dr. Nikolaos A. Stavrou, his brother and prominent professor in International Affairs at Howard University continued his brother's work by other means. His testimony before committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and his appearance before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights earned him the wrath of the Hoxha regime. Dr. Stavrou was among the few scholars in the West who regularly exposed Albanian atrocities and Hoxha's vast gulag. His articles appeared in the Washington Post, Outlook Section, the Manchester Guardian, To Vema (Greece), Borba (Yugoslavia), The World and I, World Affairs, and many other journals. For 12 years, he was the analyst of Albanian Affairs for the Hoover Institution's Annual Review of World Communist Movement. He annoyed the Tirana regime so badly that it condemned him to death in absentia.

For 15 years since the collapse of the Albanian Communist regime, Dr. Stavrou sought quietly the help of the Albanian Government to locate, exhume and retrieve Gregory's remains and give him a decent funeral. He approached this truly human tragedy quietly and away from public fanfare and nationalistic overtones until now. Two Albanian Prime Ministers and a Speaker of the Albanian parliament promised him to conduct an inquiry into his brother's death but ultimately nothing came of it. As an American citizen, Dr. Stavrou sought the help of the State Department and again was disappointed. Though he never gave up searching for his brother, he was stymied in every step of the way. The evidence is overwhelming yet the Albanian Government has been less than forthcoming in helping Professor Stavrou honor a hero of the Cold War who happened to be his brother. I have also called upon our Department of State to use its good offices with the Albanian Government and to solve a humanitarian issue but never received a satisfactory answer. The least we can do is honor this family for the sacrifice they made for freedom. I am among those who consistently supported the cause of the Albanian peoples to gain their freedom and develop their country. However, our sup-

port should not be taken for granted. I hope the government of Prime Minister Berisha would be more respectful of those who gave their lives for freedom.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO KELSEY MARTINEZ

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelsey Martinez of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Martinez has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Martinez has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Kelsey Martinez, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

#### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A LET'S ALL PLAY DAY

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. LANGEVIN for his leadership on this bill. As cosponsor, I also want to express my strong support for children of all abilities to have environments where they can learn and play together.

As the father of three, I understand that play is essential to healthy childhood development. Play inspires thinking, imagination, problem-solving and creates learning opportunities that can't be found in the classroom. Playgrounds are where children can play, learn and understand the world around them. Unfortunately, in many cases, the design of traditional playground isolates children with disabilities from playing, learning and sharing with their peers.

Today, we are introducing legislation that recognizes that all children should have equal access and equal opportunity to play together on barrier-free, inclusive playgrounds. This bill would express the sense of Congress that a "Let's All Play Day" should be established for all children, including the estimated 6 million children in the United States with a disability that make it hard or impossible to enjoy traditional playgrounds.

As we discuss the importance of play for all children, I want to take a moment to recognize the work of the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds. The National Center for Boundless Playgrounds is a champion in bringing the joy of play to all children with and without disabilities. Formed in 1997 and located in the town of Bloomfield in the First Congressional District, Boundless Playgrounds in collabora-

tion with Hasbro, Inc. and GameTime has helped communities in 21 states create more than 100 extraordinary "boundless" barrier-free playgrounds. I want to thank the Center for their tireless work and dedication in the state of Connecticut and across the country on behalf of all children.

Mr. Speaker, as children with and without disabilities learn together in classroom, we should encourage their learning together outside on the playground. I encourage my colleagues and communities across the country to join me and Congressman LANGEVIN in celebrating the joy of play for all children, with all abilities, in every community.

#### HONORING SAM SMITHSON ON HIS BIRTHDAY

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Mr. Sam Smithson on his 94th birthday and to thank him for his dedication and service to our country.

Born in Williamson County, Tennessee on October 4, 1912, Mr. Smithson was inducted into the Army as a Private First Class in December of 1942.

He fought bravely in major battles across Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland, and in the Ardennes as a member of B Company, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. On December 17, 1944, Pfc. Smithson was captured by German forces and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp, Stalag XIII-C, deep within Germany.

After living in captivity under brutal conditions for nearly six months, the camp was liberated by Allied Forces on April 28, 1945. Mr. Smithson's heroism and determination in the face of adversity earned him a promotion to Corporal upon his discharge from the Army in October 1945.

Mr. Smithson and his late wife Fronie were married for 69 years and had one son, Sam Smithson, Jr. On Saturday, September 30th, Mr. Smithson's family and friends will gather to celebrate his 94th birthday.

Sam's story is the American story. It's a testament to the determination and love of country that has kept us free for more than two centuries now. It's because of men like Sam that the American Dream lives. We thank God for his service to America, and it's right that we take time to reflect on his life and celebrate his 94th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our thanks to Mr. Smithson for his service to our nation and our best wishes as he celebrates his birthday.

#### REGARDING HIV/AIDS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the crisis of HIV/AIDS among African Americans.

There are currently more than 68,000 Texans living with the disease.

Americans should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate when it comes to who can catch the disease. In fact, HIV is taking a devastating and disproportionate toll on people of color.

Among women living with HIV in Texas in 2005: 19 percent are White, 18 percent are Hispanic, and over 60 percent are African American.

The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to lead the HIV/AIDS fight in Congress and support programs that are making progress against this devastating disease.

We can and must all do more. Governments, corporations, foundations, religious groups and private citizens must unite to win the war on AIDS.

There is no other moral or practical choice.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE MIKE THOMAS

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen policeman from Colorado, Mike Thomas.

This week thousands of Coloradans paid their respects to Detective Thomas, who was killed earlier this month while waiting at a stoplight. According to reports, officers came from as far away as Canada to pay their respects.

Mr. Thomas was a longtime dedicated public servant. He spent more than two decades serving the community as a policeman, and like his father Delbert, was an Air Force veteran. He will be sorely missed.

I was particularly moved by an account I read in The Denver Post about Mr. Thomas recounted by police Captain Jerry Hinkle. Hinkle told those gathered at the funeral about a card the department had received from a well-wisher named "George" after news of Mike Thomas' tragic death. In the card, George wrote about how when he was a teenage gang member whose future prospects looked bleak, he encountered Mr. Thomas. Thomas pulled up to the boy in his squad car, Hinkle said, and told him to get in. The two talked, and today George is the owner of a successful security company.

Mr. Speaker, all Coloradans owe a great debt of gratitude to Mike Thomas, and all of the men and women of law enforcement who risk their lives each day to guarantee our safety.

He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

#### HONORING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSVILLE ON 175 YEARS OF WORSHIP

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me today to take a moment and

honor a community of people in Clarksville, Tennessee. The First Baptist Church in Clarksville is celebrating a remarkable 175 years of worship and that's an achievement we ought to all applaud.

With a history of faithful and dynamic leadership, the First Baptist congregation has blessed the community of Clarksville with their ministry and prayer. Pastor Roger Freeman continues this legacy of good works through faith as the current Senior Pastor of First Baptist.

From an active Senior Adult Ministry to a tremendous Preschool Ministry, the church is making our community a better place every day. With strength and faith, the congregation reaches out to the community of Clarksville and offers many a beacon of hope and comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Pastor Freeman and the congregation of First Baptist Church of Clarksville for their continued ministry and with them all the best for another 175 years of dedication to the Lord.

#### RECOGNIZING JIMMY SEEMAN OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the amazing achievements of Jimmy Seeman of Dade City, Florida. Already exhibiting an entrepreneurial spirit at the age of 17, Jimmy runs his own 40-acre nursery, Gardens Wholesale Nursery.

Jimmy began to take an active interest in the agricultural field at the age of 13 while working alongside his father at his lawn maintenance business. Starting by growing a few plants on the side, Jimmy eventually expanded his operation and opened his own nursery. Today Gardens Wholesale Nursery includes several employees and 40-acres of plantable land.

Showing an amazing drive for personal growth, Jimmy has taken it upon himself to learn Spanish to better communicate with many of his employees, often waking at 3 a.m. to study and practice his Spanish. Jimmy has also taught himself to fix computers and install irrigation.

With the support of his parents, Cathy and Jimmy, and his two brothers, Michael and Jacob, Jimmy has shown that neither age nor experience are required to be an accomplished businessman. Through hard work and dedication Jimmy has proven to his family and friends that he is well on his way to achieving remarkable success in his chosen field.

Mr. Speaker, it is young men and women like Jimmy Seeman that should be congratulated for contributing to the American Entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to following Jimmy's career as he runs Gardens Wholesale Nursery and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present to vote on Monday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 26, 2006, I would have voted in the following way:

Yes—H.R. 5059—New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006

Yes—H.R. 5062—New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006

No—H.R. 5092—Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Modernization and Reform Act of 2006

No—H.R. 4772—Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2006

Yes—H. Res. 989—Commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes

Yes—H. Res. 1017—Affirming support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people

Yes—H. Res. 1038—Rule providing for H.R. 2679—Public Expression of Religion Act

Yes—H. Res. 1039—Rule providing for S. 403—Child Custody Protection Act

No—S. 403—Child Custody Protection Act

Yes—H. Res. 723—Calling on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, Sudan, with a specific emphasis on civilian protection

Yes—H. Res. 992—Urging the President to appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH REFORM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this Congress to redouble its efforts in the fight against cancer.

Over 33,000 people in my home state of Massachusetts will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year.

I recently met with a number of constituents about the importance of increased funding for cancer research. One of my constituents, Judith Hurley, shared her cancer story with me. After extreme weight loss and extensive testing, Judith was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, which had spread to her bones. Judith endured a variety of treatments, and made one thing clear to her doctors: she was not through raising her children.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that in July, Judith became a 5-year cancer survivor.

Another one of my constituents, Sue Tereshko is a two-time breast cancer survivor.

Mr. Speaker, constituents like Judith and Sue are the beneficiaries of advances in cancer treatment.

Congress must do more to fund cancer research and treatment programs.

First, we should pass the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006, which authorizes a 5% increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Congress must also appropriate a 5% increase for the NIH in the

FY 2007 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. A 5% increase over last year's levels would give an additional \$240 million to the National Cancer Institute alone. This funding would allow the Institute to further fund the basic research necessary to determine the root causes of cancer and improve care.

However, a 5% increase in NIH funding will only maintain pace with rising costs and inflation. It is essentially flat-funding for the NIH. Therefore, I challenge this House to support a 5% increase in NIH funding in addition to any increase to cover the cost of inflation, which Democrats have previously proposed.

Second, Congress should pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act and the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

Next week will begin National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women. The American Cancer Society estimates that a woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975.

Congress has failed to act on the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, a bill with the overwhelming bipartisan support of 255 members. The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act will further our understanding of the impact that environmental factors have on breast cancer. For the 3 million women living with breast cancer and their families, we should pass this important legislation.

Congress should also pass the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

My constituent Donna Carbone was lucky to have her surgeon override a hospital's decision to send her home less than 24 hours after her mastectomy in 1998. We must ensure that Donna's experience is no longer the exception to the rule, but instead becomes the standard quality of care.

The Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, which has the bipartisan support of 180 members, would prohibit an insurer from limiting impatient care following a mastectomy to less than 48 hours.

On the eve of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let's recommit ourselves to finding the root causes of breast cancer and improving patient care. Let's not offer just false hope, let us fight a real war on cancer by investing in the tools necessary to eradicate this disease.

#### HIV/AIDS

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, in 2004, my state of Illinois, had the 4th highest numbers of African Americans living with AIDS—nearly 8,000—of the more than 35,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Despite the improvements in the health outcomes of AIDS patients in the general population, in communities of color AIDS is the leading cause of death of African American women between the ages of 25 and 34 and the third leading cause of death among Hispanics between the ages of 35 and 44.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve, reported H.R. 6143, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Act by a vote of 38 to 10. While the bill is flawed in several respects—particularly in the level of funding that it authorizes to provide essential treatment and services to victims of HIV/AIDS—the legislation did, for the first time, codify the Minority Aids Initiative (MAI) as a separate title of the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization.

This means that for the first time in its history, the Minority AIDS Initiative will become permanent law when H.R. 6143 is enacted.

The Minority AIDS Initiative is specifically designed to bridge the gap in HIV service delivery by providing culturally competent and linguistically appropriate HIV care and support services provided for under the MAI.

Since communities of color still account for a disproportionate number of HIV/AIDS cases, I am pleased that the Committee's bill took the first step in directing resources to address the problem of HIV/AIDS in the African American community. It is my sincere hope that future Congresses will be able to more adequately address this epidemic.

#### THE STORY OF TED WILLIAMS—A NATIVE SON OF CALIFORNIA AND AN AMERICAN HERO

### HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, born on April 24th, 1921 in Hawthorne, California, Theodore ("Ted") Ralph Williams was delivered into a family divided by divorce and early hardships. Fortunately, the happiest years of his youth were spent with his mother, step-father and siblings on a 35-acre citrus nursery and farm which skirted the eastern border of the giant Irvine Ranch in Orange County, California. It was on the farm where Williams developed the strong work ethic and key survival skills which have served him so well over the course of his life.

Following the death of his beloved step-father in 1935 and his family's ensuing financial challenges, Ted Williams left Tustin High School during his senior year and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. On January 18, 1940, he was sworn in as a "Boot Marine" and immediately deployed to the Philippine Islands where he was stationed in the Manila area near Clark Field, Cavite and Mariveles, part of the 4th Marine Regiment and home port to the 16th Naval District Fleet. Less than a year later, on December 7th, 1942, the United States was attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. The very next day, the Japanese attacked the Philippines; and Williams found himself cut-off from the rest of the world.

Alone, hungry and wounded, Williams and his military comrades waged a brave three-month fight against the enemy yet, ultimately, were forced to join a massive surrender—and the infamous Bataan Death March. For a week, more than 75,000 American prisoners marched 160 kilometers in the searing April heat toward primitive prison camps. Along the way, Williams and his fellow soldiers were aided by Filipino civilians, mostly women and children, who heroically provided water and

food to the survivors of the march. Ultimately however, more than 10,000 soldiers died at the hands of the enemy through torture, disease, starvation and murder. Surviving the march yet in failing health, Williams was eventually sent to The Zero Ward at Bilibid, a dilapidated prison functioning as a crude hospital. There he recovered from amebic dysentery only to suffer a host of new injuries brought-on by harsh prison labor that lasted for nearly two years.

In June 1944, he was sent to a prison camp in the north at Cabanatuan where he was assigned to the torturous runway construction crew. A month later, Williams was shipped via prisoner boat transport (known as Hell Ships) to Camp 17 in Kyushu, Japan, where he served as a slave laborer in a coal mine, followed by time served at Camp 1 in Fukuoka, Japan. On August 25th, 1945, just weeks after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Williams and his fellow POWs were released by their captors.

Discharged from the Marine Corps in 1946, Williams returned to Orange County and married Dolores Wallace, whom he later divorced. After a series of odd jobs, Williams built a steady career with Sears in Southern California. In 1972, he moved to Santa Ana, where he met and married Lillian May Phipps, his travel companion and fellow adventurer. It was Lillian who brought Williams back to the Philippines to retrace his POW experiences, a trip Williams has since made 21 times. In February of 1979, Williams underwent open heart surgery and, as part of his physical and emotional recovery, began work on "Rogues of Bataan," an autobiographical account of the Bataan Death March. Just one year later, Lillian died from liver cancer.

Inspired by his late wife's kind and generous heart, Williams embarked on a series of charitable efforts including the funding of an orphanage in Mexico and the founding of TERI, Inc. (Training, Education and Research Institute) in Oceanside, CA, a private nonprofit agency providing residential care, education, job training, employment, and other programs and services for people with all sorts of developmental disabilities and special needs. Upon a return trip to the Philippines with other survivors of the Bataan Death March, Williams spearheaded the effort to build, equip and staff an elementary school on the Philippine Island of Corregidor. During this period in his life, Williams returned to his writing and completed "Rogues of Bataan," which was first published in 1999 and has since been re-released with all proceeds benefiting TERI, Inc. In 2003, Williams embarked on the creation of the Corregidor School Fund which has since built and furnished the Llamas Memorial Institute in Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines, an educational library which was officially dedicated on July 4, 2006. In recognition of his charitable works, community service and humanitarian efforts to the Filipino people, Ted Williams was placed on the prestigious "Perpetual Honor Roll" for the Order of the Knights of Rizal (as chartered by the Philippine government) on March 16, 2006. Now, at age 85 and in failing health, Ted Williams is worthy of his own special recognition by the United States of America. This native son of Southern California is a true American Hero, a passionate patriot and a caring and humble community servant.

# RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS CHISHOLM TRAIL CHAPTER ON THEIR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

## HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chisholm Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross as they celebrate 90 years of service in Texas, including my district in the Fort Worth area.

Chartered in 1916 in response to World War I, the American Red Cross Chisholm Trail Chapter has been present during both local and national events in U.S. history. The passionate volunteers and staff that make up the Chisholm Trail Chapter provide care, comfort and lifesaving skills to residents in my District. Headquartered in Fort Worth, the Chisholm Trail Chapter serves its neighbors by providing a variety of services throughout 23 counties, from the Tarrant County line to San Angelo.

The Chapter's variety of programs and services extend to all members of the Fort Worth community at home, in school, and in the workplace. Last year, over 111,000 people were helped by the WHEELS Transportation Service. This program assists older Americans and people with disabilities who need to help keeping their medical and vocational appointments by providing necessary means of transportation.

Constantly striving to ensure the health and safety of my constituents, the Chapter provides training in first aid, CPR, swimming, lifeguarding, and babysitting. Last year, the Chapter enrolled over 41,000 people in their Health and Safety Programs.

I am particularly impressed with their Armed Forces Emergency Services program. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Chisholm Trail Chapter helps military members and their families stay in touch by providing timely, accurate and verified information following the death or serious illness of a family member, the birth of a child or other critical family matter.

The Chisholm Trail Chapter has touched me personally as well. On March 28, 2000, an F-2 tornado formed and took aim at Tarrant County. Five lives were lost and homes and businesses were destroyed. The tornado began just west of downtown and made a direct hit on the Cash America building, where my office was located. From there, the storm intensified into an F-3 twister and leveled an Arlington neighborhood.

The Chisholm Trail Chapter responded in force to the tornadoes, meeting the physical and emotional needs of thousands of families. An American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle made its way to my office building several times each day for nearly two weeks, distributing meals and bottled water to the work crews attempting to salvage what was left from the debris.

In addition to meeting local community needs through essential programs and services, the Chisholm Trail Chapter has responded to the needs of our nation and the world by sending volunteers into a terrorist attack site following the events of September 11, 2001, and raising nearly \$2 million locally to help south Asian tsunami victims in 2004.

Prior to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, the Chapter deployed local volunteers to Louisiana.

The Chisholm Trail Chapter met the call to serve those left devastated in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by opening eight shelters, housing 1,200 evacuees and providing 576,137 meals. During the months of September and October 2005, the Chapter served over 7,000 families and offered 6,606 mental health contacts to those in need of emotional assistance. This coordinated response exemplifies the Chapter's dedication to guaranteeing the health and well-being of those who have experienced the effects of natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker and fellow Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the American Red Cross Chisholm Trail Chapter on its 90th birthday. With congratulations and gratitude for the excellent work they do to enrich our lives, I am pleased to acknowledge their service to our communities throughout the Fort Worth area and all corners of this great nation.

## HONORING MS. JOY TRICKETT

## HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Ms. Joy Trickett of Leesburg, Virginia, for her outstanding work to address homelessness and poverty in northern Virginia. Ms. Trickett is currently board chair for the Good Shepherd Alliance (GSA) Emergency Homeless Shelters in Sterling, Ashburn, Leesburg, Luckett and South Riding in Virginia's 10th District.

For many hours each week, she volunteers to make a difference, one person at a time. On any given day, you might find Ms. Trickett in the Good Shepherd thrift store in Sterling, working with her staff, or writing a grant proposal with her administrative director in Leesburg, or interfacing with other sister organizations like the Clothes Closet in Herndon, LINK in Sterling, Loudoun Red Cross and Northern Virginia Family Services in Fairfax. She serves on the board of directors for both GSA and LINK, and on the ecumenical council of her church. Joy believes we all have an inherent responsibility to serve the poor and needy. She is an energetic, God-loving woman who leads by example.

Joy has received several awards and recognition, including the Loudoun Volunteer Services 2005 Adult Volunteer of the Year award in Leesburg during April 2005 and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) 2005 Outstanding Humanitarian Award in Washington, D.C., during October 2005. During the 2006 Virginia General Assembly, House Joint Resolution No. 316 was passed commending Joy Trickett. Individuals are nominated for this recognition based on efforts that are considered to be of local, state or national significance.

In short, Ms. Trickett has provided tremendous synergy for her work with Good Shepherd Alliance and LINK in Loudoun and Fairfax counties. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Trickett's work and accomplishments.

# TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF REYNOLD "RENNY" SANTONE, JR.

## HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Reynold "Renny" Santone, Jr. of the Altoona Fire Department, in Altoona, Pennsylvania, who has been named "Person of the Year" by the Blair Bedford Central Labor Council. The distinguished fire chief was nominated for the award by his fellow members of the fire department. Chief Santone, marking 41 years of protecting the Altoona Area, was recently presented with this distinguished award at the Labor Council's annual awards dinner.

This award honors people like Santone "who work for a living and who are well respected and well-loved" for their contributions to employees, co-workers and the community, said the Blair Bedford Central Labor Council's President Robert Kurtz, while delivering remarks at the event. President Kurtz commended Fire Chief Santone, saying that he is "not a paper chief" who distances himself from his firefighters, but that "he's out there in the trenches with them."

Chief Santone joined ranks with the Altoona Fire Department in 1965, and looking back on the day he joined the force, said: "They hired me on April Fool's Day. What I was really waiting for was the red International Association of Fire Fighters sticker—to me that means I was a real professional firefighter."

Chief Santone has certainly proved his abilities as a firefighter in the Altoona Area. Fifteen years after joining the department, Firefighter Reynold Santone was named fire chief in 1984. Today, he leads the department's 4 fire stations and a standing staff of 13 on call firefighters. Chief Santone remarked, "I've always known what I've wanted to do and where I wanted to be," saying that he expects to retire from the same station on Washington Avenue that he joined in 1965.

Fire Chief Reynold "Renny" Santone, Jr.'s dedication to the protection of our local community, and its citizens, is admirable. We hope that others will follow in his footsteps and serve our community with the same pride and honor as Chief Santone has done for the past 41 years.

## TRIBUTE TO BROTHER PAUL HANNON

## HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on October 8, 2006 Brother Paul Hannon will celebrate 25 years of service as a Christian Brother and educator.

For the past 25 years Brother Hannon has worked as a teacher, athletic director, and hockey moderator. He has spent the past 10 years of his service at my Alma mater, Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island, NY.

Over the last quarter century Brother Hannon has served as a Christian Brother

whose assignments have been varied and enriching. His most fulfilling calls to service have been spent working with many youth, particularly those near and dear to me at Monsignor Farrell. His enthusiasm is unwavering, and he has created programs such as in-house television studios which have given students exposure to areas of study they never before would have imagined.

Brother Hannon is an invaluable member of the communities I represent and I commend him for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the people of Staten Island and Brooklyn.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN  
HAMILTON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Hamilton from Gainesville in her quest to provide outdoor carriage rides to disabled and handicapped citizens.

Ms. Hamilton's mission is to build carriages designed for disabled and handicapped individuals so that they too can experience the magnificence of the outdoors. These equestrian excursions allow disabled persons to make a connection with nature that they would normally have the opportunity to do.

I admire Ms. Hamilton's passion and willingness to take the initiative to bring new opportunities to people with limited mobility. Her dedication to this project will ensure equal opportunities to citizens of the 26th District of Texas as well as the rest of the state.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE ROBERT O'GARA OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who has dedicated the past 43 years to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an employee of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

Robert O'Gara, the son of Michael and Anna O'Gara, was born on October 28, 1941 in South Boston, Massachusetts. In 1962, after graduating from South Boston High School, Robert joined the MBTA as a Junior Clerk working out of the Everett Repair Shop. Robert developed a reputation for exceptional craftsmanship and a meticulous attention to detail. For the next decade, Robert restored trains at the Everett Repair Shop until he moved to Riverside Station as a Riverside repairman. Once he began working at the Riverside Yard, Robert took his dedication and hard work to a higher level and would place vehicle history on the dash of every vehicle sent in for repair. These notes, dubbed "O'Gara Grams", allowed repairmen to thoroughly inspect each train in order to ensure peak performance.

Along with being a committed employee, Robert is a devoted husband and father. Robert

has the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune to be married to his wife Mary of 38 years. They are the proud parents of eight children and the grandparents of seven adoring grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Robert O'Gara's family, friends and brothers and sisters of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to thank him for 43 years of remarkable service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Robert's distinguished career and wishing him a happy and full retirement.

HIV/AIDS

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention the devastating impact that HIV/AIDS continues to have on our country and, in particular, on African Americans.

African Americans make up only 12 percent of the United States population yet account for over 50 percent of all new HIV diagnoses. We must ask ourselves why this statistic is so high and continue to focus on ways to reduce it.

AIDS diagnoses among African Americans are increasing while diagnoses among other groups are decreasing. By the end of 2003, 172,278 African Americans were living with AIDS and studies show that number is rising.

This crisis is having an especially crippling effect on African American women who account for over two-thirds of new HIV/AIDS cases among women. Additionally, AIDS is the number one cause of death for African American women ages 25–34.

These statistics clearly reflect a catastrophic problem facing African Americans today. It is imperative that we continue to support prevention efforts and encourage a willingness to speak out about this disease in our community. We must assume the challenge of combating this crisis. If we do not, our complacency will only contribute to the devastation caused by this disease.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN LYONS  
OF PEMBROKE PARK, FL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I rise to pay tribute to the late Mayor John Lyons of Pembroke Park, FL. Mayor Lyons was a great community leader and role model, and his passing will be mourned throughout the community.

Mayor Lyons passed away on Thursday, September 21, 2006. The funeral Mass to celebrate his life will be held today beginning at 11 a.m. at Nativity Catholic Church, 5200 Johnson St., Hollywood, FL.

Mayor Lyons was a World War II veteran and a Chicago native. For over 20 years he worked for the Chicago Fire Department, from

which he retired as a lieutenant. He moved to South Florida and continued his career of community leadership. He served as chairman of Pembroke Park's code-enforcement board for 4 years. In 1991, Mayor Lyons was elected to the Pembroke Park Town Commission and was a member there for the rest of his life. In 2003, his colleagues elected him mayor.

Mayor Lyons was the loving and devoted husband of Mrs. Eleanor Lyons. He is also survived by his granddaughter, Kimberly, and her husband John Hasenberg; great-grandchildren Elinor and Binyamin; brother Leo Lyons; and brother and sister-in-law Raymond and Nan Lyons.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Lyons was an institution in Pembroke Park, FL. He was a kind and giving man who dedicated his life to community service, and he will be sorely missed.

Both Pembroke Park and Broward County have lost a great leader. I offer my sincere condolences to his family and all who were touched by his kindness and service.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN AND IRMA  
BRAMAN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Norman and Irma Braman's 50th wedding anniversary, two individuals of Miami who have dedicated their lives to philanthropic ideals which send ripples throughout our great Nation. Mr. and Mrs. Braman have been dedicated to promoting the State of Israel and remembering the Holocaust to ensure that such tragedies never occur again and to beating the disease of breast cancer, of which too many women and families suffer.

In 1995, they established the Braman Family Foundation and in 2002 gave a gift of \$5 million to the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami to establish the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute. With this establishment, they raise awareness of the importance of early detection and encourage regular self-examinations.

The couple have been leaders in the establishment of the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial, where Mr. Braman is an original founder and previous president of the Board of Trustees. He has served as president and campaign chair of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. Mrs. Braman has provided tremendous leadership to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and has participated in numerous missions to Israel.

It is a privilege and an honor for me to call the Bramans my friends, and on behalf of the residents of Miami, I thank them for their dedication to our community and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 483, 484, 485, and 486, I missed voting due



to my beeper malfunction. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ON H.R. 5857, AND H.R. 6051, NAMING POST OFFICES FOR REPRESENTATIVES MORRIS UDALL AND JOHN F. SEIBERLING

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my thanks to Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. TIM RYAN, for introducing these bills; to their colleagues in the Arizona and Ohio delegations, respectively, for cosponsoring them; and to the leadership on both sides for scheduling them for consideration by the House.

H.R. 5857 would designate a Post Office in Tucson, AZ, as the "Morris K. 'Mo' Udall Post Office Building," while H.R. 6051 would designate a Federal building in Akron, OH, as the "John F. Seiberling Federal Building."

With every bill we debate and every vote I cast, I am conscious of the many years during which my father served here in the House of Representatives. He was truly a "man of the House," and I know that to him no honor could be greater than the bipartisan—non-partisan, really—support of our colleagues for a measure intended to recognize that service.

And I think it is very appropriate that at almost the same time the House will extend similar recognition to my father's longtime friend and colleague, former Representative John Seiberling of Ohio. I think nobody could be more deserving of such recognition.

My father and John Seiberling not only served at the same time, they worked closely together on many measures that came before what was then the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs—now known as the Resources Committee. Examples include the legislation dealing with strip mining—the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act—finally signed into law by President Carter after President Ford had vetoed an earlier version, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act—ANILCA—also known as the Alaska Lands Act, which was signed into law on December 2, 1980.

President Clinton later awarded John Seiberling the Presidential Citizens Medal, which is awarded in recognition of U.S. citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for our Nation.

In making the award, the President rightly explained that "An ardent advocate for the environment, John F. Seiberling has demonstrated a profound commitment to America's natural treasures. Championing numerous bills during his 17 years in Congress, including the Alaska Lands Act, John Seiberling safeguarded millions of acres of parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas." And, in recognition of John Seiberling's work as a member of the Judiciary Committee, President Clinton went on to say that "working in a spirit of bipartisanship, he also promoted civil rights and worker rights, always striving to improve the quality of life in America."

Truer words were never spoken of any Member of Congress.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for the bill recognizing the service of Representative Seiberling, and my heartfelt thanks for the honor bestowed on my father and our family by the bill to name a post office in Tucson in his memory.

### MORE BORDER PATROL AGENTS NOW ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6160, the More Border Patrol Agents Now Act of 2006.

This legislation takes an important step toward making our borders more secure and our country safer. More agents along our Nation's borders will lead to better enforcement of our immigration laws. The President's commitment of 6,000 more Border Patrol agents in the next 2 years is a good start to enhancing border security, but if these agents cannot be easily hired, or if current Border Patrol agents are lost to other employment, this enhanced security cannot be maintained.

Personnel concerns should not be a factor limiting the effectiveness of the Border Patrol.

H.R. 6160 addresses some of these concerns. By streamlining the hiring process and offering recruitment and retention bonuses, H.R. 6160 takes steps to ensure that the Border Patrol will be an effective first line of defense at our borders.

Numerous times, I have met with Border Patrol agents in and around my district in Southern California. On several occasions, the issue of the age limit for new hires has been brought up. Currently, the Border Patrol is covered under law enforcement retirement provisions, meaning new hires must be under the age of 40, unless they presently serve or have previously served in a position covered by federal civilian law enforcement retirement.

This precludes retired members of our armed forces from employment by the Border Patrol if they are 40 years of age or older. Because of this arbitrary provision, the Border Patrol is unable to hire extremely qualified individuals, many of whom would need little further training to be effective Border Patrol agents. It is my hope that Congress will address the age limit issue so even more qualified agents can be hired.

I want to thank Mr. ROGERS for his leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Chairmen KING and DAVIS and both the Homeland Security and Government Reform Committees for responding to the needs of the Border Patrol Agency so it can better secure our Nation's borders.

### IN HONOR OF TENANTS RIGHTS ADVOCATE MICHAEL MCKEE

### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary advocate and

organizer, Michael McKee, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of New York City tenants for over three decades. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the reception honoring him, so I hope to honor him now.

A veteran housing activist, Mr. McKee has made fighting on behalf of tenants his life's work. His combination of committed leadership and innovative organizing has grown the tenant movement into the important force it is today. Few activists have proven as forward-thinking and savvy as Mr. McKee.

When the state legislature began phasing out rent control and rent stabilization in 1971, Michael joined with housing activists statewide to begin a lobbying campaign on anti-tenant legislators. The groups called not only for the restoration of rent laws that would protect tenants in New York City, but also for reforms that would benefit tenants in parts of the state without rent regulation.

The tenant movement became firmly grounded in legislative action, and gave birth in 1974 to Tenants & Neighbors, an advocacy organization that has been at the forefront of tenants rights since its inception. Under the leadership of Mr. McKee, the leaders of Tenants & Neighbors focused on the warranty of habitability law and the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption. They urged passage of the Emergency Tenant Protection Act, which restored rent control and rent stabilization. Later, they led the fight to elect tenants to public housing boards outside of New York City, and helped pass the Disability Rent Increase Exemption. Mr. McKee soon joined other advocates to create the People's Housing Network, a program to develop tenant leaders across the state.

As a tenant organizer for the Metropolitan Council on Housing and the Brooklyn Tenants Union, Mr. McKee taught thousands of New Yorkers how to fight for their rights in a meaningful and lasting way. When Tenants & Neighbors began a major overhaul in 1994, membership increased 16-fold in response to Mr. McKee's direct mail and phonebanking programs. This new grassroots approach brought tenants together to pressure elected officials and create a fundraising base.

Mr. McKee is now building on the voter education efforts of Tenants & Neighbors by pouring his energies into political organizing. All too often, tenants lose when their needs are weighed against the financial interests of landlords and property owners. Mr. McKee has successfully encouraged tenants to take an active part in the political process, and has helped to make tenants rights organizations a powerful force in pushing government officials to address tenant issues.

Michael McKee has been not just a key strategist in many of the battles New York City tenants have faced over the past 30 years, but also a graceful public face. On behalf of tenants throughout the five boroughs, I commend his work on behalf of thousands of New Yorkers, and look forward to another 30 years of successful activism.



CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION  
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

True to form, in the pre-election rush, the majority is pushing through legislation that does nothing to protect the health and safety of our children but instead harms them. We already voted on this legislation in April. Why are we voting on the bill today? It's simple, the Child Interstate Notification Act is a sweet treat for the anti-choice right, the exact group the Majority is courting these next 6 weeks.

This bill harms families by encouraging relatives to seek civil action against each other. It tells young women that if they cannot confide in their parents, they are simply out of luck and must face this difficult situation alone. And, it prevents minors from counting on the adults they trust: their counselors, their older siblings, their friends and their clergy.

Mr. Speaker, in a perfect world, children would openly communicate with their parents. In a perfect world, we would not be faced with unintended pregnancies. But these are tumultuous times, and the world is far from perfect. That does give us license to pass imperfect laws.

The bill before us provides no exception for the health of the mother, as required by the Supreme Court. And, it violates States rights by forcing the laws of one State onto another.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bad bill. I urge you to oppose this bill and put the safety and well-being of America's young women before the political agenda of the anti-choice majority.

I urge a "no" vote.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote 431 on Thursday, September 7, 2006. This vote concerned amendment H. Amdt. 1204 to H.R. 503, the "American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act." It would provide that the Secretary of Agriculture must certify that sufficient horse sanctuaries exist to care for unwanted horses before the law will take effect.

I was hosting a crime forum ("Crime in the Cities: America's Mayors Fight Back") as part of the 36th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference.

Had I been present, I would have voted against this amendment ("nay").

## CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHILD GUIDANCE RESOURCE CENTERS ("CGRC")

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this fall 2006, Child Guidance Resource Centers will celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to the community. CGRC has been instrumental in providing community-based therapeutic, supportive, and preventive behavioral health-care services for children, adolescents and families with mental health, developmental disability, and residential needs.

In 1956, CGRC opened its doors in Media, Pennsylvania, and today is an independent, private, non-profit community organization dedicated to meeting the behavioral health care and special educational needs of those living in southeast Pennsylvania, in the counties of Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Bucks, in addition to the State of Delaware.

Child Guidance Resource Centers, now headquartered in Havertown, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, is entering its 50th year of service addressing the needs of over 3,000 children and families each year, through 25 different programs in 23 different locations. CGRC has over 350 employees, including highly qualified professional therapists and clinicians.

Child Guidance is committed to creating and sustaining healthy and secure communities through an array of highly-qualified clinical services that address and maintain the health and well-being of the clients they serve. Vital to this commitment is an outstanding clinical and support staff that provides services of unparalleled value.

Programs include a broad spectrum of alternative efforts to address the needs of children with autism: Elementary Education Services, After School, Extended School Year and Summer Therapeutic Activities Programs. CGRC also offers a wide variety of educational services for children that enable them to ultimately flourish within the least restrictive educational settings possible—through Elementary Education Services, Extended School Year, and School-Based Contracted Services Programs. The staff involved with CGRC's Truancy and Delinquency Prevention Program and its Multi-systemic Therapy Program collaborate actively with local county Juvenile Justice Departments, District Justices and School Districts, to reduce truancy and delinquency throughout the county. The cornerstone of CGRC's work involves cutting edge mental health intervention through those programs noted above, as well as many other centerbased and community-based services.

CGRC is registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations; licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; a United Way participating agency; and a member of the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association, as well as the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare.

The citizens of the 7th District and I are very proud of the Child Guidance Resource Centers for their continued efforts to provide quality service to those in need of them. I know

that the CGRC will continue its fine tradition of service, community support, and its many admirable efforts in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Child Guidance Resource Centers on its 50th anniversary of service to our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.  
GEORGE SINOPOLI**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. George Sinopoli, who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 30, 2006. Mr. Sinopoli lived a life of honor and sincere loyalty to those he cared for and to the causes for which he fought. He was an exemplary advocate within the entire State of California for Veterans' Rights.

Born on April 13, 1918, Mr. Sinopoli spent his childhood in both Fresno and Chicago Heights, Illinois. He returned to Fresno as a teen and lived there the remainder of his life. In 1942, Mr. Sinopoli enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, where he served as an airplane mechanic. His interest in airplanes flourished and through hard work and determination he proved that he qualified for flight training as a cadet. Mr. Sinopoli graduated as a pilot in 1943 and he immediately reported to his first assignment with the Troop Carrier Command. Upon completion of his service in the military, Mr. Sinopoli joined the workforce and embarked on his lifelong career with Jensen & Pilegard. After 54 years of dedicated service, Mr. Sinopoli retired from the company.

Aside from his commitments to his family and the workforce, Mr. Sinopoli was a long-time advocate for veterans in the Valley. In 1951 he joined the American Legion and held many offices in the organization, including: Post Commander of 594, District Commander, Department Commander of the State of California, and as an aide to the National Commander. He was also a life member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and AM-VETS. Further, Mr. Sinopoli was a member of the Elks Lodge and Chairman of the California Citizens Flag Alliance.

In 1964, Mr. Sinopoli's leadership efforts were recognized when he received the distinctive honor through his appointment, by then Governor Pat Brown, to the California Veterans Board. His extensive knowledge surrounding veterans' affairs allowed him to also serve on the California Veterans Board as Chairman for Governors Ronald Reagan, Jerry Brown, Gray Davis, and most recently, Arnold Schwarzenegger. In addition to his responsibilities to the State Board, Mr. Sinopoli energetically supported assistance to the homeless veterans, as well as those placed in residence at the three California Veterans Homes. Lastly, he was a founding member of the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation, a support group dedicated to build a veterans home in Fresno to serve all Valley veterans.

George Sinopoli is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Gloria Jean; son, Sam and his wife Judi; grandchildren, Anthony, Michael, Julie and Lauren; and sister, Louise.

Although his passing brings sadness to those whose life he touched, Mr. Sinopoli's

warm and compassionate personality which inspired those around him will be missed deeply and his life and his accomplishments will always be remembered.

# TRIBUTE TO ALFONSO R. DE LEON

## HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, Harlingen District Director Alfonso R. De Leon for his over 40 years of Federal service and in congratulating him on his upcoming retirement.

Mr. De Leon began his career in 1970, when he joined the Immigration and Naturalization Service, INS, as a radio operator with the U.S. Border Patrol in Del Rio, Texas.

In 1975, he transferred to Laredo, Texas, where he served with INS Inspections as Trainee, Journeyman, Training Officer, Special Case Officer, Supervisor, Assistant Port Director, Acting Port Director and, finally, Port Director.

In September 1988, at the height of the influx of asylum-seekers brought on by political turmoil in Central America, Mr. De Leon was selected as the Assistant District Director for the Harlingen, Texas, District Office. In 1991, he was promoted to Deputy District Director.

Mr. De Leon also played a leadership role during the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, and in 2003 was named Interim District Director of USCIS. The following year he was promoted to USCIS District Director, a position he holds today.

I have known Mr. De Leon since 1970. My friend and former colleague is truly an American success story, having worked his way up through the ranks of INS and DHS. He has always exemplified expertise, dedication, and professionalism in every position he has held throughout his career.

As a result, Mr. De Leon has earned widespread respect from his colleagues and employees as well as numerous other local, state, and federal law enforcement officials. He has also been a leader in implementing innovative programs to enhance national security, eliminate the immigration caseload backlog, and improve customer service in the Harlingen District.

Most importantly, Mr. De Leon is also a devoted family man. He and his wife, Mary Blanch, have three children and four grandchildren. I know that of his many accomplishments, Mr. De Leon is perhaps most proud of his fine family, and deservedly so.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing the House of Representatives' appreciation for Harlingen District Director Alfonso R. De Leon's service to our Nation and in wishing him all the best in his retirement.

COMMENDING MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEAN GEORGE E. LEROI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

## HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to commend Michigan State University Dean George E. Leroi for his service to the students of Michigan State University, and his significant contribution to the success of the College of Natural Sciences. George Leroi's long career includes service as an assistant professor of chemistry at Princeton University and as a professor of chemistry at Michigan State University. During his tenure at both of these fine academic institutions, Dr. Leroi guided, supported, taught, befriended, and counseled numerous students throughout both their academic and professional careers.

Dr. Leroi was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship, a SURF Research Fellowship with the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, and served as a Research Collaborator with the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory. In 1996, George Leroi was named as the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at Michigan State University, and he continues to serve in that position today. Dr. George Leroi's significant experience in chemistry and his personal commitment to the success of the Michigan State University College of Natural Sciences brings great credit to himself, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America, and we recognize him upon the date of his retirement, October 6, 2006.

CELEBRATION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE MOHANDAS GANDHI STATUE IN THE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS

## HON. DENNIS. J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the installation of a statue of Mohandas Gandhi in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The statue stands as a beacon for the ideals Gandhi promoted: peace, amity, and cooperation of all people of all nations.

The unveiling event is being co-hosted by the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Association and the Federation of Communities of India Communities Association. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens started as a 256-acre tract of land donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. With the theme "Peace Through Mutual Understanding," the Gardens are represented by 24 nations from all around the world. These Gardens, which have become both a staple of Cleveland and the entire country, have inspired people of all backgrounds throughout its entire rich history. President Herbert Hoover once said of the

Gardens that, "Cleveland, by its series of cultural gardens, is setting a notable example to the nation."

The addition of a statue of Gandhi continues this shining example of peace and cooperation. The statue stands in the India Cultural Garden on a mixture of Indian and American soil. In accordance with the values taught by Gandhi, the earth, which belongs to us all, can only be stewarded through cooperation, understanding, and embracing diversity.

Mohandas Gandhi, who pioneered the global civil rights struggle, has become a symbol of the movement for peace in international politics, brotherhood amongst diverse communities, and social progress through understanding. Gandhi, though a Hindu by practice, embraced diversity of all religions and expressions of spirituality and urged all human beings to stay in touch with a transcendental bond that connects us all. His life is a testament to strengthening international peace efforts through acknowledgement of each individual's power to make a positive peaceful change in this world.

Born in 1869 in Gujarat, India, Gandhi studied law at University College London where he found himself at a cultural crossroads trying to embrace English customs while still preserving the traditions of his Indian ancestry. Gandhi would go on to lead the civil rights struggle in South Africa and finally the independence movement in his native India. Though he studied, lived, and worked in many countries, Gandhi became more of a global citizen, adopting the idea that all humans on the earth share a common thread of wanting peace, security, self-expression, and individuality in a diverse society. It is this sense of global citizenship and acceptance of all people that is echoed in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens with the installation of this new statue.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the contributions to peace and community of Mohandas Gandhi through this statue in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

## HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a supporter of H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. I was disappointed to miss the original rollcall vote on this important bill. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" in support of allowing people to save their vulnerable pets in the event of an emergency.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. It will require local governments to include in their emergency plan options to accommodate people with pets or service animals. One of the most heartbreaking elements of the Hurricane Katrina aftermath was seeing the number of pets that were abandoned throughout the gulf coast and the number of people who stayed to care for their pets rather than leave them behind. People should not be forced to choose between their own safety and leaving their beloved pets. There is also

a health and safety concern created in a disaster area when a large number of animals are stranded.

People have a connection with their pets. They know that animals trust their caretakers to take care of them and not leave them abandoned. It is important that we give people the choice to bring their animals with them in an emergency, especially since they can serve as a source of comfort during a troubling time.

#### TRIBUTE TO GRACELAND UNIVERSITY SIFE TEAM

#### HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Graceland University alumnus, I rise today to honor the Graceland University Students in Free Enterprise, or SIFE, Team, who recently took home the second place trophy in the SIFE World Cup Competition in Paris, France.

SIFE is a global non-profit organization, with activities in more than 40 countries. SIFE strives to teach market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business ethics to students. SIFE teams use their knowledge to work to create economic opportunities for their communities.

The SIFE World Cup Competition brings together SIFE teams from all over the world, and I am proud that the Graceland team represented not only its university honorably, but represented our great Nation with distinction. Mr. Speaker, the following students comprised the team that beat out 44 other national championship teams from around the world: Richa Acharya, Francis Ambrosia, Pooja Ananthanarayanan, Brittany Atwood, James Bailey, Andi Barber, Misha Barbour, Shara Barbour, Ben Berning, Karin Blythe, Tyler Bridge, Emily Brock, Kris Brown, Calee Bullard, Landon Burke, Ariana Bytysi, Curtis Calloway, Ashley Campbell, Sabina Curovac, Leatha Daily, Leonard Dalipi, Joe John De La Cerda, Stephen Donahoe, Cassie Eskridge, Allison Forth, Lindsay Garret, Tyler Garrett, Nicholas Gay, Shaw Geldreich, Shannan Graybill, Heather Gunn, Alexis Haines, Brianna Hattey, Clayton Hines, Allan Hughes, Travis Hunt, Doug Hunter, Mercedes Jenkins, Kasey Johnson, Cooper Jones, Tyler Jones, Olga Khrentsova, Erik King, Kendra King, Colin Kohler, Andy Lavender, Hava Maloku, Garet Manuel, Jacqui Everett, Flora Ferati, Abe Forth, Lauren McClain, Michaela McCoy, Amanda McLead, Ethan Mechling, Barrett Miller, Amy Morgan, Aaron Nugent, Toks Olushola, Terra Paialii, Maria Prieto, Ryan Richards, Charlie Rogers, Regan Russell, Guillermo Sanchez, Katherine Say, Michael Say, Reed Manuel, Sarah Marolf, Colin McClain, Jennifer Shumacher, Lauren Seaman, Jessica Serig, Andrea Stuck, Gelila Taddesse, Lora Toncheva, Lora Topourova, Eric Van Kuiken, Leah Webb, Cara Wildermuth, Briana Williams, Shelby Williams, Stuart Williams, Sarah Wouters, James Young, and Zana Zeqiri.

As a proud alumnus, I join Graceland University, and all of Iowa, in congratulating them and commend them for their great achievement.

RECOGNIZING DR. HILARY  
KOPROWSKI ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of Dr. Hilary Koprowski—a man who has changed America, and the world, for the better.

Dr. Koprowski is one of the most distinguished and respected biomedical researchers in American history and is known for his work as a creative scientist. One of Dr. Koprowski's most notable achievements is his discovery of the first oral polio vaccine. Today, the Western Hemisphere has been declared free of paralytic polio, and eradication of polio around the globe is within sight. The pioneering work of Hilary Koprowski has made this possible.

Today, Dr. Koprowski is the author or co-author of over 860 articles in scientific publications and is co-editor of several journals. Currently, he is the President of the Biotechnology Foundation, Inc., Director of the Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories at Thomas Jefferson University and Head of the Center for Neurovirology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Dr. Hilary Koprowski was faced with a choice between a career in music or science. He received a degree in piano from the Warsaw Conservatory as well as the Santa Cecilia Academy of Music in Rome. In 1939, Dr. Koprowski obtained his M.D. and adopted scientific research as his life's work. Music remains a significant part of Dr. Koprowski's life. His compositions are published and are currently being played by various orchestras. Dr. Koprowski often compared science to music when he said, "A well-done experiment gives the same sense of satisfaction that a composer feels after composing a sonata."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hilary Koprowski is a hero. He has been a world leader in scientific research for over 56 years. His expertise and leadership in the field of science has helped save countless lives. I know the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding scientist on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

HONORING UNITED FOOD AND  
COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION  
LOCAL 951 PRESIDENT ROBERT  
POTTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Potter, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 951, upon his retirement.

A graduate of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, Robert Potter won election nine times as President of UFCW 951. Since 1980, he grew the organization from an unaffiliated union of 6,000 members into one of the largest local unions in Michigan and the largest UFCW local in the United States. Today,

UFCW 951 represents more than 35,000 members in an exemplary fashion: with innovative programs, a diverse and dedicated staff and professional management systems.

Robert Potter proved over the course of his career to be a skilled and pragmatic negotiator, facilitating several labor agreements that have preserved thousands of employee salaries and ensured the sustained prosperity of numerous businesses. In the early 1980s, he structured contracts with Kroger in West Michigan that allowed the grocer to remain profitable through today. The same contract model still guides other area employers. He also negotiated complex contracts covering all Michigan operations of Meijer, Inc. for 10 bargaining cycles without a single strike.

Robert Potter graciously shared his talents beyond his UFCW service by holding several officer positions within organized labor, including Vice President of both the Michigan State AFL-CIO and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO. He also won election and re-election as an officer of the Michigan Economic Alliance of Business and Labor, serving from 1990 to the present.

Robert Potter's accomplishments and leadership will not soon be forgotten, and his years of dedicated service and expertise will continue to shape the UFCW long after his retirement. As Chairman of the Committee for the Future of the UFCW, he helped to guide the group that will undoubtedly play a significant role in ensuring the UFCW's future success.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 27th day of September in 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of Robert Potter.

#### TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER ISRAEL L. GAITHER

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great African-American, Commissioner Israel L. Gaither, National Commander of the United States Salvation Army. Commissioner Gaither is the first African-American to hold the position in the Salvation Army's 126-year history.

In his position, Commissioner Gaither heads a vast Army of 3,661 officers, 112,513 soldiers, 422,543 members, 60,642 employees and nearly 3.5 million volunteers, who serve more than 31 million people annually. He is the Salvation Army's chief spokesperson in the U.S. and coordinates matters of national concern to its mission. He acts as the chairman of the national board of trustees and is responsible for presiding over tri-annual commissioners' conferences, which bring together key executive leaders of the Salvation Army's four territories in the United States.

The General of the Salvation Army describes Commissioner Gaither as a "model of spiritual leadership . . . [whose] experience in South Africa and London give him a world-view of the challenges facing the Army today, while retaining the historical mission of the Army rooted in biblical truth and values."

Israel Gaither is a man who leads with total dependence on God and in partnership with

territorial leaders to effectively impact those on the margins of American society. He loves the Salvation Army and is deeply committed to its mission.

Commissioner Gaither officially arrived at national headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on May 1, 2006. Prior to joining national headquarters, he worked for 4 years in London, England, where he was second-in-command of the worldwide organization and his wife Eva Gaither served as world secretary for women's ministries. The Gaithers have served individually and jointly in numerous leadership positions throughout the Army, including roles as pastors of Salvation Army corps, congregations, in Aliquippa, Erie, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as well as in Brooklyn, New York's Bedford-Stuyvesant. In addition, they have held various regional, national, and international leadership positions in business administration. The Gaithers met at the Salvation Army's School for Officer Training in Suffern, NY, and were commissioned as officers in 1964. They married in 1967 and have two children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Israel L. Gaither is the highest ranking African-American in the Salvation Army. He is an inspiration for young men and women, and I stand here to honor him today for his years of service to this Nation's and the world's needy.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U COAST PRESERVATION ACT

#### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the proposed Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawai'i between Kapao Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

In March 2005, I wrote to the National Park Service to ask that it conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Ka'u coast to make a preliminary evaluation of the unique natural resources of the area to determine its suitability for inclusion as a unit within our National Park Service.

The draft reconnaissance report providing an overview of the natural and cultural resources of the study area is currently in the final stages of review, but the draft I have reviewed concludes that "Based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The draft report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

At present, the beautiful coastline of Ka'u is largely pristine: unspoiled, undeveloped, and uninhabited. It contains significant natural, geological, and archeological features. The northern part of the study area abuts Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of notable geological features, including a huge ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the NPS expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green (olivine) sand beaches as well as a

number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orange-black damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins frequent the area. The area also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawai'i. Although the NPS was unable to conduct a full survey of marine resources, it is expected that the varied and undeveloped habitats in the study area support high levels of biodiversity.

Archeological resources reflecting ancient Hawaiian settlement in the study area includes the Puh'i'ula cave, dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through this area. The area is also remarkable for its magnificent viewsheds.

Ka'u is one the last unspoiled areas left in Hawai'i. It is, however, under tremendous development pressure, despite the fact that these coastal lands are subject to volcanic eruptions, seismic activity, tsunami, and other hazards. More earthquakes occur in the Ka'u area than anywhere in the State and the hazard risk level in the study area ranges from the highest (category 1) to between 3 and 6 for the balance of the study area. The outstanding resources of Ka'u deserve protection; development along the coast poses risks to these resources and potentially to human life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and invite you to come to the island of Hawai'i to visit this special area. I know that if you do so, you will be convinced as I am of the vital importance of protecting these lands.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF DEMOCRACY

#### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National League of Democracy (NLD) and all of those who languish in crushing servitude. On 27 September 1988, the NLD was founded by the forces of Democracy in Burma. The NLD was founded at what seemed like a turning point in Burmese history. After decades of military rule and dictatorship, the leaders of Burma announced that free elections would be held in 1990.

Led by Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD won those elections with 60 percent of the vote and 83 percent of the parliamentary seats. Alas, the military never allowed a new government to form. Sadly, Liberty was crushed and the promise of that time has never been realized.

Today, Aung San Suu Kyi is under house arrest. Many other NLD members and other defenders of democracy are in prison, in exile, or in hiding. The brutal military dictatorship that very nearly did the right thing so many

years ago is still in power. They continue to brutalize the people of Burma in savage ways that we can hardly imagine.

International pressure is mounting, however. After turning a blind eye to Burma's actions Burma's ASEAN neighbors are distancing themselves from Burma. Last week at the United Nations, the First Lady of the United States Laura Bush held a forum on Burma. She urged the military leadership of Burma to release Aung San Suu Kyi and the adoption of a U.N. resolution condemning Burma's dictatorship.

And for the first time, Burma has been placed on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. For those of us who have been active on Burmese issues for some time, this is truly a victory. On Friday, Ibrahim Gambari, U.N. Undersecretary General for Political Affairs, will report on the latest situation in Myanmar at the 15-member council. Getting a resolution through the Security Council will be no small task. Burma's stalwart ally China is ever ready to block any criticism of its neighbor.

The United Nations is not known for its tough stances on any issue. Time after time we have seen the U.N. shy away from condemnation of even the most egregious evil. I urge the U.N. to be firm. The United Nations Security Council must use this unmatched opportunity to defend the least among us.

In closing, I congratulate the NLD on their 18-year commitment to democracy. I hope they never give up their struggle for freedom. I will never abandon my commitment to them or the people of Burma.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAD POISONING REDUCTION ACT

#### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act, a bill that will tackle one of the most dangerous environmental hazards to our children's health—lead poisoning. America has made an important pledge to eliminate this problem by 2010, and it is critical that Congress give our communities the tools needed to eradicate lead dangers.

Despite the fact that lead poisoning is preventable, it continues to affect 434,000 American children every year, resulting in serious health problems ranging from brain damage and hearing loss to coma and death. We cannot stand by and watch our children continue to be exposed to toxins when we have the knowledge and tools to keep them healthy. In doing so, we rob them, and our communities, of their greatest potential.

Unfortunately, children are often most vulnerable to lead hazards in the places they ought to be the most safe—in their homes and in their childcare facilities. In 2003, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control found that 14 percent of licensed childcare facilities had significant lead hazards. At facilities where the majority of children attending were African American, 30 percent were determined to pose serious risks of lead poisoning.

Our childcare professionals work tirelessly to care for our children and keep them safe. But they desperately need the appropriate resources to protect children from the hidden dangers of lead hazards. Like its companion bill, introduced in the other Chamber by Senator OBAMA, the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act will establish the Select Group on Lead Exposures which will be comprised of experts from the Secretary of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, the Administration for Children and Families, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The Select Group will be charged with conducting a study of current State and local programs intended to prevent lead poisoning at childcare facilities. Within 1 year of enactment, the Select Group will establish lead safety standards and abatement procedures for such facilities. The bill provides for lead testing of child care centers, and directs the Select Group to establish and administer a grant program to defray abatement costs to help facilities comply with the new lead-safety standards. Finally, the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act will require that contractors hired for repair, renovation, or reconstruction of childcare facilities are provided with educational materials about lead hazards and the guidance necessary to avoid imposing additional risks of lead exposure. These initiatives will play an integral role in preventing future incidences of lead poisoning.

America's children deserve to be safe at their childcare facilities. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF JAMES JOSEPH RUSH OF  
BOSTON, MA

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of James Joseph Rush, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court and to commend him for 43 years of dedicated service.

The son of John and Mary Rush, immigrants from County Mayo, Ireland, James was born on February 9, 1931 in Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood. As a youth, James was very active in the Sacred Heart Church in Roslindale, MA, and served as the first president of the Boston Archdiocesan Chi-Rho Association.

After graduating from Roslindale High School, James enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country honorably from 1951 to 1955. During his tenure James served onboard the USS *John W. Weeks*, DD-701.

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country James attended Boston College and graduated from the Carroll School of Management with a bachelor of arts degree in 1960. After graduation, James began a career in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court as a probation officer overseeing juveniles. Following this position James was assigned assistant chief of probation until 2004

when he was named the chief of probation in the West Roxbury Division of the Boston Municipal Court.

Along with providing distinguished service to his country and State, James is also an active member of his community. A faithful parishioner at St. Theresa's in West Roxbury, James has served as a eucharistic minister for many years. James is a past president of the St. Theresa's School Parent-Teacher Association, has served on the parent advisory board of Catholic Memorial and is a member of the Boston College Alumni Association. James is also a member of the John G. Williams Council of the Knights of Columbus in Roslindale, MA.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career in the Massachusetts Trial Court and his volunteer work in the community, James has served as a mentor and role model for Massachusetts youth. Above all of these accomplishments the title James cherishes most is that of husband and father. James has the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune to be married to his wife of 36 years, Virginia; they are the proud parents of six wonderful children and the grandparents of four adoring grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with James Rush's family, friends and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to the Massachusetts Trial Court. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating James' distinguished career and wish him a happy and full retirement.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO AP-  
POINT A PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL  
ENVOY FOR SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2006*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3127, the Sudan Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006, which passed Congress on September 25, and H. Res. 992, which calls for the appointment of a presidential special envoy for Sudan and passed the House on September 26. H.R. 3127 addresses the ongoing violence and humanitarian disaster in the Darfur region by directing the president to impose sanctions on the Government of Sudan as well as freeze the assets of anyone responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan.

H.R. 3127 also supports the United Nations and NATO to send a civilian protection force to assist the African Union Mission in Sudan. This is especially important since the Sudanese Government is currently refusing to allow U.N. troops into Sudan, which threatens a recent peace agreement and could lead to further violence. I am disappointed, however, that an earlier provision in H.R. 3127 that would have allowed States to make a decision to divest from Sudan was not included in the final version.

This conflict has resonated with people all over the world who want this travesty to end. It is a shame that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past regarding genocide, but it is not too late to change the situation in

Sudan. We must not stand by as the situation deteriorates in Darfur. It is our duty to end this human suffering, and I will continue to work to stop this conflict and promote peace in Sudan.

AMENDING THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO TREAT INCOME EARNED BY MUTUAL FUNDS FROM EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS HOLDING PRECIOUS METAL BULLION AS QUALIFYING INCOME

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to update the Internal Revenue Code mutual fund rules to clarify that a mutual fund is permitted by the tax rules, as they are by the securities law, to invest in publicly traded securities representing interests in trusts holding precious metal bullion, such as gold.

Beginning in November 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission has permitted the registration of securities representing equity interests in trusts holding precious metal (gold and silver). These securities now trade on the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange. They did not exist at the time the mutual fund tax rules were most recently amended by Congress.

These investments share the same essential characteristics as other securities that give rise to good income for mutual funds under the Internal Revenue Code. In particular, they are clearly "securities" for purposes of the Investment Company Act of 1940, and under the mutual fund tax rules, gain on sale of "securities" is clearly good income for the mutual fund.

However, because the bullion funds are treated as "grantor trusts" for income tax purposes, it is not clear whether the income from these securities would be considered qualifying income under the Internal Revenue Code Section 851(b) mutual fund rule that requires that 90 percent of the income of the mutual fund must be from securities and other specified passive investments. The Tax Code provisions applicable to grantor trusts generally treat the shareholder, "grantor," as owning directly the underlying assets of that trust, rather than owning merely its equity interest in the trust, even when the shares in the trust are traded as securities on the major exchanges. As a result, a mutual fund's income from such an investment, including gain on sale, could be considered nonqualifying income. Excessive nonqualifying income would destroy the mutual fund's qualification as a mutual fund and subject the fund income to a layer of tax at the fund on the same income that is also taxed to the shareholders.

The bill updates the Internal Revenue Code to correct that problem for securities holding precious metal bullion. It provides that the income derived from any interest in such a trust, including gain on the sale of such an interest, is considered qualifying income for purposes of the 90 percent rule. To qualify under this amendment, at least 95 percent of the holdings of the trust must be in the form of precious metal bullion.

As a result, individuals and pension plans that invest through mutual funds will have access to these types of investments in bullion when the mutual fund manager wants to make those investments.

The amendment would be effective for tax years beginning after date of enactment.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO WESTGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Westgate Elementary School in Arlington Heights, Illinois, for being named a 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Nearly 600 students, kindergarten through 5th grade, attend Westgate Elementary. The teachers and faculty at Westgate are focused on providing hands-on instruction that motivates and excites children about learning. As a result, these students consistently score above state and national averages on standardized tests in all subject areas.

Westgate Elementary is among 250 schools from across the nation chosen by the Secretary of Education to receive this acknowledgement. These schools have distinguished themselves by embodying the goals of reaching high standards and closing the achievement gap. Schools selected for this honor either have students from all subgroups that have demonstrated significant improvement or have students that achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on statewide tests.

This is a great honor for the 10th district, and I congratulate the principal, Dr. Kevin Dwyer, the students, and teachers at Westgate Elementary for this achievement.

#### HONORING MINNIE VAUTRIN

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnie Vautrin, an American woman and missionary whose heroism changed the course of history during World War II.

Our country has seen countless acts of heroism in the face of war atrocities both in our country and abroad, Japan's violent occupation of then-capital Nanking, China, historically known as the Rape of Nanking, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Chinese men, women and children and left its mark on history as one of the most brutal massacres and crimes against humanity of the 20th Century. An estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were killed, and an estimated 20,000 women were raped, with some estimates as high as 80,000.

Minnie Vautrin, a missionary who worked at a women's college in Nanking, courageously stood against the Japanese imperial army. A native of Illinois, she was one of the few Americans in the region when the Japanese army invaded Nanking.

By using the American flag and proclamations issued by the American Embassy in

China maintaining the college a sanctuary, Minnie helped repel incursions into the college, where thousands of women and children sought protection from the Japanese army. She often risked her own life to defend the lives of thousands of Chinese civilians.

Her devotion during this horrific event earned her the nickname "American Goddess of Mercy" among the people of Nanking, where she is fondly remembered. Her heroic actions and unparalleled efforts to save lives deserve to be recognized. Sadly, her story is relatively unknown.

That is why I, along with 14 of my colleagues, am introducing a resolution honoring her sacrifice, courage, humanity, and commitment to peace and justice during the violent Rape of Nanking. Minnie Vautrin's story defines patriotism and heroism in the midst of war, and the introduction of this resolution honors her achievements today, the 120th anniversary of her birth.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for joining me in honor of this phenomenal yet unsung heroine. To the thousands of innocent men, women and children whose lives were spared because of Minnie Vautrin's bold courage, she will never be forgotten.

#### RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF UNCLASSIFIED VERSIONS OF THE APRIL 2006 NIE AND OTHER IRAQ INTELLIGENCE REPORTS

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the media reported that American intelligence agencies completed a National Intelligence Estimate, NIE, finding that the Iraq war has increased the danger of terrorism against the United States. This is significant because the NIE represents the consensus judgment of the entire United States intelligence community and is approved by John D. Negroponte, the Director of National Intelligence. According to portions of the NIE declassified by the President, the intelligence agencies conclude that Islamic radicalism "has metastasized and spread across the globe." This conclusion raises considerable questions about President Bush's public statements that the war in Iraq has made us safer. Even though President Bush declassified about four pages of the 30-page NIE, the American people are entitled to the full story, not just pieces the President may selectively reveal.

Media accounts further indicate that the Administration has an additional classified intelligence community report that gives a grim assessment of the situation in Iraq. Some have expressed concern that release of this second NIE is being slowed by the Administration to avoid discussion before the November elections. If the intelligence estimate is finished, it should not be hidden from the American people.

In order to inform the public more fully regarding the impact of the occupation in Iraq on terrorism, I along with 45 of my colleagues am introducing a Resolution of Inquiry that would call for the immediate release of the full unclassified versions of both the April NIE as

well as any other pending report on Iraq. While President Bush has released a small part of the April 2006 NIE, it is important that all unclassified materials on these matters be released.

The American people deserve to know the whole truth about the impact of the war in Iraq on the global war on terrorism. If what has been reported is correct, these Intelligence Estimates indicate that the Iraq war is part and parcel of this administration's failed national security record, and has made us less safe from terrorist attacks.

#### REV. WILLIAM SCHULTZ REMARKS AT CEREMONY TO HONOR WAITSTILL SHARP AND MARTHA SHARP, AMERICAN HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a very moving ceremony was held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and a plaque was placed to honor the Reverend Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha, true heroes of the Holocaust who risked their lives to save Jews from the atrocities of the Nazi regime.

On June 13, 2006, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Authority in Israel honored the Sharps posthumously as "Righteous Among the Nations" for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. They are only the second and third Americans to be so honored. Varian Fry, with whom the Sharps worked, was the first American.

The Sharps' incredible story is a powerful reminder that all of us have the moral obligation to do all we can to end violence and genocide where ever and when ever such atrocities occur. They, along with those who helped to make their work possible, deserve our gratitude and admiration. Each of us should make every effort to learn more about the atrocities and genocidal actions occurring around the globe today, strive to have the foresight and courage shown by the Sharps, and act with resolve to do everything we can to stop these horrors.

Our colleagues in the Senate passed a resolution on September 8 of this year honoring the courageous service of the Sharps. Representative JAMES MCGOVERN, my colleague from Massachusetts, where the Sharps once lived, and I are introducing similar legislation in the House remembering the Sharps and their heroism.

Mr. Speaker, the Reverend William Schultz made particularly outstanding remarks at this ceremony honoring the Sharps at the U.S. Holocaust Museum. I urge my colleagues to ponder his comments and learn more about this brave, selfless couple and their amazing deeds.

REMARKS DELIVERED BY REV. WILLIAM SCHULTZ U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

I think continually of those who were truly great.

Who, from the womb, remembered the soul's history

Through corridors of light where the hours are suns

Endless and singing. Whose lovely ambition  
Was that their lips, still touched with fire,  
Should tell of the Spirit clothed from head  
to foot in song . . .

What is precious is never to forget . . .

These are the opening lines of a poem by Stephen Spender, the British man of letters.

So often when we hear the exhortation, "Never forget!", it is the victims of atrocities whose fates are being invoked. But today, with the addition of the names of Martha and Waitstill Sharp to the "Wall of Rescuers," it is two people whose "lips . . . told of the Spirit clothed from head to foot in song" that we would have the world remember and the faith that inspired them to take risks on behalf of unknown others and the courage that led them to face the Nazis not once, but twice and a kind of almost incomprehensible determination they exhibited that most of us mortals can only dream of.

The plaque we install today has only 100 words on it, only 100 words in which to tell their story. The documentary short produced by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which we will see in a few moments, has only twenty-minutes to make their heroism clear. So it is fitting that the museum is adding to its collection the 8–9,000 pages of documentary evidence that Larry Benequist and Bill Sullivan, the makers of the film, have gathered from attics, from dusty store rooms in Czechoslovakia and France, from carefully preserved Gestapo archives in Berlin, and from collections of personal letters. And it is fitting that the museum has acquired the hours of interviews with Martha and Waitstill which Ghanda Difiglia taped for UUSC while they were still alive. The museum will no doubt also want to preserve the hours of recollections of people who were rescued by the Sharps, people like Rosemarie Fiegl, and of people who knew them like Yehuda Bacon recollections which Deborah Shaffer is filming. All of these fragments of the story will be preserved here so that scholars, historians, and authors can study them and make more accessible the obligation to remember.

Today's dedication means that future visitors to this museum will be continually reminded of two of who were truly great—Martha and Waitstill Sharp.

And part of what made them great were the moral choices they made. How many of us would set out from our comfortable homes, leaving our small children behind, to travel to an unstable part of the world where we would match wits with the Gestapo and lead journeys across the Pyrenees?

And yet the fact that they did that means that any one else could have done it if they had decided to, that it was not beyond the bounds of the human imagination. If even one person in a generation makes a moral choice, it leaves the rest of us with less excuse for our ethical torpidity. William Lloyd Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1831 when the slaveholder Andrew Jackson was President. That removes any hope Jackson or his fellow slaveholders might have had to claim ignorance as a defense for holding other human beings in chains. And Elizabeth Cady Stanton began the fight for women's equality in 1840 when women were excluded from the world antislavery convention, so after 1840 what was Garrison's excuse for remaining a misogynist?

But of course not every one of us accurately reads the tides of history. I often ask myself

what moral myopia I am subject to at this very moment, something that twenty or forty years from now will seem like unimaginable shortsightedness. And that is what strikes me as most remarkable about the Sharps. They went to Europe in February, 1939. February, 1939 was less than three months after the Kristallnacht. It was before the Nazis required Jews in Germany to relinquish their silver and gold. It was before the occupation of Czechoslovakia. It was before the German "Pact of Steel" with Italy. It was before the SS St. Louis set out on its fateful voyage to Cuba and before its 900 Jewish refugee passengers were returned to Europe. It was before Germany attacked Poland, before Britain declared war on Germany. It was before the Warsaw Ghetto. And it was before Auschwitz, before "Auschwitz" became the name of anything other than a pretty little town in Poland. It was, in other words, before most of the rest of the world awoke to the true extent of the Nazi peril and the full measure of its threat to the Jewish people. It was in fact five whole years before Adolf Eichmann would offer to trade the lives of one million Jews for 10,000 trucks and the British High Commissioner in Egypt, Lord Moyne, would reject the offer, saying, "But where shall I put them? Whatever would I do with one million Jews?" The Sharps, their sponsors and their colleagues, were gauging the tides and gauging them with astonishing perspicuity. It is easy to feel small and blind in comparison to that.

But that is not the lesson that I suspect the Sharps would have us draw. We honor the Sharps as heroes who saved hundreds of lives. But I am willing to bet that Waitstill and Martha knew that though they and their colleagues, the Dexters and Charles Joy, were the ones risking their lives on the streets of Prague and in the mountains of Spain, they were dependent upon a much larger circle of friends and acquaintances who made their heroism possible: the people who cared for their children, the members of their congregation in Wellesley Hills who maintained their church while they were gone, the supporters of the Unitarian denomination that financed their cause. And, yes, the tailors who darned their clothes, the shoemakers who soled their shoes, the pilot who steered their ship and the housekeeper who kept their rooms.

That, you see, is why we have institutions. Because not every one of us can set out for war-torn Europe. Not every one of us can visit the refugee camps of Darfur or the US detention camps in Iraq or Afghanistan or God knows where else. But every one of us can be a part of the lives of those who do. Every one of us can be a part of institutions that make such heroism possible and in that measure can claim a degree of kinship with the righteous among the nations. That Waitstill and Martha's work resulted not just in the immediate rescue of hundreds of lives, but in the creation of an institution that came to be known as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, an institution that multiplied those rescues a thousand fold in the years that followed, is testimony that, acute as their reading of history surely was, they knew that they were but a part of a much larger circle of heroes and heroines who made their enterprise possible and without whom their legacy and the values it embodied could never be sustained across the decades.

Spender's poem ends:

Near the snow, near the sun, in the highest  
fields  
See how these names are feted by the waving  
grass  
And by the streamers of white clouds  
And whispers of wind in the listening sky.  
The names of those who in their lives fought  
for life  
Who wore at their hearts the fire's center.  
Born of the sun they traveled a short while  
towards the sun,  
And left the vivid air signed with their  
honor.

Thank you for helping us honor two people  
who wore at their hearts the fire's center and  
left the vivid air signed with their own  
honor.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF ABE JOLLEY

#### HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to my good friend, Abe Jolley, whose community service and sportsmanship will be recognized next month at the inaugural Abe Jolley Memorial Golf Tournament in our hometown of Union City, Tennessee. The tournament will raise money for a scholarship program in northwest Tennessee.

Abe was as avid and skilled a golfer as anyone I have ever met. In 1939—the same year he was lucky enough to marry his wife, the former Velma Taylor—he hit his hole-in-one, only three weeks after he had started playing golf. Another 50 years passed before his second hole-in-one, a slump he blamed on the hole always being in the wrong place. He hit four more holes-in-one toward the end of his golf career, including one at the age of 85.

Abe was more than a golfer, though. He was a dedicated husband, father and grandfather. He worked at the Obion County Motor Company, was active at Union City First United Methodist Church, served more than 50 years as a Mason and was a charter member of Union City Civitan Club.

I knew Abe Jolley all my life and, like all who knew him, was deeply saddened when he passed in 2004. Abe lived his life with energy and excitement that I always admired. Mr. Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of a very extraordinary man and my dear friend, Mr. Abe Jolley.

#### IN LASTING MEMORY OF BOBBIE GENE "BOB" LANN

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bobbie Gene "Bob" Lann, who passed away September 15, 2006, in Magnolia, Arkansas at the age of 79.

After serving in the United States Army, Bob Lann moved to Stamps, Arkansas, where he lived for twenty-two years. Bob served as captain of the Stamps Fire Department, served on the Stamps City Council and was charter president of the Stamps Jaycees. He was also



ordained as a Deacon of the First Baptist Church where he was also treasurer and Sunday school Superintendent.

Bob later moved to Magnolia, Arkansas, where he opened Furniture Land. He was active in the community by serving as president of the Magnolia Columbia Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Rotary Club and Optimist Club and Deacon at Central Baptist Church.

Bob Lann was an avid bluegrass fan and loved playing the fiddle with his friends.

My deepest condolences go to his wife of fifty-nine years, Bobbie Ruth Coffman Lann; his daughter, Ameta Vines and her husband Johnny; his son Randy Lann and wife Cindy; his two grandchildren Julia Lann and Brad Lann; his step granddaughter, Toni Dickinson and his step great-granddaughter Emilee Dickinson. Bob Lann will be greatly missed in Columbia County and throughout the state of Arkansas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROD A.  
DAVIS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Rod A. Davis for his leadership as CEO of St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

Rod attended college at Idaho State University, majoring in business administration with an emphasis on information systems. Following college, he began installing IBM computer systems in hospitals, where he says he "started catching the spirit of hospitals really helping people . . . and thinking this would be an excellent career."

Today, Rod oversees the operation and direction of three St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Southern Nevada for Catholic Healthcare West, a not-for-profit, religious-based and non-tax-supported hospital system. St. Rose's is a major healthcare employer in Southern Nevada, with a current payroll of more than 2,100 workers. As St. Rose's CEO, Rod has stabilized operations and overseen the creation of the Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center of Excellence, the launch of Henderson's only open-heart surgical and pediatric intensive care center program, and the development of numerous outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Rod A. Davis. Under his leadership, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals have expanded tremendously and have greatly enhanced the lives of countless citizens of southern Nevada. I applaud his success and with him the best with his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEANNA  
ABLESER

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, very few people in our society possess the power to change a child's life the way a teacher can.

The values, ethics, work habits and ambition they instill in our youth serve as life lessons that translate into action for the rest of their lives.

That is why I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Deanna Ableser of Torrance, California, who has been awarded the VSA Arts Playwright Discovery Teacher Award. This award is presented annually to educators who creatively bring disability awareness to the classroom through the art of playwriting.

Deanna Ableser teaches six drama courses at Dana Middle School in Hawthorne, California. A significant portion of her curriculum is dedicated to playwriting. She encourages her students to write about characters with physical or mental disabilities in hopes of expanding empathy, understanding, compassion and tolerance. Her intermediate playwriting course is dedicated exclusively to the VSA Arts Project.

It is testament to Ms. Ableser's effectiveness as a teacher that her students have won numerous awards for their accomplishments in acting, playwriting and technical theatre.

On behalf of my constituents and the students and families at Dana Middle School, I extend our congratulations to a wonderful educator and role model, Deanna Ableser, and best wishes for this school year.

Break a leg!

IN RECOGNITION OF CRANIO-  
FACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share my support and acknowledgement of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

Each year approximately 100,000 children are born in the United States with some form of facial disfigurement. In many cases, reconstructive surgeons can correct these problems early—often while the children are still infants. In other cases, however, reconstruction is not so easy or even possible. The Children's Craniofacial Association, CCA, is an organization that supports these children and their families. Through CCA's continued dedication and efforts, I am pleased to share my support and thanks for their designation of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

In 2001, my constituent, Wendelyn Osborne, brought the craniofacial disorders issue to my attention. At a young age Wendelyn was diagnosed with craniometaphyseal dysplasia, CMD. CMD is a rare disorder that affects only 200 people worldwide. Specifically, CMD involves an overgrowth of bone which never deteriorates. In Wendelyn's case, this caused an abnormal appearance, bilateral facial paralysis and deafness. Other cases can include those characteristics as well as blindness and joint pain. Wendelyn has had to go through 17 reconstructive surgeries to counteract the medical difficulties that comprise her disorder.

Unfortunately, the majority of reconstructive surgeries, such as these that Wendelyn has undergone, are not covered by insurance companies. Rather, many of them are treated as strictly cosmetic. As a result, individuals are forced to fight their insurance companies just to receive the life-saving surgeries they need.

The fact that these surgeries have been grouped in the same "cosmetic" category as surgeries that simply make people look better or younger is a tragedy.

Wendelyn's story inspired me to introduce legislation that would assist these thousands of individuals who are affected by a craniofacial disorder. My legislation, the Reconstructive Surgery Act, would ensure nationwide insurance coverage for medically necessary reconstructive surgeries.

It is my hope that further education and understanding of craniofacial disorders will allow our nation to move forward and update existing laws to better meet the medical needs of those needing reconstructive, not cosmetic, surgery. I urge my colleagues to join in this effort and help recognize these conditions through Craniofacial Acceptance Month so that all Americans can access the care they need.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER M.  
HIGGINS III

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Walter M. Higgins III for his leadership as CEO of Sierra Pacific Resources, the parent company to both Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company.

Walter's first career was as a U.S. naval officer. After obtaining a nuclear science degree from the U.S. Academy, he served as a nuclear submarine officer. After ending his active military service, Walter remained a naval reservist, ultimately retiring as a captain after a total of 29 years of service.

The transition from military service to a civilian career was relatively easy for Walter, who obtained a position with Bechtel Corp., which was designing and constructing nuclear power plants. From there, he worked at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Portland General Electric and Louisville Gas & Electric. He expected to remain in Louisville as the CEO for Louisville Gas & Electric throughout the remainder of his career, but was surprised when utility companies began recruiting him. He subsequently accepted a job with Sierra Pacific Power Co. in 1993. He then moved to Atlanta to head a natural gas company, only to return to Reno in 2000 as CEO of Sierra Pacific Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Walter M. Higgins III. I applaud his professional success and efforts on behalf of the community; he has greatly enriched countless lives with his activism. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUDY F.  
DE LEON

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rudy F. de Leon, whom I have

known since he was a wet-behind-the-ears staff assistant on Capitol Hill. I have enjoyed watching Rudy serve our country in jobs ranging from staff assistant, senior staff, Undersecretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and senior corporate officer for one of America's most important corporations.

Rudy's service to the United States Government has spanned over a quarter century. At 54 years, I would submit that we have not seen the last of him. Allow me to just cover some of what he has done for his country.

After graduating in 1974 from Loyola University—now Loyola Marymount—in Los Angeles, Rudy came to Capitol Hill. I can still remember the day when that young, red-headed, fresh-faced, full-of-enthusiasm staffer started as a staff assistant on the Senate side, working for a California Senator, John Tunney, whom I also served. Who would have guessed that he would go on to the lofty positions he attained?

Rudy has accomplished a great deal, whether it was working on the Goldwater-Nichols legislation or legislation for the authorization for the use of force during the Persian Gulf war in 1991, or strategies for saving the C-17 Globemaster, or ways to help the families of POWs and MIAs.

Rudy approached his position at Boeing with the same enthusiasm I saw when he showed up on the Capitol grounds. On one cold winter night while holding a meeting with his department heads, Rudy summoned them to come outside in front of Boeing's building. After a short while, and once everyone was sufficiently cold—they didn't take coats because they did not think they would be there long—he told them the Space Station was about to pass overhead. Sure enough, the Space Station did pass overhead, just as he promised it would. That bonding experience made the team grow tighter.

Boeing, the Department of Defense, and Capitol Hill all had an opportunity to size up Rudy. All respect him and feel affection for him. I do not know what his next move will be, but hopefully his wife Anne, his daughters Elizabeth and Kerry, his father, Big Rudy, and brother and family in my congressional district will see more of him. Rudy and his family always have a home back in Torrance, CA, and on Capitol Hill, where it all started.

#### IN HONOR AND APPRECIATION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Historically Black Colleges and Universities were not officially recognized by the government until 1964, but these valuable institutions have had a lasting impact on our nation for more than a century.

As the United States Representative for Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District, I have the distinct honor to represent my state's largest and only four-year public Historically Black University, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. UAPB was founded in 1890 and now provides more than 3,600 students with a quality, affordable education.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is an anchor for the town of more than 55,000 people as it provides jobs, resources, opportunities and education to the entire region. Growing up in rural Arkansas, I had the unfortunate opportunity to see how segregation affected Southern towns. The division that was placed on different cultures was stretched far and wide. Prior to 1964, it was almost impossible for an African American student to enroll in a public institution of higher education. Thankfully, these students had the opportunity to continue learning and pursuing their dream because of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. When doors were shut to African American students, those students refused to take no for an answer and created institutions of higher education where education was the focus, not a distraction.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are vital to the education of our nation's youth. They enroll 14 percent of all African American students in higher education, yet the 102 recognized Historically Black Colleges and Universities only constitute three percent of America's 4,084 institutions of higher education. Twenty-four percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans nationwide are earned in our Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

I wish that those brave Americans who formed the first black college could be here today to see the lasting impact they have had on the thousands of Americans who have benefited from an education at such an institution. Just think, without these colleges, we might have never known or heard from American icons such as Martin Luther King, Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, Walter Payton or Oprah Winfrey. There is no doubt in my mind or my heart, that these great people were the product of an invaluable institution which motivated them to be leaders they became.

I am proud to have joined with my friend and colleague Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON in passing legislation honoring our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and I will fight to ensure their continued excellence in education will live on.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities before the United States Congress for their outstanding contributions to the communities and lives they have educated and will continue to impact. Please join me in applauding the amazing work these institutions have done over the course of history.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDY TUDOR

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Judy Tudor for her outstanding service as a social worker, helping the abused and neglected children in her community.

Judy understands the fear and turmoil associated with being removed from her parents' home and placed into foster care. When she was 15 years old, Judy was placed in Las Vegas' residential facility for abused and neglected children, Child Haven. Judy thanks the State's social welfare system for their interven-

tion and maintains that their actions directly contributed to her personal and professional development. Her experiences within the social welfare system propelled her into a life of community service and inspired her to pursue a career as a social worker.

In addition to being a former ward of the state, she is also physically handicapped. Shortly after entering Child Haven, Judy suddenly lost all feeling from the chest down. She was diagnosed with a type of transverse myelitis, a neurological syndrome caused by inflammation of the spinal cord.

Judy has served the state of Nevada in a number of different capacities as a social worker; having served as a foster care case manager for the state and a supervisor for child protective services in Clark County. Most recently, Judy was promoted to assistant manager of the Clark County Department of Family Services, where she supervises the investigations of child abuse and neglect of 130 case workers.

Because of her personal hardships, Judy holds a genuine belief that the best measure to take is the one that is best for the child. She also believes that the system can always improve in order to put those in need first. Judy feels empathetic to the children in her cases, with each case helping her to feel as if she has achieved her ultimate goal of giving back to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Judy Tudor. I commend her for her exceptional service to Clark County and the entire state of Nevada. Her dedication has enriched countless lives of children across the state. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO LA CLINICA DE LA RAZA

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleague, BARBARA LEE, to pay tribute to La Clinica de La Raza on its 35th anniversary of providing exemplary health care to the East Bay communities of Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties in Northern California.

The mission of La Clinica de La Raza is to improve the quality of life of the diverse communities they serve by providing culturally appropriate, high quality, accessible health care for all.

Before La Clinica de La Raza was established, low-income residents in the East Bay of Northern California had few options available to them for affordable health care. As a result, many were forced to go to hospital emergency rooms for problems that could have been avoided with preventive care. In response to this need for primary care services, a group of concerned health practitioners, community activists and students came together in 1971 to establish a multiservice clinic, in Oakland, California, based on the expressed needs of the community.

La Clinica offers low cost quality health care services for multilingual and multicultural populations at 22 locations in three counties in Northern California. The majority of La

Clinica's patients earn far below the federal poverty level and most lack private health insurance.

La Clinica's comprehensive services include pediatrics, chronic disease management, family medicine, health education, women's health care, adolescent services, school-based clinics, mental health services, dental and vision care, and tattoo removal as well as pharmacy, laboratory and x-ray services. To most effectively serve the diverse community, La Clinica's health practitioners come from the cultures and communities of the patients they serve. The practitioners speak a myriad of languages fluently including Spanish, English, Chinese, Hindi, Arabic and Amharic. More than 72 percent of La Clinica's patients require services in their native languages.

Since its founding in 1971, La Clinica has served hundred of thousands of individuals with a variety of health care services. Infants, children, expectant mothers, teens, seniors and families have benefited from these multi-service clinics.

The number of people needing La Clinica's services continues to grow. The organization saw a 68 percent increase in patients from 1998–2004. In 2005 alone, La Clinica provided more than 175,000 patient visits. More than half of these visits were for children and adolescents. Since 1990, La Clinica grew from 8 to 22 health care sites. One of these sites is scheduled for expansion in 2007 and is expected to double in operational capacity.

Congresswoman LEE and I salute La Clinica de La Raza's remarkable past, accomplishments and vision for the future.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

##### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia's independence.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenia re-established its freedom in the South Caucasus region in 1991. Since then, Armenia has committed itself to becoming a modern and thriving nation-state. Despite many external threats, Armenia has fought to overcome trade obstacles and grow its economy. The Armenian Government has also remained a close ally to the United States and is even now providing personnel to the present war in Iraq.

The tragedies of the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1917 did not dampen the spirit of these persevering people. Armenia has thrived and its people carry on its rich culture and heritage all over the world. Today, over 1 million Armenian-Americans reside in the United States, and of that, more than 500,000 Armenian-Americans make my home State of California their home.

We in the United States do not take our freedom for granted and are committed to spreading democracy across the globe. As we celebrate the independence of Armenia, let us remember that freedom is a universal right that should be afforded to anyone, anywhere.

#### RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

##### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join with my colleagues in recognizing some of our Nation's most distinguished institutions of higher learning: America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The critical role of HBCUs in preparing our Nation's students for work and life is undeniable. Nearly 14 percent of our country's African American college students are enrolled at HBCUs. These young men and women are preparing to be our future community and civic leaders, business owners, teachers, artists, scientists, and scholars.

This year's HBCUs Week, which is themed "The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges," reminds us all of the important partnership between the Federal Government in ensuring access for all those who seek a higher education and the institutions that provide the opportunities for students to learn and prepare them for a competitive workforce.

HBCUs not only educate students, but they also conduct ground-breaking research and engage in community outreach—helping to ensure our Nation's higher education system remains the best in the world. It is critical that Congress continues to support the unique role our HBCUs play in our Nation's higher education system. I extend my sincere appreciation and regard for HBCUs and their faculty, staff, and students as we celebrate Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

#### JEWELERS OF AMERICA REACHES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker; 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of Jewelers of America (JA), the oldest national association for retail jewelers. Founded in 1906 in Rochester, N.Y. and now headquartered in New York City, Jewelers of America is both a center of knowledge for the retail jeweler and an advocate for professionalism and high social, ethical and environmental standards in the jewelry trade.

In the past century, Jewelers of America has established itself as a leader in the educational, social and political support of retail jewelers. Today, the association represents 11,000 member stores and has 42 state and regional affiliates.

Throughout its existence, the association has provided meaningful and relevant educational programs that reflect the changing technologies available to jewelers. Jewelers of America believes that recognizing members' knowledge and skills benefits consumers and the entire jewelry industry. To that end, JA has established certifications that evaluate jewelry sales associates, store managers and bench jewelers by a set of national skills standards. JA also provides educational scholarships for its members.

As a leader in the jewelry industry, Jewelers of America has worked with non-governmental organizations, fellow industry trade organizations and political leaders to establish responsible business practices for the national jewelry industry. JA was centrally involved in the 2002 adoption of the international Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, the landmark initiative aimed at stopping the trade of conflict diamonds.

Realizing that trust is a key component to the jewelry industry's growth, Jewelers of America created a standardized code of ethics in 1997 to reinforce consumer confidence in the professional jeweler. According to the code, JA members must maintain the highest possible ethical standards in their business dealings.

As Jewelers of America enters its second century, it remains committed to independent jewelers and the tradition of honest and fair business practices they uphold. Conscious that it represents retailers who help their customers celebrate love and commitment, Jewelers of America rededicates itself to these noble aims.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Jewelers of America.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION ACT

##### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help the San Francisco Bay Area to solve its water challenges. My bill, "The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006," will provide local agencies with the Federal partner that they need in order to implement an ambitious and forward-thinking regional water recycling program.

We put the tools for these Federal-local water recycling partnerships in place with the historic Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, which not only included my Central Valley Project Improvement Act but featured a provision now known simply as the "Title XVI" water recycling program.

Across the country—and especially throughout the West and California—people recognize the critical need for water recycling as a means of drought-proofing and increasing our reliable water supply. Accordingly, the Title XVI program has been embraced not only by policymakers, local agencies, and water managers but by many within the Bureau of Reclamation, from the staff level to regional directors.

Unfortunately, even though people on the ground understand the need for these recycling partnerships, the Bureau of Reclamation's official position is to oppose nearly every project proposed under Title XVI. As recently as this week, the Administration testified against two water recycling projects in the House Water and Power subcommittee.

This opposition from the Administration has made it very difficult for local agencies to get

the Federal support and funding that they deserve. Instead of providing Federal cost sharing and technical support to local water recycling projects, the Bureau has effectively let proposals under the existing Title XVI program pile up.

This is a shame. These projects are the future of water supply, and it's high time the Bureau joined that future. The best water recycling and reclamation projects are sustainable, scalable, reliable, and meet local needs with a local funding source. Unlike major dams and storage projects, water recycling projects do not have to cost billions of dollars, they don't destroy rivers—in fact, they can ease the pressure on natural waterways—and they don't trigger decades of litigation.

In addition, traditional storage projects based on major dams and reservoirs have to spend the last dollar, pour the last ounce of concrete, and line the last canal before a single drop of water comes through the tap. But water recycling is modular and incremental, meaning that as each piece of the system is put in place, you can serve more people and more industries; you don't have to wait years to see results, and you can build on your successes by easily expanding the infrastructure to meet new needs.

I hope that under the new Reclamation commissioner and the new Secretary of the Interior we will see a new commitment to the Title XVI program and to these clean solutions to water conflicts. It is very clear to me and to most others who follow these issues that the Bureau has struggled to keep pace in the modern era of water policy. In future Congresses, I am hopeful that we will review the agency's mission and its budget to determine that it is headed in the right direction.

There is increasing awareness in Congress regarding the importance of water recycling, and an increasing commitment to improving Title XVI so that it works for everyone. For instance, I am very glad that my colleagues, Representative NAPOLITANO, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator FEINSTEIN, have taken the lead in introducing legislation to reform the Title XVI program.

Their new bipartisan, bicameral proposal, entitled "Reclaiming the Nation's Water Act," is a wise one. First, their bill makes it perfectly clear that the Bureau of Reclamation's role includes creating new water supplies by reclamation and recycling. Second, as Senator FEINSTEIN summarized it in her introductory statement, the legislation "establishes firm deadlines, a clear process, and very specific criteria by which project reviews are to be conducted." This will help ensure that deserving projects don't get left on the shelf.

This legislation is sound, and I hope to work with my colleagues to implement it. And with the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006 that I am introducing today, I am applying the principles of the "Reclaiming the Nation's Water Act" to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program is a collaboration of public utilities that helps to meet our region's and state's growing water needs through a set of recycling and reclamation projects. As the program agencies wrote in a letter to me this summer: "The regional approach ensures that potential projects with the greatest regional and statewide benefit receive the highest priority and support for implementation."

The projects in this coalition have been repeatedly vetted, both internally at the local level and by the Bureau of Reclamation. The 2004 CALFED authorization directed the Department of the Interior to assess these projects' feasibility under Title XVI. That report, released this-year, stated that many of the Bay Area projects "were very close to meeting the requirements," but that none passed all the Federal tests. Unfortunately, like other deserving Title XVI proposals across the West, that could have been where these projects stalled.

We need to encourage communities who are trying to meet water demands with innovative technologies. The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006, which is the result of a long process of deliberation and communication with those local agencies, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the six Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program projects that are closest to completion. Each community with a project will be eligible to receive 20 percent of the project's construction cost.

Constructing all six of these projects will bring online nearly 10,000 acre-feet per year of reliable dry-year water supply. To produce the same amount of water with a traditional dam and reservoir project, you would need a dedicated facility that stored 47,500 acre-feet of water.

Projects included in the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006 are located in the City of Palo Alto; in the Cities of Pittsburg and Antioch through the Delta Diablo Sanitation District (DDSD); in the North Coast County Water District; in Redwood City in partnership with the South Bayside System Authority; and in the City of Gilroy in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Although these worthy projects have supplied local funding, and secured matching State funding, they still need the Federal partner to step up. That's why my legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to co-operate in these six projects.

I know for a fact that Pittsburg, in my district, has worked diligently, along with Delta Diablo, to move through each step of the existing Title XVI process. This legislation gives them the assurance that the Federal partner will be there for them at the end to help implement their viable, feasible, and laudable project.

There is a clear Federal interest in these projects, as there is in the other successful regional recycling programs like those of Southern California. A good water recycling program stretches existing supplies and provides certainty to all of the water users in the area; conflict can be reduced even in a critically dry year. As we all know, a stable and reliable regional water supply makes good neighbors.

This very small Federal investment in the Bay Area Water Recycling Program will yield massive dividends to the Bay Area over time. Every gallon of recycled water that goes towards irrigating a golf course or highway median—or for commercial or industrial use—is a gallon of water that didn't need to be pulled from the troubled Bay-Delta.

These programs are a fiscal and environmental win-win, and encouraging them is sound federal policy. I'm glad to be able to help them with this new bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I again would like to commend Representative NAPOLITANO and Senators FEINSTEIN and MURKOWSKI for their leadership.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL STANLEY T. HOSKIN, RETIRED U.S. ARMY RESERVE, FOR BEING AWARDED THE DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce COL Stanley T. Hoskin's Defense Superior Service Medal order and citation into the RECORD. Colonel Hoskin recently retired on August 31, 2006, after 33 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army Reserve. I commend Colonel Hoskin's loyalty and dedication to his country and the American people. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Hoskin.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, COMMANDER, U.S. JOINT FORCES COMMAND,

Norfolk, VA, July 18, 2006.

USJFCOM PERMANENT ORDER 540-06

Subject: Announcement of Award of the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Under the provisions of DOD Manual 1348.33-M, September 1996, the Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command has awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for exceptionally meritorious achievement to: Colonel Stanley T. Hoskin, USAR, U.S. Joint Forces Command (J02), 1 June 2004 to 31 August 2006.

E.L. SATTERWHITE,  
Awards Administrator.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL, FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER, TO STANLEY T. HOSKIN

Colonel Stanley T. Hoskin, United States Army Reserve, distinguished himself by exceptionally superior service while serving as the Chief, Strategic Engagement Division, and as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Integration, Office of the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Joint Forces Command from June 2004 to August 2006. During this period, COL Hoskin was responsible for many "firsts" in the Command including the Transformation Advisory Group, Command-wide Liaison Officer Exchange Program, and the first series of U.S. Joint Forces Command Chiefs of Staff to Combatant Command Chiefs of Staff video teleconferences. He was also responsible for the conceptualization and development of numerous process improvements including a Tasker System for maintaining situational awareness and accomplishment of all new staff and production work coming into the command. He followed that with development and implementation of business processes and methods to inform the Chief of Staff, Deputy Commander, and Commander in making real time decisions about Command Level Objectives to support Combatant Commanders, Services, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Congress. These improvements resulted in savings of time and money, and the ability to accurately access all of the objectives about which customers were interested. Additionally, COL Hoskin instituted Command-wide training and mentoring for Objective Leads and Product Leads with greatly improved processes and analysis

tools. Finally, COL Hoskin developed and implemented new templates of standardized methods for Directors to prepare various required decision point briefings to the Command Leadership. Through his distinctive accomplishments, COL Hoskin culminated a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflected great credit upon himself, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MORRIS LAND CONSERVANCY

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris Land Conservancy, located Morris County, New Jersey, a county I am proud to represent! On October, 19, 2006, the Morris Land Conservancy will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a reception to honor twenty-five years of land preservation within Morris County.

Incorporated on July 30, 1981, the Morris County Parks and Conservation Foundation was created by Russell W. Myers, the first director of the Morris County Park Commission. A seven member Board of Trustees guided the original organization. Today the organization, now known as Morris Land Conservancy, is governed by a board of twenty-five outstanding civic and business leaders. The mission continues to be "to preserve land and protect water resources, focusing on northern New Jersey; to conserve open space; to inspire and empower individuals and communities to preserve land and the environment."

During its history, the Conservancy has evolved from an all-volunteer organization to a state leader in open space preservation. Over 10,000 acres of open space land has been preserved in northern New Jersey. Programs developed to further the Conservancy's mission include: the award winning Partners for Greener Communities, which offers technical assistance on open space planning and land preservation to municipalities; a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Resource Center that produces professional maps for use throughout the state to target critical open space lands for preservation; and the nationally recognized Partners for Parks Program which has organized over 5,200 volunteers from 65 corporations and civic groups to do one day community service projects in seventy-three different parks in the past ten years!

In the early 1990's, the organization became actively involved in the movement to preserve the Highlands. The Conservancy helped organize the Fanny Highlands Watershed Coalition, a partnership of more than thirty towns and conservation groups dedicated to preserving the region known as "heart of the Highlands".

The Conservancy has grown dramatically since it was established in 1981. The original 56 members now number more than 1400, all working to preserve important properties and add them to the network of local, county and state parks throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Morris Land Conservancy on its twenty-fifth Anniversary.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. CHRIS FISHER AND DR. JAMES BASHKIN

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Chris Fisher and Dr. James Bashkin, cofounders of Nano Vir, a Kalamazoo, Michigan bioscience company that received the 2006 Tibbetts Award for innovative work to identify and develop a potential treatment to fight the virus that causes cervical cancer known as Human Papillomavirus (HPV). The Tibbetts Award is a prestigious national award presented annually by the Small Business Administration to small firms, organizations, and individuals judged to exemplify the very best in small business innovation research. This year, Nano Vir is among the select group of 55 firms from across the nation who will receive the award.

The Food and Drug Administration recently approved a vaccine for HPV that will prevent individuals from becoming infected with the virus. Nano Vir's product would complement the vaccine by fighting HPV infections and preventing cervical cancer for those who already have the virus.

The importance of this research cannot be overstated. Nearly 20 million Americans have incurable HPV, and cervical cancer is the second leading killer of women by cancer worldwide. Nano Vir is at the cutting edge of DNA research, and I commend Dr. Fisher, Dr. Bashkin, and all the folks at Nano Vir for their commitment and dedication to the betterment of millions of women's lives around the world. They may soon develop one of our most potent weapons yet in the war against cancer, and I wish them every success.

#### CONGRATULATING DR. MARILYN GASTON AND DR. GAYLE PORTER

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Marilyn Gaston and Dr. Gayle Porter, co-recipients of the 2006 Purpose Prize. Drs. Gaston and Porter have been recognized for innovation and success in using their lifetime of experience for the greater good.

After full careers in different health fields, Drs. Gaston and Porter teamed up to address the alarming early death and disability rates among middle aged African American women. They wrote *Prime Time: The African American Woman's Complete Guide to Midlife Health and Wellness* and then created an innovative health course and support group model. "Prime Time Sister Circles" has become a popular and proven health initiative in Maryland and other states, with 68 percent of the participants maintaining their health improvements for more than a year. This outstanding model should be replicated throughout our country.

I want to recognize the role of The Purpose Prize itself in changing our society's view of aging. The positive impact of the five Purpose

Prize winners on thousands of people in need reveals that America's growing older population is one of our greatest untapped resources. In 2005–06 over 1,200 adults age 60 and over competed for the \$100,000 cash prizes and related rewards of publicity and support for their entrepreneurial projects. Civic Ventures, the California-based non-profit organization that created the prize program, is dedicated to generating ideas and creating programs to help society achieve the greatest return on experience. I invite my colleagues to join me in furthering this view of older adults as significant contributors to our communities and nation.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Marilyn Gaston and Dr. Gayle Porter on receiving the prestigious Purpose Prize in its first year and I wish them continued success. I also commend Civic Ventures, along with Purpose Prize funders, The Atlantic Philanthropies and The John Templeton Foundation, for their vision and generosity in creating this important stimulus for expanding citizen initiative for public good.

#### PATTERSON PARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 10TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to your attention the achievements of the Patterson Park Community Development Corporation (PPCDC), which is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

The Patterson Park area was originally known as Hampstead Hill and played an important role in the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812. The property was also home to the wealthy Patterson family whose beautiful daughter, Betsy, was the wife of Jerome Bonaparte. The surrounding rowhouse community offered housing for a diverse population, including immigrants from Eastern Europe. Following World War II, many families moved to the suburbs, leaving older residents behind. The community became ripe for absentee landlords and investors.

In 1996, the PPCDC was founded by residents to combat the neighborhood's decline. PPCDC concentrated on an area of 3,000 rowhouses north of Patterson Park, and 2,500 houses on the park's eastern periphery. Its goal was to recreate a stable, desirable, diverse community around Patterson Park.

PPCDC embarked on strategies to improve the neighborhood and Park image, strengthen the neighborhood's social fabric and political strength, and dramatically increase investment through control of the neighborhood's real estate. Since 1996, PPCDC has spent more than \$60 million in the community, attracting tens of millions of dollars in other investment. PPCDC also maintains more than 100 affordable rental units that provide decent housing to immigrants, refugees, and other families with modest incomes.

PPCDC has accomplished all this while maintaining the ethnic, racial and economic diversity of the Patterson Park community. Investment north of Patterson Park has allowed neighborhoods to the south to gather momentum and become an engine for revitalization in all of Southeast Baltimore.

Friends of Patterson Park was formed to revitalize the Park, restore the boat lake and the Pagoda, which serves as the centerpiece for summer concerts, and build a new playground for the growing number of children who live in the community. In 2002, the Patterson Park Charter School was formed by residents to entice young families to stay in the neighborhood.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the accomplishments of the PPCDC and its partners and in commending them for their work in East Baltimore. Their efforts to revitalize Patterson Park have become a model for other communities around the Nation.

## PROTECTING OUR NATION FROM TERRORISM

### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to confront a question of central importance to our Nation: are we doing everything we should to protect our Nation from terrorism?

This is not a threat we can afford to underestimate. The terrorists' means of organization, communication, and attack challenge our intelligence community, our armed forces, and our domestic law enforcement agencies in fundamentally new ways.

We must take the fight to the terrorists, but that does not mean we must sacrifice our moral leadership in the international community. We must defend our homeland from attacks, but we must also avoid self-inflicted damage to the values we stand for and the liberties of our people. Our strategy cannot be merely aggressive; it must also be smart and efficient, and it must be true to the values that make us American.

We must not only kill and capture specific terrorists and dismantle their organizations. We must also reduce the number of new terrorists and organizations that might exist tomorrow. Ultimately, we will win this war not by denying the rights of detainees and not by law enforcement excesses, but by protecting the integrity of our free and democratic society, and by repairing our diplomacy and showing the world that there is a better way.

The Bush Administration has repeatedly implied that Americans must be prepared to set aside moral considerations, American values, and America's image in the world if such concerns get in the way of the aggressive pursuit of terrorists. In reality, such a strategic blindness will hamper our ability to win the war on terrorism. An anti-terrorism strategy informed by moral considerations, American values, and our effort to lead the world by example is consistent with an anti-terrorism strategy that pursues terrorists smartly, effectively, and aggressively. What's more, such a strategy augments our efforts because it unites the American people—and the world—behind us.

Following the 9–11 attacks, President Bush had two choices. The first option was to create and implement a smart, bipartisan anti-terrorist strategy. Such a strategy would have been focused on devoting sufficient troops and resources to Afghanistan to bring down the

Taliban, find and incapacitate Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants, and enable that nation's successful reconstruction—not just in the capital but in the outlying areas that we have never fully secured.

The President could have capitalized on the tremendous outpouring of public support in the wake of the attacks to build bridges between our nation and the rest of the world, including the millions of moderate Muslims who hold no sympathy for the terrorists who are hijacking their religion. He would have proactively sought a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has historically been the largest source of inspiration for new generations of terrorists. (The Iraq war can now lay claim to that ignoble reputation.) And he would have more significantly bolstered our defense and intelligence assets to prevent future attacks and dismantle terrorist networks.

Instead, the President chose a second option that has simply failed to meet the standard of an intelligent anti-terrorism strategy. He diverted resources from the hunt for bin Laden to prepare for and initiate a war of choice in Iraq—a war, incidentally, that has made the threat of terrorism worse, not better. The recent National Intelligence Estimate makes this quite clear.

In doing so, President Bush left Afghanistan vulnerable to the resurgence of the Taliban we have seen over the last several months, resulting in a deteriorating security environment in that country five years after we supposedly defeated them. He has undertaken policies that have seriously undermined public support for the U.S. in the Islamic world and beyond, including policies that cultivated a culture within the military and the intelligence community that have tolerated and even encouraged the abuse of detainees—many of whom were later determined to be innocent bystanders. He has largely neglected the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with disastrous results for Israel, Lebanon, and the entire Middle East region.

David Schanzer, one of my constituents and director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism, got it right in a recent op-ed. He wrote: "Unfortunately, we have made no progress, and in fact may have lost ground, in the ideological conflict that is fueling jihadist violence around the globe."

So I ask today: are we doing everything we should to protect our nation against another terrorist attack? Is President Bush pursuing a smart, effective strategy to win the war on terrorism? The answer to these questions is clearly "no."

This week in the House, we are debating two prominent components of the President's strategy to fight terrorism: a bill to grant the President the right to circumvent checks by the judiciary to wiretap the phones of American citizens, and a bill to establish an extrajudiciary system for trying detained terrorist suspects. These bills are both clear examples of how the President continues to make the wrong choices in the war on terrorism.

There is no doubt that we need a more extensive and sophisticated wiretapping program directed at those who mean us harm, both outside and inside the United States. That is not the question. The question is who should make decisions that balance civil liberties with surveillance needs. The Administration says "just trust us." To that, we say a resounding no. This is not merely because the Attorney

General and the Bush administration have proved unreliable stewards of our liberties. It also recognizes what our founding fathers knew quite well, that balancing power among institutions with different functional roles is the essential to our form of government. The executive branch is in the business of putting criminals and terrorists in jail; the judicial branch is in the business of interpreting the law and the Constitution, and protecting individual rights. Neither can effectively do the job of the other.

The 1978 FISA law established procedures governing how the Federal Government can constitutionally collect foreign intelligence, including the ability to gather intelligence immediately in urgent situations and to obtain a warrant post-facto. Unfortunately, this administration feels that protecting the constitutional rights of its citizens has become too cumbersome. Instead of abiding by current law, the administration has chosen to make up new ones. And now that we have called the administration on this violation of the law, it is asking Congress to formally authorize its practices. In essence, the administration is telling us that we have to choose between being safe and being free. I, for one, am not willing to accept this overly simple analysis or the proposed wiretapping bill.

We do not yet know what provisions will be included in the House bill, but the President's proposal would allow warrantless surveillance of international calls and e-mails of American citizens without any evidence that they are conspiring with terrorist organizations. The communications of Americans would only be protected if the National Security Administration "reasonably believes" all senders and recipients are in the U.S. Essentially this provision would allow anybody communicating with family or friends outside the U.S. to be monitored at any given time without any real justification or oversight.

In addition, the President's proposal would pre-approve warrantless searches on all Americans following a terrorist attack in the United States for up to 45 days. I know the investigations that take place in the days and weeks following a terrorist attack are crucial in apprehending all of those involved, and I agree that we need to make sure the intelligence community has whatever resources it needs. However, providing pre-approval to the President to violate the 4th amendment of the Constitution after an attack is completely unnecessary. Current law already allows the President reasonable exemptions in these situations, and if extensions are needed, he simply needs to request judicial approval.

The second key terrorism bill under debate in the House this week would establish a system for bringing detained terrorist suspects to trial. Again, there is wide and bipartisan agreement that this issue must be addressed. But President Bush has once again failed to choose the smart and morally acceptable way to do it.

Over the past 3 years, many of us have watched in horror as new details about the Bush administration's treatment of detainees have been revealed. Torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, indefinite imprisonment—Americans used to think of these as charges off the pages of reports about other countries, not as sanctioned American policies. While some of us have spoken out against these practices since they became public, recent actions by



the Supreme Court and a handful of courageous Senators have forced the administration to revisit them. Yet, the legislation before the House—legislation supported by Republicans in the House, Senate, and White House—would do little to rein them in.

In fact, under the proposed legislation, the Administration could continue to arbitrarily arrest and detain foreign citizens. It could continue to imprison these detainees indefinitely, without standard judicial protections such as their right to challenge their detention in court and the right of the accused to know the charges against them. And, despite the coverage granted to the so-called compromise between the White House and Senate Republicans, the Administration would still be able to continue practices that violate the Geneva Conventions prohibition of torture.

Many have argued that we must prioritize winning the war on terrorism above considerations for the rights of detainees accused of having links to terrorism, as if the two were always mutually exclusive. It might be tempting to understand the issue in such simple terms, but we should resist that temptation.

It is certainly true that terrorism is such a grave threat to our nation that, in some circumstances, extraordinary actions may be necessary to protect American lives. The question we should be asking, however, is whether particular policies advance our fight against terrorism, both now and over the long term. In this case, the moral argument—that potentially innocent detainees do have rights that should be protected—is in line with the appropriate strategic argument.

In the short-term, the Administration's approach fails because, as current and former military and intelligence officers have repeatedly stated, torture does not reliably produce actionable intelligence. In addition to the statements of these experts, we have hard evidence: the New York Times has reported that, according to our military, interrogators were able to obtain up to *50 percent more* actionable intelligence from detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq *after* coercive practices like hooding, stripping, and sleep deprivation were banned.

In the long-term, the Bush administration's approach is even more detrimental to our progress in the war on terrorism. First, it is already having disastrous repercussions on our effort to win the hearts and minds of those at risk of being tempted by terrorist recruiters. Let us be clear: while stopping active terrorists is a critical challenge, disrupting the development of new generations of terrorists is the single most important task in winning the war on terrorism. Every person that we can persuade to renounce violence and cast his or her lot with the forces of moderation is one fewer threat to our Nation, one fewer potential airplane hijacker or train bomber.

Winning hearts and minds is no exercise in sentimentality; it is perhaps the key strategy in protecting our Nation from another 9–11. The Administration's approach negates such efforts, as it essentially endorses indefinite imprisonment, arbitrary detention, and treatment of detainees in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

The Administration's approach further harms our progress in the war on terrorism by placing our own troops at risk. It sends a dangerous signal to other nations that the United States has endorsed these practices for for-

eign detainees, inviting these nations to visit the same practices upon our own troops. It is that risk that has led several top-ranking former military leaders to object to the Administration's proposal.

There is no question that a system is needed for bringing terrorists to justice. But doing it the wrong way will impede our ability to stop terrorists in the future. And the Bush administration's approach is, quite clearly, the wrong way. Victory in the war on terrorism demands, and the American people deserve, a smarter approach, consistent with the values that have made our country great.

Mr. Speaker, we can choose a smart, effective strategy for combating terrorism that makes our Nation safer, or we can opt for an irresponsible, shortsighted approach that undermines our progress. These bills represent the latter. I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose them.

#### COMMENDING THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and recognize The Magic School Bus on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

As many of my colleagues know, The Magic School Bus is a unique series of books, television programs and teaching materials for children that encourage a love of science and inspire positive attitudes toward math and science education.

What my colleagues may not know is that with 131 book titles and more than 58 million books in print, The Magic School Bus is one of the most successful children's science series, and it continues to grow in popularity every day. This series has earned numerous prestigious national recognition awards.

I am proud to support The Magic School Bus and its partnership with the National Science Foundation in a television series and museum exhibit, and I commend the Magic School Bus for its tireless efforts.

Congratulations to The Magic School Bus on this occasion of its 20th anniversary. May these efforts continue to spark the curiosity of millions of children and help motivate children to further pursue their interests in math and science.

#### CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM NUSSLE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Child Custody Protection Act (S. 403). This important legislation protects our children by imposing stiff penalties on adults who evade State parental consent laws to transport a minor across State lines for the sole purpose of having an abortion.

I believe we must protect our children from being exploited or coerced into having an

abortion and reaffirm the rights of parents to be involved in the important decisions of their lives. We currently require parental consent forms for field trips, sports and other activities. It's only common-sense that these important laws are not circumvented for the purpose of performing an abortion.

With over 50 percent of States having parental consent laws on the books, I believe it is imperative the Child Custody Protection Act become law to protect those who may not be able to protect themselves from harm as well as to ensure that these important state laws are respected.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trinity Baptist Church of Asheville, North Carolina. On October 1, 2006 Trinity Baptist will celebrate 40 years of service to the people of Western North Carolina, and I commend them for the leadership and tireless work they have contributed to the Asheville community.

With 60 members under the direction of Rev. Ralph Sexton, Sr. as the Pastor and Dr. James A. Stewart as the Honorary Pastor, a building for Trinity Baptist Church founded upon the scripture from Psalm 127:1, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

For 13 years, Dr. Ralph Sexton, Jr. served as staff evangelist and youth pastor under his father. On the first Sunday of April 1988, upon his father's resignation as senior pastor, Dr. Ralph Sexton, Jr. became the senior pastor of Trinity Baptist Church. As the church continued to grow, mission outreach was increased both at home and abroad.

To meet the needs of the growing congregation, several buildings have been erected. The Family Life Center was built in 1984 housing office space, a kitchen, fellowship room and gymnasium, to provide a space for fun, food and fellowship for the whole family. In 1992 a Baby Palace was added to meet the need of the growing families of the church.

A Bible Institute program was started in 1989 for those who wish to devote their lives to the ministry of learning to serve; this became a 4-year Bible College in 1993. Most recently the church built a 1,500-seat sanctuary which has been named the "Tabernacle of the Mountains" in honor of the life and ministry of Dr. Ralph Sexton, Sr., who served the congregation for 22 years.

In 1991, Trinity Baptist Church opened their doors to Russian immigrants many of whom came to this country because of religious persecution. Trinity Baptist Church accommodated the immigrants by providing services in their native languages, in addition to sponsoring many of the immigrants.

In 1994, the EEOC threatened religious freedom by prohibiting any expression of religious faith in the workplace. Trinity Baptist Church worked with me and other area churches to preclude these improper regulations. Pastor Sexton and members of Trinity



Baptist Church met with me in acknowledgment of our success in fighting for first amendment rights.

One of the many outreach programs of Trinity Baptist Church is Hearts with Hands. Hearts with Hands is a disaster relief organization that provides humanitarian aide to worldwide victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, and tsunamis. To this day, this organization is still working with many of the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Again, it is my privilege to recognize the great accomplishments and leadership of Trinity Baptist Church over the past 40 years, and I, along with the rest of the United States Congress, wish for their good work to continue.

#### TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY WILSON

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, whether she was called Beverly, Bev, Mom, Grandma, Dear Friend or the Mail Lady, Beverly Wilson was known by all for her compassion and generous spirit. Bev was a fifty-year resident of Lincoln, California, and served as a postal carrier for 26 years. Tragically, Bev was killed in the line of duty a mere four weeks short of retirement.

Beverly dedicated her life to bringing joy to those around her. She was an ideal co-worker. She gently guided her younger colleagues through thoughtful gestures and kind words. For no occasion at all, she would surprise her fellow workers with homemade baked goods, fresh vegetables from her garden, or jarred pomegranate jellies. The people who worked alongside Bev knew that, in her, they had a true friend.

Her customers thought the world of Bev. She took the time to know each of them, and her association with the people she serviced grew into friendships that lasted decades. While seeing them six days a week for twenty-six years, Bev shared the lives of her patrons, delighting alongside them during their joyous moments and providing warm comfort in times of sorrow. One of Bev's sons once asked, "How can one little old woman touch the lives of so many people?"

Beverly Wilson was the proud mother of five children and fifteen grandchildren. While she spent so much of her time doing good deeds for her customers, co-workers and other friends, she always had time for her family. Beverly's fifteen grandchildren could always expect a card from "Grandma Bev" on their birthdays, as she never missed even one.

Beverly Wilson remains an example of dedication and kindness today. When the residents of Lincoln, CA visit the new postal facility named after her, they will be inspired by the memories of such an outstanding and considerate individual.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN TURKMENISTAN

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Vice Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, today I introduce this resolution on systemic human rights violations in Turkmenistan. Freedom House recently ranked Turkmenistan as one of the most repressive countries in the world. Along with co-sponsors Representative JOSEPH R. PITTS and Representative MIKE MCINTYRE, we seek to put the Government of Turkmenistan on notice that these policies must change and that the Congress expects improvements in human rights observance and democratization.

The human rights situation in Turkmenistan remains abysmal. According to the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, "Turkmenistan is an authoritarian state dominated by president-for-life Saparmurat Niyazov. . . . The government continued to commit serious abuses and its human rights record remained extremely poor."

Turkmenistan is a one-party state with all three branches of government controlled by President Niyazov, who was made "president-for-life" by the rubber-stamp People's Council in 2003. No opposition is allowed and the state promotes a cult of personality around President Niyazov, the self-proclaimed "Turkmenbashi"—the father of all Turkmen. His likeness is on every public building and the currency. Authorities require that his self-styled spiritual guidebook, the Rukhnama, be taught in all schools and places of work.

There are consistent reports of security officials physically abusing, torturing and forcing confessions from individuals involved in political opposition or human rights advocacy. The regime also continues the dreadful Soviet practice of using psychiatric hospitals to jail dissidents.

In August, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty correspondent Ogulsapar Muradova and two Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation members were sentenced to 6 and 7 years of imprisonment, respectively, for their involvement in a documentary about Turkmenistan. Sadly, Muradova died while in custody just three weeks later.

The resolution therefore urges President Niyazov to, among other things, conduct a thorough investigation into the death of Muradova, free all political/religious prisoners, provide ICRC access to all Turkmen prisons, and allow peaceful political opposition parties to operate freely. The resolution also lays out recommended steps for U.S. action, should the government not improve respect for democratization, freedom of movement, human rights and religious freedoms.

The abuses don't end with repressive actions against dissidents and reporters. Niyazov is also reportedly diverting billions of dollars of state funds into his personal off-shore accounts. The "father of all Turkmen" is pillaging his country and jeopardizing the future of its citizens.

Consequently, the resolution urges the Government of Turkmenistan to "end the diversion

of state funds into President Niyazov's personal offshore accounts, and adopt international best practices as laid forth by the International Monetary Fund regarding the disclosure and management of oil and gas revenues." In addition, the resolution urges the U.S. Government to encourage companies dealing in Turkmen gas to increase transparency, and to encourage the European Union and other countries not to enter into trade agreements with Turkmenistan until the "government demonstrates a commitment to implementing basic norms of fiscal transparency." To further demonstrate the level of Congressional concern regarding the misappropriation of state resources, the resolution recommends the U.S. Government issue "a report on the personal assets and wealth of President Niyazov."

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this resolution is to bring to the attention of the Congress and the world the appalling human rights record of the Government of Turkmenistan. The resolution is timely, as the European Parliament will soon consider an enhanced trade relationship with Turkmenistan. I hope this resolution will be a catalyst for change and that President Niyazov will initiate serious and far-reaching reforms.

#### CELEBRATING THE IMPROVEMENTS OF CAPUCHINO HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Capuchino High School's successes since the passage of the November 2000 bond issue, Measure D, in San Mateo County. I am so proud of the foresight my neighbors and friends had when they approved the bond that has created the extraordinary facilities, so it can match its high caliber students. It will be my privilege and honor to join the Capuchino High School community to commemorate the modernization and new construction provided by the bond issue, as well as the opening of the new Electronic Arts Technology Arts Center built with the support of a \$200,000 grant from Electronic Arts.

Like other high schools within my district, Capuchino has leveraged the \$137.5 million bond measure into a \$234.5 million capital improvement dedicated for an innovative academic and extra-curricular program designed to enhance the teaching-learning environment for students today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, Capuchino is a California Distinguished School and is recognized for its extraordinary didactic methods. Academically strong, Capuchino offers the highly prestigious International Baccalaureate Program and is one of only 60 schools in the state and 400 across the country qualified to offer such a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum.

I am very proud that Electronic Arts, one of my district's largest employers, was able to contribute in building this state of the art technology arts center. Because of Capuchino High School's excellence, it was selected as one of 250 schools nationwide to receive a Carnegie Grant and was selected to share in

a \$450,000 grant collaborating in Entertainment and Media with five community colleges and their associated high schools.

The school's dedication to the arts includes its Honor Band's selection to participate at the inauguration of President Kennedy, the only marching band from North America to perform at the Expo '88 ceremonies in Australia, and has performed at various west coast events including the Tournament of Roses.

Mr. Speaker, Capuchino High School has had a long history of achievements and I am absolutely delighted that our community is dedicated to the success of our children. Capuchino High School is one of the real gems in my district and with the help of Measure D and Electronic Arts, Capuchino will be able to keep up with the constantly changing environment that faces our children when they leave school. I would like to thank all those who are responsible for these much needed improvements and am looking forward to seeing them for myself firsthand.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN ADAMINI

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Stephen Adamini, a Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives from the 109th District. The 109th District is comprised of four Upper Peninsula counties: Alger, Luce, Marquette and Schoolcraft.

First elected to the House in 2000, Stephen Adamini will be concluding his service in that body at the end of this year. The people of the 109th Representative District have been well represented by Stephen and he will be missed.

Whether the issue was timber or roads, Stephen was always ready to jump into the political and legislative arena, and he was a tireless worker for the "Yoopers," those residents of Michigan that live in the state's Upper Peninsula. As Steve has recognized, while there are many common issues in communities across our state, each region also has unique needs and concerns of its own. Steve recognized the unique qualities of his district and he worked hard in our state capital to find creative solutions on both sides of the Mackinac Bridge.

Stephen was also known for his work in Lansing in the area of health care. He served as Minority Vice Chair of that Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Transportation Committees. Among the bills, that he authored Steve's legislative skills helped tackle thorny issues surrounding the privacy of medical records.

Even prior to going to Lansing, Stephen dedicated much of his life to public service and community involvement. Whether it was serving on the Executive Committee of the Gwinn Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairing the Marquette County Airport Board, serving on the Marquette County Re-Appportionment Commission or his work on the Michigan Transportation Commission, Steve has always strived to improve and serve his community and the entire Upper Peninsula.

In the Michigan State House of Representatives, Stephen has represented Marquette, the

largest city in the Upper Peninsula. His distinguished record in Lansing has endeared him to his constituents in Michigan. Stephen and I have always enjoyed a special relationship personally and professionally. I look forward to his continued involvement in the communities of Alger, Luce, Marquette and Schoolcraft and I applaud him for his years of service to Michigan, to the Upper Peninsula and to the people of Michigan's 109th legislative district.

It is leaders like Stephen Adamini who make our system of democracy great at all levels—State as well as Federal. On this occasion, I offer my best wishes to Stephen's wife, Linda, his two children Corrine and Stephen Jr., and his grandchildren; Alexandra, Marki, and Ryan. All of them have a great deal to be proud of in Stephen's life and career. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in saluting Stephen Adamini for his record of public service both in Lansing and at home in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF G. LUZ A. JAMES, ESQUIRE, TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to G. Luz A. James, Esquire, affectionately known as "Luz James", a Native Son of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands and an individual who distinguished himself by living a life of service to the people and community of the U.S. Virgin Islands and to our Nation.

Luz James served the Virgin Islands community as an educator in the field of Mathematics and Science and was so effective that many of his students found ease in understanding the difficult subjects and some later became teachers because of exposure to his style. Among his numerous honors and recognitions was the conferring of the rank of Honorary Policeman by one of our last appointed governors, Walter A. Gordon. He worked in the Virgin Islands Public Works Department; was a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; the Assistant Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Urban Renewal Program, which started developing and renovating depressed areas of the islands at the beginning of the economic boom in the 1960's and the Special Assistant to Governor Ralph M. Paiewonsky in the Office of Public Relations. He was also elected as the first President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for St. Croix.

Luz was also elected as a Senator in the 12th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, continuing a political tradition that began with his father, who served on the Municipal Council. His brother, Randall, served four terms as a Senator; his oldest son, Luz II served two terms in the Legislature before being elected Lt. Governor for the first term of our present Governor's Administration. One of his nieces ran for a seat in the Legislature and a nephew is presently seeking re-election for a second term.

Luz was also the first Scoutmaster and Founder of Boy Scout Troop 151, under the

sponsorship of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, the church in which he was baptized and had a long and involved relationship with throughout his life. He served the church in many positions and was the church's Sacristan at the time of his death. His education began at the school associated with the church, St. Mary's, under the tutelage of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Sisters helped kindle his love of the church, and his deep spirituality. Luz was known for his generosity and kindness and he would visit some of the Sisters that had taught him during his childhood. His family has been a member of the Holy Cross Church for more than a century.

Luz James also had a distinguished military career that began as a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon his graduation from Howard University in 1950 and served a tour of duty years later as an Artillery Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was credited with the formation of the U.S. Army Reserve Units in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Governor Melvin H. Evans appointed him as the first Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands, which gained him the distinction of being the first African-American to serve as an Adjutant General in the in Army National Guard of the United States. At the time of his untimely passing, he and the National Guard were in the process of preparing a pinning ceremony for his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General, during a ceremony that was being planned for next month.

Luz James entered Law School in his mid forties, graduated, became a member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association and had one of the busiest practices on the island of St. Croix. He was also a member of the National and the American Bar Associations. This accomplishment, returning to get his Juris Doctorate degree, was one that inspired three other members of his family to enter the legal field and vividly impressed his youngest son, a medical doctor that an education and desire for self improvement can continue throughout a person's lifetime. In addition to helping many members of his considerable extended family, Luz assisted many Virgin Islanders to pursue and continue their formal educations.

Luz James became a disc jockey during the 1950's, which began his love affair with the broadcasting industry. He and one of his brothers, Randall, a medical doctor, had popular shows on one of the local stations. He later formed Family Broadcasting, Inc., when he acquired WSTX AM and FM, the fulfillment of a dream, which allowed him to revive the show, "Crucian Confusion", a program he originally aired during his first days on the air.

One of his greatest attributes was his willingness to help any person in need, sometimes to his detriment and he would part with his last dollar, without any hesitation, if it would benefit someone else. He served on practically every civic group formed on St. Croix and has been recognized and cited for outstanding contributions to the community from such groups as the Hospital Auxiliary, Parent Teacher Association, the A.M.E. Church, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the Crucian Forty Plus Baseball Club, the V.I. Midwives Association and the V.I. PAC, a New York based group comprised of Virgin Islanders.

Born on the island of St. Croix, Luz James was the youngest of four brothers that all

made significant contributions to the Virgin Islands and to the Nation. He was the last surviving of the brothers and his death on September 17, 2006, ended an illustrious chapter in Virgin Islands history of outstanding community involvement and achievement by one particular generation of a family.

On behalf of the 109th Congress of the United States of America, I salute G. Luz A. James, Esquire, for his dedicated service to his home and community of the Virgin Islands and to his country. I thank his wife Asta and children Barbara, Gerard Luz II, Emmeth and Kelsey, their children and grandchildren, for being the supporting base that permitted him to be shared with a community that is beginning to comprehend his many contributions and the extent of the community's loss.

#### CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 403, the Child Custody Protection Act.

I support encouraging—not requiring—parental notification for minors seeking contraceptive services. This legislation proposes a variety of new mandates on women, families, and doctors.

For example, the bill forces doctors to learn and enforce 49 other states' laws, under the threat of fines and prison sentences. In many cases, it forces young women to comply with two states' parental-involvement mandates. It also requires a doctor to notify a young woman's parents in person, in another state, before abortion services can be provided.

Finally, in some cases, even if a parent travels with his or her daughter to obtain abortion care, the doctor must still give "notice" to the parent and wait 24 hours before providing the care. In such cases, this requirement acts as a built-in mandatory delay—which makes it more difficult logistically, more expensive, and more burdensome all around for the family. It may even endanger the young woman's health.

Not only does S. 403 include these negative provisions, it also could be found unconstitutional for three reasons. First, it contains no health exception.

Second, in some cases, it offers young women no judicial bypass. Judicial bypass is required by the Supreme Court and allows another responsible adult to consent instead of a parent.

Finally, it forces states to enforce other states' laws by forcing individuals to carry their home state laws with them when they travel.

Every parent hopes that a child confronting a crisis will seek the advice and counsel of those who care for her most and know her best. In fact, even in the absence of laws mandating parental involvement, many young women do turn to their parents when they are considering an abortion. One study found that 61 percent of parents in states without mandatory parental consent or notice laws knew of their daughter's pregnancy.

In a perfect world, all children would have open, clear communication with their parents.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in every family. I believe this legislation would dissuade young women from turning to other trusted adults, such as an aunt or older sibling, in a time of need.

While this bill might be well intentioned, it is a deeply flawed attempt to curb young women's access to private, confidential health services under the guise of protecting parental rights.

I would like to see abortion remain safe and legal, yet rare. Whatever one's views on abortion, I believe we all can recognize the importance of preventing unintended pregnancies. When women are unable to control the number and timing of births, they will increasingly rely on abortion. Making criminals of advisors, however, is simply not the way to accomplish this goal.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICH BROWN

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich Brown, a Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives from the 110th District. The 110th District includes the counties of Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Keewenaw, Baraga, Iron and part of Marquette County.

Elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2000, Rich Brown has been term limited and his service in the Michigan House will therefore end this year. In this case, I believe the term limits law in my home state has deprived the people of Michigan continued service from an exemplary state Representative.

Even prior to going to Lansing, Rich dedicated much of his life to public service and to serving the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) community. Beginning as a broadcaster at WUUN Radio in Marquette before becoming news director at WUPM Radio in Ironwood, Michigan, Rich covered the local issues that matter to the local communities of the U.P. Later, he worked as a reporter for the Ironwood Daily Globe, before beginning public service as Gogebic County Clerk. It was in 1984, that Rich was elected Gogebic County Clerk and Register of Deeds. During his tenure as a County Clerk he received wide acclaim for his public service efforts. He was named Michigan County Clerk of the year in 1992. Rich served as Gogebic County Clerk for 16 years until his election to the Michigan House of Representatives.

In Lansing, Rich has been a tireless champion of "Yoopers," residents of Michigan that live in the state's Upper Peninsula. Rich served on the powerful Appropriations Committee. From that powerful committee, he ensured that the unique transportation needs of northern Michigan were met by bringing state money above the bridge.

Rich's district encompasses much of the "Copper Country," an area rich in history and natural beauty. Rich has been a worthy emissary from this area, representing the area's unique culture and values in Lansing with distinguished pride. The Upper Peninsula faces

different issues than issues faced by downstate residents. Rich has recognized those differences and exhibited hard work in our state capital to find creative solutions on both sides of the Mackinac Bridge.

In the Michigan State House of Representatives, Rich has been a stalwart advocate for his constituents. I look forward to his continued involvement in the communities in the Upper Peninsula western end of the Copper Country. I applaud him for his years of service to Michigan, to the Upper Peninsula and to the people of Michigan's 110th legislative district.

While known for his political prowess, Rich was well known throughout the Upper Peninsula as the energetic, entertaining and talented director of Marty's Goldenaires Senior Drum and Bugle Corps from Bessemer. Rich's band has delighted crowds in Michigan and Wisconsin and always draws the loudest, most sincere appreciation of all the drum and bugle corps that are participating in a parade, concert or festival. Under Rich's direction, Marty's Goldenaires are simply "The Best!"

Finally, let me offer my best wishes to Rich's wife, Ann Marie, his two children, Ryan and Emily. All of them have a great deal to be proud of in Rich's life and career. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting Rich Brown for his dedicated service to the state of Michigan, the people of the Copper Country and Michigan's 110th House District.

#### TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE CHARLES "BUDDY" SIZEMORE

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that a fallen soldier is laid to rest 56 years after he was killed in action. But such is the case of Private Charles "Buddy" Sizemore.

As a young graduate of Rushville High School in Rushville, Indiana in 1948, Buddy was drafted into the U.S. Army where he was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Mr. Speaker, it was on October 19, 1950 that the men of the 1st Cavalry, hitching rides with the 70th Tank Division, took the North Korean capital of Pyongyang at great cost. But the advance of the 8th Army resumed despite a shortage of supplies, including winter clothing. Some riflemen had as few as 16 rounds of ammunition.

On November 1, about seventy miles north of Pyongyang, two Chinese divisions attacked and almost completely destroyed the U.S. 8th Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Cavalry Division. Soon thereafter, six Soviet-supplied armies from Manchuria attacked on all fronts. On November 2, 1950, just six weeks after he had left his Rushville home for Korea, Private Buddy Sizemore and his entire battalion were lost.

Fifty-six years later, after much negotiating between the United States and North Korea, forensic teams from the United Nations and the Pentagon have identified his remains, and on October 14th, there will be a full military funeral at the First Baptist Church in Rushville, Indiana for Private Charles "Buddy" Sizemore.

Mr. Speaker, the Bible tells us if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect. I rise humbly today to pay

a debt of honor and respect to Buddy Sizemore.

Buddy is a hero whose service and sacrifice will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of a grateful Nation. I offer my deepest condolences to all of those friends and family members who loved and admired this young man.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DON  
DENNEY OF THE UNIFIED GOV-  
ERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUN-  
TY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Don Denney, the long-time media relations specialist for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, and Kansas City, KS, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack while at work on September 15.

I wholeheartedly echo the sentiments that Kansas City, KS, Mayor/CEO Joe Reardon shared with the Kansas City Kansan upon learning of Don Denney's death, "Don Denney was a wonderful and talented individual who gave 100 percent of himself to the community with his job at the Unified Government. We shall always remember Don Denney as a man who gave unselfishly as a public servant and citizen to a community that he deeply loved."

A graduate of Kansas City's Ward High School in 1970, Denney had owned a Dairy Queen restaurant and worked previously at the Kansas City Kansan, before beginning his tenure with the city of Kansas City in 1994. He remained with the Unified Government after the city and county consolidated governments in 1997. As former Kansan publisher William Epperheimer noted: "Of all his attributes, loyalty and hard work stood out. Don was a Kansas City Kansan advocate to the end and he worked his tail off for the paper and its readers, just as he was dedicated to the Unified Government and represented it to the metropolitan news media with so much honesty and dedication in his 'second career.'"

Don Denney was also well known locally as the athletics announcer for Bishop Ward High School and Kansas City Kansas Community College athletic events, and was planning on announcing the Bishop Ward football game on the evening of the day of his death.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Unified Government and the citizens of Kansas City, KS, in mourning the untimely death of a dedicated, honest public servant and I include with these remarks a moving tribute to Don Denney that was published in the Kansas City Star.

[From the Kansas City Star, Sept. 16, 2006]

KCK LOSES A FRIEND, SPOKESMAN DENNEY

(By Mark Wiebe)

Don Denney, the face and voice of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., died Friday morning after collapsing at City Hall.

Denney, 54, began working for the city in 1994 after leaving his job as a reporter for The Kansas City Kansan. He was named spokesman for the Unified Government when the city and county merged in 1997.

But as many at a grief-stricken City Hall said, Denney was much more than the Unified Government's "media specialist," the man who answered reporters' inquiries or showed up at early morning fires. He was a

well-connected public figure, a person who effortlessly made friends, who loved his community and worked hard on its behalf. He considered the employees at City Hall his family.

"It's a great loss for the city," said Hal Walker, the Unified Government's chief counsel and a good friend. "He was nearly as visible as any of the mayors he served."

Mayor Joe Reardon called Denney a "wonderful and talented" man: "His love and enthusiasm for our community was infectious."

A Kansas City, Kan., native and graduate of Bishop Ward High School, Denney also was a longtime public address system announcer at the school's athletic games. Known to many as "the voice of the Cyclones," he devoted much of his free time to the school.

Unified Government Commissioner Tom Cooley was with Denney during a meeting Friday morning. He said Denney appeared to be in good spirits. "We were laughing and joking, cutting up," he said. "There was no indication that he was even uncomfortable."

But earlier this week, Denney, a diabetic who suffered a heart attack several years ago, complained of dizziness and said he had experienced a brief blackout. Wyandotte County Coroner Alan Hancock said Denney died of cardiac arrhythmia.

As news spread about Denney's death, reporters were quick to sing his praises. Steve Nicely, a former Kansas City Star reporter, recalled Denney as an honest reporter and spokesman.

"He was a conscientious guy, and I think really had a dedication to the truth," Nicely said. "Sometimes he'd get into trouble because he'd say something that was a little too true. I always thought that was a virtue."

Bob Werly, a former reporter for KMBC-TV, called him one of the best public information officials he'd ever worked with. His deep ties to the community didn't hurt.

"I would stand out in the street with him talking," Werly said. "It just seemed like every other car that came by either honked or waved."

Denney is survived by a brother, Fred Denney, and a sister, Mary Anne Denney. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Cathedral of St. Peter, 431 N. 15th St.

JOHANNA'S LAW: THE  
GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDU-  
CATION AND AWARENESS ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to take up and pass H.R. 1245, Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act. This legislation has been cosponsored by 256 Members of the House of Representatives and 40 Senators.

H.R. 1245, through an educational and awareness campaign, will help women understand the symptoms of uterine and other gynecological cancers, the importance of having an annual exam, and the need for open communication with their doctors in an attempt to save women from preventable deaths.

Johanna's Law has the potential to help more than 80,000 women who will be diagnosed with some type of gynecological cancer this year. Beneficial to all women of various

ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds, the legislation will inform them of preventative measures and help them understand the symptoms which can lead to early detection and subsequently, save lives.

Of the women who will be diagnosed with gynecological cancer this year, 28,000 will die, primarily because they did not recognize their symptoms and the cancer detection came too late to treat the disease effectively.

The 5-year survival rates for the most common gynecologic cancers are 90 percent when diagnosed early. Survival rates drop to 50 percent or less for cancers diagnosed later.

Gynecologic cancers such as ovarian and endometrial cancer do not yet have a reliable screening test that can be used for the general population. The Pap smear reliably detects only cervical cancer. That's why knowing the symptoms of these cancers is key to early diagnosis.

Sadly, recent surveys confirm most women are unaware of the risk factors and do not recognize the early symptoms of gynecologic cancers. This lack of information and understanding is deadly.

September has been declared Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month by President Bush, and governors of all 50 States have also declared September Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. However, over one-third of the women diagnosed this year with a gynecologic cancer will die from the gynecologic cancer primarily due to a lack of early education and prevention, as well as effective screening.

Data suggests that with even a modest improvement in outreach and education, we can save lives and precious healthcare resources, and improve the health of our Nation's women. This legislation will accomplish that—through education of both women and their health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, there is clearly a need for Johanna's Law and the time is now. The women of this country and their families deserve no less.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA  
C. McENROE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit for the RECORD the following tribute that appeared in NE Magazine on September 17, 2006. For most, words never quite convey the poignancy of the moment. For Colin McEnroe, his craft and the life of his mother merge in beautiful sentiment. I did not know Barbara McEnroe, but I know many families who empathize with her son's article, "Banana Chair Sunset." I sometimes believe that creative and vivid writing is genetic with the Irish, but McEnroe's love of his mother and father unfolds in this article in a way that shares with the reader the unique perspective of a family gathered at the bedside of a loved one soon to be gone. I'm honored to submit this for the RECORD. Our hearts go out to him, his son Joseph, and his family.

[From NE Magazine, Sept. 17, 2006]

BANANA CHAIR SUNSET

(By Colin McEnroe)

She was a tiny person born into a big world.

She was the fourth daughter of the sonless Howard and Alma Cotton. I was told that my grandmother, knowing she would be expected to try again, was too angry to think of a name for the baby. The Cottons owned a general store in Dana, Mass. Ruth, the oldest sister, finally looked at some kind of candy display that offered a list of names. (It was a sort of game where you found out who would be your sweetheart, I believe.) She picked the name Barbara for her baby sister.

At least, that's one version. Ruth told it to me one night after making me promise never to tell my mother.

The next baby was a boy, Gaylord. I don't think my mother ever completely forgave him for being the right answer.

She was not the right answer, but she decided to know the right answers. She was a whiz in school. She was high school valedictorian. She was never quite at home.

She wasn't as tough or as solid as the rest of her family. She was pretty, chatty, restless, troublemaking. Now and then, a teacher would notice her and realize she was a little bit lost. One woman made a point of taking her places, letting her catch glimpses of the world outside rural Massachusetts.

One such place, of course, was Boston, which was a very thirsty town. Years before my mother was born, the city began to outgrow its supply of water. Bostonians cast their eyes around and noticed the Swift River Valley. It might be possible to dam the whole thing up and make a reservoir. Yes, that could be done.

And what about the people who were living right where the enormous body of water would be?

They would have to leave.

Four little towns were dis-incorporated and depopulated. The Lost Towns of the Quabbin. Dana was one of them. The Cottons left a few years early, because Howard had four daughters, and he believed that rough men would be arriving in great numbers for the huge construction projects. He didn't want that kind of trouble.

Gone, gone, gone, the four towns. And gone, gone, gone the five Cottons. Ruth, Gladys, Arlene, Gaylord. And Monday night, the last of them, Barbara.

Nothing was ever exactly home. Nowhere completely right.

"What's the best place you ever lived?" she asked me again and again from hospital beds and wheelchairs, really asking herself.

She graduated from North Brookfield High School—did she mention she was valedictorian?—and eked out a couple of years at Boston University. She came to Hartford. She was a bobby-soxer, overheated and frivolous. She and her friends followed Sinatra around after his show in the city and had a snowball fight with him.

The years went by, full of dates and parties and boyfriends and jobs. Hartford was fun. She met a man, a very peculiar man. He lived in a boarding house on Asylum Hill and worked at United Aircraft. He was handsome and brooding and mercurial. Nobody had ever heard of him. And then, on a single day, this obscure man in the boarding house sold two different plays he had written to Broadway producers.

She couldn't stay away from this man.

They married and lived for a while on Fifth Avenue next to a huge park that scared her a little. They lived for a while in Beverly Hills. Their agent was Swifty Lazar and he took them to all the swank spots; and she didn't have to throw snowballs at the big stars. They chatted away from adjoining tables at Chasen's.

But that didn't last. Nothing ever seemed to last. Nowhere was exactly home. Things were never quite right. It was hard, really, to settle down.

She had a son, and she loved him. It was hard to tell him that in the traditional ways. She wasn't at home in the world. She pushed him hard to work and achieve so that he would feel safer than she did.

She had a grandson, and she loved him. She took him to the park and showered him with presents. On New Year's Eves, she would decorate her apartment and buy hats and noisemakers for her husband and the little boy, and they'd eat shrimp and drink sparkling cider.

Her husband died, and she was alone.

And then she began to forget things. Her son took her to a neurologist, and the doctor said, "I'm going to say three words to you, and I want you to remember them because I'll ask you about them in a little while. Banana chair sunset."

He asked her quite a few other things, and, in the most charming manner possible, she revealed how little she could remember. Laid out there in the doctor's office, it was breath-taking, like the water pooling up and overspreading four whole towns.

"Now," said the doctor, "Do you remember any of those three words?"

"What three words?" she asked.

And that was the beginning of the end. Banana chair sunset.

A couple of years went by. She fell. She got sick.

On Monday evening, her hands and feet grew cold.

The light appeared. You know, the light? The soothing, comforting, all-loving light? She asked the nursing home staff to turn it off. It was bothering her. Things were not quite right. This room was not quite home.

I picture a worried angel, conferring with his peers. She wants the light turned off.

Has this ever come up before? Don't people always like the light?

A few of us sat in a room, in chairs, watching the sunset spread across the bricks of a courtyard outside the window. We talked so that she could hear our voices. And she fell asleep and was gone.

I am surprised to find my heart is broken. My son's heart is broken, too.

Banana chair sunset.

Maybe there's a place you go where finally, finally, everything is just right.

# VETERANS' MEMORIALS, BOY SCOUTS, PUBLIC SEALS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I think this bill is unnecessary and unwise, and I cannot vote for it.

Current law says that federal judges have discretion to require a state or local government to pay the attorneys' fees of individual citizens who win lawsuits challenging government actions that violate the Constitution.

This bill would take away part of that discretion, by barring judges from making such awards in cases involving the Constitution's prohibition of the establishment of religion.

Nothing in today's debate on the bill has convinced me that that so many judges have abused their discretion that Congress should limit it, or that the current law is broken and requires repair.

And I am very concerned that the effect of this bill would be to weaken Americans' constitutional rights, as the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has warned in a recent letter that says "passage of H.R. 2679 would encourage elected officials to violate the Establishment Clause whenever they find it politically advantageous to do so. By limiting the remedies for a successful plaintiff, this measure would remove the threat that exists to ensure compliance with the Establishment Clause."

I think the Joint Committee is right—and that what they say about the Establishment Clause is just as true about the rest of the Bill of Rights.

For example of where this might lead, consider the 2003 lawsuit against the school district in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In that case, the plaintiffs complained that a former student's right to free speech was abridged when school officials denied the student an opportunity to give her opinion of homosexuality at a school forum on diversity. The judge ruled they were right, and ordered the school district to pay damages, attorneys' fees and costs to the Thomas More Law Center, an Ann Arbor-based law firm organized to argue on behalf of Christians in religious freedom cases.

I have no reason to think that was an abuse. I am glad that the law provides judges with the discretion to award attorneys' fees when people successfully defend their constitutional rights. This bill would limit that discretion unnecessarily, and so I cannot support it.

## MILITARY COMMISSIONS LEGISLATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cannot support this bill in its present form.

After 5 years of negligence by both the House Republican leadership and the president, today they are insisting the House vote rapidly on a long-overdue bill to establish military commissions to try "unlawful enemy combatants."

This should have been done sooner and the legislation definitely should be better.

If President Bush had come to Congress sooner with his request for legislation establishing military commissions, we could have avoided prolonged legal battles and delay in getting a system in place. But despite his stated interest in bringing the terrorists to justice, this president has seemed to be more interested in enhancing executive branch powers than he has in trying and convicting those who would harm Americans.

Five years ago, when President Bush first issued his executive order to set up military commissions, legal experts warned that the commissions lacked essential judicial guarantees, such as the right to attend all trial proceedings and challenge any prosecution evidence. I took those views very seriously because those experts made what I thought was a compelling case that the proposed system

would depart too far from America's fundamental legal traditions to be immune from serious legal challenges.

So, beginning 3 years ago, I have cosponsored bills that would establish clear statutory authority for detaining enemy combatants and using special tribunals to try them. Unfortunately, neither the president nor the Republican leadership thought there was a need for Congress to act—the president preferred to insist on unilateral assertions of executive authority, and the leadership was content with an indolent abdication of Congressional authority and responsibility.

Then, earlier this year, the Supreme Court put an end to that approach.

In the case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, the Court ruled that the military commissions set up by the Administration to try enemy combatants lacked constitutional authority in part because their procedures violated basic tenets of military and international law, including that a defendant must be permitted to see and hear evidence against him. Although the Court did not rule that the president is prohibited from establishing military commissions, it did determine that the current system isn't a "regularly constituted court" and doesn't provide judicial guarantees.

We are voting on this bill—on any bill, in fact—only because that *Hamdan* decision forced the Administration to come to Congress, not because President Bush has been in any hurry to try the more than 400 detainees at Guantanamo under sound procedures based on specific legislation.

And we are being forced to vote today—not later, and only on this specific bill, with no opportunity to even consider any changes—because, above all, the Republicans have decided they need to claim a legislative victory when they go home to campaign, to help take voters' minds off the Administration's missteps and their own failure to pass legislation to address the voters' concerns.

In other words, for the Bush Administration and the Republican leadership it's business as usual—ignore a problem as long as possible, then come up with a last-minute proposal developed without any input from Democrats, allow only a "take it or leave it" vote, and then smear anyone who doesn't support it as failing to support our country.

That's been their approach to almost everything of importance, so while it's disappointing it's not surprising that the Administration and the Republican leadership have not approached this important topic more thoughtfully.

The goal, of course, should be to have legislation to help make America safer that can withstand the proper scrutiny of the courts while meeting the needs of the American people and not undermine our ability to have the support of our allies.

The bill originally proposed by the president fell short of meeting those standards. I opposed it because I thought it risked irreparably harming the war on terror by tying up the

prosecution of terrorists with new untested legal norms that did not meet the requirement of the *Hamdan* decision; endangering our service members by attempting to rewrite and limit our compliance with Common Article Three of the Geneva Conventions; undermining basic standards of U.S. law; and departing from a body of law well understood by our troops.

I was not alone in rejecting the bill the president originally proposed. As we all know, several members of the other body, including Senator WARNER, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and other members of that committee, including Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM, also had serious objections to that legislation and, joined by Senator LEVIN, the ranking Democrat on the Committee, developed legislation that struck the important balance between military necessity and basic due process.

When the House Armed Services Committee took up the president's bill, I joined in voting for an alternative, offered by our colleague, Representative SKELTON, the Committee's senior Democratic member, that was identical to that bipartisan Senate legislation.

That alternative would have established tough but fair rules, based on the Uniform Code of Military Justice and its associated regulations, for trying terrorists. This would have fully responded to what the Supreme Court identified as the shortcomings in the previous system. But the Republican leadership insisted on moving forward with the president's bill rather than working in a bipartisan manner, and so that alternative was rejected. As a result, I voted against sending the president's bill to the House floor.

But the bill now before the House is neither the president's bill nor the bipartisan bill approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Instead, it is a new measure, just introduced, that differs in many respects and reflects the result of further negotiations involving the White House, several Republican Senators, and the House Republican leadership.

And while this new bill includes some improvements over the president's original bill, it still does not meet the test of deserving enactment, and I cannot support it.

Some of my concerns involve the bill's specific provisions. But just as serious are my concerns about what the bill does not say.

For example, the bill includes provisions intended to bar detainees from challenging their detentions in federal courts by denying those courts jurisdiction to hear an application for a writ of habeas corpus "or any other action against the United States or its agents relating to any aspect of the detention, transfer, treatment, trial, or conditions of confinement" by or on behalf of an alien that the government—that is, the Executive Branch—has determined "to have been properly detained as an enemy combatant or is awaiting such determination."

These provisions, which the bill says are to apply to cases now before the courts, evidently allow indefinite detention, or detention at least until the war on terrorism is "over."

And while the reference to "aliens" seems to mean that this is not to apply to American citizens—who are not immune from being considered "enemy combatants"—some legal experts say it is not completely clear that citizens would really have the ability to challenge their detentions.

I could not support any legislation intended to give the President—any president, of any party—authority to throw an American citizen into prison without what the Supreme Court has described as "a meaningful opportunity to contest the factual basis for that detention before a neutral decisionmaker," and I prefer to err on the side of caution before voting for a measure that is not more clear than the bill before us on this point.

Also, these sweeping jurisdiction-stripping provisions, as well as other parts of the bill, raise enough legal questions that military lawyers say there is a good chance the Supreme Court will rule it unconstitutional. I do not know if they are right about that, but their views deserve to be taken seriously—not only because we in Congress have sworn to uphold the Constitution but also because if our goal truly is to avoid unnecessary delays in bringing terrorists to justice, we need to take care to craft legislation that can and will operate soon, not only after prolonged legal challenges.

In addition, I am concerned that the bill gives the President the authority to "interpret the meaning and application" of U.S. obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Instead of clearly banning abuse and torture, the bill leaves in question whether or not we are authorizing the Executive Branch to carry out some of the very things the Geneva Conventions seek to ban.

I cannot forget or discount the words of Rear Adm. Bruce MacDonald, the Navy's Judge Advocate General, who told the Armed Services Committee "I go back to the reciprocity issue that we raised earlier, that I would be very concerned about other nations looking in on the United States and making a determination that, if it's good enough for the United States, it's good enough for us, and perhaps doing a lot of damage and harm internationally if one of our servicemen or women were taken and held as a detainee."

I share that concern, and could not in good conscience support legislation that could put our men and women in uniform at risk.

Mr. Speaker, establishing a system of military tribunals to bring to trial some of the worst terrorists in the world shouldn't be a partisan matter. I think we can all agree that there is a need for a system that can deliver swift and certain justice to terrorists without risking exposing Americans to improper treatment by those who are our adversaries now or who may become adversaries in the future.

Unfortunately, I think there is too much risk that the bill before the House today will not accomplish that goal and has too many flaws to deserve enactment as it stands. So, I cannot support it.