

organization that has helped those affected by this debilitating disease for over 30 years and is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. With almost 57 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings families together to answer questions, voice concerns, and lend support to one another.

Together the SBA and various local SBA California chapters work tirelessly to help families living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children. I thank the local chapters of SBA, especially those in my State of California for all they have done and all that they will continue to do to advance the needs of the Spina Bifida community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the prevention of new incidences of spina bifida, as well as in the treatment and care of those individuals impacted by this serious birth defect. But there is still much to do. During this month of National Spina Bifida Awareness, we must commit ourselves to the goals of increased prevention, expanded health education, more thorough research, and improved quality of life for all those living with Spina Bifida.

HONORING CREATIVE BEGINNINGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Creative Beginnings, a South Florida organization dedicated to assisting women and children transition out of homelessness. Since its inception in 2000, Creative Beginnings has provided case management services on a one-to-one basis to provide homeless women with the support they need to foster growth, discipline, and self-commitment as they break the cycle of homelessness.

Every woman helped by Creative Beginnings undergoes an intensive personalized process aimed at helping them to assess, and care for, their own needs. The successful conclusion of this process entails reintegration into society. Counseling is offered throughout the process to develop and enhance independent basic life skills. These include work adjustment, job readiness training, and vocational rehabilitation to ensure that the transition out of homelessness is permanent. In addition to their own personal network, organizations such as the Salvation Army and local places of worship have offered their support in helping Creative Beginnings fulfill its goals. Through the tireless dedication of Creative Beginning's professional and caring staff, numerous homeless women and children have begun the path to happy, meaningful, and productive lifestyles.

My heart goes out to all the employees and volunteers at Creative Beginnings, but I would like to personally congratulate and thank Executive Director Teresita R. Terrón, Secretary Isabel Gonzalez-Jettinghoff, Treasurer Rose Marie Rojas Marty, and Rev. Fr. Jorge Bello for their supreme efforts at making Creative Beginnings what it is today.

The Village of Key Biscayne and the City of Coral Gables have already recognized Cre-

ative Beginnings for its commitment to homeless women and children. Creative Beginnings provides an integral service to our community, and plays an invaluable role in the lives of all who those who have been aided by their efforts.

The hard work and individual attention given to every woman is truly extraordinary and the entire South Florida community is truly grateful for their noble efforts. I congratulate Creative Beginnings for their work, and wish them continued success in helping individuals regain their rightful places in society.

HONORING CLINT BOLTE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint Bolte of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, who has been named "2006 Citizen of the Year" by the Borough Council and the Waters Award Committee. This distinguished award is given annually, in memory of the late Donald "Mike" Waters, to the person who most exemplifies the efforts and achievements in community service once performed by Waters throughout his lifetime.

The "Citizen of the Year" award was presented to Clint, a local businessman and principal of C. Clint Bolte and Associates, by Mr. Waters' widow, Jenny, and son, Don. They remarked that Clint has "carried on Waters' tradition of community service," just as Clint and Mr. Waters did while co-chairing a community spring cleanup campaign together some years ago.

While accepting the honor on September 18, 2006, Clint said that the award was "very much a surprise," and that he was incredibly grateful for the recognition. Clint also remarked that the late "Mike" Waters was "very much an individual of extraordinary faith who loved his family and was passionate about his community."

Clint Bolte, himself, has contributed endlessly to the betterment of the Chambersburg community, and Franklin County as a whole. Clint has worked through organizations such as the Chambersburg Club, the Rotary Foundation, the United Way, and the YMCA. To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Clint has been a part of would be nearly impossible. His involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable. Jenny Waters may have put it best, speaking about Clint Bolte, saying that he has selflessly dedicated himself to the Chambersburg community "just like 'Mike' did."

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the excellent efforts and achievement of two schools in the fourth district of Kansas.

Last Friday, I was notified that Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and Garfield Elementary School in Augusta have been named 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools. Schools that receive this honor are academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement.

The students, teachers, and administrators at Frances Willard and Garfield Elementary Schools are to be commended. Their dedication and hard work is evident and I am proud of their accomplishment. These two schools are excellent examples of how all students can exceed and achieve higher standards.

This is an incredible honor and truly shows the commitment to education in the Augusta and Ark City communities. I would also like to recognize the parents for the support of their children. Parental involvement in a child's education is crucial to his or her success.

As we begin another school year, I encourage students, teachers, administrators and parents in Kansas and around the nation to continue their efforts to close the achievement gap so all children can learn and succeed. We, as a nation, have to do more now to prepare these young people for their futures. I am confident that we will continue to see improvements each year and I hope to be honoring more schools next year.

Congratulations to Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and to Garfield Elementary School in Augusta for their outstanding achievement in earning the 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH KOREA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand up today on behalf of the people of North Korea.

A number of reports have detailed the horrific suffering of the people there—a suffering that makes China look like paradise. Those held in the prison camps in North Korea endure torture, forced abortions, and brutal deaths.

In early October, the Yoduk story musical will be performed in our area—this musical tells the story of the suffering in a North Korean prison camp, Director Jung, Sung-San is a North Korean defector himself, whose father died in one of the political prison camps.

Interestingly, the South Korean government did not want this musical produced in South Korea, but the director thought it was so important for the world to know the story of North Korea that he put up his own kidney as collateral for a \$20,000 loan to ensure the musical was produced.

Mr. Speaker, that a North Korean was willing to put up his own kidney to produce this story speaks to the gravity of the suffering in North Korea. The international community must get its head out of the sand and ACT to stop the terrible suffering of the North Korean people.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA).

As a cosponsor of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA) and having voted for its passage in the House on April 27, 2005, I remain committed to this important piece of legislation and hope to see it passed into law promptly. The Child Interstate Notification Act prohibits circumventing state parental involvement laws by transporting a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion and places additional responsibilities on the abortionist.

Not surprisingly, parental involvement laws are overwhelmingly supported by a significant majority of the American people. Parents desire to know Parent's rights and state's rights are being violated. Children are secretly being transported across state lines without the consent of their parents for abortions. Abortion clinics in states where there is no parental involvement law advertise their services in states which have parental laws in place. "No Parental Consent Required" one advertisement read.

Children should be protected. Transporting a minor across state lines in order to obtain an abortion without parental notification or consent is more than troublesome. Pregnancy isn't something to be taken lightly and teenagers should not be isolated in their decision making. Instead, their parents should be involved in their decision on whether to have an abortion. My home state of Kansas is one of the 22 states that require parental consent with 2 of those states requiring both parents to consent.

Parental notification laws are critical to protect the life and health of minors. Parents deserve to be informed about their daughter's abortion decision as they are the ones who would be responsible for paying any medical bills due to complications from an abortion. Parents must give their consent in order for their minor to obtain certain medical procedures including ear piercing and to receive aspirin at school yet they can acquire an abortion—a major medical procedure that could be fatal or result in complications without the consent of a parent? That is a dangerous exception that should be eliminated in all states.

The Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act is good legislation that will protect minors and inform parents. Today, I hope to see CIANA pass the House for the second time this Congress and be sent to the Senate without further ado. I ask my colleagues in the Senate to not hold up this bill and to pass the language as it is written.

I will vote in favor of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act today and encourage my colleagues to join me. I also encourage my colleagues in the Senate to promptly pass this piece of legislation so minors are better protected and parents are informed.

CONGRATULATING DR. JUDEA AND
DR. AKBAR AHMED**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Judea Pearl and Dr. Akbar Ahmed, co-recipients of the Purpose Prize. Drs. Pearl and Ahmed have been recognized for innovation and success in using their lifetime of experience for the greater good.

The Daniel Pearl Foundation, which Dr. Pearl founded following the tragic death of his son, Daniel, at the hands of terrorists in Pakistan, is dedicated to promoting cross-cultural tolerance and understanding through public dialogue and the training and support of journalists. Together with Dr. Ahmed, Pearl created the Daniel Pearl Dialogue for Muslim-Jewish Understanding, which holds dialogues around the world to frankly discuss contentious issues and provide different perspectives on the topics that are causing so much violence today.

The Purpose Prize was created in 2005 by Civic Ventures, a California-based non-profit organization dedicated to generating ideas and inventing programs to help society achieve the greatest return on experience. Over 1,200 adults age 60 and over competed for the five \$100,000 cash prizes and the accompanying benefits of publicity and support for their projects. The Purpose Prize aims to stimulate, recognize and support the entrepreneurial efforts of older adults who use their passion, smarts and experience to address serious social challenges. Unlike lifetime achievement awards, it seeks to reward new and creative efforts by older persons from all walks of life. Ultimately, the Purpose Prize will contribute to the transformation of our society's view of aging and lead to investments in America's greatest untapped resource: experienced and engaged older adults.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Drs. Pearl and Ahmed on receiving this prestigious award in its first year and I wish them continued success. I also commend Civic Ventures, 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.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEDY KUGLER'S ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special occasion in the life of one of my constituents, Jadwiga "Hedy" Kugler. This year, Hedy celebrates her 50th year in the United States of America! And what a wonderful 50 years they have been for her and her family.

Hedy's life represents the quintessential American dream. At the age of 13, she left the comforts of her family's Paris apartment and

set sail for America on the SS United States with her parents Vincent and Maria Niziuk and her sister Marta. Although the family had very little at the time, they had grand dreams of a better life in America. Her very first glimpse of that dream was the Statute of Liberty, as her ship sailed into New York City on the morning of July 30, 1956.

But her journey did not end there. Shortly after clearing immigration, Hedy and her family boarded a train for the long trip to Los Angeles to meet the family's sponsor Wanda Wegrocka. Along the way, Hedy saw her first television show, "Queen for a Day," and had her first sip of Coca-Cola.

The family finally arrived in Los Angeles on August 4, 1956, and settled into a new apartment and new life on Ivar Avenue in the Hollywood Hills. These early years were an exciting time for Hedy, as she explored her new homeland and made lasting friendships that continue to this day. Hedy also took care to make the most of every opportunity that America provided. She graduated high school at Blessed Sacrament, and went on to earn a B.A. in Mathematics from UCLA. She then embarked on a career as a senior instructor for IBM, where she spent 30 years traveling the globe teaching application and systems programming to IBM clients. Now in her retirement, Hedy devotes much of her time to helping others, volunteering at a Kaiser hospital and serving as a Eucharistic minister at her local church.

Hedy has been married for 43 years to the love of her life, Bolek Kugler, and has two adult children, Christine and Andrew. She's now a proud grandmother too, or Baba as she is known to Ellie and Nate Kugler. I'm also proud to say that Hedy and her husband still live in the same Encino home that they bought nearly 35 years ago. Together, they continue to explore all corners of the world, from Argentina to Vietnam, Sydney to Krakow. Her adventurous spirit, born on the SS United States, continues to thrive and grow.

Fifty years ago, Hedy came to this country with a dream of a better life. She has turned that dream into a successful career, a lasting marriage, a vast circle of friends, a home around the country, and a family that loves her dearly. She is truly an inspiration to all those who know her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hedy on her 50th anniversary in the United States. May your future years in America be as full and prosperous as the last five decades.

IN RECOGNITION OF COOPERATIVES AND NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous role that our cooperative businesses play in our nation's economy and in the state of North Dakota. October is National Co-op Month, so it is fitting that we take a few moments today to recognize the value of cooperatives.

Cooperatives are businesses owned and democratically governed by their members—