

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