

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. Rob-

ert 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.