

reaching impacts on the entire State. It is simply an ounce of prevention for a pound of cure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for considering this important and timely legislation. Studies and history have shown that levees in the Delta are vulnerable to breaks at any moment. We must act now to protect our communities and water supply and this bill does exactly that.

TRIBUTE TO POINT MUGU,
CALIFORNIA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, California and its 60 years as a premier Navy missile research, development, test, and evaluation center.

Mugu beach is believed to be the site where Juan Cabrillo landed on October 10, 1542. Muwu was the capital village of the Chumash Indians located along the shores of Mugu Lagoon. Most of its early history centers around ranching, farming, and the famous Mugu fish camp.

In 1947, Congress appropriated funds to establish a permanent Navy presence here to develop a site where both missiles and pilotless aircraft could be tested. Since the mid-1940s, Point Mugu has had several Center Names, all with the mission to develop, test, and evaluate missiles and related systems.

Originally, on October 1, 1946, Point Mugu was named the U.S. Naval Air Missile Test Center, followed on August 1, 1949, as the Naval Air Station. On June 16, 1958, it obtained the Pacific Missile Range moniker and on January 7, 1959, it was named the Naval Missile Center. On April 26, 1975, Point Mugu became the Pacific Missile Test Center. On January 21, 1992, it became the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and Naval Air Weapons Station.

Today it is part of Naval Base Ventura County with the designation Naval Air Station, Point Mugu.

The main base complex at Point Mugu consists of 4,500 acres of support facilities and instrumentation equipment. Point Mugu maintains three runways to support range users and the numerous operational units assigned there.

Additionally, the Sea Range Operational Area comprises a 36,000-square-mile instrumented sea test range that can be expanded to 196,000 square miles. The sea range is supported by a deepwater port located at nearby Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island 60 miles off the coast.

Point Mugu is an integral part of the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, NAWCWPNS, the Navy's full spectrum research, development, test evaluation, and in-service engineering center for weapons systems associated with air warfare.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the military and civilian men and women who, over the course of 60 years, have dedicated themselves to the defense of the United States and have substantially contributed to the security of the United States and our allies.

CONGRATULATING JEEHYUN CHOI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to one of my constituents—Ms. Jeehyun Choi. Jeehyun, a resident of St. Paul, is one of six national winners of the Library of Congress's 2006 Letters about Literature competition. She is one of the two high school-aged winners.

Jeehyun, who will read her letter during the Letters about Literature national awards presentation at the National Book Festival on the National Mall on September 30, 2006, is an 11th grade student at Saint Paul Academy.

Jeehyun addressed her letter to Peter Hedges the author of *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*. In her letter she eloquently expressed her thoughts about the book and her ability to relate to the main character—Gilbert. The letter is a joy to read and will certainly inspire many to enter the world of Gilbert by taking time to read *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*.

I also would like to recognize those who support Letters About Literature—affiliate State centers of the book and Target Stores—a Minnesota company. These kinds of public/private partnerships expand opportunities for our youth and I appreciate their commitments.

Congratulations Jeehyun. It is my hope that you will continue to be inspired by literature and to share your inspiration with others.

TRIBUTE TO ACCESSIBLE ARTS ON
ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to pay tribute to Accessible Arts, Inc., of Kansas City, Kansas, during the year in which it celebrates its 25th year of service to children with disabilities.

Accessible Arts values children and the arts; above all, access to the arts for children with disabilities is their core principle. Advocacy, education and collaboration are essential components in accomplishing their objectives. Through the arts, children develop critical thinking skills, take risks in a safe environment and experience successes. The challenge of creating something of value instills hope and self-confidence in children of all ages.

In 1981, Accessible Arts founder and first executive director William Freeman saw the need for an organization to advocate for active participation in the arts for all children, regardless of their ability. The result was the Arts with the Handicapped program of the Kansas State Department of Education, which later became Accessible Arts, Inc.

This unique and innovative program has benefited thousands of children, their teachers and parents. This 25th anniversary of the Accessible Arts program is cause for celebration and appreciation of all who have contributed to its development, and to celebrate Accessible Arts' continuing its important work. I join in paying tribute to this unique and valuable program and wish Accessible Arts many more

years of successful service to children with disabilities and their families.

TRIBUTE TO NEW VERNON
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, in the Township of Harding, Morris County, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent! On September 30, 2006 the good citizens of Harding Township and the surrounding area will celebrate the New Vernon Fire Department's 85th anniversary at their 54th annual auction.

New Vernon, in the early 20th century, was a small community within Passaic Township with about 300 scattered homes with no electricity or radio. The Postmaster and keeper of the general store owned a large coach with a long seat on each side, which he used to take groups on picnics and other outings. When someone heard of a fire, he hitched his team to the coach and took the available men to the site of the fire. In the absence of a water supply and pumps, the best they could do was to pass buckets of water from hand to hand. Residents were eager for a fire department. The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department was formally incorporated in 1921 with approximately 21 members along with the Ladies Auxiliary of approximately 35 members.

The all volunteer fire department has never received financial support through taxation. A large portion of the financial support in 1924 came from a carnival fundraiser, dinners and square dances; today, and for the past 54 years, an all-day auction, annual steak and lobster dinners, pancake breakfasts and soup contests have successfully raised a majority of the money needed to support the fire department. These events also are known to be opportunities for town residents to get together.

During the first 50 years of the department's history, the fire department responded to over 1,000 calls. In 1995, along with the First Aid Squad, they responded to more than 400 calls in that year alone.

Today, New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Noetzli and his 60 volunteer firemen respond within an area that includes over 1,000 homes and a major interstate highway. The number of members has grown from 21 to 60.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department on its 85 years of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

A TRIBUTE TO ROMALLUS O.
MURPHY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and a person whom I admire greatly, attorney